Belle on her 23rd birthday

By

Epe B. Young

Nov 17th 1894.
THE WORKS OF LORD BYRON:
EMBRACING HIS SUPPRESSED POEMS,
AND A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

ILLUSTRATED.

BOSTON:
LEE AND SHEPARD, PUBLISHERS.
NEW YORK:
LEE, SHEPARD AND DILLINGHAM.
1874.
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THE LIFE OF LORD BYRON

GEORGE GORDON BYRON was born in Holles street, London, on the 22d day of January, 1788. Soon after his birth, his father deserted him, and the whole responsibility of his early training devolved on his mother, who, with him, soon after repaired to Aberdeen, where they resided for some time in almost complete seclusion.

The infancy of Byron was marked with the workings of that wild and active spirit which he so fully displayed in all subsequent years of his life. As a child, his temper was violent, or rather, sullenly passionate. Being angrily reprimanded by his nurse, one day, for having soiled or torn a new frock in which he had just been dressed, he got into one of his "silent rages," (as he termed them,) seized the frock with both hands, rent it from top to bottom, and stood in aisleness setting his cusener and her wrath at defiance.

Notwithstanding these unruly out-breaks, in which he was too much encouraged by the example of his mother, who frequently proceeded to the same extremities with her own caps, gowns, &c., there was in his disposition a mixture of affectionate sweetness and playfulness, which attached many to him, and which rendered him then, as in riper years, easily manageable by those who loved and understood him sufficiently to be at once gentle and firm enough for the task.

The undivided affection of the mother was naturally centered in her son, who was her darling; and when he only went out for an ordinary walk, she would entreat him, with tears in her eyes, to take care of himself, as "she had nothing on earth but him to live for;" a conduct not at all pleasing to his adventurous spirit; the more especially as some of his companions, who beheld the affectionate scene, would laugh and ridicule about it. This excessive maternal affection and indulgence, and the entire absence of that salutary discipline so necessary to childhood, doubtless contributed to the formation of these unpleasant traits of character that distinguished Byron from all others in subsequent years.

An accident, at the time of birth, caused a formation of one of his feet. Many expedients were used to restore the limb to its proper shape, under the direction of Dr. Hunter. His nurse, to whom fell the task of putting on the bandages, would often sing him to sleep, or relate to him stories and legends, in which, like most other children, he manifested great delight. She also taught him to repeat a great number of Psalms; and the first and twenty-third were among the earliest that he committed to memory. Out of these lessons arose, long afterwards, the "Hebrew Melodies," which, but for them, never would have been written, though Byron studied Lowth on the Sacred Poetry of the Hebrews all his life. It is a remarkable fact, that, through the care and daily instruction of this nurse, he attained a far earlier and more intimate acquaintance with the Sacred Writings, than falls to the lot of most young people.

The defect in the formation of his foot, and a great weakness of constitution, induced his mother to keep him from an attendance on school, that he might expand his lungs and brace his limbs, upon the mountains of the neighborhood.

This was evidently the most judicious method for imparting strength to his bodily frame; and the sequel showed that it likewise imparted tone and vigoreto his mind. The savage grandeur of nature around him; the feeling that he was upon the hills where

"Foreign tyrant never stood,
But freedom, with her fashion bright,
Started the stranger from her sight!"

his intercourse with a people whose chief amusements consisted in the recital of heroic tales of other times, feats of strength, and a display of independence, blended with the wild, supernatural stories peculiar to remote and thinly-peopled districts; all these were calculated to foster that peculiar poetical feeling innate in his character.

The malformation of his foot was a subject on which young Byron was extremely sensitive. As his nurse was walking with him one day, she was joined by a female friend, who said, "What a pretty boy, Byron is! what a pity he has such a leg." On hearing this allusion to his infirmity, the child's eyes flashed with anger, and, striking at her with a little whip which he held in his hand, he impatiently exclaimed, "Don't speak of it!"

As an instance of his quickness and energy at this period, might be mentioned a little incident that occurred one night during the performance of "Taming a Shrew," which his nurse had taken him to see. He had attended some time, with silent interest; but, in the scene between Katherine and Petruchio where the following dialogue takes place,—

"Kath.—I know it is the moon.
Pet.—Nay, then, you lie,—it is the blessed sun,"

George started up, and cried out boldly, "But I say it is the moon, sir."

Byron was not quite five years of age when he was sent to a day school at Aberdeen, taught by Mr. Bowers. At that school he remained about one year.

During his schoolboy days he was lively, warm-hearted, generous, and high-spirited. He was, however, passionate and resentful. If he received an injury, he was sure to revenge it: though the castigation he inflicted might be long on its way, yet it came at length, and severely.
He was a brave youth, and was much more anxious to excel his fellows by prowess in sport and gymnastic exercises, than by advancement in learning.

When any study pleased him, he devoted all his attention to it, and was quick in the performance of his task. He cared but little where he stood in his class; and at the foot was as agreeable to him as at the head.

He remained at school until the year 1796, when an attack of scarlet fever weakened his, by no means strong, constitution, and he was removed by his father to the Highlands.

From the period of his residence in the Highlands, Byron dated his love of mountainous countries and his equally ardent love of solitude. While at Aberdeen, he would escape unnoticed, and find his way to the sea-side. At one time, it was supposed he was lost, and after a long and anxious search he was found struggling for his life in a sort of moras or marsh, in which he would undoubtedly have perished, had not some one came to the rescue.

Many like instances occurred during his residence among the Highlands. His love of adventure often led him into difficulty and danger. While scrambling over a declivity that overhung a small waterfall, called the Linn of Dee, some one caught his hat, and he fell. He was rolling down the hill on the edge of the water, when the attendant luckily caught him, and was but just in time to save him from being killed.

On the 17th of May, 1796, William, the fifth Lord Byron, died at Newstead, and young Byron, then in his tenth year, succeeded to his titles and his estates; and his cousin, the Earl of Carlisle, the son of the late Lord's sister, was appointed his guardian.

Under a fortune, Lord Byron was removed from under the immediate care of his mother.

In the latter part of 1798 he went with his mother to Newstead Abbey. On their arrival, he was placed at Newington, under the care of a person who professed to be able to cure his lameness; at the same time, he made some advancement in Latin studies, under the tuition of a schoolmaster of that town, a Mr. Rogers, who read parts of Virgil and Cicero with him. The name of the man whose pretensions in curing exceeded his skill, and under whose empiricism the young lord was placed, was Lavender; and the manner in which he proceeded to his cure by the foot embargoed a prominent foot, for a long time with handful of oil, and then forcibly twisting the foot round, and binding it up in a sort of a machine, with about as much care and thought of the pain he might give, as if straightening up a crooked limb of a tree.

Byron, during his lessons with Mr. Rogers, was often in violent pain; and one day the latter said to him, "It makes me uncomfortable, my lad, to see you sitting there in such pain as I know you must be suffering." "Never mind, Mr. Rogers," answered the boy; "you shall not see any signs of it in me,"

This gentleman often spoke of the gaitety of his pupil, and the delight he experienced in exposing Lavender's "patients" to his views. On one occasion why he wrote down on a sheet of paper all the letters of the alphabet, put together at random, and placing them before this concentrated body of pretension, asked him very seriously what language it was. Not wishing to terrify, and not dreaming of the snare to trip him, he replied as seriously as the inquiry was put, that it was Italian, to the infinite delight of the young satirist, who burst into the most hilarious laughter.

At about this period, Lord Byron's first symptom of a tendency to rhyme manifested itself. The occasion which gave rise to it is thus related:—

An elderly lady, who was in the habit of visiting his mother, had made use of some expressions that very much affected him; and these slight, his nurse said, he generally resented violently and im-

placably. The old lady had some curious notions respecting the soul, which, she imagined, took its flight to the moon after death, as a preliminary essay, before it proceeded further. One day, after a repetition, it is supposed, of her original insult to the boy, he appeared before his nurse in a violent rage. "Well, my little hero," she asked, "what's the matter with you, now? Upon which the child answered, "This old woman put him in a terrible passion,—that he could not bear the sight of her," &c., &c., and then broke out into the following doggerel, which he repeated eye and ear, as if delighted with the vent he had found for his rage:

"In Nottingham county, three stone at Swith Green,
As cupian old lady as ever was seen;
And when she does die, which I hope will be soon,
She firmly believes she will go to the moon."

This was the occasion and the result of his first effort at rhyming. His "first dash at poetry," as he calls it, was made one year later, during a vacation visit of the house of a cousin, Miss Parker. Of that poem, he says, "It was the embellishment of a passion for my first cousin, one of the most beautiful of evanescent beings. I have long forgotten the verses, but it would be difficult for me to forget her—her dark eventful eye, her completely Greek cast of face and figure; I was then about twelve—she rather older, perhaps a year." Love for this young lady obtained strong hold of his heart. Of her personal appearance, he says, "I do not recollect any thing equal to the transparent beauty of my cousin, or to the sweetness of her temper, during the short period of our intimacy. She looked as if she had been made out of a rainbow—all beauty and grace.'

After a short visit at Cheltenham, in the summer of 1801, at the earnest solicitation of his mother, he was placed at Harrow, under the tuition of Doctor Drury, to whom he testified his gratitude in a note to the fourth canto of Childe Harold. In one of his manuscript journals, he says, "Dr. Drury was the best, the kindest friend I ever had—and I look upon him still as a father."

"Though he was lame," says one of his schoolfellows, "he was a great lover of sports, and preferred hockey to Horace, relinquished even Helicon for 'duck piddle,' and gave up the best poet that ever wrote hard Latin for a game of cricket on the common."

Notwithstanding his natural love for learning, he was always a clever, plain-spoken, and undaunted boy. I have seen him fight by the hour like a Trojan, and stand up against the disadvantage of his lameness with all the spirit of an ancient combatant.

It was during a vacation, and his residence at Newstead, that he formed an acquaintance with Miss Chaworth, an event which, according to his own deliberate persuasion, exercised a lasting and paramount influence over the whole of his subsequent character and eventful career. Twice had he loved, and now a third time he bowed before beauty, wit, and virtue. The father of the young lady had been killed in a duel by the eccentric grand-uncle of Byron, and the union of the young peer with her, the heiress of Annesley Hall, "would," as he said, "have healed all wounds in which blood had been shed. If it would have joined lands rich and broad; it would have joined at least one heart, and two persons ill-matched in years." But all this was destined to exist but in imagination. They had a parting interview in the following year: Miss Chaworth was married to Mr. Musters, with whom she lived unhappily. She died in 1831. Many of his smaller poems are addressed to this lady. The scene of the poem in which she is most exquisitely described is in "The Dream."
of the Abbé de Rouillé. The vacation of 1804 he spent with his mother at Southwell, and in October, 1805, he left Harrow, and entered Trinity College, Cambridge. He left with feelings of sadness. He says, "I always hated Harrow till the last, and a half, but then I liked it." He now began to feel that he was no longer a boy, and in solitude he mourned over the truth; this sorrow he could not at all times repress in public.

Soon after entering college, he formed an attachment with a lady so much as to persuade himself to write in warmth and romance all his schoolboy attachments.

In the summer of 1806, another visit to Southwell resulted in an acquittance with the family of Pigot, to a lady of which the earliest of his publish'd letters were addressed.

The temper of his mother exceeded all bounds. This temper, Byron in a great degree inherited. In his childhood, this passion often broke out in the most violent manner. Mother and son were often quarrelling, and provocations finally led to a separation, in August, 1806. Byron fled to London, where his mother followed him, made overtures of peace, but female discord remained untasted.

Early in November, his first volume of poems were put in press. It was entitled "Poems on Various Occasions," and was printed anonymously by Mr. Ridge, a bookseller at Newark. Becoming known, the volume was not only printed, but was reprinted in January, in which he omitted many pieces which had appeared in the first. This was not intended for public scrutiny, but merely circulated among his friends, and his personal acquaintance, gives the following description of the house in which the present lord has lately fitted up.

"The house and gardens are entirely surrounded by a wall with battlements. In front is a large lake, bordered here and there with castellated buildings, the chief of which Kirkwall is. Byron was received by the lord, at the further extremity of it. Fancy all this surrounded with bleak and barren hills, with scarce a tree to be seen for miles, except a solitary clump or two, and a few old brick houses as the limit of the property."

"So much for the place, concerning which I have thrown together these few particulars. But if the place itself appears rather strange to you, the ways of its inhabitants will not appear much less so. Ascend, therefore, among the cliffs, and I will introduce you to my lord and his visitants. But have a care how you proceed; be mindful to go there in broad daylight, and with your eyes about you. For, should you make any blunders,—should you go to the right of the wall steps, you are laid hold of by a bear; and should you go to the left, your case is still worse, for you run full against a wolf."

His residence was now at Newstead, where during the preparation of the new edition of his poems, he dispensed with a liberal hand the hospitalities of the old Abbey to a party of college friends. C. S. Matthewes, one of this party, in a letter to an acquaintance after the visit to the Abbey at that time, and amusing account of the proceedings and habits of its occupants:

"Newstead Abbey is situated one hundred and thirty-six miles from London—four on this side Mansfield. There are two large rooms, or suites, fallen in, but still standing, and a court, or room between them, which, though not inhabited, nor in an inhabited state, might easily be made so; and many of the original rooms, amongst which is a fine stone hall, are still in use. Of the abbey-church only one end remains; and the old kitchen, with a long range of apartments, is reduced to a heap of rubbish. Leading from the abbey to the modern part of the habitation is a noble room, seventy feet in length and twenty-three in breadth; but every part of the structure is in deep decay: I have several of the present lord has lately fitted up."

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"Our party consisted of Lord Byron and four others, and was, now and then, increased by the presence of a neighboring parson. As for our way of living, the order of the day was generally this: for breakfast we had no set hour, but each suited his own convenience,—everything remaining on the table till the whole party had done; though had one wished to breakfast at the early hour of seven, one would have been rather lucky to find any of the servants up. Our average hour of rising was one, I, who generally got up between eleven and twelve, was always—even when an invalid—the first of the party to rise; and the hour of early rising. It was frequently past two before the breakfast party broke up. Then, for the amusement of the morning, there was reading, fencing, single-stick, or shuttlecock, in the great room; or practicing with both pistol in the half-decayed, railing, cricket, sailing on the lake, playing with the bear teasing the wolf. Between seven and eight we dined; and our evening lasted from that time till the two, or three, in the morning. The evening diversions may be easily conceived."

"I must not omit the custom of handing round after dinner, on the removal of the cloth, a human

Lord Byron.
skull filled with Burgundy. After revelling on choice vouches, and the finest wines of France, we adjourned to tea, where he amused ourselves with reading or improving conversations, according to his fancy, and, after sandwiches, c., retired to rest. A set of monastic dresses, which had been provided, with all the proper apparatus of crosses, beads, tonsures, &c., often gave a variety to our appearance, and to our pursuits. "

Byron was at London when he put the finishing touches upon the new edition, which, having done, he took leave of that city, and soon after sailed for Lisbon, where he was to leave Atalanta. He arrived at his destination, in company with his friend, Mr. John Cam Hobhouse. They remained but a short time in Lisbon, from whence they travelled on horseback back to Cadiz. He was as free and easy in each of these places as he had been at home. In Lisbon, as he said, he ate oranges, talked bad Italian to the monks, went into society with pocket pistols, swam the Tagus, and became the victim of unique risques. A lady of character became fondly attached to him, and at parting gave him a lock of her hair "three feet in length," which he sent home to his mother. In Cadiz, "Miss Cordova and her little brother," became his fast friends, and during his stay, no course could not be pursued, and he swam three miles.

He arrived at Constantinople on the 13th of May while there, he wore a scarlet coat, richly embroidered with gold, with two heavy epaulettes and a feathered cap. He remained about two months, during which time he was presented to the Sultan, and made a journey to the Black Sea and other places of note in that vicinity. On the 14th of July, they left in the Salette frigate,—Mr. Hobhouse intending to accompany Mr. Adair, the English ambassador, to England, and Byron determined to visit Greece.

The latter landed at Zea, with two Albanians, a Tartar, and an English servant. Leaving Zea, he reached Athens on the 18th. From thence, he made another tour over the same places he had previously visited, and returned to Athens in December, with the purpose of remaining there during his sojourn in Greece. The persons with whom he was associated at Athens, were—Lord Sligo, Lady Hester Stanhope, and Mr. Bruce. Most of his time was employed in collecting materials for those notes on the state of modern Greece, appended to the second canto of "Childe Harold." He also had "Hints from Horace," a satire full of London life, yet, singular as it may appear, dated, "Athens, Capuchin Convent, March 12, 1811."

He intended to have gone to Egypt, but failing to receive expected remittances, he was obliged to forego the pleasure of that trip, and he left Athens and landed at Malta. There he suffered severely from a attack of fever, recovering from which, he sailed in the Volage frigate for England. He left Greece with more feelings of regret than he had left his native land, and the memories of his sojourn in the East, immortalized in Childe Harold, were among the pleasantest that accompanied him through life.

He arrived at London after an absence of just two years. Mr. Dallas, the gentleman who had superintended the publication of "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," called on him the day after his arrival; Lord Byron meeting him having written a new satire, and handed the MSS. to him for examination. Mr. Dallas was grieved, supposing that the inspiring lands of the East had brought from his mind no new and unexpected facts. Meeting him the next morning, Mr. Dallas expressed surprise that he had, during his absence, written nothing more. Upon this, Lord Byron told him that he had occasionally written short poems besides a great many stanzas in Spencer's measure, relative to the countries he had visited. "They are not worth troubling you with," said Byron, "but
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you shall have them all with you, if you like."

He then took Childe Harold's Pilgrimage from a small trunk, and handed it to Mr. Dallas, at the same time expressing a desire to have the "Hints from Horace" put to press immediately. He undervalued Childe Harold, and overvalued the "Hints." He thought the former inferior to the latter. As time passed on, he altered his mind in reference to this matter. "Had Lord Byron," says Moore, "persisted in his original purpose of giving this poem to the press, instead of Childe Harold, it is more than probable, that he would now, and always, as a point to the world."

He finally consented to the publication of Childe Harold, yet to the last, he expressed doubts as to its merit, and the reception it would meet with at the hands of the public. Doubts and difficulties arose as to a publisher. Messrs. Longman had refused to publish "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers;" and it was expressly stipulated with Mr. Dallas, to whom Lord Byron had presented the copyright, that Childe Harold should not be offered to any publisher. An application was made to Mr. Miller, but owing to the severity in which a personal friend of that gentleman was mentioned, in the poem, he declined publishing it. At length it was proposed by the hands of Mr. Murray, then residing in Fleet street, who was proud of the undertaking, and by whom it was immediately put to press:

and thus was laid the foundation of that friendly and profitable connection, between that publisher and the great poet, which continued, with but little interruption, during the poet's life."

About this time, the fifth edition of his satire was issued, and, soon after, every copy that could be found was taken and destroyed. In America, however, and on the continent, where the law of England had no power, it continued to meet with an unprohibited sale.

While busily engaged in literary projects, he was suddenly called to Newstead, by information of the sickness of his mother. He immediately departed, and travelled with all possible speed, yet death preceded him. When he arrived, he found her dead.

In a letter, the day after, he says, "I now feel the truth of Mr. Gray's observation, that we can only have one mother." Mrs. Byron had, undoubtedly, loved her son, and he her, with a depth of feeling hardly susceptible by those who had seen them in their fits of ungovernable passion. An incident that occurred at this time, and the grief of the poet at the news, was the only wakening of the sincerity of his affection. On the night after his arrival, the waiting woman of Mrs. Byron, in passing the door of the room, where the deceased lady lay, heard a sound as of some one sighing heavily from within; and, on entering the chamber, found, to her surprise, Lord Byron, sitting in the dark, beside the bed. On her representing to him the weakness of thus giving way to grief, he burst into tears, and exclaimed, "O, Mrs. By, I had but one friend in the world, and she is gone!"

He was early at this time to mourn over the loss, not only of his mother, but of six relatives and intimate friends.

He returned to London in October, and resumed the toils of literary labor, revising Childe Harold, and making many additions and alterations. This work he had, also, at this time, two other works in press, "Hints from Horace," and "The Curse of Minerva." In January, the two cantos of Childe Harold were printed, but not ready for sale until the month of March, when the national effect of his death, as a poet to the world, says Moore, "was as instantaneous as it has proved deep and lasting. It was electric;—his fame had not to wait for any of the ordinary gradations, but seemed to spring up, like the palace of a fairy tale, in a night."

Byron, himself in a medley of the sudden and wholly unexpected effect, said, "I awoke one morning, and found myself famous."

It was just previous to this period, that he became acquainted with Moore, the poet. The circumstance which led to their acquaintance was a correspondence caused by a note appended to "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers." The acquaintance was thus made, in the utmost familiarity, through life. Lord Byron was personally introduced to Moore at the house of Rogers, the poet, where, on the same day, these three, together with Campbell, dined.

Among the natural persons of genius, which Lord Byron received, was that of the Prince Regent. At an evening party he was presented to that personage, at the request of the latter. The Regent expressed his admiration of Childe Harold and entered into a cordial and animated conversation, which continued all the evening.

In the month of August, 1811, the new theatre in Drury Lane was finished, and, after being urgently requested, Byron wrote an opening address for the fairy tale, "The Corsair," which rapidly passed through several editions. The first contained but about four hundred lines, the last edition, about fourteen hundred. Many of its choicest parts were not in the early copies, yet it was received with the greatest favor, and the admirers of Childe Harold equally admired this new production.

In December, 1813, he published "The Bride of Abysius." To this, while being printed, he added nearly two hundred lines. It met with a better reception, if possible, than either of his former works. Fourteen thousand of his copies were sold in one week, and it was with the greatest difficulty and labor that the demand for it could be supplied. In January following, appeared the "The Corsair." In April the "Ode to Napoleon," and, during the ensuing month, he published "Hebrew Melodies."

In May, he adopted the strange and singular resolution of calling in all he had written, buying up all his copyrights, and not writing any more. For two years, he lived as the literary idol of the people. They had bestowed upon his genius all the words of praise, and shouted his genius and fame to the skies. His name had ever been on the lips, his writings in the head, and his sentiments in the heart of the whole nation. This strong public feeling began to wane, as the excitement caused by the sudden appearance of any new thing, always will. The papers raised a hue and cry against a few of his minor poems. His moral and social character was brought into prominence; this had been during his short, but eventful, life, and much that had never an existence, except in the minds of his opponents, was related with minute particularity. Not only this, but the slight opinion these journals expressed of his just and noble life, was occasioned by that inward dissatisfaction with his own powers.
which they, whose standard of excellence is highest, are always surest to feel, mortified and disturbed him. In publishing these attacks, he remarks, "I am afraid what you call tracts is plagiary to the purpose, and, to tell the truth, for some time past, I have been myself much of the same opinion." In this state of mind, he resolved upon bidding farewel to literature and to himself to some other pursuit. Mentioning this determination to Mr. Murray, that gentleman doubted his seriousness; but on the arrival of a letter, enclosing a draft on himself for £500, and a request to withdraw all the advertisements, and destroy all copies of his poems, remaining in store, except two of each for himself, all doubts vanished. Mr. Murray wrote an answer, that such an act would be deeply injurious to both parties, and finally induced him to continue publishing.

In connection with "Jacqueline," a poem, by Mr. Rogers, "Lara" appeared in August. This was his last appearance as an author, until the spring of 1816.

On the 2d of January, 1816, Lord Byron proposed and was accepted in marriage, by an heiress, Miss Milbanke, daughter of Sir Ralph Milbanke, a sad but interesting tale. The "Tales of Belphegor," had just been published. His fortune was upwards of ten thousand pounds sterling, which was considerably increased by the death of her parents, a few years subsequent to her union with the poet. This union cast a shade on his hitherto brilliant career, and which he appears to have marked with a feeling of sorrow and resignation. In November, he was not only obliged to sell his library, but his furniture, and even his beds, were seized by the bailiffs.

As soon as the separation took place, the full tide of public opinion set against him, and those who had so long been his enemies, Mr. Moore and Lord Byron, were among the first to take advantage of his misfortunes, and misunderstandings, dissoluted it, and the lady retired to the country-seat of her parents, from the unpleasant scenes of her own home.

One child was the result of this marriage, Ada Margaret Byron. Previous to the separation, Byron's muse was stimulated to exertion by his fast-gathering misfortunes, and he produced the "Siege of Corinth" and "Parisina." At the time of his divorce, Lord Byron and Lady Milbanke resided in London. He entered into a giddy whirlpool of frolicking and unrestrained gaiety, which at length brought upon him great pecuniary embarrassments, which so increased, that in November, he was not only obliged to sell his library, but his furniture, and even his beds, were seized by the bailiffs.

Thus miserable, yet conscious of his newly-awakening strength, Byron determined to leave England. At leaving, the only person with whom he parted with regret, was his sister, and to her he penned the touching tribute, "Though the Day of my Destiny's over." To Mr. Moore he addressed, "My Boat is on the Shore;" and to Lady Byron, "Fare thee well." He arrived at Ostend on the 25th of April. His journey lay by the Rhine. He made a short stay at Brussels. At Geneva he spent the remainder of the summer. Living in a beautiful villa on the borders of the lake, he had frequent excursions to Coppet, Chamonix, the Bernese Alps, and other places of interest. Mr. and Mrs. Shelley were also residing at Geneva at that time. It was in this villa, on the banks of the lake, that he finished the third canto of "Childe Harold." He also wrote, "The Prisoner of Chillon," "To Augusta," "The Fragment," "Darkness," and "The Dream." In the month of August he was visited by Mr. M. G. Lewis, Mr. Hobhouse, and Mr. S. Davies, with whom he made the excursions previously alluded to. It was while here, that he began his poem, "The Romance of the "Vampire;" also another, founded upon the story of the Marriage of Belphégor, both of which he left unfinished.

From the marriage of the year 1817, to that of 1820, Lord Byron's principaloccupation was at Venice. Soon after reaching that city, he began the study of the Armenian language, in which he made considerable progress. While there, he pursued his literature, and was successful in it. He wrote "The Lament of Tasso," the fourth canto of "Childe Harold," the dramas of "Marino Faliero," and the "Two Folcari," "Rapso," "Mazeppa," and the first canto of "Don Juan."

He formed an acquaintance with Madame Guiccioli, who soon grew to a passionate love, and was duly reciprocated by her. She was a Romagnole lady. Her father was Count Gamba, a nobleman of high rank and ancient name, at Ravenna. She had been married, when at the age of sixteen, without reference to her choice or affection, to the Count Guiccioli, an old and wealthy widower. At the time he entered on the acquaintance of Byron, she was twenty; with fair and delicate complexion, large, dark eyes, and a profusion of auburn hair. This lady almost entirely governed the movements of Byron, while in Italy; and it was a government of which he approved and from which he was led to expect no desire to escape.

She proceeded with her husband to Ravenna, in April, 1819, and Lord Byron soon followed. He shortly returned to Venice, where he received a visit from Moore, in the course of which he presented to him a large manuscript volume, entitled, "My Life and Adventures." As he handed it to him, he remarked, "It is not a thing that can be published during my life; but you may have it, if you like.—there, do whatever you please with it;" and soon after added, "This will make a nice legacy for my little Tom, who shall astonish the latter days of the nineteenth century with it."

This manuscript was a collection of various journals, memorandums, etc. At Byron's request, Mr. Moore sold the copyright to Murray for two thousand pounds, with the stipulation that it was not to be published until after the author's decease. When news of this event was published, the author, Mr. Murray, the money advanced, and placed the manuscript at the disposal of Lord Byron's sister, Mrs. Leigh; at whose request, and, with the accordant opinion of Lord Byron's best friends. The motive for its destruction is said to have been an unwillingness to offend the feelings of many of the individuals mentioned in it.

Towards the close of the year 1819, Lord Byron removed to Ravenna, where he wrote "The Prophesy of Dante," "Sardanapalus," "Cain," "Heaven and Earth," the third, fourth, and fifth canto of "Don Juan," and "The Vision of Judgment."

He remained at Ravenna during the greater part of the two succeeding years. In the autumn of 1821 he removed to Lisa, in Tuscany, where he remained until the middle of May. His habits of life, while at Lisa, are thus described by Moore:—

"At two, he usually breakfasted, and at three, or, as the year advanced, at four o'clock, those persons who were in the habit of accompanying him in his rides, called upon him. After, occasionally, a game of billiards, he proceeded,—and in order to avoid the bustle of the little town, where his horses met him. At first, the route he chose for these rides was in the direction of the Cascine, and of the pine forest which reaches towards the sea; but having found a spot more convenient for his pistols, he went west towards the Portails Spiaigia to the east of the city, he took daily this course during the remainder of his stay. When arrived at the Podere, or farm, in the gardens of
of which he was allowed to erect their target, his friends and he dismounted, and, after devoting about half an hour to a trial of skill at the pistol, returned, a little before sunset, into the city."

Leaving Pisa, he removed to Genoa, where he remained till his final departure for Greece, in July, 1822. During this time, he produced "Werther," "The Deformed Transformed," "The Island," "The Age of Bronze," and the last cantos of "Don Juan."

He became interested in the struggle of the Greeks for freedom, and offered his services in their behalf. He obtained the advance of a large sum of money, and chartered an English vessel, the Herecles, for the purpose of taking him to Greece.

All things being ready, on the 13th of July, he, and those who were to accompany him, embarked. His suite consisted of Count Pietro Gamba, brother of the Countess Guiccioli; Mr. Trelawny, an Englishman; and Doptor Bruno, an Italian physician, who had just left the university, and was universally acquainted with surgery. He had, also, at his service, eight servants.

There were on board five horses, arms and ammunition for the use of his party, and medicine enough for the supply of one thousand men for one year.

On the morning of the 14th of July, the Herecles sailed; but, encountering a severe storm, was obliged to put back. On the evening of the 15th, they set sail, and after four days' hard work, reached Leghorn, where they shipped a supply of gunpowder, and other English goods. Receiving these, they immediately sailed for Cephalonia, and reached Patras, the 21st of July. He was warmly received by the Greeks and English, among whom his presence created a lively sensation.

Wishing information, in order to determine upon his course for Greece, he despatched Mr. Trelawny and Mr. Hamilton Browne with a letter to the Greek government, in order to obtain an account of the state of public affairs. Here, as in many other places, he displayed his generosity, by relieving the distressed, who had fled from Scio. He was delayed by Argolodii about six weeks, by adverse winds. At length, the wind becoming fair, he embarked on board the Misticco, and Count Gamba, with the horses and heavy baggage, in a large barge.

The latter was brought to by a Turkish frigate, and carried, with its valuable cargo, into Patras, where the commander of the Turkish fleet was stationed, and desired to proceed with the English vessels, and was so fortunate as to obtain the release of his vessel and freight; and sailing, reached Missolonghi on the 4th of January. He was surprised to learn that Lord Byron had not arrived.

On his Lordship's departure from Dragomestri, a violent gale came on, and the vessel was twice driven into imminent danger on the rocks; and it was owing to Lord Byron's firmness and nautical skill, that the vessel, several lives, and twenty-five thousand pounds and goods were saved.

It was while at Dragomestri, that an imprudent oath brought on a cold, which was the foundation of that sickness which resulted in his death.

He reached Missolonghi on the 9th of January, 1823. During his stay at this place, his expressions of joy, No mark of welcome or honor that the Greeks could devise, was omitted.

One of the first acts of Lord Byron, was an attempt to mitigate the ferocity of war, which had broken out. A Turk from the hands of some sailors, kept him at his house a few days, until an opportunity occurred to send him to Patras. He sent four Turkish prisoners to the Turkish Chief of Patras, and requested the Turkish officers, on both sides, be henceforward treated with humanity.

Forming a corps of Sulioties, he equipped them at his own expense. They numbered about six hundred, brave and hearty mountainiers, but wholly undisciplined and manageable. Of these, having obtained a commission, he, on the first of Febru

An expedition against Lepanto was proposed; but, owing to some difficulty with the rude and riotous soldiery, it was suspended.

Disease now began to prey upon him, and he was attacked with a fit of epilepsy on the 15th of February, which deprived him, for a short time, of all control over his senses. On the following morning, he appeared to be much better, but still quite ill.

On the 9th of April, after returning from a ride with Count Gamba, during which they had met a violent shower, he was again prostrated with disease. He was seized with shuddering, and complained of rheumatic pains. The following day he arose at his accustomed hour, transacted business, and rode into the olive woods, accompanied by his long train of Sulioties.

On the 11th his fever increased; and on the 12th he kept his bed all day, complaining that he could not sleep, and taking no nourishment whatever. The two following days, he suffered much from pain in the head, though his fever had subsided. On the 14th, after a successful finding, urged the necessity of his being beds. But of this Lord Byron would not hear. At length, however, after repeated entreaties, he promised that, though he should for a time be left to his fate, he would declare himself. He was bled; but the relief did not answer the expectations of any one. The restlessness and agitation increased, and he spoke several times in an incoherent manner. On the 17th, it was repeated.

His disease continued to increase; he had not, till now, thought himself dangerously ill; but now, the fearful truth was apparent, not only in his own feelings, but in the countenances and actions of his friends and attendants.

A consultation of physicians was had. Soon after, a fit of delirium ensued, and he began to talk wildly, calling out, half in English, half in Italian, "Forwards!—forwards!—courage!—follow my example!" &c., &c.

On Fletcher's asking him whether he should bring pen and paper to take down his words, he replied:—"Oh, no, there is no time—it is now nearly over. Go to my sister—tell her—go to Lady Byron—you will see her—say—" 

"No, nor tell the world, and be warned—"

"What a pity!—then it is too late;—all is over."

"I hope not," answered Fletcher; but the Lord's will be done!"

"Yes, not mine, "said Byron. He then attempted to say something; but nothing was intelligible, except "my sister—my child."

About six o'clock in the evening of the 19th, he said, "Now I shall go to sleep;" and, turning round, fell into that slumber from which he never awoke.

The sad intelligence was received by the people of Missolonghi with feelings of sorrow, which we are unable to describe; and all Europe was in mourning over the loss of this great man, as its tidings spread through its cities, towns, and villages.

It was but a short time previous, that the Greeks were inspired by his presence, and inspired by the touch of his ever-powerful genius. Now, all was over. The future triumphs which they had pictured forth for their country's freedom, vanished. Their bright hopes departed, and lamentation filled hearts constantly with rejoicing.

In various parts of Greece, honors were paid to his memory.

The funeral ceremony took place in the church of St. Nicholas. His remains were carried on the shoulders of the officers of his corps. On his coffin
were placed a helmet, a sword, and a crown of laurel. The church was crowded to its utmost extent, during the service.

On the 2d of May the body was conveyed to Zante, under a salute from the guns of the fortress. From thence, it was sent in the English brig Florida, in charge of Col. Stanhope; and, being landed under the direction of his executors, Mr. Hobhouse and Mr. Hanson, it was removed to the house of Sir Edward Knatchbull, where it lay in state during the 9th and 10th of July. On the 16th of July, the last duties were paid to the remains of the great poet, by depositing them close to those of his mother, in the family vault in the small village church of Hucknall, near Newstead. It is a somewhat singular fact, that on the same day of the same month in the preceding year, he said to Count Gamba—"Where shall we be in another year?"

On a tablet of white marble, in the chancel of the church of Hucknall, is the following inscription:

IN THE VAULT BENEATH,
WHERE MANY OF HIS ANCESTORS AND HIS MOTHER ARE BURIED,
LIE THE REMAINS OF
GEORGE GORDON NOEL BYRON,
LORD BYRON, OF ROCHEDALE,
IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE;
THE AUTHOR OF
"CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE."
HE WAS BORN IN LONDON, ON THE
22D OF JANUARY, 1788;
ENGAGED IN THE GLORIOUS ATTEMPT TO
RESTORE THAT COUNTRY TO HER
ANCIENT FREEDOM AND
RENOWN.

HIS SISTER, THE HONORABLE
AUGUSTA MARIA LEIGH,
PLACED THIS TABLET TO HIS MEMORY.

Thus lived and died the poet Byron. With a mind blest with an active genius, which few but are privileged to possess, he passed through this world, like a comet, on its bright but erratic course, leaving a luminous trace behind to mark his passage, and to keep his memory fresh in the hearts of many future generations. It is not our purpose, in this place, to speak of the general tone of his writings or of their influence. That he had faults, we are ready to admit; and that he had an inward goodness of heart, we are as ready to assert. But few men, with like temperament and associations with his, would have pursued a different course.

In height he was five feet eight inches and a half. His hands were very white and small. Of his face, the beauty may be pronounced to have been of the highest order, as combining at once regularity of features with the most varied and interesting expression. His eyes were of a light gray, and capable of all extremes of expression, from the most joyous hilarity to the deepest sadness, from the very sunshine of benevolence to the most concentrated scorn or rage.

But it was in the mouth and chin that the great beauty of his countenance lay. Says a fair critic of his features, "Many pictures have been painted of him, with various success; but the excessive beauty of his lips escaped every painter and sculptor. In their ceaseless play they represented every emotion, whether pain with anger, or curled in disdain, smiling in triumph, or dimpled with archness and love. This extreme facility of expression, was sometimes painful, for I have seen him look absolutely ugly—have seen him look so hard and cold that you must hate him, and then, in a moment, brighter than the sun, with such playful softness in his look, such affectionate eagerness kindling in his eyes, and dimpling his lips into something more sweet than a smile, that you forgot the man, the Lord Byron, in the picture of beauty presented to you, and gazed with intense curiosity. I had almost said—as if to satisfy yourself, that thus looked the god of poetry, the god of the Vatican, when he conversed with the sons and daughters of man."

His head was small; the forehead high, on which glossy, dark-brown curls clustered. His teeth were white and regular, and his countenance colorless.

He believed in the immortality of the soul. In one of his letters, he said that he once doubted it; but that reflection had taught him better. The publication of "Cain, a Mystery," brought down upon him the severest denunciations of many of the clergy, whose zeal took rapid flight and bore away their reason and judgment. They called it blasphemous. This, Lord Byron denied in the most positive terms. The misunderstanding was owing to the fact that Byron caused each of the characters to speak as it was supposed they would speak, judging from their actions, and that these fault-finders, who raised such an outcry, understood the language to be the belief of the author, than which nothing could be more unreasonable.

At the time of Byron's death many tributes to his memory were paid by the most celebrated authors. Among them was one from Rogers, from which we take the following as best fitted, in closing this sketch, to leave on the mind of our reader a just view of the strange and eventful life of the poet, and at the same time to call forth that charity in judgment which it is our duty to bestow:

"Thou art gone;
And he who would shall deem thee in thy grave,
Oh, let him pause! for who among us all,
Tried as thou wert—even from thy earliest years,
Wes he a wonder, yet unpolish, a Highland boy—
Tried as thou wert, and with thy love of fame;
Pleasure, while yet the down was on thy cheek,
Glittering, peering, and to lips like thine,
Her charmed cup—ah, who amongst us all
Could say he had not loved as much and more!"
CHILDE HAROLD’S PILGRIMAGE.

A ROMAUNT.

Preface.

The following poem was written, for the most part, amid the scenes which it attempts to describe. It was begun in Albania; and the parts relative to Spain and Portugal were composed from the author’s observations in those countries. Thus much it may be necessary to state for the correctness of the descriptions. The scenes attempted to be sketched are in Spain, Portugal, Epirus, Acarnania, and Greece. There for the present the poem stops: its reception will determine whether the author may venture to conduct his readers to the capital of the East, through Ionia and Phrygia: these two cantos are merely experimental.

A fictitious character is introduced for the sake of giving some connexion to the piece; which, however, makes no pretension to regularity. It has been suggested to me by friends, on whose opinions I set a high value, that in this fictitious character, ‘Childe Harold,’ I may incur the suspicion of having intended some real personage: this I beg leave, once for all, to disclaim—Harold is the child of imagination, for the purpose I have stated. In some very trivial particulars, and those merely local, there might be grounds for such a notion; but in the main points, I should hope, none whatever.

It is almost superfluous to mention that the appellation ‘Childe,’ as ‘Childe Waters,’ ‘Childe Childers,’ &c., is used as more consonant with the old structure of the versification which I have adopted. The ‘Good Night,’ in the beginning of the first canto, was suggested by ‘Lord Maxwell’s Good Night,’ in the Border Minstrelsy, edited by Mr Scott.

With the different poems which have been published on Spanish subjects, there may be found some slight coincidence in the first part, which treats of the Peninsula, but it can only be casual; as, with the exception of a few concluding stanzas, the whole of this poem was written in the Levant.

The stanza of Spenser, according to one of our most successful poets, admits of every variety. Dr Beattie makes the following observation: ‘Not long ago I began a poem in the style and stanza of Spenser, in which I propose to give full scope to my inclination, and be either droll or pathetic, descriptive or sentimental, tender or satirical, as the humor strikes me; for, if I mistake not, the measure which I have adopted admits equally of all these kinds of composition.’—Strengthened in my opinion by such high authority, and by the example of some in the highest order of Italian poets, I shall make no apology for attempts at similar variations in the following composition; satisfied that, if they are unsuccessful, their failure must be in the execution, rather than in the design sanctioned by the practice of Ariosto, Thomson, and Beattie.

Addition to the Preface.

I have now waited till almost all our periodical journals have distributed their usual portion of criticism. To the justice of the generality of their criticisms I have nothing to object; it would ill become me to quarrel with their very slight degree of censure, when, perhaps, if they had been less kind they had been more candid. Returning, therefore, to all and each my best thanks for their liberality, on one point alone shall I venture an observation. Among the many objections justly urged to the very indifferent character of the ‘vagrant Childe,’ (whom, notwithstanding many hints to the con
trary, I still maintain to be a fictitious personage,) it has been stated, that, besides the anachronism, he is very unknighthly, as the times of the Knights were times of love, honor, and so forth. Now it so happens that the good old times, when "l'amour du bon vieux temps l'amour antique" flourished, were the most profligate of all possible centuries. Those who have any doubts on this subject may consult St. Palaye, passim, and more particularly vol. ii., page 69. The vows of chivalry were no better kept than any other vows whatsoever; and the songs of the Troubadours were not more decent, and certainly were much less refined, than those of Ovid. The "Cours d'amour, parlemens d'amour ou de courtesie et de gentillesse" had much more of love than of courtesy or gentleness. See Rolland on the same subject with St. Palaye. Whatever other objection may be urged to that most unamiable personage, Child Harold, he was so far perfectly knightly in his attributes—"No walter, but a knight templar."* By the by, I fear that Sir Tristrem and Sir Lancelot were no better than they should be, although very poetical personages and true knights "sans peur," though not "sans reproche." If the story of the institution of the "Garter" be not a fable, the knights of that order have for several centuries borne the badge of a Countess of Salisbury of indifferent memory. So much for chivalry. Burke need not have regretted that its days are over, though Maria Antoinette was quite as chaste as most of those in whose honors lances were shivered, and knights unhorsed.

Before the days of Bayard, and down to those of Sir Joseph Banks, (the most chaste and celebrated of ancient and modern times,) few exceptions will be found to this statement, and I fear a little investigation will teach us not to regret these monstrous mummeries of the middle ages.

I now leave "Childe Harold," to live his day, such as he is; it had been more agreeable, and certainly more easy, to have drawn an amiable character. It had been easy to varnish over his faults, to make him do more and express less, but he never was intended as an example, further than to show that early perversion of mind and morals leads to safety of past pleasures and disappointment in new ones, and that even the beauties of nature, and the stimulus of travel (except ambition, the most powerful of all excitements) are lost on a soul so constituted, or rather misdirected. Had I proceeded with the poem, this character would have deepened as he drew to the close; for the outline which I once meant to fill up for him was, with some exceptions, the sketch of a modern Timon, perhaps a poetical Zelucus.

* I've Never. Antichrist.

BYRON'S WORKS.

TO IANTHE.

Not in those climes where I have late been straying,
Though Beauty long hath there been matchless deem'd;
Not in those visions to the heart displaying
Forms which it sighs but to have only dream'd,
Hath aught like thee in truth or fancy seem'd:
Nor, having seen thee, shall I vainly seek
To paint those charms which varied as they beam'd:
To such as see thee not my words were weak;
To those who gaze on thee what language could they speak?

Ah! may'st thou ever be what now thou art,
Nor unseem the promise of thy spring,
As fair in form, as warm yet pure in heart,
Love's image upon earth without his wing,
And guileless beyond Hope's imagining!
And surely he who now so fondly rears
Thy youth, in thee, thus hourly brightening,
Beholds the rainbow of her future years,
Before whose heavenly hues all sorrow disappears.

Young Peri of the West—'tis well for me
My years already doubly number things;
My long lost eye unmov'd may gaze on thee,
And safely view thy ripening beauties shine;
Happy, I ne'er shall see them in decline;
Happier, that while all younger hearts shall bleed,
Mine shall escape the doom thine eyes assign
To those whose admiration shall succeed,
But mix'd with pangs to Love's even loveliest hours decreed.

Oh! let that eye, which, wild as the Gazelle's,
Now brightly bold or beautifully shy,
Wins as it wanders, dazzles where it dwells,
Glance o'er this page, nor to my verse deny
That smile for which my breast might vainly sigh,
Could I to thee be ever more than friend:
This much, dear maid, accord: nor question why
To one so young my strain I would commend,
But bid me with my wreath one matchless lily blend.

Such is thy name with this my verse entwined;
And long as kinder eyes a look shall cast
On Harold's page, Ianth's here enshrined
Shall thus be first beheld, forgotten last;
My days once number'd, should this homage past
Attract thy fairy fingers near the lyre
Of him who hail'd thee, loveliest as thou wast,
Such is the most my memory may desire;
Though more than Hope can claim, could Frierd
ship less require 3
CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE

CANTO I

I.
On thou in Hellas deem'd of heavenly birth, Muse! form'd or fabled at the minstrel's will! Since shamed full oft by later lyres on earth, Mine dares not call thee from thy sacred hill: Yet there I've wander'd by thy vaunted rill; Yes! sigh'd o'er Delphi's long deserted shrine, Where, save that feeble fountain, all is still; Nor mote my shell awake the weary Nine For grace so plain a site—this lowly lay of mine.

II.
Whilome in Albion's isle there dwelt a youth, Who ne in virtue's ways did take delight; But spent his days in riot most uncomplish'd, And vex'd with mirth the drowsy ear of Night. Ah, me! in sooth he was a shameless wight, Sore given to revel and ungodly glee; Few earthly things found favor in his sight Save concubines and carnal companie, And haunt'd wassailers of high and low degree.

III.
Childe Harold was he hight,—but whence his name? And lineage long, it suits; ne not to say; Suffice it, that perchance they were of fame, And had been glorious in another day: But one sad level soils a same for aye, However mighty in the o'den time: Nor all that heralds rake from coffin'd clay, Nor florid grace, nor hero'd lies of rhyme, Can blazon evil deeds, or consecrate a crime.

IV.
Caidle Harold bask'd him in the noontide sun, Disporting there like any other fly; Nor deem'd before his little day was done One blast might chill him into misery. But long ere scarce a third of his pass'd by, Worse than ad'cently the Childe befell; He felt the fulness of satiety; Then loath'd he in his native land to dwell, Which seem'd to him more lone than Eremita's sad cell.

V.
For he through Sin's long labyrinth had run, Nor made atonement when he did amiss, Had sigh'd to many though he loved but one. And that loved one, alas! could ne'er be his. Ah, happy she! to scape from him whose kiss Had been pollution unto aught so chaste; Who soon had left her charms for vulgar bliss, And spoil'd her goodly lands to gild his waste, Nor cain domestic peace had ever deign'd to taste.

VI.
And now Childe Harold was sore sick at heart And from his fellow bacchanales would flee, 'Tis said, at times the sullen tear would start, But Pride conceal'd the drop within his eye: Apart he staid in joyless reverie, And from his native land resolv'd to go, And visit scorching climes beyond the seas; With pleasure drugg'd he almost long'd for wo. And e'en for change of scene would seek the shades below.

VII.
The Childe departed from his father's hall: It was a vast and venerable pile; So old, it seemed only not to fall, Yet strength was pillar'd in each massy aisle. Monastic dome! condemn'd to uses vile! Where Superstition once had made her den, Now Paphian girls were known to sing and smile; And monks might deem their time was come again, If ancient tales say true, nor wrong these holy men.

VIII.
Yet oftentimes in his maddest mirthful mood Strange pangs would flash along Childe Harold's As if the memory of some deadly feud [brow, Or disappointed passion lurk'd below: But this none knew, nor haply cared to know; For his was not that open, artless soul That feels relief by bidding sorrow flow, Nor sought he friend to counsel or condole What'er his grief mote be, which he could not control.
IX.
And none did love him—though to hall and bower
He gather’d revellers from far and near,
He knew them flatt’r’rs of the festal hour;
The heartless parasites of present cheer.
Yet! none did love him—not his lemans dear—
But bomp and power alone are woman’s care,
And where these are light Eros finds a fere;
Maidens, like moths; are ever caught by glare,
And Mammon wins his way where Seraphs might despair.

X.
Child Harold had a mother—not forgot,
Though parting from that mother he did shun;
A sister whom he loved, but saw her not
Before his weary pilgrimage begun:
If friends he had, he bade adieu to none.
Yet deem not thence his breast a breast of steel;
Ye, who have known what ‘tis to dote upon
A few dear objects, will in sadness feel
Such partings break the heart they fondly hope to heal.

XI.
His house, his home, his heritage, his lands,
The laughing damos in whom he did delight,
Whose large blue eyes, fair locks, and snowy hands
Might shake the saintship of an anchorite,
And long had fed his youthful appetite;
His goblets brimm’d with every costly wine,
And all that mote to luxury invite,
Without a sigh he left, to cross the brine,
And traverse Paynim shores, and pass Earth’s central line.

XII.
The sails were fill’d, and fair the light winds blew,
As glad to waft him from his native home;
And fast the white rocks faded from his view,
And soon were lost in circumambient foam:
And then, it may be, of his wish to roam
Repeated he, but in his bosom slept
The silent thought, nor from his lips did come
One word of wail, whilst others eat and wept,
And to the reckless gales unmanly moaning kept.

XIII.
But when the sun was sinking in the sea
He seized his harp, which he at times could string,
And strike, albeit with untaught melody,
When deem’d he no strange ear was listening:
And now his fingers o’er it he did fling,
And tuned his farewell in the deep twilight.
While flew the vessel on her snowy wing,
And destining shores receded from his sight,
Thus to the elements he pour’d his last “Good Night.”

1. “Adieu! adieu! my native shore
Fades o’er the waters blue;
The Night-winds sigh, the breakers roar,
And shrieks the wild sea-mew.
Yon Sun that sets upon the sea
We follow in his flight;
Pardon awhile to him and thee,
My native Land—Good Night!”

2. “A few short hours, and He will rise
To give the Morrow birth;
And I shall hail the main and skies,
But not my mother Earth.
Deserted is my own good hall,
Its hearth is desolate;
Wild weeds are gathering on the wall;
My dog howls at the gate.

3. “Come hither, hither, my little page!
Why dost thou weep and wail?
Or dost thou dread the billows’ rage,
Or tremble at the gale?
But dash the tear-drop from thine eye,
Our ship is swift and strong;
Our fleetest falcon scarce could fly
More merrily along.”

4. ’Let winds be shrill, let waves roll high,
I fear not wave nor wind;
Yet marvel not, Sir Childo, that I
Am sorrowful in mind;
For I have from my father gone,
A mother whom I love,
And have no friend, save these alone.
But thee—and one above.

5. ’My father bless’d me fervently,
Yet did not much complain;
But sorely will my mother sigh
Till I come back again.’—
”Enough, enough, my little lad!
Such tears become thine eye;
If I thy guileless bosom had,
Mine own would not be dry.

6. “Come hither, hither, my staunch yeoman
Why dost thou look so pale?
Or dost thou dread a French foeman?
Or shiver at the gale?”
”Deem’st thou I tremble for my life?
Sir Childo, I’m not so weak;
But thinking on an absent wife
Will blanch a faithful cheek.

7. ’My spouse and boys dwell near thy hall,
Along the bordering lake;
And when they on their father call,
What answer shall she make?’—
”Enough, enough, my yeoman good,
Thy grief let none gainays;
But I, who am of lighter mood,
Will laugh to see away.

8. “For who would trust the seeming sighs
Of wife or paramour?
Fresh feres will dry the bright blue eyes
We late saw streaming o’er.
For pleasures past I do not grieve,
Nor perils gathering near;
My greatest grief is that I leave
No thing that claims a tear.”
9.

"And now I'm in the world alone,
Upon the wide, wide sea:
But why should I for others groan,
When none will sigh for me?

New chance my dog will whine in vain:
Till fed by stranger hands;
But long ere I come back again,
He'd tear me where he stands.

10.

"With thee, my bark, I'll swiftly go
A'athwart the foaming brine;
Nor care what land thou bear'st me too,
So not again to mine.

Welcome, welcome, ye dark blue waves,
And when you fail my sight,
Welcome, ye deserts, and ye caves!
My native Land—Good Night!"

XIV.

On, on the vessel flies, the land is gone,
And winds are rude in Biscay's sleepless bay.
Four days are sped, but with the fifth, anon,
New shores descried make every bowman say;

And Cintra's mountain greets them on their way,
And Tagus dashing onward to the deep;
His fabled golden tribute bent to pay;
And soon on board the Lusian pilots leap,

And steer 'twixt fertile shores where yet few rustics reap.

XV.

Oh, Christ! it is a goodly sight to see
What Heaven hath done for this delicious land!
What fruits of fragrance blush on every tree!
What goodly prospects o'er the hills expand!

But man would war with them with an impious hand:
And when the Almighty lifts his fiercest scourge
'Gainst those who most transgress his high command,
With treble vengeance will his hot shafts urge
Saul's locust host, and earth from fallest foemen purge.

XVI.

What beauties doth Lisbon first unfold!
Her image floating on that noble tide,
Which poets vainly pave with sands of gold,
But now wherein a thousand keels did ride
Of mighty strength, since Albion was allied,
And to the Lusians did her aid afford:
A nation sworn with ignorance and pride,
Who lick yet loathes the hand that waves the sword
To save them from the wrath of Gaul's unsparing lord.

XVII.

But whose enterth within this town,
That, sheening far, celestial seems to be,
Disconsolate will wander up and down,
'Mid many things unsightly to strange eye;
For hut and palace show like filthy:
The dingy denizens are reared in dirt;
Ne personage or high or mean degree
Doth care for cleanliness of surtost or shirt,
Through shent with Egypt's plague, unkempt,
Unwash'd, unhurt.

XVIII.

Poor, paltry slaves! yet born 'midst nobles' scenes
Why, Nature, waste thy wonders on such men?
Lo! Cintra's glorious Eden intervenes
In variegated maze of mount and glen.

Ah, me! what hand can pencil guide, or pen
To follow half on which the eye dilates,
Through views more dazzling unto mortal ken
Than those whereof such things the bard relates,
Who to the awe-struck world unlock'd Elysium's gates?

XIX.

The horrid crags, by toppling convent crown'd,
The cork-trees hoar that clothe the shaggy steep
The mountain-moss by searching skies imbro'n'd,
The sunken glen, whose sunless shrubs must weep.
The tender azure of the unruffled deep,
The orange tints that gild the greenest bough,
The torrents that from cliff to valley leap,
The vine on high, the willow branch below,
Mix'd in one mighty scene, with varied beauty glow.

XX.

Then slowly climb the many-winding way,
And frequent turn to linger as you go,
From loftier rocks now loveliness surveys,
And rest yet at our "Lady's house of wo;" a

Where frugal monks their little relics show,
And sundry legends to the stranger tell:
Here impious men have punish'd been, and lo.
Deep in yon cave Honorious long did dwell, In hope to merit heaven by making earth a Hell.

XXI.

And here and there, as up the crags you spring,
Mark many rude-carved crosses near the path:
Yet deem not these devotion's offering—
These are memorials frail of murderous wrath:
For wheresoe'er the shrieking victim hath
Pour'd forth his blood beneath the assassin's knife,
Some hand erects a cross of mouldering lath;
And grove and glen with thousand such are rife
Throughout this purple land where law secures not life.2

XXII.

On sloping mounds, or in the vale beneath,
Are domes where whilome kings did make repair; But now the wild flowers round them only breathe,
Yet min' splendor still is lingering there.
And yonder towers the Prince's palace fair;
There thou too, Yathuck! England's wealthiest son,
Once form'd thy Paradise, as not aware (done,
When wanton Wealth her mightiest deeds hath
Meek Peace volup'tuous lures was ever wont to sun.

XXIII.

Here didst thou dwell, here schemes of pleasure plan,
Beneath yon mountain's ever beauteous brow.
But now, as if a thing unblest by Man.
Thy fairy dwelling is as lone as thou!
Here giant weeds a passage scarce allow
To halls deserted, portals gaping wide;
Fresh lessons to the thinking bosom, how
Vain are the pleasantries on earth supplied;
Swept into wrecks anon by Time's ungentle tide
XXXIV.

Behold the hall where chiefs were late convened! Oh! done displeasing unto British eye! With disdain hight fooleap. lo! a fiend, A little fiend that scofts incessantly, There sits in parchment robe array'd, and by His side is hung a seal and sable scroll, Where blazon'd glamer names known to chivalry, And sundry signatures adorn the roll, Whereat the Urchin points and laughs with all his soul.

XXXV.

Convention is the dwarfish demon styled That foil'd the knights in Marialva's dome: Of brains (if brains they had) he them beguiled, And turn'd a nation's shallow joy to gloom. Here Folly dash'd to earth the victor's plume, And Policy regained what arms had lost; For chiefs like ours in vain may laurels bloom! Wo to the conquering, not the conquer'd host, Since baffled Triumph droops on Lusitania's coast.

XXXVI.

And ever since that martial synod met, Britannia sickens, Cintra! at thy name; And folks in office at the mention fret, And fain would blush, if blush they could, for How will posterity the deed pechum! [shame. Will not our own and fellow-nations sneer, To view these champions cheated of their fame, By foci in fight o'erthrown, yet victors here, Where Scorn her finger points through many a coming year?

XXXVII.

So deem'd the Childe, as o'er the mountains he Did take his way in solitary guise: Sweet was the scene, yet soon he thought to flee, More restless than the swallow in the skies: Though here a while he learned to moralize, For meditation fix'd at times on him; And conscious Reason whisper'd to despire His early youth mispent in maddest whim; But as he gazed on truth his aching eyes grew dim.

XXXVIII.

To horse! to horse! he quits, for ever quits A scene of peace, though soothing to his soul; Again he rouses from his napping fits, But seeks not now the harlot and the bowl. Onward he flies, nor fix'd as yet the goal Where he shall rest him on his pilgrimage; And o'er him many changing scenes must roll Ere toll his thirst for travel can assuage, Or he shall calm his breast, or learn experience sage.

XXXIX.

Yet Mafra shall one moment claim delay, Where dwell of yore the Lusians' luckless queen; And church and court did mingle their array, And mass and revel were alter't ste seen; Lordlings and friers—ill-sorted fry I ween! But here the Babylonian whose hand hath built A dome, where flaunts she in such glorious sheen, That men forget the blood which she hath spilt, And how the knee to Pomp that loves to varnish guilt.

XXX.

O'er vales that teem with fruits, romantic hills, (Oh, that such hills upheld a free-born race!) Whereon to gaze the eye with pleasure fills, [place. Child! Harold wends through many a pleasant Though sluggards deem it but a foolish chase, And men should quit their easy chair, The toilsome way, and long, long league to trace, Oh! there is sweetness in the mountain air, And life, that bloated Ease can never hope to share.

XXXI.

More bleak to view the hills at length recede, And, less luxuriant, smoother vales extend: Immense horizon-bounded plains succeed! Far as the eye discerns, withouten end, Spain's realms appear whereon her shepherds tend Flocks, whose rich fleece right well the trader knows — Now must the pastor's arm his lambs defend: For Spain is compass'd by unfailing foes, And all must shield their all, or share Subjection's woes.

XXXII.

Where Lusitania and her sister meet, Deem ye what bounds the rival realms divide? Or ere the jealous nations of greeet, Doth Tayo interpose his mighty tide? Or dark Sicerras rise in craggy pride? Or fence of art, like Chinu's vasty wall? — Ne barrier wall, we river deep and wide, Ne horrid crags, nor mountains dark and tall, Rise like the rocks that part Hispania's land from Gaul.

XXXIII.

But these between a silver streamlet glides, And scarce a name distinguisheth the brook Though rival kingdoms press its verdant sides. Here leans the idle shepherd on his crook, And vacant on the rippling waves doth look, That peaceful still 'twixt bitterest foes, few flow; For prond each peasant as the noblest duke: Well doth the Spanish hint the difference know 'Twixt him and Lusian slave, the lowest of the low

XXXIV.

But ere the mingling bounds have far been pass'd, Dark Guadiana rolls his power along In sullen billows, murmuring and vast, So noted ancient roundelays among. Whilemore upon his banks did legions throng Of Moor and knight, in unled splendor dress Here ceased the swift their race, here sunk the The Paynim turban and the Christian crest [strong; Mix'd on the bleeding stream, by floating hosts opp'ress'd.

XXXV.

Oh, lovely Spain! renown'd romantic land! Where is that standard which Pelagio bore, When Cava's traitor-sire first call'd the band That dyed thy mountain streams with Gothic gore? Where are those bloody banners which of yore Waved o'er thy sons, victorious to the gale, And drove at last the spoilers to their shore? [gale, Red gleam'd the cross, and waned the crescent While Afric's echoes thrill'd with Moorish maroon'd wall.
XXXVI.

Teems not each ditty when the glorious tale?  
Ah! such, alas! the hero's simplest fate!  
When granite moulders and when records fail,  
A peasant's plaint prolongs his dubious date.

Pride! bend thine eye from heaven to thine  
See how the mighty shrink into a song!  
[estate,  
XLIII.  
Can Volume, Pillar, Pile, preserve the great?  
Or must thou trust Tradition's simple tongue,  
Where Flattery sleeps with thee, and History does  
Nec wrong?

XXXVII.

Awake, ye sons of Spain! awake! advance!  
Lo! Chivalry, your ancient goddess, cries;  
But yields not, as of old, her thirsty lance,  
Nor shakes her crimson plumage in the skies:  
Now on the smoke of blazing bolts she flies,  
And speaks in thunder through your eagle's roar:  
In every peal she calls--"Awake! arise!"  
Say, is her voice more feebler than of yore,  
When her war-song was heard on Andalusia's shore?

XXXVIII.

Hark! heard you not those hoarse of dreadful note?  
Sounds not the clang of conflict on the heath?  
Saw ye not whom the reckoning sabre smote;  
Nor saved your brethren ere they sank beneath  
Tyrians and tyrants' slaves?--the fires of death  
The bale-fires flash on high:--from rock to rock  
Each volley tells that thousands cease to breathe,  
Death rides upon the sulph'ry Siroc,
Re'd Battle stamps his foot, and nations feel the shock.

XXXIX.

Lo! where the giant on the mountain stands,  
His blood-red tresses deep'ning in the sun,  
With death-shot glowing in his fiery hands,  
And eye that searcheth all it glares upon;  
Restless it rolls, now fix'd, and now anon  
Flash'd afar, and at his iron feet  
Destruction causers, to mark what deeds are done;  
For on this morn three potent nations meet,  
To shed before his shrine the blood he deems most sweet.

XL.

By heaven, it is a splendid sight to see  
(For one who hath no friend, no brother there)  
Their rival scars of mix'd embroidery,  
Their various arms that glitter in the air! [air  
What gallant war-hounds rouse them from their  
And gnash their fangs, loud yelling for the prey!  
All join the chase, but few the triumph share;  
T'o Grave shall bear the chiefest prize away,  
And Iluove scarce for joy can number their array.

XLI.

Three hosts combine to offer sacrifice;  
Three tongues prefer strange orisons on high;  
Three sanguine standards flout the pale blue skies;  
The shouts are France, Spain, Albion, Victory!  
The foe, the victim, and the fond ally  
That fights for all, but ever fights in vain,  
Are met--as if at home they could not die--  
To feed the crow on Talavera's plain,  
And fertilize the field that each pretends to gain

XLII.

There shall they rot--Ambition's honor I fools  
Yes, honor decks the turf that wraps their clay  
Vain Sophistry! in these behold the tools,  
The broken tools, that tyrants cast away  
By myriads, when they dare to pave their way  
With human hearts—to what?—a dream alone.  
Can despots compass ought that hails their sway.  
Or call with truth one span of earth their own,  
Save that wherein at last they crumble bone by bone?

XLIII.

Oh, Albani! glorious field of grief!  
As o'er thy plain the Pilgrim pride'd his steel,  
Who could foresee thee, in a space so brief, [bled.  
A scene where mingling foes should boast and  
Peace to the perish'd! may the warrior's meed  
And tears of triumph their reward prolong!  
Till others fall where other chieftains lead,  
Thy name shall circle round the gaping throng,  
And shine in worthless lays, the theme of transient song!

XLIV.

Enough of Battle's minions! let them play  
Their game of lives, and barter breath for fame:  
Fame that will scarce reanimate their clay,  
Though thousands fall to deck some single name.  
In sooth 'twere sad to thwart their noble aim [good,  
Who strike, blest hirelings! for their country's  
And die, that living might have proved her shame;  
Perish'd, perchance, in some domestic feud,  
Or in a narrower sphere wild Rapine's path pursued.

XLV.

Full swiftly Harold wends his lonely way  
Where proud Sevilla triumphs unsubdued:  
Yet is she free—the spoiler's wished-for prey!  
Soon, soon shall Conquest's fiery foot intrude,  
Blackening her lovely domes with traces rude.  
Inevitable hour! 'Gainst fate to strive  
Where Desolation plants her famish'd brood  
Is vain, or Ilion, Tyre, might yet survive,  
And Virtue vanquish all, and Murder cease to thrive.

XLVI.

But all unconscious of the coming doom,  
The feast, the song, the revel here abounds;  
Strange modes of merriment the hours consume,  
Nor bleed these patriots with their country's wounds:  
Nor here War's clarion, but Love's rebeck sounds;  
Here Folly still his votaries inthralls;  
And young-cicé Lew'ness walks her midnight!  
Girt with the silent crimes of Capitals, [grounds  
Still to the last kind Vice clings to the to'tring walls.

XLVII.

Not so the rustic—with his trembling mate  
He lurks, nor casts his heavy eye afar,  
Least he should view his vineyard desolate  
Blasted below the dun hot breath of war  
No more beneath soft Eve's consoling star  
Pandango twirls his jocund castanet;  
Ah, monarchs! could ye taste the mirth ye mar,  
Not in the toils of Glory would ye fret.  
The hoarse dull drum would sleep, and Man is happy yet!
XLVIII.

How carols now the lusty muleteer?
Of love, romance, devotion, is his lay,
As whilome he was wont the leagues to cheer,
His quick bells wildly jinging on the way?
No! as he speeded, he chants "Viva el Rey!"
And sings his song to extirpate Godoy;
The royal wittol Charles, and curse the day [boy],
When first Spain's queen beheld the black-eyed
And grim-faced Treason sprung from her adulterate joy.

XLIX.

On you long level plain, at distance crown'd
With crags, whereon those Moorish turrets rest,
Wide scattered hoof-marks dint the wounded ground;
[vest
And, weather'd by fire, the greensward's darken'd;
Tells that the foe was Andalusia's guest:
Here was the camp, the watch-dame, and the host,
Here the bold peasant storm'd the dragon's nest;
Still does he mark it with triumphant boast,
And points to yonder cliffs, which oft were won and lost.

L.

And whomsoever along the path you meet,
Bears in his cap the badge of crimson hue,
Which tells you whom to shun and whom to greet;
Wo to the man that walks in public view
Without of loyalty this token true:
Sharp is the knife, and sudden is the stroke;
And sorely would the Gallie foeman rue,
If subtle poniards, warp beneath the cloak,
Could blunt the sabre's edge, or clear the cannon's smoke.

LI.

At every turn Morena's dusky height
Sustains aloft the battery's iron load;
And, far as mortal eye can compass sight,
The mountain-howitzer, the broken road,
The bristling pallisade, the fosse o'erflow'd,
The station'd bands, the never-vacant watch,
The magazine in rocky durance stow'd,
The bolster'd steed beneath the shed of thatch,
The ball-piled pyramid, the ever-blazing match.

LII.

Portend the deeds to come—but he whose nod
Has tumbled feckler desposts from their sway,
A moment pauseth ere he lifts the rod;
A little moment deigneth to delay:
[way; Soon will his legions sweep through these their
The West must own the Scourger of the world.
Ah! Spain! how sad will be thy reckoning-day,
When soars Gaul's Vulture, with his wings unfurl'd,
And thou shalt view thy sons in crowds to Hades hurl'd.

LIII.

And must they fall? the young, the proud, the brave,
To swell one blotted Chief's unsanctified reign?
No step between submission and a grave?
The rise of raving and the fall of Spain?
And doth the Power that man adores ordain
Their doom, nor heed the suppliant's appeal?
Is all that desperate Valor acts in vain?
And Counsel sage, and patriotic zeal,
The Veteran's skill, the Youth's fire, and Manhood's heart of steel.

LIV.

Is it for this the Spanish maid, aroused,
Hangs on the willow her unstrung guitar,
And, all unseen, the anhice hath espoused,
Sung the loud song, and dared the deed of war?
And she, whom once the semblance of a sea
Appall'd, an owllet's harum child'd with dread,
Now views the column-scattering bay-net jar,
The falchion flash, and o'er the yet warm dead
Stalks with Minerva's step where Mars might quake to tread.

LV.

Ye who shall marvel when you hear her tale,
Oh! had you known her in her softer hour, [veil,
Mark'd her black eye that mocks her coal-black
Heard her light, lively tones in Lady's bower,
Seen her long locks that foil the painter's power,
Her fairy form, with more than female grace,
Scarce would you deem that Saragossa's tower
Beheld her smile in Danger's Gorgon face,
Thin the closed ranks, and lead in Glory's fearful chase.

LVI.

Her lover sinks—she sheds no ill-timed tear;
Her chief is slain—she fills his fatal post;
Her fellows flee—she checks their base career;
The foe retires—she heads the Sallying host;
Who can appease like her a lover's ghost?
Who can avenge so well a leader's fall?
What maid retrieve when man's flush'd hope is
Who hang so fiercely on the flying Gaul, [lost?
Foil'd by a woman's hand, before a batter'd wall?

LVII.

Yet are Spain's maids no race of Amazons
But form'd for all the witching arts of love
Though thus in arms they emulate her sons
And in the horrid phalanx dare to move,
'Tis but the tender fierceness of the dove,
Pecking the hand that hovers o'er her mate:
In softness as in firmness far above
Remoter females, famed for sickening prate
Her mind is nobler sure, her charms perchance as great.

LVIII.

The seal Love's dimpling finger hath impress'd
Denotes how soft that chin which bears his touch:
Her lips, whose kisses pout to leave their nest,
Did man be valiant ere he merit such:
Her glance how wildly beautiful! how much
Hath Phebus woo'd in vain to spoil her cheek,
Which glows yet smoother from his amorous clutch:
Who round the North for paler dames would seek
How poor their forms appear! how languid, wan,
And weak!

LIX.

Match me, ye climes! which poets love to laud
Match me, ye harams of the land! where now
I strike my strain, far distant, to applaud
 Beauties that ev'n a cynic must avow
Match me those Hoursies, whem ye scarce allow
To taste the gale lest Love should ride the wind,
With Spain's dark-glancing daughters—deign to
There your wise Prophet's paradise we find. [know
His black-eyed maids of Heaven, angelically kind.
CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

LX.
Oh, thou Parnassus! whom I now survey,
Not in the frenzy of a dreamer's eye,
Not in the fabled landscape of a lay,
But soaring snow-clad through thy native sky
In the wild pomp of mountain majesty!
What marvel if I thus essay to sing?
The humblest of thy pilgrims passing by
Would gladly woo thine Echoes with his string,
Though from thy heights no more one Muse will
wave her wing.

LXI.
Oft have I dream'd of Thee! whose glorious name
Who knows not, knows not man's divinest lore:
And now I view thee, 'tis, alas! with shame
That I in feeblest accents must adore.
When I recount thy worshippers of yore
'tis tremble, and can only bend the knee;
Nor raise my voice, nor vainly dare to soar,
But gaze beneath thy cloudy canopy
In silent joy to think at last I look on Thee!

LXII.
Happier in this than mightiest bards have been,
Whose fate to distant homes confined their lot,
Shall I unmov'd behold the hallowed scene,
Which others rave of, though they know it not?
Though here no more Apollo haunts his grot,
And thou, the Muses' seat, art now their grave,
Some gentle spirit still pervades the spot,
Sighs in the gale, keeps silence in the cave,
And glides with glassy foot o'er yon melodious wave.

LXIII.
Of thee hereafter.—Ev'n amidst my strain
I turn'd aside to pay my homage here;
Forgot the land, the sons, the maidens of Spain:
Her fate, to every freeborn bosom dear;
And hail'd thee! not perchance without a tear.
Now to my theme—but from thy holy haunt
Let me some remnant, some memorial bear;
Yield me one leaf of Daphne's deathless plant,
Nor let thy votary's hope be deem'd an idle vaunt.

LXIV.
But ne'er didst thou, fair Mount! when Greece was
Seer round thy giant base a brighter choir, [young,
No. e'er did Delphi, when her priestess sung,
The Pythian hymn with more than mortal fire,
Behold a train more fitting to inspire
The song of love than Andalusa's maidens,
Nusret in the glowing lap of soft desire:
An! that to these were given such peaceful shades
As Greece can still bestow, though Glory fly her glades.

LXV.
Fair is proud Seville; let her country boast
Her strength, her wealth, her site of ancient
But Cadiz, rising on the distant coast, [days;^14
Calls forth a sweeter, though ignoble praise.
Ah! Vice! how soft are thy voluptuous ways!
While boyish blood is mantling who can 'scape
The fascination of thy magic gaze?
A Cherub-nydra round us dost thou gape,
And mould to every taste thy dear delusive shape.

LXVI.
When Paphos fell by time—accursed Time!
The queen who conquers all must yield to thee—
The Pleasures fled, but sought as warm a clime
And Venus, constant to her native sea,
To naught else constant, hither deign'd to fly;
And fix'd her shrine within these walls of white
Though not to one dome circumscribes she
Her worship, but, devoted to her rite,
A thousand altars rise, for ever blazing bright.

LXVII.
From morn till night, from night till startled Morn
Peeps blushing on the revel's laughing crew,
The song is heard, the rosy garment worn,
Devices quaint, and frolics ever new,
Tread on each other's kibes. A long adieu
He bids to sober joy that here sojourns:
Nought interrupts the riot, though in lieu
Of true devotion monkish incense burns,
And love and prayer unite, or rule the hour by
turns.

LXVIII.
The Sabbath comes, a day of blessed rest;
What hallows it upon this Christian shore?
Lo! it is sacred to a solemn feast;
Hark! heard you not the forest monarch's roar?
Crashing the lance, he snuffs the spouting gore
Of man and steed, o'erthrown beneath his horn,
The throng'd arena shakes with shouts for more;
Yells the mad crowd o'er entrails fresh'storn,
Nor shrinks the female eye, nor ev'n affects to
mourn.

LXIX.
The seventh day this; the jubilee of man.
London! right well thou know'st the day of prayer:
Then thy spruce citizen, wash'dl'artisan,
And smug apprentice gulp their weekly air;
Thy coach of Hackney, whiskey, one-horse chal,
And humblest gig through sundry suburbs whirl,
To Hampstead, Brentford, Harrow make repair;
Till the tired jade the wheel forgets to hurl,
Provoking effusive gibe from each pedestrian chal.

LXX.
Some o'er thy Thames row the ribbon'd fair,
Others along the safer turnpike fly;
Some Richmond-hill ascend, some scud to Ware,
And many to the steep of Highgate lie.
Ask ye, Boetian shades! the reason why? [15
'Tis to the worship of the solemn Horn,
Grasp'd in the holy hand of Mystery, [swara,
In whose dread name both men and maidens are
And consecrate the oath with draught, and dance
'till morn.

LXXI.
All have their fooleries—not unlike are thine,
Fair Cadiz, rising o'er the dark blue sea!
Soon as the matin bell proclaimeth nine,
Thy saint adorers count the rosary:
Much is the Virgin teased to shrieve them free
(Well do I ween the only virgin there)
From crimes as numerous as her beadsmen be;
Then to the crowded circus forth they fare:
Young, old, high, low, at once the same diversion
share.
LXXII.
The lists are c'ed, the sparsicus area clear'd,
Thousands on thousands piled are seatd round;
Long ere the first loud trumpet's note is heard,
Ne vacant space for lated wight is found:
Here dons, grandees, but chiefly dames abound,
Skill'd in the ogie of a roguish eye,
Yet ever well inclined to heal the wound;
N'ne through their cold disdain are doom'd to die,
As moonstruck bards complain, by Love's sad archery.

LXXIII.
Hush'd is the din of tongues—on gallant steeds,
With milk-white crest, gold-spur, and light-poss'd
Four cavaliers prepare for venturous deeds, [lance,
And lowly bending to the lists advance;
Rich are their scars, their chargers fealty prance:
If in the dangerous game they shine to-day,
The crowd's loud shout and ladies' lovely glance,
Best prize of better acts, they bear away,
And all that kings or chiefs o'er gain their toils repay.

LXXIV.
In costly sheen and gaudy cloak array'd,
But all afoot, the light-thing'd Matadore
Stands in the centre, eager to invade
The lord of loving herds; but not before
The ground, with cautious tread, is traversed o'er,
Lost aught unseen should lurk to thwart his speeds;
His arms a dart, he fights alfo'f, nor more
Can man achieve without the friendly stead—
Alas! too off condemn'd for him to bear and bleed.

LXXV.
Thrice sounds the clarion; lo! the signal falls,
The den expands, and Expectation mute
Gapes round the silent circle's peopled walls.
Bonds with one lashing spring the mighty brute,
And, wildly staring, spurns, with sounding foot,
The sand, nor blindly rushes on his foe;
Here, there, he points his threatening front, to suit
His first attack, wide waving to and fro
His angry tail; red rolls his eye's dilated glow.

LXXVI.
Sudden he stops; his eye is fix'd away
Away, thou heedless boy! prepare the spear:
Now to the time, to perish, or display;
The skill that yet may check his mad career.
With well-timed croupe the nimble coursers veer;
On foams the bull, but not unsucced he goes;
Streams from his flank the crimson torrent clear:
He flies, he wheels, distracted with his throes;
Dart follows dart; lance, lance; loud lowlings speak his woes.

LXXVII.
Aga.; he comes; nor dart nor lance avail,
Nor the wild plunging of the tortured horse;
Though man, and man's avenging arms assail,
Vain are his weapons, vainer is his force.
One gallant steed is stretch'd a mangled corse;
Another, hideous sight! unseam'd appears,
His gory chest unveils life's panting source;
Though death-struck, still his feeble frame he bears,
Staggering, but stemming all, his lord unharmed he bears.

LXXVIII.
Foil'd, bleeding, breathless, furious to the 'ast,
'Full in the centre stands the bull at bay,
'Mid wounds, and clinging darts, and lance and bras
And foes disabled in the brutal fray;
And now the Matadores around him play.
Shake the red cloak, and pose the ready brand
Once more through all he bursts his thundering way
Vain rage! the mantle quits the everlast hand,
Wraps his fierce eye—'tis past—i.e. sunk upon the sand!

LXXIX.
Where his vast neck just mingles with the spine
Shedeth in his form the deadly weapon lies.
He stops—he starts—disdaining to decline:
Slowly he falls, amidst triumphant cries,
Without a groan, without a struggle, dies.
The decorated car appears—on high
The corse is piled—sweet sight for vulgar eyes—
Four steeds that spurn the rein, as swift as shy,
Hurl the dark bulk along, scarce scorn in dashing by

LXXX.
Such the ungenteel sport that oft invites
The Spanish maid, and cheers the Spanish swain
Nurtured in blood betimes, his heart delights
In vengeance, gloating on another's pain.
What private feuds the troubled village stain!
Though now one phalanx'd host should meet the Enough, alas! in humble homes remain,
[foe
'To meditate 'gainst friends the secret blow,
For some slight cause of wrath, whence life's warm
stream must flow.

LXXXI.
But Jealousy has fled: his bars, his bolts,
His wither'd sentinel, Dacuma sage!
And all whereat the generous soul revolts,
Which the stern dotard deem'd he could encage,
Have pass'd to darkness with: the vanish'd age.
Who late so free as Spanish girls were seen,
(Ere War uprose in his volumic rage.)
With braided tresses bounding o'er the green,
While on the gay dance shone Night's lover-loving
Queen?

LXXXII.
Oh! many a time, and oft, had Harold loved,
Or dream'd he loved, since Rapture is a dream;
But now his wayward bosom was unmoved,
For not yet had he drunk of Letha's stream,
And lately had he learn'd with truth to deem
Love has no gift so grateful as his wings;
How fair, how young, how soft soe'er he seem,
Full from the fount of Joy's delicious springs
Some bitter o'er the flowers its bubbling venoms flings.16

LXXXIII.
Yet to the beauteous form he was not blind,
Though now it mov'd him as it moves the wise,
Not that Philosophy on such a mind
E'er deign'd to bend her chastely-awful eyes.
But Passion raves itself to rest, or flies;
And Vice, that digs her own voluptuous tomb,
Had buried long his hopes, ne more to rise:
Pleasure's pall'd victim! life-abhiring gloom
Wrote on his faded brow curs'd Cain's unresting doom.
LXXXIV.

Still he beheld, nor mingled with the throng;
But view'd them not with misanthropic hate:
Fain would he now have joined the dance, the song,
But who may smile that sinks beneath his fate?
Nought that he saw his sadness could abate:
Yet once he struggled 'gainst the demon's sway,
And as in Beauty's bower he pensive sate,
Pour'd forth this unpremeditated lay
To charms as fair as those that soothed his happier day.

TO INEZ.

1.

Nay, smile not at my sullen brow;
Alas! I cannot smile again:
Yet Heaven avert that ever thou
Shouldst weep, and haply weep in vain.

2.

And dost thou ask, what secret wo
I bear, corroding joy and youth?
And wilt thou vainly seek to know
A pang, ev'n thou must fail to sooth?

3.

It is not love, it is not hate,
Nor low Ambition's honors lost,
That bids me loathe my present state,
And fly from all I prized the most.

4.

It is that weariness which springs
From all I meet, or hear, or see;
To me no pleasure Beauty brings;
Thine eyes have scarce a charm for me.

5.

It is that settled, ceaseless gloom
The fabled Hebrew wanderer bore;
That will not look beyond the tomb,
But cannot hope for rest before.

6.

What Exile from himself can flee?
To Zones, though more and more remote,
Still, still pursues, where'er I be,
The blight of life—the demon Thought.

7.

Ye! others rapt in pleasure seem,
And taste of all that I forsake;
Oh! may they still of transport dream,
And ne'er, at least like me, awake!

8.

Through many a clime 'tis mine to go,
With many a retrospection curst;
And all my sojourn is to know,
Whate'er betides, I've known the worst.

9.

What is that worst? Nay do not ask—
In pity from the search forbear:
Smile on—nor venture to unmask
Man's heart, and view the Hell that's there.

LXXXV.

Adieu, fair Cadiz! yea, a long adieu!
Who may forget how well thy walls have stood?
When all were changing thou alone wast true
First to be free and last to be subdu'd.
And if amidst a scene, a shock so rude,
Some native blood was seen thy streets to dye;
A traitor only fell beneath the feud:
Here all were noble, save Nobility;
None hugg'd a conqueror's chain, save fallen Chivalry!

LXXXVI.

Such be the sons of Spain, and strange her fates.
They fight for freedom who were never free;
A Kingless people for a nerveless state,
Her vassals combat when their chieftains flee,
True to the veriest slaves of Treachery:
Fond of a land which gave them nought but life,
Pride points the path that leads to Liberty;
Back to the struggle, baffled in the strife,
War, war is still the cry, "War even to the knife!"

LXXXVII.

Ye, who would more of Spain and Spaniards know,
Go, read whate'er is writ of bloodiest strife:
Whate'er keen Vengeance urged on foreign foe,
Can act, is acting there against man's life:
From flashing scimitar to secret knife,
War mouldeth there each weapon to his need:
So may he guard the sister and the wife,
So may he make each curst oppressor bleed,
So may such foes deserve the most remorseless deed.

LXXXVIII.

Flows there a tear of pity for the dead?
Look o'er the ravage of the rocking plain;
Look on the hands with female slaughter red,
Then to the dogs resign the unburied slain,
Then to the vulture let each corse remain:
Albeit unworthy of the prey-Bird's maw,
Let their bleach'd bones, and blood's unbleaching
Long mark the battle-field with hideous awe:
Thus only may our sons conceive the scenes we saw!

LXXXIX.

Nor yet, alas! the dreadful work is done,
Fresh legions pour adown the Pyreneen:
It deepens still, the work is scarce begun,
Nor mortal eye the distant end foresee:
Fall'n nations gaze on Spain; if freed, she frees
More than her fell Pizarros once enchain'd:
Strange retribution! now Columbia's case
Repairs the wrongs that Quito's sons sustain'd;
While o'er the parent-clime prows Murder un-restrain'd.

XC.

Not all the blood at Talavera shed,
Not all the marvels of Barossa's fight,
Not Albueara lavish of the dead,
Have won for Spain her well-asserted right.
When shall her Olive-Branch be free from blight;
When shall she breathe her from the blushing toil;
How many a doubtful day shall sink in night,
Ere the Frank robber turn him from his spoil,
And Freedom's stranger-tree grow native of the soil.
XCI.

And thou, my friend!—since unavailing wo
Burst from my heart, and mingles with the strain—
Had the sword laid thee with the mighty low,
Pride might forbid ev'n Friendship to complain;
But thus unshrou'd to descend in vain,
By all forgotten, save the lonely breast,
And mix unbleeding with the boasted slain,
While Glory crowns so many a meaner crest!

What hadst thou done to sink so peacefully to rest?

XCII.

Oh, known the earliest, and esteem'd the most!
Dear to a heart when nought was left so dear!
Though to my hopeless days for ever lost,
In dreams deny me not to see thee here!
And Morn in secret shall renew the tear
Of Consciousness awaking to her woes,
And Fancy hover o'er thy bloodless bier,
Till my frail frame return to whence it rose,
And mourn'd and mourner lie united in repose.

XCVIII.

Here is one yet of Harold's pilgrimage:
Ye who of him may further seek to know,
Shall find some tidings in a future page,
If he that rhymeth now may scribble moe.
Is this too much? stern Critic! say not so:
Patience! and ye shall hear what he beheld
In other lands, where he was doom'd to go:
Lands that contain the monuments of Eld,
Mere Greece and Grecian arts by barbarous hands we quell'd.

CANTO II.

I.

COME, blue-eyed maid of heaven!—but thou, alas,
Didst never yet one mortal song inspire—
Goddess of Wisdom! here thy temple was,
And is, despite of war and wasting fire,
And years, that bade thy worship to expire;
But worse than steel, and flame, and ages slow,
Is the dread sceptre and dominion dire
Of men who never felt the sacred glow
That thoughts of thee and thine on polish'd breasts bestow.

II.

Ancient of days! august Athena! where,
Where are thy men of might? thy grand in soul?
Gone, glistening through the dream of things that
First in the race that led to Glory's goal were:
They won, and pass'd away—is this the whole?
A schoolboy's tale, the wonder of an hour
The warrior's weapon and the sophists stole
Are sought in vain, and o'er each mouldering tower.

O'er with the mist of years, gray flits the shade of Power.

III.

Son of the morning, rise! approach ye here,
Come—but most leat not yeanceless urn:
Look on this spot—a nation's sepulchre!
Abode of gods, whose shrines no longer burn.
Even gods must yield—religions take their turn
'Twas Jove's—'tis Mahomet's—and other creeds
Will rise with other years, till man shall learn
Vainly his incense soars, his victim feeds;
Poor child of Doubt and Death, whose hope is built
On reeds.

IV.

Bound to the earth, he lifts his eye to heaven—
Is't not enough, unhappy thing! to know
Thou art? Is this a boon so kindly given,
That being, thou would'st be again, and go
Thou know'st not, reck'st not to what region,
On earth no more, but mingled with the skies?
Still wilt thou dream on future joy and wo?
Regard and weigh you dust before it flies;
That little urn saith more than thousand homilies.

V.

Or burst the vanish'd Hero's lofty mound;
Far on the solitary shore he sleeps;
He fell, and falling nations mourn'd around;
But now not one of saddening thousands weeps,
Nor war-like worshipper his vigil keeps.
Where demi-gods appear'd, as records tell,
Remove you scull from out the scatter'd heaps:
Is that a temple where a God may dwell?
Why ev'n the worm at last disdains her shatter'd cell?

VI.

Look on its broken arch, its ruin'd wall,
Its chambers desolate, and portals foul;
Yes, this was once Ambition's airy hall,
The dome of Thought, the palace of the Soul;
Behold through each eyeless, lusterless hole,
The gay recess of Wisdom and of Wit,
And Passion's host, that never brook'd control;
Can all saint, sage, or sophist ever writ,
People this lonely tower, this tenement refit?

VII.

Voll didst thou speak, Athena's wisest son!
"All that we know, nothing can be known."
Why should we shrink from what we cannot shun?
Each has his pang, but feeble sufferers groan
With brain-born dreams of evil all their own.
Pursue what Chance or Fate proclaimeth best;
Peace waits us on the shores of Acheron:
There no forced banquet claims the sated guest,
But Silence spreads the couch of ever welcome rest.

VIII.

Yet if, as holiest men have deem'd, there be
A land of souls beyond that sable shore,
To shun the doctrine of the Sadducee
And sophists, madly vain of dubious lore;
How sweet it were in concert to adore
With those who made our mortal labors bright!
To hear each voice we fear'd to hear no more!
Behold each mighty shade reveal'd to sight,
The Bactrian, Samian sage, and all who taught the right.
IX.

There, thou!—whose love and life together fled,
Mourning left me here to love and live in vain—
Twined with my heart, and can I deem thee dead
When busy Memory flashes on my brain?
Well—I will dream that we may meet again,
And woo the vision to my vacant breast;
If aught of young Remembrance then remain,
Be as it may Futility's behest.

X.

Here let me sit upon this massy stone,
The marble column's yet unshaken base;
Here, son of Saturn! was thy fav'rite throne.

Mightiest of many such! hence let me trace
The latent grandeur of thy dwelling-place.
It may not be; nor ev'n can Fancy's eye
Restore what Time hath labored to deface.
Yet these proud pillars claim no passing sigh:
Unmoved the Moslem sits, the light Greek carols by.

XI.

But who, of all the plunderers of yon fame
On high, where Pallas linger'd, loath to see
The latest relic of her ancient reign?
The last, the worst, dull spoiler, who was he?
Blush, Caledonia! such thy son could be!
England! I joy no child he was of thine: [free;
Thy free-born men should spare what once was
Yet they could violate each saddening shrine,
And hear these altars o'er the long-rebellant brine.

XII.

But most the modern Pict's ignoble boast,
To rive what Goth, and Turk, and Time hath
Cold as the crags upon his native coast, [spared;
His mind as barren and his heart as hard,
Is he whose head conceived, whose hand prepared
Aught to displace Athena's poor remains.
Her sons too weak the sacred shrine to guard,
Yet felt some portion of their mother's pains?
And never knew, till then, the weight of Despot's chains.

XIII.

What! shall it e'er be said by British tongue,
Albion was happy in Athena's tears?
Though in thy name the slaves her bosom wrung.
Tel not the deed to blushing Europe's ears;
The ocean queen, the free Britannia, bears
The last poor plunder from a bleeding land;
Yes, she, whose gen'rous aid her name endears,
Tore down those remnants with a harpy's hand,
Which envious Elb forbore, and tyrants left to stand.

XIV.

Where was thine Ægis, Pallas, that appall'd
Stern Alaric and Havoc on their way?
Where Pelus' son? whom Hell in vain enthral'd,
His shades from Hades upon that dread day
Bursting to light in terrible array!
What! could not Pluto spare the chief once more,
To scare a second robber from his prey?
Idly he wander'd on the Stygian shore,
Nor now preserved the walls he loved to shield

XV.

Childe Harold's Pilgrimage.

Cold is the heart, fair Greece! that looks n thee;
Nor feels as lovers o'er the dust they loved.
Dull is the eye that will not weep to see
Thy walls defaced, thy mouldering shrines ro
By British hands, which it had best behove
To guard those relics ne'er to be restored.
Curst be the hour when from their isle they rove,
And once again thy hapless bosom grieve!
And snatch'd thy shrinking Gods to northern climes

XVI.

But where is Harold? shall I then forget
To urge the gloomy wanderer o'er the wave?
Little reck'd he of all that men regret;
No loved one now in feign'd lament could rave;
No friend the parting hand extended gave,
Ere the cold stranger pass'd to other climes:
Hard is his heart whom charms may not enslave,
But Harold felt not as in other times,
And left without a sigh the land of war and crimes.

XVII.

He that has sail'd upon the dark blue sea
Has view'd at times, I ween, a full fair sight;
When the fresh breeze is fair as breeze may be,
The white sail set, the gallant frigate tight
Masts, spires, and strand retiring to the right,
The glorious main expanding o'er the bow,
The convoy spread like wild swans in their flight
The dullest sailer wearing bravely now,
So gaily curl the waves before each dashing prow

XVIII.

And oh, the little warlike world within!
The well-reved guns, the netted canopy
The hoarse command, the busy humming din,
When, at a word, the tops are marr'd on high;
Hark to the Boatswain's call, the cheering cry!
While through the seaman's hand the tackle glides;
Or schoolboy Midshipman, that, standing by,
Strains his shrill pipe as good or ill betides,
And well the docile crew that skillful urchins guides.

XIX.

White is the glassy deck, without a stain,
Where on the watch the said Lieutenant walks;
Look on that part which sacred doth remain
For the lone chieftain, who majestic stalks,
Silent and fear'd by all—not oft he talks
With aught beneath him, if he would preserve
That strict restraint, which broken, ever balks,
Conquest and Fame: but Britons rarely swerve
From law, however stern, which tends their strength
to nerve.

XX.

Blow! swiftly blow, thou keel-compelling gale!
Till the broad sun withdrew his lessening ray;
Then must the pennant-bearer slacken sail,
That lagging barks may make their lazy way.
Ah! grievance sore, and listless dull delay,
To waste on sluggish hulks the sweetest breeze!
What leagues are lost, before the dawn of day,
Thus loitering pensive on the willing seas,
The flapping sail haul'd down to halt for logs like these!
The moon is up by Heaven, a lovely eve!
Long streams of light o'er dancing waves expand;
Now lads on shore may sigh, and maidens believe.
Such be our fate when we return to land!
Meantime, some rude Arion's restless hand
Wakes the briny harmony that sailors love;
A circle there of merry listeners stand,
Or to some well-known measure feastily move,
Thoughtless, as if on shore they still were free to rove.

Through Calpe's straits survey the steepy shore;
Europe and Afric on each other gaze!
Lands of the dark-eyed Maid and dusky Moor
Alike beheld beneath pale Hecate's blaze;
How softly on the Spanish shore she plays,
Disclosing rock, and slope, and forest brown,
Distinct, though darkening with her waning phase;
But Mauritania's giant-shadows frown.

From mountain cliff to coast descending sombre town.

'Tis night, when Meditation bids us feel
We once have loved, though love is at end.
The heart, lone mourner of its balled seal,
Though friendless now, will dream it had a friend.
Who with the weight of years would wish to bend?
When Youth itself survives young Love and Joy?
Ah! when mingling souls forget to blend,
Death hath but little left him to destroy!
Ah! happy years! once more who would not be a boy?

Thus bending o'er the vessel's laving side,
To gaze on Dian's wave reflected sphere,
The soul forgets her schemes of Iope and Pride.
And flies unconscious o'er each backward year.
None are so desolate but something dear,
Dearer than self, possesses or possess'd
A thought, and claims the homage of a tear;
A flashing pang! of which the weary breast
Would still, albeit in vain, the heavy heart divest.

To sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood and fell,
To slowly trace the forest's shady scene,
Where things that own not man's dominion dwell,
And mortal foot hath ne'er or rarely been;
To climb the trackless mountain all unseen,
With the wild flock that never needs a fold;
Alone o'er steeps and foaming falls to lean;
This is not solitude; 'tis but to hold
Converse with Nature's charms, and view her store unroll'd.

But midst the crowd, the hum, the shock of men,
To tear, to see, to feel, and to possess,
And roam along, the world's tired denizen,
With none who bless us, none whom we can bless.
Minions of splendor, shrinking from distress!
None that, with kindred consciousness ended,
If we were not, would seem to smile the less
Of all that flatter'd, follow'd, sought, and sned:
This is to be alone; this, this is solitude!

More blest the life of godly Eremita,
Such as on lonely Athos may be seen,
Watching at eve upon the giant height
Which looks o'er waves so blue, skies so serene
That he who there at such an hour hath been
Will wistful linger on that hallowed spot;
Then slowly tear him from the witching scene,
Sigh forth one wish that such had been his lot,
Then turn to hate a world he had almost forgot.

Pass we the long, unvarying course, the track
Oft trod, that never leaves a trace behind;
Pass we the calm, the gale, the change, the tack
And each well known caprice of wave and wind;
Pass we the joys and sorrows sailors find,
Coop'd in their winged sea-girt citadel;
The soul, the fair, the contrary, the kind,
As breezes rise and fall and billows swell,
Till on some jocund morn —io, land! and all is well.

But not in silence pass Calypso's isles.
The sister tenants of the middle deep;
There for the weary still a haven smiles,
Though the fair goddess long hath ceased to weep
And o'er her cliffs a fruitless watch to keep
For him who dared prefer a mortal bride:
Here, too, his boy essay'd the dreadful leap
Stern Mentor urged from high to yonder tide;
While thus of both bereft, the nymph-queen don'd
Sigh'd.

Her reign is past, her gentle glories gone;
But trust not this; too easy youth, beware!
A mortal sovereign holds her dangerous throne,
And thou may'st find a new Calypso there.
Sweet Florence! could another ever share
This wayward, loveless heart; it would be thine
But check'd by every tie, I may not dare
To cast a worthless offering at thy shrine,
Nor ask so dear a breast to feel one pang for mine.

Thus Harold deem'd, as on that lady's eye
He look'd, and met its beam without a thought,
Save Admiration glancing harmless by:
Love kept aloof, albeit not far remote,
Who knew his votary often lost and caught,
But knew him as his worshipper no more,
And ne'er again the boy his bosom sought;
Since now he vainly urged him to adore,
Well deem'd the little God his ancient sway was o'er.

Fair Florence found, in sooth with some amaze
One who, 'twas said, still sigh'd to all he saw,
Withstand, unmoved, the lustre of her gaze.
Which others hail'd with real or mimic awe;
Their hope, their doom, their punishment, their plea
All that gay Beauty from her bondmen claims;
And much she marvelli'd that a youth so raw
Nor felt, nor feign'd at least, the oft-told flames,
Which, though sometimes they frown'd, yet rarely anger daimes.
XXXIII.
Little knew she that seeming marble heart,
Now mask'd in silence or withheld by pride,
Was not unskillful in the spoiler's art,
And spread its smears licentious far and wide;
Nor from the base pursuit had turn'd aside,
As long as aught was worthy to pursue:
But Harold on such arts no more relish'd;
And had he doted on those eyes so blue,
Yet never would he join the lover's whining crew.

XXXIV.
Not much he kens, I ween, of woman's breast,
Who thinks that wanton thing is won by sighs;
What careth she for hearts when once possess'd?
Do proper homage to thine idol's eyes;
But not too humbly, or she will despise
Thee and thy suit, though told in moving tropes:
Disguise ev'n tenderness, if thou art wise;
Brisk confidence still best with woman copes;
Fique her and sooth in turn, soon Passion crowns thy hopes.

XXXV.
Tis an old lesson; Time approves it true,
And those who know it best, deplore it most;
When all is won that all desire to woo,
The pultry prize is hardly worth the cost;
Youth wasted, minds degraded, honor lost,
These are thy fruits, successful Passion! these!
If, kindly cruel, early Hope is crost,
Still to the last it rankles, a disease,
Not to be cured when Love itself forgets to please.

XXXVI.
Away! nor let me loiter in thy song,
For we have many a mountain-path to tread,
And many a varied shore to sail along,
By pensive Sadness, not by Fiction, led—
Climes, fair withal as ever mortal head
 Imagined in its little schemes of thought;
Or e'er in new Utopian were read,
To teach man what he might be, or he ought;
If that corrupted thing could ever such be taught.

XXXVII.
Dear Nature is the kindest mother still,
Though alway changing, in her aspect mild;
From her base bosom let me take my fill,
Her never-wean'd, though not her favor'd child.
Oh! she is fairest in her features wild,
Where nothing polish'd dares pollute her path;
To me by day or night she ever smiled,
Though I have mark'd her when none other hath,
And sought her more and more, and loved her best
in wrath.

XXXVIII.
Land of Albania! where Iskander rose,
Theme of the young, and beacon of the wise,
And he his namesake, whose oft-baffled foes
Shrank from his deeds of chivalrous emprise:
Land of Albania! let me bend mine eyes
On thee, thou rugged nurse of savage men!
The Cross descends, thy minarets arise,
And the pale crescent sparkles in the glen,
Through many a cypress grove within each city's ken.

XXXIX.
Childe Harold sail'd, and pass'd the barren spot
Where said Penelope o'erlook'd the wave;
And onward view'd the mount, not yet forgot,
The lovers refuge, and the Lesbian's grave.
Dark Sappho! could not verse immortal save
That breast imbued with such imm.ortal fire?
Could she not live who life eternal gave?
If life eternal may await the lyre,
That only Heaven to which Earth's children may aspire.

XL.
'Twas on a Grecian autumn's gentle eve
Childe Harold sail'd Lucedia's Cape afar;
A spot he long'd to see, nor cared to 'save
Oft did he mark the scenes of vanish'd war,
Actium, Lepanto, fatal Trafalgar; 13
Mark them unmoved, for he would not delight
(Born beneath some remote inglorious star)
In themes of bloody fray, or gallant fight,
But loathed the brave's trade, and laughed at martial wight.

XLI.
But when he saw the evening star above
Lucedia's far-projecting rock of wo,
And sail'd the last resort of fruitless love,14
He felt, or deem'd he felt, no common glow;
And as the stately vessel glided slow
Beneath the shadow of that ancient mount,
He watch'd the billows' melancholy flow,
And, sunk albeit in thought as he was wont,
More placid seem'd his eye, and smooth his pall'd front.

XLII.
Morn dawns; and with it storn Albania's hills
Dark Sul's rocks, and Pindus' inland peak,
Robed half in mist, bedeck'd with snowy rills,
Arrayed in many a dun and purple streak,
Arose; and, as the clouds along them break,
Disclose the dwelling of the mountaineer:
Here roams the wolf, the eagle whets his beak,
Birds, beasts of prey, and wilder men appear,
And gathering storms around convulse the closing
year.

XLIII.
Now Harold felt himself at length alone,
And bade to Christian tongues a long adieu;
Now he adventured on a shore unknown,
Which all admire, but many dread to view; [few
His breast was arm'd 'gainst fate, his wants were
Peril he sought not, but ne'er shrank to meet;
The scene was savage, but the scene was new;
This made the ceaseless toil of travel sweet,
Beat back keen winter's blast, and welcomed soon
mer's heat.

XLIV.
Here the red cross, for still the cross is here,
Though sadly scoff'd at by the circumcised,
Forgets that pride to pamper'd priesthood dear,
Churchman and votary alike despised.
Foul Superstition! howso'er disguised,
Idol, saint, virgin, prophet, crescent, cross,
For whatsoever symbol thou art prized,
Thou sacerdotal gain, but general loss!
Who from true worship's gold can separate thy dross?
XLV.

Ambracia's gulf behold, where once was lost
A world for woman, lovely, harmless thing!
In yonder rippling bay, their naval host
Did many a Roman chief and Asian king
To doubtful conflict, certain slaughter bring:
Look where the second Caesar's trophies rose!
Now, like the hands that round'd them, withering:
Imperial anarchs, doubling human woes!

Soul! was thy globe ordain'd for such to win and

lose?

XLVI.

From the dark barriers of that rugged clime,
Ev'n to the centre of Illyria's vale,
Childe Harold pass'd o'er many a mount sublime,
Through lands scarce noticed in historic tales;
Yet in famed Attica such lovely dales
Are rarely seen; nor can fair Tempe boast
A charm they know not; loved Parnassus falls,
Though classic ground, and consecrated most,
To match some spots that lurk within this lowering
coast.

XLVII.

He pass'd bleak Pindus, Acherusia's lake,
And left the primal city of the land,
And onwards did his further journey take
To greet Albania's chief, whose dread command
Is lawless law; for with a bloody hand
He sways a nation, turbulent and bold;
Yet here and there some daring mountain band
Disdain his power, and from their rocky hold
Hurl their defiance far, nor yield, unless to gold.

XLVIII.

Monastic Zitza! from thy shady brow,
Though small, but favor'd spot of holy ground!
Where'er we gaze, around, above, below,
What rainbow tints, what magic charms are found!
Rock, river, forest, mountain, all abound,
And bluest skies that harmonize the whole:
Beneath, the distant torrent's rushing sound
Tells where the volumed cataract doth roll
Between those hanging rocks, that shock yet please
the soul.

XLIX.

Amidst the grove that crowns yon tufted hill,
Which, were it not for many a mountain nigh
Rising in lofty ranks, and loftier still,
Might well itself be deemed of dignity,
The convent's white walls glisten fair on high:
Here dwells the caloyer, n or rude is he,
Nor niggard of his cheer; the passer by
Is welcome still; nor heedless will he fce
From hence, if he delight kind Nature's sheen to
see.

L.

Here in the sultriest season let him rest,
Fresh is the green beneath those aged trees;
Here winds of gentlest wing will fan his breast,
From heaven itself he may inhale the breeze:
The plain is far beneath—oh! let him seize
Pure pleasure while he can; the scorching ray
Here pierceth not, impregnate with disease;
Then let his length the loitering pilgrim lay,
And gaze, untired, the morn, the noon, the eve
away.

L.

Dusky and huge, enlarging on the sight,
Nature's volcanic amphitheatre.
Chimera's alps extend from left to right;
Beneath, a living valley seems to stir;
Flocks play, trees wave, streams flow, the mountain
Nodding above: behold black Acheron!
Once consecrated to the sepulchre,
Pluto! if this be hell I look upon

Close shamed Elysium's gates, my shade shall seek
for none!

LII.

Ne city's towers pollute the lovely view;
Unseen is Yanina, though not remote,
Veil'd by the screen of hills; here men are few,
Scanty the hamlet, rare the lonely cot;
But peering down each precipice, the goat
Browseth; and, pensive o'er his scatter'd flock,
The little shepherd in his white capote.
Doth lean his boyish form along the rock,
Or in his cave awaits the tempest's short-lived shock

LIII.

Oh! where, Dodona! is thine aged grove,
Prophetic fount, and oracle divine?
What valley echo'd the response or Jove?
What trace remaineth of the Thunderer's
shrine?
All, all forgotten—and shall man repine
That his frail bonds to fleeting life are broke?
Cease, fool! the fate of Gods may well be thine.
Wouldst thou survive the marble or the oak?
When nations, tongues, and worlds must sink be-
neath the stroke!

LIV.

Epirus' bounds recede, and mountains fall,
Tired of up-gazing still, the wearied eye
Reposes gladly on as smooth a vale,
As ever Spring yelad in grassy die;
Ev'n on a plain no humble beauties lie,
Where some bold river breaks the long expanse,
And woods along the banks are waving high,
Whose shadows in the glassy waters dance,
Or with the moonbeam sleep in midnight's solemn
trance.

LV.

The sun had sunk behind vast Temerit,
And Laos wide and fierce came roaring by;
The shades of wonted night were gathering yet,
When, down the steep banks winding warily,
Childe Harold saw, like meteors in the sky,
The glittering minarets of Top telaen,
Whose walls o'erlook the stream; and drawing
He heard the busy hum of warrior men
Swelling the breeze that sigh'd along the length-
ing gle.

LVI.

He pass'd the sacred Haram's silent tower,
And underneath the wide o'erarching gate
Survey'd the dwelling of this chief of power,
Where all around proclaims his high estate.
Amidst no common pomp the despot sate,
While busy preparation shook the court,
Slaves, eunuchs, soldiers, guests, and spects wait
Within, a palace, and without, a fort:
Here men of every clime appear to make resort.
LVII.

lightly caparison'd, a ready row
Of armed horse, and many a warlike store,
Circled the wide extending court below;
Above, strange groups adorn'd the corridor;
And ofttimes through the area's echoing door
Some high-capp'd Tartar spurr'd his steed away:
The Turk, the Greek, the Albanian, and the Moor,
Here mingled in their many-hued array,
While the deep war-drum's sound announced the close of day.

LVIII.

The wild Albanian kirtled to his knee,
With shawl-girt head and ornamented gun,
And gold-embroider'd garments, fair to see;
The crimson-seared men of Macedon;
The Delhi with his cap of terror on,
And crooked glaive: the lively, supple Greek,
And swarthy Nubia's mutilated son;
The bearded Turk that rarely deigns to speak,
Master of all around, too potent to be meek,

LIX.

Are mix'd conspicuous: some recline in groups,
Scanning the motley scene that varies round;
There some grave Moslem to devotion stoops,
And some that smoke, and some that play, are found;
Here the Albanian proudly treads the ground;
Half whispering there the Greek is heard to prate;
Hark! from the mosque the nightly solemn sound,
The Muezzin's call doth shake the minaret,
There is no god but God:—to prayer—lo! God is great!

LX.

Just at this season Ramazani's fast
Through the long day its penance did maintain:
But when the lingering twilight hour was past,
Revel and feast assumed the rule again:
Now all was bustle, and the menial train
Prepared and spread the plenteous board within;
The vacant gallery now seem'd made in vain,
But from the chambers came the mingling din,
As page and slave anon were passing out and in.

LXI.

Here woman's voice is never heard: apart,
And scarce permitted, guarded, veild, to move,
She yields to one her person and her heart,
Tamed to her cage, nor feels a wish to rove;
For, not unhappy in her master's love,
And joyful in a mother's gentlest cares,
Best cares! all other feelings far above!
Herself more sweetly rears the babe she bears,
Who never quits the breast, no measurer passion shares.

LXII.

In marble-paved pavilion, where a spring
Of living water from the centre rose,
Whose bubbling did a genial freshness fling,
And soft volupitous couches breathed repose,
All reclined, a man of war and woes;
Yet in his lineaments ye cannot trace,
While Gentleness her milder radiance throws
Along that aged venerable face,
The deeds that lurk beneath, and stain him with disgrace.

LXIII.

It is not that you hoary lengthening beard
Ill suits the passions which belong to youth;
Love conquers age—so Hasz hath aver'd,
So sings the Teian, and he sings in sooth—
But crimes that scorn the tender voice of Ruth,
Beseeing all men ill, but most the man
In years, have mark'd him with a tiger's tooth;
Blood follows blood, and, through their mortal span,
In bloodlier acts conclude those who 'with blood began.

LXIV.

Mid many things most new to ear and eye
The pilgrim rested here his weary feet,
And gazed around on Moslem luxury,
Till quickly weary'd with that spacious seat
Of Wealth and Wantonness, the choice retreat
Of sated Grandeur from the city's noise:
And were it humbler in sooth were sweet;
But Peace abhorreth artificial joys,
And Pleasure, leagued with Pomp, the zest of both destroys.

LXV.

Fierce are Albania's children. yet they lack
Not virtues, were those virtues more mature.
Where is the foe that ever saw their back?
Who can so well the toil of war endure?
Their native fastnesses not more secure
Than they in doubtful times of troublous need
Their wrath how deadly! but their friendship sure
When Gratitude or Val.'s o'er them bleed,
Unshaken rushing on where'er their chief may lead.

LXVI.

Childe Harold saw them in their chieftain's tower
Thronging to war in splendor and suceed;
And after viewed them when, within their power
Himself, awhile the victim of distress;
That saddening hour when bad men hotter press
But these did shelter him beneath their roof,
When less barbarians would have cheer'd him less,
And fellow-countrymen have stood aloof—
In effect, that tried the heart how few withstand the proof!

LXVII.

It chanced that adverse winds did drive his bark
Full on the coast of Suli's shaggy shore,
When all around was desolate and dark,
To land was perilous, to sojourn more;
Yet for a while the mariners forbore,
Doubious to trust where treachery might lurk:
As at length they ventured forth, though doubting
That those who loathe the like the Frank and Turk
Might once again renew their ancient butcher-work.

LXVIII.

Vain fear! the Suliotes stretch'd the welcome hand,
Led them o'er rocks and past the dangerous swamp,
Kinder than polish'd slaves, though not so bland,
And pil'd the hearth, and wrung their garments damp,
And fill'd the bowl, and trimm'd the cheerful lamp,
And spread their fare; though homely, all they had
Such conduct bears Philanthropy's rare stamp—
To rest the weary and to sooth the sad,
Both lesson happier men, and shines at least the bad.
LXIX.

It came to pass, that when he did address
Himself to quit at length this mountain-land,
Combined marauders half-way barr’d egress,
And wasted far and near with glaive and brand;
And therefore did he take a trusty band
To traverse Acastania’s forest wide,
No war well season’d, and with labors tann’d,
Till he did greet white Acheleus side,
And from his further bank Aetolia’s wounds espied.

LXX.

Where Ione Utrakey forms its circling cove,
And weary waves retire to gleam at rest,
How brown the foliage of the green hill’s grove,
Nodding at midnight o’er the calm bay’s breast,
As winds come lightly whispering from the west
Kissing, not ruffling, the blue deep’s serene:
—Here Harold was received a welcome guest;
Nor did he pass unmoved the gentle scene,
For many a joy could he from Night’s soft presence glean.

LXXI.

On the smooth shore the night-fires brightly blazed,
The feast was done, the red wine circling fast,
And he that unawares had there yazed
With gaping wonderment had stared aghast;
For ere night’s midmost, stillest hour was past,
The native revels of the troop began:
Each Palkai his sabre from him cast,
And bounding hand in hand, man link’d to man,
Yelling their uncouth dirge, long daunted the kirtled clan.

LXXII.

Child’se Harold at a little distance stood
And view’d, but not displeased, the revelrie,
Nor brutal harmless mirth, however rude;
In sooth, it was no vulgar sight to see
Their barbarous, yet their not indecent, glee;
And, as the flames along their faces gleam’d,
Their gestures nimble, dark eyes flashing free,
The long wild locks that to their girdles stream’d,
While thus in concert they this lay half sang, half scream’d:

1. Tambourgi! Tambourgi! * thy larum afar
Gives hope to the valiant, and promise of war;
All the sons of the mountains arise at the note,
Chimariot, Illyrian, and dark Suliote!

2. Oh! who is more brave than a dark Suliote,
In his snowy casque and his shaggy capote?
To the wolf and the vulture he leaves his wild flock,
And descends to the plain like the stream from the rock.

3. Shall the sons of Chimen, who never forgive
The fault of a friend, bid an enemy live?
Let those guns so uncerr’d such vengeance forego?
What mark is so fair as the breast of a foe?

4. Macedonia sends forth her invincible race;
For a time they abandon the cave and the chase:
But those scars of blood-red shall be redder, before
The sabre is sheathed and the battle is o’er.

Then the pirates of Parga that dwell by the waves
And teach the pale Franks what it is to be slaves,
Shall leave on the beach the long galley and oar,
And track to his covert the captive on shore.

I ask not the pleasures that riches supply,
My sabre shall win what the feeble must buy;
Shall win the young bride with her long flowing hair.
And many a maid from her mother shall tear.

I love the fair face of the maid in her youth,
Her caresses shall lull me, her music shall sooth;
Let her bring from the chamber her many-to: e’d lyte
And sing us a song on the fall of her sire.

Remember the moment when Previsa fell,
The shrieks of the conquer’d, the conquerors’ yell,
The roofs that we fired, and the plunder we shared,
The wealthy we slaughter’d, the lovely we spared.

I talk not of mercy, I talk not of fear;
He neither must know who would serve the Vizier:
Since the days of our prophet the Crescent ne’er saw
A chief ever glorious like Ali Pashaw.

Dark Muchtar his son to the Danube is sped,
Let the yellow-hair’d Giaours* view his horse- *ai’
with dread;
When his Delhi’s come dashing in blood o’er the bank
How few shall escape from the Muscovite ranks!

Solicitar! unsheathe then our chief’s scimitar:
Tambourgi! thy larum gives promise of war.
Ye mountains, that see us descend to the shore,
Shall view us as victors, or view us no more!

LXXXIII.

Fair Greece! sad relic of departed worth!
Immortal, though no more; though fallen, great!
Who now shall lead thy scatter’d children forth.
And long accustom’d bondage uncreate?
Not such thy sons who whilome did await,
The hopeless warriors of a willing doom,
In bleak Thermopyla’s sepulchral strait—
Oh! who that gallant spirit shall resume,
Leap from Eutra’s banks, and call thee from the tomb?

LXXXIV.

Spirit of freedom! when on Phyle’s brow
Thou sat’st with Thrasylalus and his train,
Couldst thou forebode the dismal hour which now
Dims the green beauties of thine Attic plain?
Not thirty tyrants now enforce the chain,
But every carle can lord it o’er thy land;
Nor rise thy sons, but idly rail in vain.
Trembling beneath the scourge of Turkish hand,
From birth till death enslaved; in word, in deed, unmann’d.

* Yellow is the epithet given to the Redanens.  
† Immortal.  
‡ Horse-tails are the insignia of a Pacha.  
§ Horsemen, answering to our forlorn hope.  
|| Sword-bearer.
LXXV.
In all save form alone, how changed! and who
That marks the fire still sparkling in each eye,
Who but would deem their bosoms burn’d as new
With thy unquenched beam, lost Liberty!
And many dream withal the hour is nigh
That gives them back their fathers’ heritage:
For foreign arms and aid they fondly sigh,
Nor solely dare encounter hostile rage,
Or tear their name defiled from Slavery’s mournful page.

LXXVI.
Hereditary bondsmen! know ye not [break?]
Who would be free themselves must strike the blow?
By their right arms the conquest must be wrought?
Will Gaul or Muscovite redress ye? no!
True, they may lay your proud despowers low; but
Not for you will Freedom’s altars flame.
Shades of the Halots! triumph o’er your foe!
Greece! change thy lords, thy state is still the same;
Thy glorious day is o’er, but not thy years of shame.

LXXVII.
The city won for Allah from the Giaour,
The Giaour from Othman’s race again must wret;
And the Serail’s impenetrable tower
Receive the fiery Frank, her former guest; 35
Or Wahab’s rebel brood who dared divest
The 36 prophet’s tomb of all its pious spoil,
May wind their path of blood along the West;
But ne’er will freedom seek this fated soil,
But slave succeed to slavish years of endless toil.

LXXVIII.
Yet mark their mirth—ere lenten days begin
That penance which their holy rites prepare
To shrive from man his weight of mortal sin,
By daily abstinence and nightly prayer;
But ere his sackcloth garb Repentance wear,
Some days of joyannce are decreed to all,
To take of pleasantness each his secret share;
In motley robe to dance at masquing ball,
And join the mimic train of merry Carnival.

LXXIX.
And whose mere rife with merriment than thine,
Oh Stamboul! once the empress of their reign?
Though turbans now pollute Sophia’s shrine,
And Greece her very altars eyes in vain:
(Alas! her woes will still pervade my strain!) Gay were her minstrels once, for free her throng,
All felt the common joy they now must feign,
Nor oft I’ve seen such sight, nor heard such song,
as woe’d the eye, and thrill’d the Bosphorus along.

LXXX.
Loud was the lightsome tumult of the shore,
Oft Music changed, but never ceased her tone,
And timely echo’d back the measured roar,
And rippling waters made a pleasant moan:
The Queen of tides on high consenting shine,
And when a transient breeze swept o’er the wave,
Twas, as if darting from her heavenly throne,
A brighter glance her form reflected gave,
ill sparkling billows seem’d to light the banks they line.

LXXXI.
Glanced many a light caigne along the foam,
Danced on the shore the daughters of the land,
Ne thought had man or maid of rest or home,
While many a languid eye and thrilling hand
Exchanged the look few bosoms may withstand,
Or gently press, return’d the pressure still:
Oh Love! young Love! bound in thy rosebry band,
Let sage or cynic prattle as he will,
These hours, and only these, redeem Life’s years of ill!

LXXXII.
But, midst the throng in merry masquerade,
Lurk there no hearts that throb with secret pain,
Even through the closest sward of half-betray’d;
To such the gentle murmurs of the main
Seem to reach all they mourn in vain;
To such the gladness of the gamesome crowd
Is source of wayward thought and stern disdain:
How do they loathe the laughter idly loud,
And long to change the robe of revel for the shroud.

LXXXIII.
This must he feel, the true-born son of Greece,
If Greece one true-born patriot still can boast:
Not such as prize of war, but skulld in peace,
The bondman’s peace, who sighs for all he lost,
Yet with smooth smile his tyrant can accost,
And wield the slavish sickle, not the sword:
Ah! Greece! they love thee least who o’er thee most!
Their birth, their blood, and that sublime record
Of hero sires, who shame thy now degenerate horde

LXXXIV.
When riseth Lacedæmon’s hardihood,
When Thebes Epaminondas rear again,
When Athens’ children are with hearts endued,
When Grecian mothers shall give birth to men,
Then may’st thou be restored; but not till then.
A thousand years scarce serve to form a state;
An hour may lay it in the dust: and when
Can man in shatter’d splendor renovate,
Recall its virtues back, and vanquish Time and Fate.

LXXXV.
And yet how lovely in thine age of wâ,
Land of lost gods and godlike men! art thou!
Thy vales of evergreen, thy hills of snow, 57
Proclaim thee Nature’s varied favorite now:
Thy fame, thy temples to thy surface bow,
Commengling slowly with heroic earth,
Broke by the share of every rustic plough
So perish monuments of mortal birth,
So perish all in turn, save well-recorded Worth,

LXXXVI.
Save save where some solitary column mourns
Above its prostrate brethren of the cave; 86
Save where Triton’s airy shrine adorns
Colonna’s cliff, and gleams along the wave;
Save o’er some warrior’s half-forgotten grave,
Where the gray stones and unmolested grass
Ages, but not oblivion, feebly brave,
While strangers only not regardless pass,
Lingerling like me, perchance, to gaze, and sign
“Alas!”
LXXXVII.
Yet are thy skies as blue, thy crags as wild;
Sweet are thy groves, and verdant are thy fields,
Thine olive ripe as when Minerva smiled,
And still his honied wealth Hymentus yields;
There the blithe bee his fragrant fortress builds,
The freeborn wanderer of thy mountain-air;
Apollo still thy long, long summer gilds,
Still in his beam Mendell's marbles glare;
Art. Glory, Freedom fail, but Nature still is fair.

LXXXVIII.
Where'er we tread 'tis haunted, holy ground;
No earth of thine is lost in vulgar mould,
But one vast realm of wonder spreads around,
And all the Muse's tales seem truly told,
Till the sense aches with gazing to behold
The scenes our earliest dreams have dwelt upon:
Each hill and vale, each deepening Glen and wold
Defies the power which crush'd thy temples gone:
Age shakes Athera's tower, but spares gray Marathon

LXXXIX.
The sun, the soil, but not the slave, the same;
Unchanged in all except its foreign lord—
Preserves alike its bounds and boundless fame
The Battle-field, where Persia's victim horde
First bow'd beneath the brunt of Helian's sword,
As on the morn to distant Glory dear,
When Marathon became a magic word;
Which utter'd, to the hearer's eye appears
The camp, the host, the fight, the conqueror's career.

XC.
The flying Mede, his shaftless broken bow;
The fiery Greek, his red pursuing spear;
Mountains above, Earth's, Ocean's plain below,
Death in the front, Destruction in the rear!
Such was the scene—what now remaineth here?
What sacred trophy marks the hallow'd ground,
Recording freedom's smile, and Asia's tear?
The rifled urn, the violated mound,
The dust thy courser's hoof, rude stranger! spurns around.

XCI.
Yet tc the remnants of thy splendor past
Shall pilgrims, pensive, but unwearied throng;
Long shall the voyager, with th' Ionian blast,
Hall the bright clime of battle and of song;
Long shall thine annals and immortal tongue
Fill with thy fame the youth of many a shore;
Boast of the aged! lesson of the young!
Which sages venerate, and bards adore,
As Pallas and the Muse unveil their awful lore.

XCI.
The parted bosom clings to wonted home,
If aught that's kindred cheer the welcome heart;
He that is lonely, hither let him roam,
And gaze complacent on congenial earth.
But he whom Sadness sootheth may abide,
And scarce regret the region of his birth,
When wandering slow by Delphi's sacred side, 'j
Or gazing o'er the plains where Greek and Persian died.

XCIII.
Let such approach this consecrated land,
And pass in peace along the magic waste;
But spare its relics—let no busy hand
Deface the scenes, already how defaced!
Not for such purpose were these altars placed;
Revere the remnants nations once revered;
So may our country's name be undisgraced,
So may'st thou prosper where thy youth was reared
By every honest joy of love and life endear'd!

XCV.
For thee, who thus in too protracted song
Hath soothe'd thine idlesse with inglorious lays,
Soon shall thy voice be lost amid the throng
Of louder minstrels in these later days;
To such resign the strife for fading lays,—
Ill may such contest now the spirit move
Which needs nor keen reproach nor partial praise;
Since cold each kinder heart that might approve,
And none are left to please, when none are left to love.

XCV.
Thou too art gone, thou loved and lovely one!
Whom youth and youth's affections bound to me,
Who did for me what none beside have done,
Nor shrank from one albeit unworthy thee.
What is my being? thou hast ceased to be!
Nor staid to welcome here thy wanderer home,
Who mourns o'er hours which we no more shall see:
Would they had never been, or were to come!
Would he had ne'er returned, to find fresh cause to roam.

XCVI.
Oh! ever loving, lovely, and beloved!
How selfish Sorrow poisons on the past,
And clings to thoughts now better far removed!
But Time shall tear thy shadow from me last.
All thou couldst have of mine, stern Death! thou
The parent, friend, and now the more than friend;
Ne'er yet for one thine arrows flew so fast,
And grief with grief continuing still to blend,
Hath snatch'd the little joy that life had yet to lend.

XCVII.
Then must I plunge again into the crowd,
And follow all that Peace disdains to seek?
Where Revel calls, and Laughter, vainly loud,
False to the heart, distorts the hollow cheek,
To leave the flagging spirit doubly weak;
Still o'er the features, which perfecute they cheer,
To feign the pleasure or conceal the pique;
Smiles form the channel of a future tear,
Or raise the writhing lip with ill-dissembled snorer.

XCVIII.
What is the worst of woes that wait on age?
What stamps the wrinkle deeper on the brow?
To view each loved one glanced from life's page,
And be alone on earth, as I am now.
Before the Chastener humbly let me bow
O'er hearts divided, and o'er hopes destroy'd;
Roll on, vain days! full reckless may ye flow,
Since Time hath reft whate'er my soul resolv'd,
And with the ills of Eld mine earlier years alloy'd.
CANTO III.

"Afin que cette epilletion vous fagisse de penser  a autre chose; il n'y a un..."—Leire du Roi de Prusse a

I.

Is thy face like thy mother's, my fair child! Ais! sole daughter of my house and heart? When last I saw thy young blue eyes they smiled, and then we parted,—not as now we part, but with a hope.—

Awakening with a start, the winds lift up their voices: I depart, whither I know not; but the hour's gone by, when Albion's lessening shores could grieve or glad mine eye.

II.

Once more upon the waters! yet once more! And the waves bound beneath me as a steed That knows his rider. Welcome, to their roar! Swift be their guidance, wheresoe'er it lead! Though the strain'd mast should quiver as a reed, and the rent canvas fluttering strew the gale, still must I on; for I am a weed, Flung from the rock, on Ocean's foam to sail Where'er the surge may sweep, the tempest's breath prevail.

III.

In my youth's summer I did sing of One, The wandering outlaw of his own dark mind; Again I seize the theme, then but begun, and bear it with me, as the rushing wind Bears the cloud onwards: in that tale I find The furrows of long thought, and dried-up tears, which, ebbing, leave a sterile track behind, O'er which all heavily the journeying years Flo'd the last sands of life,—where not a flower appears.

IV.

Since my young days of passion—joy, or pain, perchance my heart and harp have lost a string, and both may jar; it may be, that in vain I would essay as I have sung to sing. Yet, though a dreary strain, to this I cling, so that it ween me from the weary dream Of selfish grief or gladness—so it flings forgetfulness around me—it shall seem the, though to none else, a not ungrateful theme.

V.

He, who grown aged in this world of woe, in deeds, not years, piercing the depths of life, so that no wonder waits him; nor below can love, or sorrow, fame, ambition, strife, cut to his heart again with the keen knife of silent, sharp endurance: he can tell why thought seeks refuge in lone caves, yet rife with airy innres, and shapes which dwell still unimpair'd though old, in the soul's haunted cell.

VI.

'Tis to create, and in creating live A being more intense, that we endow With form or fancy, gaining as we give The life we imagine, even as I do now. What am I? Nothing: but not so art thou, soul of my thought! with whom I traverse earth Invisible but gazing, as I glow Mix'd with thy spirit, blended with thy bith, and feeling still with thee in my crush'd feelings death.

VII.

Yet must I think less wildly:—I have thought too long and darkly, till my brain became, in its own eddy boiling and o'erwrought, a whirling gulf of phantasy and dream; and thus, untaught in youth my heart to tame, my springs of life were poison'd. 'Tis too late! Yet am I changed; though still enough the same in strength to bear what time can not abate, and feed on bitter fruits without accusing Fa.

VIII.

Something too much of this:—but now 'tis past, and the spell closes with its silent seal. Long absent Harold reappears at last; he of the breast which fain no more would feel, Wrang with the wounds which kill not, but ne'er yet time, who changes all, had alter'd him [heal; in soul and aspect as in age; years steal fire from the mind as vigor from the limb; and life's enchanted cup but sparkles near the brim.

IX.

His had been quaff'd too quickly, and he found the dregs were wormwood; but he fill'd again, and from a purer fount, on holier ground, and deem'd its spring perpetual; but in vain! still round him clung invisibly a chain which gall'd, for ever fettering though unseen, and heavy though it clank'd not; worn with pain, which pined although it spoke not, and grew keen, entering with every step it took through many a scene.

X.

Secure in guarded coldness, he had mix'd again in faneied safety with his kind, and deem'd his spirit now so firmly fix'd and sheath'd with an invulnerable mind, that, if no joy, no sorrow lurk'd behind; and he, as one, might midst the many stand Unheeded, searching through the crowd to dote fit speculation; such as in strange land he found in wonder-works of God and Nature's hand.

XI.

But who can view the ripen'd rose, nor seek to wear it? who can curiously behold the smoothness and the sheen of beauty's cheek, nor feel the heart can never all grow old? who can contemplate fame through clouds unfold the star which rises o'er her steep, nor climb? Harold, once more within the vortex, roll'd on with the giddy circle, chasing Time, yet with a nobler aim than in his youth's fenth prime.
XII.
But soon he knew himself the most unfit
Of men to herd with Man; with whom he held
Little in common; untaught to submit {quell'd
His thoughts to others, though his soul was
In youth by his own thoughts; still unconquell'd,
He would not yield dominion of his mind
To spirits against whom his own rebel'd;
Proud though in desolation; which could find
A life within itself, to breath without mankind.

XIII.
Where rose the mountains, there to him were friends;
Where roll'd the ocean, thereon was his home;
Where a blue sky, and glowing elime, extends,
He had the passion and the power to roam;
The desert, forest, cavern, breaker's foam,
Were unto him companionship; they spake
A mutual language, clearer than the tone
Of his land's tongue, which he would oft forsake
For Nature's pages glass'd by sunbeams on the lake.

XIV.
Like the Chaldean, he could watch the stars,
Till he had peopled them with beings bright
As their own beaux; and earth, and earth-born
And human frailties, were forgotten quite: [Jars,
Could he have kept his spirit to that flight
He had been happy: but this clay will sink
Its spark immortal, curving it the light
To which it mounts, as if to break the link
That keeps us from you heaven which wos us to its brink.

XV.
But in Man's dwellings he became a thing
Restless and worn, and stern and weirsome,
Droop'd as a wild-born falcon with elipt wing,
To whom the boundless air alone were home;
Then came his fit again, which to o'ercome,
As eagerly the hair'd-up bird will beat
His breast and beat against his wry dome
Till the blood tinge his plumage, so the heat
Of his impeded soul would through his bosom eat.

XVI.
Self-exiled Harold wanders forth again,
With nought of hope left, but with less of gloom;
The very knowledge that he lived in vain,
That all was over on this side the tomb,
Had made Despair a smilingness assume, [wreck
Which, though 'twere wild,—as on the plunder'd
When mariners would madly meet their doom
With draughts intemperate on the sinking deck,
Did yet inspire a cheer, which he forbore to check.

XVII.
Stop!—For thy tread is on an Empire's dust.
An Earthquake's spoil is sepulchred below!
Is thee spot mark'd with no colossal bust?
Nor column triumphed for triumphal shows?
None; but the moral's truth tells simpler so,
As the ground was before, thus let it be;—
How that red rain hath made the harvest grow!
And is this all the world has gain'd by thee,
Thou first and last of fields! king-making Victory?

XVIII.
And Harold stands upon this place of skulls
The grave of France, the deadly Waterloo;
How in an hour the power which gave annuls
Its gifts, transferring fame as fleeting too!
In "pride of place"! here last the eagle few,
Then tore with bloody talon the rent plain.
Pierced by the shaft of banded nations through,
Ambition's life and labors all were vain;
He wears the shattered links of the world's broken chain.

XIX.
Fit retribution! Gaul may champ the bit
And foam in fetters;—but is Earth more free?
Did nations combat to make One submit;
Or league to teach all kings true sovereignty?
What! shall reviving Thraldom again be
The patch'd-up idol of enlighten'd days?
Shall we, who struck the Lion down, shall we
Pay the Wolf homage? proferring lowly gaze
And servile knees to thrones? No: prove before ye praise!

XX.
If not, o'er one fallen despot boast no more!
In vain fair cheeks were furrow'd with hot tears
For Europe's flowers long rooted up before,
The trampler of her vineyards; in vain, years
Of death, depopulation, bondage, tears,
Have all been borne, and broken by the accord
Of roused-up millions; all that most endears
Glory, is when the myrtle wreathe a sword
Such as Harmodius! drew on Athens' tyrant lord.

XXI.
There was a sound of revelry by night,
And Belgium's capital had gather'd then
Her Beauty and her Chivalry, and bright
The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men;
A thousand hearts beat happily: and when
Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
Soft eyes look'd to love to eyes which spake again,
And all went merry as a marriage-bell;хи
But hush! hark! a deep sound strikes like a rising knell!

XXII.
Did ye not hear it?—No; 'twas but the wind,
Or the ear rattling o'er the stony street,
On with the dance! let joy be unconfin'd;
No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet
To chase the glowing Hours with flying feet
But, hark!—that heavy sound breaks in once more,
As if the clouds its echo would repeat;
And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before!
Arm! Arm! it is— it is—the cannon's opening roar!

XXIII.
Within a window'd niche of that high hall
Sate Brunswick's fated chieftain; he did hear
That sound the first amidst the festival,
And caught its tone with Death's prophetic ear;
And when they smiled because he deem'd it near
His heart more truly knew that peal too well
Which stretch'd his father on a bloody bier,
And roused the vengeance blood alone could quell.
He rush'd into the field, and, foremost fighting fell
XXIV.

Ah. then and there was hurrying to and fro,
And gathering tears and tremblings of distress,
And cheeks all pale, which but an hour ago
Blest'd at the praise of their own loveliness;
And there were sudden partings, such as press
The life from out young hearts, and choking sighs
Which ne'er might be repeated; who could guess
If ever more should meet those mutuel eyes,
Since upon night so sweet such awful morn could rise?

XXV.

And there was mounting in hot haste: the steed
The mustering squadron, and the clattering car,
Went pouring forward with impetuous speed,
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war;
And the deep thunder peal on peal afar;
And near, the beat of the alarming drum;
Roused up the soldier ere the morning star;
While throng'd the citizens with terror dumb;
Or whispering, with white lips—'The foe! They come! They come!'

XXVI.

And wild and high the "Camerons gathering;"
The war-note of Lochiel, which Albyn's hills rose!
Have heard, and heard, too, have her Saxon foes;
How in the noon of that pitroch thrills,
Savage and shrill! But with the breath which fills
Their mountain-pipe, so fill the mountainerds With the fierce native daring which instills
The stirring memory of a thousand years, And 'Evan's, 'Donald's fame rings in each clans-
man's ears!

XXVII.

And Ardennes waves above them her green leaves
Dewy with nature's tear-drops, as they pass
Grieving, if aught inanimate e'er grieves,
Over the unreturning brave,—alas!
Ere evening to be trodden like the grass
Which now beneath them, but above shall grow
In its next verdure, when this fiery mass
Of living valor, rolling on the foe,
And burning with high hope, shall moulder cold and low.

XXVIII.

Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,
Last eve in beauty's circle proudly gay,
The midnight brought the signal-sound of strife,
The moru the marshalling in arms,—the day
Battle's magnificently-tern array!
The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which when rent,
The earth is covered thick with other clay,
Wh'ch her own clay shall cover, heap'd and pent,
Rider and horse,—friend, foe,—in one red burial blent!

XXIX.

Their praise is hymn'd by loftier harps than mine;
Yet one I would select from that proud throng,
Partly because they blend me with his line,
And partly that I did his sires some wrong,
And partly that bright names will hallow song;
And his was of the bravest, and when shower'd
The death-bolts deadliest the thum'd flies alang,
Even where the thickest of war's tempest lower'd,
They reach'd no nobler breast than thine, young, gallant Howard!

XXX.

There have been tears and breaking hearts for thee;
And mine were nothing, had I such to give;
But when I stood beneath the fresh green tree,
Which living waves where thou didst cease to live
And saw around me the wide field revive
With fruits and fertile promise, and the Spring
Come forth her work of gladness to contrive,
With all her reckless birds upon the wing,
I turn'd from all she brought to those she could not bring.'

XXXI.

I turn'd to thee, to thousands, of whom each
And one as all a ghostly gap did make
In his own kind and kindred, whom: t teach
Forgetfulness were mercy for their sake;
The Archangel's trump, not Glory's, must awake
Those whom they thirst for; though the sound of
May for a moment sooth, it cannot slake
The fever of vain longing, and the name
So hon'd but assumes a stronger, bitter claim.

XXXII.

They mourn, but smile at length; and, smiling,
The tree will wither long before it fall; [mourn:
The hull drives on, though mast and sail be torn:
The roof-tree sinks, but moulders on the hall
In massy hoariness; the ruin'd wall
Stands when its wind-worn battlements are gone;
The bars survive the captive they enthrall; [sea.
The day drags through those storms keep out the
And thus the heart will break, yet brokenly live on

XXXIII.

Even as a broken mirror, which the glass
In every fragment multiplies; and makes
A thousand images of one that was,
The same, and still the more, the more it breaks
And thus the heart will do which not forsakes,
Living in shatter'd guise, and still, and cold,
And bloodless, with its sleepless sorrow ache;
Yet withers on till all without is old,
Showing no visible sign, for such things are unote

XXXIV.

There is a very life in our despair,
Vitality of poison,—a quick root
Which feeds these deadly branches; for it was
As nothing did we die; but Life will suit
Itself to Sorrow's most detested fruit,
Like to the apples on the 'Dead Sea's shore,
All ashes to the taste: Did man compute
Existence by enjoyment, and count o'er
Such hours' gainst years of life,—say, would he name
threescore?

XXXV.

The Psalmist number'd out the years of war:
They are enough; and if thy tale be true,
Thou, who didst grudge him even the fleeting span
More than enough, thou fata! Waterloo!
Millions of tongues record thee, and anew
Their children's lips shall echo them, and say—
"Here, where the sword united nations drew,
Our countrymen were warring on that day!"
And this is much, and all which will not pass away
XXXVI.
There sunk the greatest, nor the worst of men,
Whose spirit antithetically mixt
One moment of the mightiest, and again
On little objects with like firmness fixt,
Extreme in all things! hadst thou been betwixt,
Thy throne had still been thine, or never been;
For during mode thy rise as fall: thou seek'st
Even now to reassume the imperial mien,
And shake again the world, the Thunderer of the scene!

XXXVII.
Conqueror and captive of the earth art thou!
She trembles at thee still, and thy wild name
Was ne'er more bruited in men's minds than now
That thou art nothing, save the jest of Fame,
Who woul'd thee once, thy vassal, and became
The flatterer of thy fierceness, till thouwert
A god unto thyself; nor less than
To the astounded kingdoms all inert,
Who deem'd thee for a time whate'er thou didst assert.

XXXVIII.
Oh, more or less than man—in high or low,
Battling with nations, flying from the field;
Now making monarchs' necks thy footstool, now
More than thy meanest soldier sought to yield;
An empire thou couldst crush command, rebuild,
But govern not thy pettiest passion, nor,
However deeply in men's spirits skill'd,
Look through thine own, nor curb the lust of war,
Nor learn that tempted Fate will leave the loftiest star.

XXXIX.
Yet well thy soul hath brook'd the turning tide,
With that untaught innate philosophy,
Which, be it wisdom, coldness, or deep pride,
Is gall and wormwood to an enemy.
When the whole host of hatred stood hard by,
To watch and mock thee shrinking, thou hast
With a sedate and all-enduring eye:—[smiled]
When Fortune fled her spoil'd and favorite child,
He stood unbow'd beneath the ills upon him piled.

XL.
Sager than thy fortunes; for in them
Ambition steel'd thee on far to show
That just habitual scorn which could contemn
Men and their thoughts; 'twas wise to feel, not so
To wear it ever on thy lip and brow,
And spurn the instruments thou wert to use,
Till they were turn'd unto thine overthrow;
"Is but a worthless world to win or lose;
So hath it proved to thee, and all such lot who choose.

XLI.
If, like a tower upon a headlong rock,
Thou hadst been made to stand or fall alone,
Such scorn of man had help'd to brave the shock;
But men's thoughts were the steps which paved thy
Their admiration thy best weapon shone; [throned.
The part of Philip's son was thine, not then
(Unless as 'twixt thy purple had been thrown)
Like stern Diogenes to mock at men;
For sceptred cynics earth were far too wide a den!

XLII.
But quiet to quick bosoms is a hell,
And there hath been thy bane; there is r. thy
And motion of the soul which will not dwell
In its own narrow being, but aspire
Beyond the fitting medium of desire;
And, but once kindled, quenchless evermore
Preys upon high adventure, nor can tire
Of aught but rest; a fever at the core,
Fatal to him who bears, to all who ever bore.

XLIII.
This makes the madmen who have made men mad
By their contagion; Conquerors and Kings,
Founders of sects and systems, to whom add
Sophists, Bard's, Statesmen, all unquiet things
Which stir too strongly the soul's secret springs
And are themselves the foes to those they fool;
Envied, yet how unenviable! what stings
Are theirs! One breast laid open were a school
Which would unteach mankind the lust to anien a
rule;

XLIV.
Their breath is agitation, and their life
A storm whereon they ride, to sink at last,
And yet so nursed and bigoted to strife,
That should their days, surviving perils past,
Melt to calm twilight, they feel overcast
With sorrow and supineness, and so die;
Even as a flame unfed, which runs to waste
With its own flickering, or a sword laid by,
Which eats into itself, and rusts ingloriously.

XLV.
He who ascends to mountain-tops, shall find
The loftiest peaks most wapt in clouds and snow
He who surpasses or subdues mankind,
Must look down on the hate of those below.
Though high above the sun of glory glow,
And far beneath the earth and ocean spread,
Round him are icy rocks, and loudly blow
Contending tempests on his naked head,
And thus reward the toils which to those sumptu
led.

XLVI.
Away with these! true Wisdom's world will be
Within its own creation, or in thine,
Maternal Nature! for who esteans like thee,
Thus on the banks of thy majestic Rhine?
There Harol'd gazes on a work divine,
A blending of all beauties; streams and dells,
Fruit, foliage, crag, wood, cornfield, mountain vine,
And chiefless castles breathing stern savages
From gray but leafy walls, where Ruin greenly
dwells.

XLVII.
And there they stand, as stands a lofty mind.
Worn, but unstooping to the baser crowd,
All tenantless, save to the cranieing wind.
Or holding dark communion with the cloud
There was a day when they were young and proud.
Banners on high, and battles pass'd below.
But they who fought are in a bloody shroud.
And those which waved are shredless dust ere now
And the bleak battlements shall bear no future blow.
XLVIII.

beneath these battlements, within those walls,
Power dwelt amidst her passions; in proud state
Each robber chief upheld his armed halls,
Doing his evil will, nor less elate
Than mightier heroes of a longer date. [have?]
What want these outlaws\textsuperscript{10} conquerors should
But History's purchased page to call them great?
A wider space, an ornamented grave?
Their hopes were not less warm, their souls were full
as brave.

XLIX.

In their baronial feuds and single fields,
What deeds of prowess unrecorded died!
And love, which lent a blazon to their shields,
With emblems well devised by amorous pride,
Through all the mail of iron hearts would glide;
But still their flame was fiercest, and drew on
Keen contest and destruction near allied,
And many a tower for some fair mischief won,
\textit{Faw} the discolor'd Rhine beneath its ruin run.

L.

But Thou, exulting and unbounding river!
Making thy waves a blessing as they flow
Through banks whose beauty would be ever
Could man but leave thy bright creation so,
Nor its fair promise from the surface now
With the sharp scythe of conflict,—then to see
Thy valley of sweet waters, were to know
Earth paved like Heaven; and to seem such to me,
\textit{E'en now what wants thy stream?}—that it should
Lethe be.

LI.

A thousand battles have assail'd thy banks,
But these and half their fame have pass'd away,
And Slaughter heap'd on high his welterin ranks;
Their very graves are gone, and what are they?
Thy tide was 'd not the blood of yesterday,
And all was statuesless, and on thy clear stream
Glass'd with its dancing light the sunny ray;
But o' the blacken'd memory's blighting dream
Thy waves would vainly roll, all sweeping as they seem.

LII.

Thus Harold inly said, and pass'd along,
Yet not insensibly to all which here
Awoke the jocund birds to early song
in glens which might have made even exile dear;
Though on its brow were graven lines austere,
And tranquil stremes which had ta'en the place
Of feelings fierier far but less severe,
\textit{Joy was not always absent from his face},
\textit{But in such scenes would steal with transient trace.}

LIII.

Nor was all love shut from him, though his days
Of passion had consumed themselves to dust.
It is in vain that we would coldly gaze
On such as smile upon us; the heart must
Leap kindly back to kindness, though disgust
Hath wear'd it from all worldlings: thus he felt,
For there was soft remembrance, and sweet trust
In one fond breast, to which his own would melt,
And in its tenderer hour on that his bosom dwelt.

LIV.

And he had learned to love,—\textit{I know not why},
For this in such as him seems strange of mood.—
The helpless looks of blooming infancy,
Even in its earliest nurture; what subdued,
To change like this, a mind so far imbued
With scorn of man, it little boots to know;
But thus it was; and though in solitude
Small power the nipp'd affections have to grow,
In him this glow'd when all beside had ceased to
glow.

LV.

And there was one soft breast, as hath been said,
Whose breast to his was bound by stronger ties
Than the church links withal; and, though unwed
\textit{That love was pure, and, far above disgrace,}
Had stood the test of mortal enmities
Still, undivided, and cemented more
By peril, dreaded most in female eyes;
But this was firm, and from a foreign shore
Well to that heart might his these absent greetings pour.

1.

The castled crag of Drachenfels
Frowns o'er the wide and winding Rhine.
Whose breast of waters broadly swells
Between the banks which bear the vine.
And hills all rich with blossom'd trees,
And fields which promise corn and wine,
And scatter'd cities crowning these,
Whose far white walls along them shine,
Have strew'd a scene which I should see
With double joy were thou with me.

2.

And peasant girls, with deep blue eyes
And hands which offer early flowers,
Walk smiling o'er this paradise;
Above, the frequent feudal towers
Through green leaves lift their walls of gray,
And many a rock which steeply lowers,
And noble arch in proud decay,
Look o'er this vale of vintage-bowers;
But one thing want these banks of Rhine,—
Thy gentle hand to clasp in mine!

3.

I send the lilies given to me;
Though long before thy hand they wore
I know that they must wither'd be
But yet reject them not as such;
For I have cherish'd them as dear,
Because they yet may meet thine eye,
And guide thy soul to mine even here,
When thou behold'st them drooping nigh
And know'st them gather'd by the Rhine,
And offer'd from my heart to thine!

4.

The river nobly foams and flows,
The charm of this enchanted ground,
And all its thousand turns disclose
Some freshness beauty varying round:
The haughtiest breast its wish might bound
Through life to dwell delighted here;
Nor could on earth a spot be found
To nurture and to me so dear,
Could thy dear eyes in following mine
Still sweeten more these banks of Rhine!
LVI.

By Coblenz, on a rise of gentle ground,
There is a small and simple pyramid,
Crowning the summit of the verdant mound;
Beneath its base are heroes’ ashes hid,
Our enemy’s—but let not that forbid
Honor to Marceau! o’er whose early tomb
Tears, big tears, gush’d from the rough soldier’s lid,
Lamenting and yet envying such a doom,
Falling for France, whose rights he battled to resume.

LVII.

Brief, brave, and glorious was his young career,—
His mourners were two hosts, his friends and foes;
And fitly may the stranger lingering here
Pray for his gallant spirit’s bright repose;
For he was freedom’s champion, one of those,
The few in number, who had not o’erstept
The charter to chastise which she bestows
On such as wield her weapons; he had kept
The whiteness of his soul, and thus men o’er him wept. 12

LVIII.

Here Ehrenbreitstein, 13 with her shatter’d wall
Black with the miner’s blast, upon her height
Yet shows of what she was, when shell and ball
Rebounding idly on her strength did light:
A tower of victory! from whence the flight
Of balled foes was watch’d along the plain;
But Peace destroy’d what war could never blight,
And laid those proud roofs bare to Summer’s rain—
On which the iron shower for years had pour’d in vain.

LIX.

Adieu to thee, fair Rhine! How long delighted
The stranger fare w毡ed on his way!
Thine is a scene alike where souls united
Or lonely Contemplation thus might stray;
And could the ceaseless vultures cease to prey
On self-condemning loosons, it were here,
Where Nature, nor too sombre nor too gay,
Wild but not rude, awful yet not austere,
Is to the mellow Earth as Autumn to the year.

LX.

Adieu to thee again! a vain adieu!
There can be no farewell to scenes like thine;
The mind is color’d by thy every hue;
And if reluctantly the eyes resign
Their ghastly gaze upon thee, lovely Rhine!
’Tis with the thankful glance of parting praise;
More mighty spots may rise—more glaring shine,
But none unite in one attaching maze
The brilliant, fair, and soft,—the glories of old days.

LXI.

The negligently grand, the fruitful bloom
Of coming ripeness, the white city’s sheen,
The rolling stream, the precipice’s gloom,
The forest’s growth, and Gothic walls between,
The wild rocks shaped as they had turrets been,
In meekery of man’s art; and these withal
A race of faces happy as the scene,
Whose fertile bounties here extend to all,
Still springing o’er thy banks, though Empires near them fall.

LXII.

But these recede. Above me are the Alps,
The palaces of Nature, whose vast walls
Have pinnacled in clouds their snowly scalps,
And crowned Eternity in icy halls
Of cold sublimity, where forms and falls
The avalanche—the thunderbolt of snow!
All that expands the spirit, yet appals,
Gather around these summits, as to show
How earth may pierce to Heaven, yet leave vain man below.

LXIII.

But ere these matchless heights I dare to scan,
There is a spot should not be passe’d in vain,—
Morat! the proud, the patriot field! where man
May gaze on ghastly trophies of the slain,
Nor blush for those who conquer’d on that plain
Here Burgundy besought his tombless host,
A bony heap, through ages to remain,
Themselves their monument; the Stygian coast
Unsepulchred they roam’d, and shrack’d each wandering ghost. 14

LXIV.

While Waterloo with Canne’s carnage vies,
Morat and Marathon twin names shall stand;
They were true Glory’s stainless victories,
Won by the unambiguous heart and hand
Of a proud, brotherly, and civic band,
All unbought champions in no princely cause
Of vice-entail’d Corruption; they no land
Doom’d to bow in the blasphemy of laws
Making kings’ rights divine, by some Draconic clause.

LXV.

By a lone wall a lonelier column rears
A gray and grief-worn aspect of old days;
’Tis the last remnant of the wreck of years,
And looks as with the wild-bewilder’d gaze
Of one to stone converted by amaze,
Yet still with consciousness; and there it stands
Making a marvel that it docs not decay,
When the coeval pride of human hands,
Levell’d 15 Aventicum, hath strew’d her subject lands.

LXVI.

And there—oh! sweet and sacred be the name!—
Julia—the daughter, the devoted—gave
Her youth to Heaven; her heart, beneath a claim
Nearest to Heaven’s, broke o’er a father’s grave.
Justice is sworn ‘gainst tears, and hers would rave
The life she lived in, but the judge was just,
And then she died on him she could not save.
Their tomb was simple, and without a bust,
And held within their urn one mind, one heart, one dust. 16

LXVII.

But these are deeds which should not pass away,
And names that must not wither, though the earth
Forgets her empires with a just decay, [birth,
The enslavers and the enslaved, their death and
The high, the mountain-majesty of worth
Should be, and shall, survivor of its wo,
And from its immortality look forth.
In the sun’s face, like yonder Alpine snow
Imperishably pure beyond all things below.
LXXII.
Lake Leman woo'd me with its crystal face,
The mirror where the stars and mountains view
The stillness of their aspect in each trace
Its clear depth yields of their fair height and hue:
There is too much man of here, to look through
With a fit mind the might which I behold;
But soon in me shall Loneliness renew
Thoughts hid, but not less cherished than of old,
Are mingling with the herd had penn'd me in their fold.

LXXI.

LXXVIII.

LXIX.
To fly from, need not be to hate, mankind:
All are not fit with them to stir and toil,
Nor is it discontent to keep the mind
Deep in its fountain, lest it overboil
In the hot throng, where we become the spoil
Of our infection, till too late and long
We may deplore and struggle with the coil,
In wretched interchange of wrong for wrong
Midst a contentious world, striving where none are strong.

LXX.
There, in a moment, we may plunge our years
In fatal penitence, and in the blight
Of our own soul turn all our blood to tears,
And color things to come with hues of Night;
The race of life becomes a hopeless flight
To those that walk in darkness: on the sea,
The boldest steer but where their ports invite,
But there are wanderers' o'er Eternity
Whose bark drives on and on, and anchor'd never shall be.

LXXI.
Is it not better, then, to be alone,
And love Earth only for its earthly sake?
By the blue rushing of the arrow Rhone, 18
Or the pure bosom of its nursing lake,
Which feeds it as a mother who doth make
A fair but froward infant her own care,
Kissing its cries away as these awake:—
Is it not better thus our lives to bear?
Than join the crushing crowd, doom'd to infest or bear?

LXXX.
I live not in myself, but I become
Portion of that around me: and to me
High mountains are a feeling, but the hum
Of human cities torture: I can see
Nothing to loathe in nature, save to be
A link reluctant in a fleshly chain,
Class'd among creatures, when the soul can flee,
And with the sky, the peak, the heaving plain
Of ocean, or the stars, mingle, and not in vain.

LXXIII.
And thus I am absorb'd, and this is life;
I look upon the peopled desert past,
As on a place of agony and strife,
Where, for some sin, to Sorrow I was cast,
To act and suffer, but remount at last
With a fresh pinion: which I feel to spring,
Though young, yet waxing vigorous, as the blast
Which it would cope with, on delighted wing,
E'purng the a]y-cold bonds which round our being tling.

LXXIV.
And when, at length, the mind shall be all free
From what it hates in this degraded form,
Reft of its carnal life, save what shall be
Existent happier in the fly and worm,—
When elements to elements conform,
And dust is as it should be, shall I not
Feel all I see, less dazzling, but more warm?
The bodi:as thought? the Spirit of each spot?
Of which, even now, I share at times the immorta lot;

LXXV.
Are not the mountains, waves, and skies, a part
Of me and of my soul, as I of them?
Is not the love of these deep in my heart
With a pure passion? should I not contemn
All objects, if compared with these? and stem
A tide of suffering, rather than forego
Such feelings for the hard and worldly phlegm
Of those whose eyes are only turn'd below,
Gazing upon the ground, with thoughts which dare not glow?

LXXVI.
But this is not my theme; and I return
To that which is immediate, and require
Those who find contemplation in the urn,
To look on One, whose dust was once all fire.
A native of the land where I respire
The clear air for a while—a passing guest,
Where he became a being,—whose desire
Was to be glorious; 'twas a foolish quest,
The which to gain and keep, he sacrifice all rest.

LXXVII.
Here the self-torturing sophist, wid RousscUe.
The apostle of affliction, he who threw
Enchantment over passion, and from wo
Wrung overwhelming eloquence, first drew
The breath which made him wretched; yet he knew
How to make madness beautiful, and cast
O'er erring deeds and thoughts a heavenly hue
Of words, like sunbeams, dazzling as they past
The eyes, which o'er them shed tears feelingly and fast.

LXXVIII.
His love was passion's essence—as a tree
On fire by lightning; with ethereal flame
Kindled he was, and blasted; for to be
Thus, and enamor'd, were in him the same
But his was not the love of living dame,
Nor of the dead who rise upon our dreams,
But of ideal beauty, which became
In him existence, and o'erflowing teems
Along his burning page, distemper'd though! it seems

LXXIX.
This breathed itself to life in Julie, this
Invested her with all that's wild and sweet.
This hollow'd, too, the memorable kiss
Which every morn his fever'd lip would greet.
From hers, who but with friendship his would meet.
But to that gentle touch, through brain and breast
Flash'd the thrill'd spirit's love-devouring heat;
In that absorbing sigh perchance more blest,
Than vulgar minds may be with all they seek.

porest. 19
LXXX.

His life was one long war with self-sought foes,
Or friends by him self-banished; for his mind
Had grown Suspicion's sanctuary, and chose
For its own cruel sacrifice, the kind
'Gainst whom he raged with fury strange and blind.
But he was frenzied,—wherefore, who may know?
Since cause might be which skill could never find;
But he was frenzied by disease or wo,
To that worst pitch of all, which wears a reasoning show.

LXXXI.

For then he was inspired, and from him came,
As from the Pythian's mystic cave of yore,
Those oracles which set the world in flame,
Nor ceased to burn till kingdoms were no more;
Did he not this for France? which lay before
Bow'd to the inborn tyranny of years?
Broken and trembling to the yoke she bore,
Till by the voice of him and his compeers
Roused up to so much wrath, which follows o'ergrown fears?

LXXXII.

They made themselves a fearful monument!
The wreck of old opinions—things which grew
Breathed from the birth of time; the veil they
And what behind it lay all earth shall view. [rent,
But good with ill they also overthrew,
Leaving but ruins, wherewith to rebuild
Upon the same foundation, and renew [fell'd,
Dungeons and thrones, which the same hour re-
As heretofore, because ambition was self-will'd.

LXXXIII.

But this will nor endure, nor be endured! [felt.
Mankind have felt their strength, and made it
They might have used it better, but allured
By their new vigor, sternly have they dealt
On one another: pity ceased to melt
With her once natural charities. But they,
Who in oppression's darkness caved had dwelt,
They were not eagles, nourish'd with the day;
What marvel then, at times, if they mistook their
prey?

LXXXIV.

What deep wounds ever closed without a scar?
The heart's blood longest, but heal to wear
That which disfigures it; and they who war [hear
With their own hopes, and have been vanquish'd,
Silence, but not submission: in his lair
Fix'd passion holds his breath, until the hour
Which shall atone for none; none need despair:
It came, it cometh, and will come,—the power
to punish or forgive—in one we shall be slower.

LXXXV.

Clear, placid Leman! thy contrasted lake,
With the wild world I dwelt in, is a thing
Which warns me, with its stillness to forsake
Earth's troubled waters for a purer spring.
This quiet sail is as a noiseless wing
To waft me from distraction; once I loved
Torn ocean's roar, but thy soft murmuring
Sounds sweet as if a sister's voice repriev'd,
That I with stern delights should e'er have been so
moved.
XCII.

The sky is chang'd!—and such a change! Oh night,
And storm, and darkness, ye are wondrous strong,
Yet lovely in your strength, as it the light
Of a dark eye in woman! Far along,
From peak to peak, the rattling crags among,
Leaps the live thunder! Not from one lone cloud,
But every mountain now hath found a tongue,
And Jura answers, through her misty shroud,
Back to the jevous Alps, who call to her aloud.

And this is in the night:—Most glorious night!
Thou wert not sent for slumber! let me be
A sharer in thy fierce and far delight,—
A portion of the tempest and of thee.
How the lit lake shines, a phosphoric sea, 
And the big rain comes dancing to the earth!
And now again 'tis black, and now, the gleam
Of the loud hills shakes with its mountain birth,
As if they did rejoice o'er a young earthquake's birth.

Now, where the swift Rhone leaves his way between
Heights which appear as lovers who have parted,
In hate, whose mining depths so intervene,
That they can meet no more, though broken-hearted.
Thou'rt in their souls, which thus each other thwarted.
Love was the very root of the fond rage [parted:
Which blighted their life's bloom, and then de-
Itself expired, but leaving them an age
Of years all winters,—war within them ives to wage.

Now, where the quick Rhone Thus hath cleft his way
The mightiest of the storms hath ta'en his stand:
For here, not one, but many, make their play,
And fling their thunderbolts from hand to hand,
Flashing and cast around: of all the band, 'foke'd
The brightest through these parted hills hath
His lightnings,—as if he did understand,
That in such gaps as desolation work'd,
There the hot shaft should blast whatever therein lurk'd.

Sky, mountains, river, winds, lake, lightnings! ye!
With night, and clouds, and thunder, and a soul
To make these felt and feeling, well may be
Things that have made me watchful; the far roll
Of your departing voices, is the Abel
Of what in me is sleepless,—if I rest.
But where of ye, oh tempests! is the goal?
Are ye like those within the human breast?
Or do ye find, at length, like eagles, some high nest?

Could I embody and unbosom now,
That which is most within me,—could I wreak
My thoughts upon expression, and thus throw
Soul, heart, mind, passions, feelings, strong or weak,
All that I would have sought, and all I seek,
Bear, know, feel, and yet breathe—into one word,
And that one word were lightning, I would speak;
But as it is, I live and die unheard,

With a most voiceless thought, sheathing it as a

XCIII.

The morn is up again, the dewy morn,
With breath all intense, and with cheek all bloom
Laughing the clouds away with playful scorn.
And living as if earth contain'd no tomb,
And glowing into day; we may resume
The march of our existence: and thus I
Still on thy shoos, fair Leman! may find room
And food for meditation, nor pass by
Much, that may give us pause, if ponder'd fittingly.

Clarens! sweet Clarens, birth-place of deep love,
Thine sir is the young breath of passionate thought!
Thy trees take root in love: the snows above
The very Glaciers have his colors caught,
And sunset into rose hues sees them wrought
By rays which sleep there lovingly; the rocks
The permanent crags, tell here of love, who sought
In them a refuge from the worldly shocks,
Which stir and sting the soul with hope that woos,
Then mocks.

Clarens! by heavenly feet thy paths are trod,
Undying love's, who here ascends a throne
To which the steps are mountains; where the god
Is a pervading life and light,—so shown
Not on those summits solely, nor alone
In the still cave and forest; o'er the flower
His eye is sparkling, and his breath hath blown
His soft and summer breath, whose tender power
Passes the strength of storms in their most desolate hour.

Cl.

All things are here of him; from the black pines.
Which are his shade on high, and the loud roar
Of torrents, where he listeneth, to the vines
Which slope his green path downward to the shore.
Where the bow'd waters meet him, and adore
Kissing his feet with murmurs; and the wood
The covert of old trees, with trunks all hoar,
But light leaves, young as joy, stands where it stood,
Offering to him, and his, a populous solitude.

CII.

A populous solitude of bees and birds,
And fairy-form'd and many-color'd things, [words,
Who worship him with notes more sweet than
And innocently open their glad wings,
Fearless and full of life; the gush of springs,
And fall of lofty fountains, and the bend
Of stirring branches, and the bud which brings
The swiftest thought of beauty, here extend,
Mingling, and made by Love, unto one mighty end.

CIII.

He who hath loved not, here would learn that love,
And make his heart a spirit: he who knows
That tender mystery, will love the more,
For this is love's recess, where vain men's woes,
And the world's waste, have driven him far from
For 'tis his nature to advance or die; [those
He stands not still, but or decays, or grows:
Into a boundless blessing, which may vie
With the immortal lights, in its eternity
CIV.
'Twas not for fiction chose Rousseau this spot,
Peopling it with affections; but he found
It was the scene which passion most allot
To the mind's purified beings; 'twas the ground
Where early Love his Psyche's zone unbound,
And hallow'd it with loveliness: 'tis lone,
And wonderful, and deep, and hath a sound,
And sense, and sight of sweetness: here the Rhone
Hath spread himself a couch, the Alps have rear'd a
thronve.

CV.

Lausanne! and Ferney! ye have been the abodes
Of names which unto you bequeath'd a name;
Mortals, who sought and found, by dangerous
A path to perpetuity of fame; [roads,
They were gigantic minds, and their steep aim
Was, Titan-like, on daring doubts to pile [flame
Thoughts which should call down thunder, and the
Of heaven, again assaul'd, if heaven the while
On man and man's research could deign do more
than smile.

CVI.
The one was fire and sickleness, a child,
Most mutable in wishes, but in mind;
A wit as various,—gay, grave, sage, or wild,—
Historian, bard, philosopher, combined;
He multiplied himself among mankind,
The Proteus of their talents; But his own
Breathed most in ridicule,—which, as the wind,
Blew where it listeth, laying all things prone,—
Now to o'erthrow a fool, and now to shake a throne.

CVII.
The other, deep and slow, exhausting thought,
And hiving wisdom with each studious year,
In meditation dwelt, with learning wrought,
And shaped his weapon with an edge severe,
Sapping a solemn creed with solemn sner;
The lord of irony,—that master-spell, [fear,
Which stung his foes to wrath, which grew from
And doom'd him to the zealot's ready Itell,
Which answers to all doubts so eloquently well.

CVIII.
Yet, peace be with their ashes,—for by them,
If merited, the penalty is paid;
It is not ours to judge,—far less condemn; [made
The hour must come when such things shall be
Known unto all,—or hope and dread alay'd
By slumber, on one pillow,—in the dust,
Which, thus much we are sure, must lie decay'd;
And when it shall revive, as is our trust,
'Twill be to be forgiven, or suffer what is just.

CIX.
But let me quit man's works, again to read
His Maker's, spread around me, and suspend
This page, which from my reveries I feed,
Until it seems prolonging without end.
The clouds above me to the white Alps tend,
And I must pierce them, and survey whate'er
May be permitted, as my steps I bend
To their most great and growing region, where
The earth to her embrace compels the powers of air.
Canto IV.

"Aye be Toscan, Lombardis, Romagnis,
Quod Monte chuiride, e quel che semra
Buon, e un mare e l’altri, che se leggii.
Armanda, Serata III.

Venice, January 2, 1818.

JOHN HOBH JUSE, ESQ., A.M. F.R.S.
&c., &c., &c.

MY DEAR HOUSE,

After an interval of eight years between the composition of the first and last cantos of Childe Harold, the conclusion of the poem is about to be submitted to the public. In parting with so old a friend, it is not extraordinary that I should recur to it still older and better—to one who has beheld the birth and death of the other, and to whom I am far more indebted for the social advantages of an enlightened friendship, than—though not ungrateful—I can or could be, to Childe Harold for any public favor reflected through the poem on the poet, to one, whom I have known long, and accompanied for; whom I have found wakeful over my sickness, and kind in my sorrow; glad in my prosperity, and firm in adversity; true in counsel, and trusty in peril—to a friend often tried and never found wanting—in yourself.

In so doing, I recur from fiction to truth, and in dedicating to you in its complete, or at least concluded state, a poetical work which is the longest, the most thoughtfull and comprehensive of my compositions, I wish to do honor to myself by the record of many years’ intimacy with a man of learning, of talent, of steadiness, and of honor. It is not for minds like ours to give or to receive flattery; yet the praises of sincerity have ever been permitted to the voice of friendship, and it is not for you, no, even for others, but to relieve a heart which has not elsewhere, or lately, been so much accustomed to the encounter of good-will as to withstand the shock firmly, ‘tis I thus attempt to commemorate your good qualities, or rather the advantages which I have derived from their exertion. Even the recurrence of the date of this letter, the anniversary of the most unfortunate day of my past existence, but which cannot poison my future, while I retain the resource of your friendship, and of my own faculties, will henceforth have a more agreeable recollection for both, insomuch as it will remind us of this my attempt to thank you for an indefatigable regard, such as few men have experienced, and one could experience without thinking better of his species and of himself.

It has been our fortune to traverse together, at various periods, the countries of chivalry, history, and fable—Spain, Greece, Asia Minor, and Italy: and what Athens and Constantinople were to us a few years ago, Venice and Rome have been more recently. The poem also, or the pilgrim, or both, have accompanied me from first to last; and perhaps it may be a pardonable vanity which induces me to reflect with complacency on a composition which in some degree connects me with the spot where it was produced, and the object, it would fail to describe; and however unworthy it may be deemed of those magical and memorable abodes, however short it may fall of our distant conceptions and immediate impressions, yet, as a mark of respect for what is venerable, and as a feeling for what is glorious, it has been to me a source of pleasure in the production, and I part with it with a kind of regret, which I hardly suspected that events could have left me for imaginary objects.

With regard to the conduct of the last canto, there will be found less of the pilgrim than in any of the preceding, and that little slightly, if at all, separated from the author speaking in his own person. The fact is, that I had become weary of drawing a line which every one seemed determined not to perceive: like the Chinche in Goldsmith’s “Citizen of the World,” whom nobody would believe to be a Chinese, it was in vain that I asserted, and imagined that I had drawn, a distinction between the author and the pilgrim; and the very anxiety to preserve this difference, and disappointment at finding it unavailing, so far crushed my efforts in the composition, that I determined to abandon it altogether—and have done so. The opinions which have been, or may be, formed on that subject, are now a matter of indifference; the work is to depend on itself, and not on the writer; and the author, who has no resources in his own mind beyond the reputation, transient or permanent, which is to arise from his literary efforts, deserves the fate of authors.

In the course of the following canto, it was my
utention, either in the text or in the notes, to have touched upon the present state of Italian literature, and perhaps of manners. But the text, within the limits I proposed, I soon found hardly sufficient for the labyrinth of external objects and the consequent reflections; and for the whole of the notes, excepting a few of the shortest, I am indebted to myself, and these were necessarily limited to the elucidation of the text.

It is also a delicate, and no very grateful task, to dissert upon the art and manners of a nation so dissimilar; and requires an attention and impartiality which would induce us,—though perhaps no inattentive observers, nor ignorant of the language or customs of the people amongst whom we have recently abode,—to distrust, or at least defer our judgment, and more narrowly examine our information. The state of literary, as well as political party, appears to run, or to have run, so high, that for a stranger to steer impartially between them is next to impossible. It may be enough then, at least for my purpose, to quote from their own beautiful language,—"Mi pare che in un paese tutto poetico, che vanta la lingua più nobil ed insieme la più dolce, tutte tutte le vie diversi si possono tentare, e che sinche la patria di Alfieri e di Monti non ha perduto l'antico valore, in tutte esse dovrebbe essere la prima." Italy has great names still—Canova, Monti, Ugo Foscolo, Fidentemont, Visconti, Morelli, Ciccognara, Albrizzi, Mezzopphanti, Mai, Mustovidi, Aglietti, and Vacea, will surely, with the present generation an honorable place in most of the departments of Art, Science, and Belles Lettres; and in some of the very highest;—Europe—the World—has but one Canova.

It has been somewhere said by Alfieri, that "La piatta uomo masce più robusta in Italia che in qualunque altra terra—e chi gessi stessi stroci delitti chi vi si commettano ne sono una prova." Without subscribing to the latter part of his proposition, a dangerous doctrine, the truth of which may be disputed on better grounds, namely, that the Italians are in no respect more ferocious than their neighbors, that man must be willfully blind, or ignorantly heedless, who is not struck with the extraordinary capacity of this people, or, if such a word be admissible, their capabiliies, the facility of their acquisitions, the rapidity of their conceptions, the fire of their genius, their sense of beauty, and amidst all the disadvantages of repeated revolutions, the desolation of battles, and the despair of ages, their still unquenched "longing after immortality," the immortality of independence. And when we ourselves, in riding round the walls of Rome, heard the simple lament of the laborers' chorus, "Roma! Roma! Roma non è più come era prima,", it was difficult not to contrast this melancholy dirge with the bacehunal roar of the songs of exultation still yelled from the London taverns, over the carving of Mount St. Jean, and the betrayal of Genoa, of Italy, of France, and of the world, by men whose conduct you yourself have exposed in a work worthy of the better days of our history. For me,

"Non piace il mio cor a
Ora la torme di me ce lido son.

What Italy has gained by the late transfer of nations, it were useless for Englishmen to inquire, till it becomes ascertained that England has acquired something more than a permanent army and a suspended Habeas Corpus; it is enough for them to look at home. For what they have done abroad, and especially in the South, "Verily they will have their reward," and at no very distant period.

Wishing you, my dear Hobhouse, a safe and agreeable return to that country whose real welfare can be dearer to none than to yourself, I dedicate to you this poem in its completed state; and repeat once more how truly I am ever

Your obliged and affectionate friend,

BYRON.

I

I stood in Venice, on the Bridge of Sighs; 1
A palace and a prison on each hand:
I saw from out the wave her structures rise
As from the stroke of the enchanter's wand:
A thousand years their cloudy wings expand
Around me, and a dying glory smiles
O'er the far times, when many a subject bard
Look'd to the winged Lion's marble piles,
Where Venice sate in state, throned on her hundred
isles!

II.

She looks a sea-Cybele fresh from ocean
Rising with her tiara of proud towers 2
At airy distance, with majestic motion,
A ruler of the waters and their powers,
And such she was; her daughters had their dovers
From spoils of nations, and the exquisites East
Pour'd in her lap all gems in sparkling showers
In purple was she robed, and of her feast
Monarchs partook, and deem'd their dignity in
creased.

III.

In Venice, Tasso's echoes are no more, 3
And silent rows the soughing gondolier;
Her palaces are crumbling to the shore,
And music meets not always now the ear:
Those days are gone—but beauty still is here—
States fall, arts fade—but Nature doth not die;
Nor yet forget how Venice once was dear,
The pleasant place of all festivity,
The revel of the earth, the masque of Italy.

IV.

But unto us she hath a spell beyond
Her name in story, and her long array
Of mighty shadows, whose dim forms respond
Above the dogeless city's vanished way;
Ours is a trophy which will not decay
With the Rialto; Shylock and the Moor,
And Pierra, cannot be swept or worn away—
The keystones of the arch! though all were o'er
For us reproved were the solitary shore.

V.

The beings of the mind are not of clay;
Essentially immortal, they create
And multiply in us a brighter ray
And more beloved existence: that which fate
Prohibits to dull life, in this our state
Of mortal bondage, by these spirits supplied,
First exiles, then replaces what we hate;
Watering the heart whose early flowers have died.
And with a fresher growth replenishing the void.
VI.

such is the refuge of our youth and age,
The first from Hope, the last from Vacancy;
And this worn feeling peoples many a page,
And, may be, that which grows beneath mine eye;
Yet there are things whose strong reality
Outshines our fairy-hood; in shape and hues
More beautiful than our fantastic sky,
And the strange constellations which the Muse
O'er her wild universe is skilful to diffuse:

VII.

I saw or dream'd of such,—but let them go—
They came like truth, and disappear'd like dreams;
And whatso'er they were—are now but so:
I could replace them if I would; still teems
My mind with many a form which aptly seems
Such as I sought for, and at moments found;
Let these too go—for waking reason deems
Such overwhelming phantasties unsound,
And other voices speak, and other sights surround.

VIII.

I've taught me other tongues—and in strange eyes
Have made me not a stranger; to the mind
Which is itself, no changes bring surprise;
Nor is it harsh to make, nor hard to find
A country with,—ay, or without mankind;
Yet was I born where men are proud to be,
Not without cause; and should I leave behind
The invidiate isle of the sage and free,
And seek me out a home by a remote sea,

IX.

Perhaps I loved it well; and should I lay
My ashes in a soil which is not mine,
My spirit shall resume it—if we may
Unbodied choose a sanctuary. I twine
My hopes of being remember'd in my line
With my land's language: if too fond and far
These aspirations in their scope incline,—
If my fame should be, as my fortunes are,
Of hasty growth and blight, and dull Oblivion bar

X.

My name from out the temple where the dead
Are honor'd by the nations—let it be—
And light the laurels on a loftier head!
And be the Spartan's epitaph on me
"Sparta hath many a worthier son than he." 4
Mormito I seek no sympathies, nor need;
The thorns which I have reap'd are of the tree
I planted,—they have torn me,—and I bleed;
I should have known what fruit would spring from
such a seed.

XI.

The spouseless Adriatic mourns her lord;
And, annual marriage now no more renew'd,
The Buceantor lies rotting unrestored,
Neglected garment of her widowhood!
St. Mark yet sees his Lion where he stood 5
Stand, but in mockery of his wither'd power,
Over the proud place where an Emperor sued,
And monarchs gazed and envied in the hour
When Venice was a queen with an unequall'd dower.

XII.

The Sauubian sue, and now the Austrian reigns—
An Emperor tramples where an Emperor kneel'd;
Kingdoms are shrunk to provinces, and chains
Clank over sceptered cities; nations melt
From power's high pinnacle, when they have felt
The sunshine for a while, and downward go
Like lauine loosen'd from the mountain's belt;
Oh for one hour of blind old Dundolo! 7
Th' octogenarian chief, Byzantium's conquering foe

XIII.

Before St. Mark still glow his steeds of brass,
Their gilded collars glittering in the sun;
But is not Doria's menace come to pass? 8
Are they not bridled!—Venice, lost and won,
Her thirteen hundred years of freedom done
Sinks, like a sea-weed, into whence she rose!
Better be whelm'd beneath the waves, and shun
Even in destruction's depth, her foreign foes,
From whom submission wrings an infamous repose.

XIV.

In youth she was all glory,—a new Tyre,—
Her very by-word sprung from victory,
The "Planter of the Lion," 9 which through fire
And blood she bore o'er subject earth and sea;
Though making many slaves, herself still free,
And Europe's bulwark 'gainst the Ottomite;
Witness Troy's rival, Candia! Vouch it, ye
Immortal waves that saw Lepanto's fight!
For ye are names no time nor tyranny can blight.

XV.

Statues of glass—all shiver'd—the long file
Of her dead Doges are declined to dust;
But where they dwell, the vast and sumptuous pile
Bespakes the pageant of their splendid trust;
Their sceptre broken, and their sword in rust,
Have yielded to the stranger; empty halls,
Thick streets, and foreign aspects, such as must
Too oft remind her who and what enthral'd,
Have flung a desolate cloud o'er Venice's lovely walls.

XVI.

When Athens' armies fell at Syracuse,
And etter'd thousands bore the yoke of war
Redemption rose up in the Attic Muse, 11
Her voice their only ransom from afar;
See! as they chant the tragic hymn, the ear
Of the o'ermaster'd victor stops, the reins
Fall from his hands—his idle scimitar
Starts from its belt—he rends his captive's chains
And bids him thank the bard for freedom and his strains.

XVII.

Thus, Venice, if no stronger claim were thine,
Were all thy proud historic deeds forgot,
Thy choral memory of the Bard divine,
Thy love of Tasso, should have cut the knot
Which ties thee to thy tyrants; and thy lot
Is shameful to the nations,—most of all,
Albion! to thee: the Ocean queen should ne'er
Abandon Ocean's children; in the fall
Of Venice think of thine, despite thy watery wall
XVIII.

I loved her from my boyhood—she to me
Was as a fairy city of the heart,
Rising like water-columns from the sea,
Of joy the sojourn, and of wealth the mart;
And Otway, Radcliffe, Schiller, Shakspeare's art,13
Had stamp'd her image in me, and even so,
Although I found her thus, we did not part,
Perchance even dearer in her day of wo,

But from their nature will the tannen grow13
Loftiest on loftiest and least shelter'd rocks,
Rooted in barreness, where nought below
Of soil supports them 'gainst the Alpine shocks
Of eddying storms; yet springs the trunk, and moeks
The howling tempest, till its height and frame
Are worthy of the mountains from whose blocks
Of bleak, gray granite into life it came,
And grew a giant tree—the mind may grow the same.

Existence may be borne, and the deep root
Of life and sufferance make its firm abode
In bare and desolate bosoms: mute
The camel labors with the heaviest load,
And the wolf dies in silence, not bestow'd
In vain should such example be; if they,
Things of ignoble or of savage mood,
Endure and shrink not, we of nobler clay
May temper it to bear, it is but for a day.

All suffering doth destroy, or is destroy'd,
Even by the sufferer; and in each event,
Ends—Some with hope replenish'd and rebuoy'd,
Return to whence they came—with like intent,
And weave their web again; some, bow'd and bent,
Wax gray and ghastly, withering ere their time,
And perish with the reed on which they leant;
Some seek devotion, toil, war, good or crime,
According as their souls were form'd to sink or climb:

But ever and anon of griefs subdued
There comes a token like a scorpion's sting,
Scarce seen, but with fresh bitterness imbued;
And slight withal may be the things which bring
Back on the heart the weight which it would fling
Aside for ever; it may be a sound—
A tone of music—summer's eve—or spring—
A flower—the wind—the ocean—which shall

And how and why we know not, nor can trace
Home to a cloud this lightning of the mind,
But feel the shock renew'd, nor can efface
The blight and blackening which it leaves behind
Which out of things familiar, undisguiz'd,
When least we deem of such, calls up to view
The spectres whom no exorcism can bind, [sown,
The cold—the changed—peregrine the dead—
The monk'd, the loved, the last—too many!—yet how few!

But my soul wanders; I demand it back
To meditate amongst decay, and stand
A ruin amidst ruins; there to track
Fall'n states and buried greatness, o'er a land
Which was the mightiest in its old command,
And is the loveliest, and must ever be
The master-mould of Nature's heavenly hand,
Wherein were cast the heroic and the free,
The beautiful, the brave—the lords of earth and sea.

The commonwealth of kings, the men of Rome!
And even since, and now, fair Italy!
Thou art the garden of the world, the home
Of all Art yields, and Nature can decree;
Even in thy desert, what is like to thee?
Thy very weeds are beautiful, thy waste
More rich than other climes' fertility;
Thy wreck a glory, and thy ruin grace
With an immaculate charm which can not be defaced.

The Moon is up, and yet it is not night—
Sunset divides the sky with her—a sea
Of glory streams along the Alpine height
Of blue Friuli's montains; Heaven is free
From clouds, but of all colors seems to be
Melted to one vast Iris of the West,
Where the Day joins the past Eternity:
While, on the other hand, meek Dian's crest
Floats through the azure air—an island of the blest

A single star is at her side, and reigns
With her o'er half the lovely heaven; but still14
Yon sunny sea heaves brightly, and remains
Roll'd o'er the peak of the far Rhætan hill,
As Day and Night contending were, until
Nature reclaim'd her order—gently flows
The deep-dyed Brenta, where their hues instil
The odorous purple of a new-born rose,
Which streams upon her stream, and glasse'd within it glows,

Fill'd with the face of heaven, which, from afar,
Comes down upon the waters; all its hues,
From the rich sunset to the rising star,
Their magical variety diffuse,
And now they change; a paler shadow shows
Its mantle o'er the mountains; parting day
Dies like the dolphin, whom each pang imbrues
With a new color as it gasps away,
The last still loveliest, till—tis gone—and all is gray.
XXX.

There is a tomb in Arqua,—yard in air,
Pillar'd in their sarcophagus, repose
The bones of Laura's lover; here repair
Many familiar with his well-sung woes,
The pilgrims of his genius. He arose
To raise a language, and his land reclaim
From the dull yoke of her barbaric foes:
Watering the tree which bears his lady's name
With his melodious tears, he gave himself to fame.

XXXI.

They keep his dust in Arqua, where he died;
The mountain-village where his latter days
Went down the vale of years; and 'tis their pride—
An honest pride—and let it be their praise,
To offer to the passing stranger's gaze
His mansion and his sepulcre; both plain
And venerably simple, such as raise
A feeling more accordant with his strain,
Than if a pyramid form'd his monumental fame.

XXXII.

And the soft quiet hamlet where he dwelt
Is one of that complexion which seems made
For those who their mortality have felt,
And sought a refuge from their hopes decay'd
In the deep unbroken of a green hill's shade,
Which shows a distant prospect far away
Of busy cities, now in vain display'd,
For they can lure no further; and the ray
Of a bright sun can make sufficient holiday,—

XXXIII.

Developing the mountains, leaves and flowers,
And shining in the brawling brook, where-by,
Clear as its current, glide the sauntering hours
With a calm languor, which, though to the eye
Idlesse it seem, hath its morality,
If from society we learn to live.
'Tis solitude should teach us how to die;
It hath no flatterers; vanity can give
No hollow aid; alone—man with his God must strive:

XXXIV.

Or, it may be, with demons, who impair
The strength of better thoughts, and seek their prey
In melancholy bosoms, such as were
Of moody texture from their earliest day,
And loved to dwell in darkness and dismay,
Deeming themselves predestined to a doom
Which is not of the pangs that pass away;
Making the sun like blood, the earth a tomb,
The tomb a hell, and hell itself a munker gloom.

XXXV.

Ferrara! in thy wide and grass-grown streets,
Whose symmetry was not for solitude,
There seems as 'twere a curse upon the seats
Of former sovereigns, and the antique brook
Of Este, which for many an age made good
Its strength within thy walls, and was of yore
Patron or tyrant, as the changing mood
Of petty power impell'd, of those who wore
The wreath which Dante's brow alone had worn

XXXVI.

And Tasso is their glory and their shame.
Hark to his strain! and then survey his cell!
And see how dearly earn'd Torquato's fame,
And where Alfonso bade his poet dwell:
The miserable despot could not quell
The insulted mind he sought to quench, and blend
With the surrounding manias, in the hell
Where he had plunged it. Glory without end
Scatter'd the clouds away—and on that name attend.

XXXVII.

The tears and praises of all time; while thine
Would rot in its oblivion—in the sink
Of worthless dust, which from thy boasted line
Is shaken into nothing; but the link
Thou fornest in his fortunes bids us think
Of thy poor malice, naming thee with scorn—
Alfonso! how thy ducal pageants shrink
From thee! if in another station born,
Searce fit to be the slave of him thou mad'st to mourn:

XXXVIII.

'How! form'd to eat, and be despised, and die,
Even as the beasts that perish, save that thou
Hast a more splendid trough and wider sty:
He with a glory round his furrow'd brow,
Which emanated then, and dazzles now.
In face of all his foes, the Cruscan quire,
And Boileau, whose rash envy could allow
No strain which shamed his country's creaking
That whetstone of the teeth—monotony in wire!

XXXIX.

'Peace to Torquato's injur'd shade! 'twas his
In life and death to be the mark where Wrong
Aim'd with her poison'd arrows, but to miss.
Oh, victor unsurpass'd in modern song!
Each year brings forth its millions; but how long
The tide of generations shall roll on,
And not the whole combined and countless throng
Compose a mind like thine? though all in one
Condensed their scatter'd rays, they would not form a sun.

XL.

Great as thou art, yet parallè'd by those,
Thy countrymen, before thee born to shine—
The bards of Hell and Chivalry: first rose
The Tuscan father's comedy divine:
Then not unequal to the Florentine,
The southern Scott, the minstrel who call'd for a
A new creation with his magic line,
And, like the Ariosto of the North,
Sang lady-love and war, romance and knightly
worth.

XLI.

The lightning rent from Ariosto's bust
The iron crown of laurel's mimic'd leaves
Nor was the ominous element unjust,
For the true laurel-wreath which Glory weaves
Is of the tree not bolt of thunder cleaves,
And the false semblance but disgraced his brow
Yet still if fondly Superstition grieves,
Know, that the lightning sanctifies below
Whate'er it strikes;—you head is doubly sacred now
XLII.

Italia! oh Italia! thou who hast
The fatal gift of beauty, which became
A funeral dwar of present woes and past,
On thy sweet brow is sorrow plough’d by shame,
And annals graved in characters of flame.
Oh God! that thou wert in thy nakedness
Less lovely or more powerful, and couldst claim
Thy right, and awe the robbers back, who press
To shed thy blood and drink the tears of thy distress:

XLIII.

Then might’st thou more appall; or, less desired,
Be homely and be peaceful, undeclored
For thy destructive charms; then, still untired,
Would not be seen the armed torrents pour’d
Down the deep Alpi; nor would the hostile horde
Of many-nation’d spoilers from the Po
Quaff blood and water; nor the stranger’s sword
Be thy sad weapon of defence, and so,
Victor or vanquish’d, thou the slave of friend or foe.

XLIV.

Wandering in youth, I traced the path of him,
The Roman friend of Rome’s least mortal mind,
The friend of Tully: as my bark did skin
The bright blue waters with a fanning wind,
 Came Megara before me, and behind
Egina lay, Piraeus on the right,
And Corinth on the left; I lay reclined
Along the prow, and saw all these unite
In ruin, even as he had seen the desolate sight;

XLV.

For Time hath not rebuilt them, but uprear’d
Barbaric dwellings on their shatter’d site,
Which only make more mourn’d and more endear’d
The few last rays of their far-scatter’d light,
And the crush’d relics of their vanish’d might.
The Roman saw these tombs in his own age,
These sepulchres of cities, which excite
Sad wonder, and his yet surviving page
The moral lesson bears, drawn from such pilgrimage.

XLVI.

That page is now before me, and on mine
His country’s ruin added to the mass
Of perish’d states he mourn’d in their decline,
And I in desolation: all that was
Of then destruction is; and now, alas!
Rome—Rome imperial, bows her to the storm,
In the same dust and blackness, and we pass
The skeleton of her Titanic form,
Wrecks of another world, whose ashes still are warm.

XLVII.

Yet, Italy! through every other land
Thy wrongs should ring, and shall, from side to side;
Mother of arts! as once of arms; thy hand
Was then our guardian, and is still our guide;
Parent of our Religion! whom the wide
Nations have knelt to for the keys of heaven!
Europe, repentant of her parricide,
Shall yet redeem thee, and, all backward driven,
Roll the barbarian tide, and sue to be forgiven.

XLVIII.

But Arno wins us to the fair white walls,
Where the Etrurian Athens claims and keeps
A softer feeling for her fairy halls.
Girt by her theatre of hills, she reaps
Her corn, and wine, and oil, and Plenty leaps
To laughing life, with her redundant horn.
Along the banks where smiling Arno sweeps,
Was modern Luxury of Commerce born.
And buried Learning rose, redeem’d to a new morn

XLIX.

There, too, the Goddess loves in stone, and fills
The air around with beauty; we inhale
The ambrosial aspect, which beheld, in situ
Part of its immortality; the veil
Of heaven is half undrawn; within the pale
We stand, and in that form and face behold
What mind can make, when Nature’s self would
And to the fond idolaters of old
[jail;]
Envy the innate flesh which such a soul could mould:

L.

We gaze and turn away, and know not where,
Dazzled and drunk with beauty, till the heart
Reels with its fulness; there—for ever there—
Chains’d to the chariot of triumphal Art.
We stand as captives, and would not depart.
Away!—there need no words, nor terms precise,
The paltry jargon of the marble mart,
Where Pedantry gulls Folly—we have eyes:
Blood—pulse—and breast, confirm the Dardan Sheep
herd’s prize.

LI.

Appear’st thou not in Paris in this guise?—
Or to more deeply blest Anchises? or,
In all thy perfect goddess-ship, when lies
Before thee thy own vanquish’d Lord of War?
And gazing in thy face as toward a star,
Laid on thy lap, his eyes to thee upturn,
Feeding on thy sweet cheek?—while thy lips are
With lava kisses melting while they burn,
Shower’d on his eyelids, brow, and mouth, as from
an urn!

LII.

Glowing, and circumfused in speechless love,
Their full divinity inadequate.
That feeling to express, or to improve,
The gods become as mortals, and man’s fate
Ifs moments like their brightest; but the weight
Of earth recoils upon us.—let it go!
We can recall such visions, and create, [grow
From what has been, or might be, things which
Into thy statue’s form, and look like gods below.

LIII.

I leave to learned fingers, and wise hands,
The artist and his ape, to teach and tell
How well his connoisseurship understands
The graceful bend and the voluptuous swell;
Let these describe the undescribable: [stream
I would not their vile breath should crisp the
Wherein that image shall for ever dwell;
The unruffled mirror of the loveliest dream
That ever left the sky on the deep soul to beam
LIV.

In Santa Croce's holy precincts lie
Ashes which make it holier, dust which is
Even in itself an immortality.
Though there were nothing save the past, and this,
The particle of those sublimities
Which have elapsed to chaos,—here repose
Angelo's, Alfieri's bones, and his,
The starry Galileo, with his woes;
Cure Machiavelli's earth return'd to whence it rose.

These are four minds, which, like the elements,
Might furnish forth creation:—Italy!  
Time, which hath wrong'd thee with ten thousand
Of thine imperial garment, shall deny,
And hath denied, to every other sky,
Spirits which soar from ruin:—thy decay
Is still impregnate with divinity,
Which gilds it with revivifying ray;
Such as the great of yore, Canova is to-day.

But where repose all the Etruscan three—
Dante, and Petrarch, and, scarce less than they,
The Bard of Frose, creative spirit! he
Of the Hundred Tales of love—where did they lay
Their bones, distinguish'd from our common clay.
In death as life? Are they resolved to dust,
And have their country's marble sought to say?
Could not her quarries furnish forth one bust?
Did they not to her breast their fillial earth intrust?

Ungrateful Florence! Dante sleeps afar,
Like Scipio, buried by the upbraiding shore;  
Thy factions, in their worse than civil war,
Proscribed the bard whose name for evermore
Their children's children would in vain adore
With the remorse of ages; and the crown
Which Petrarch's laureate brow supremely wore,
Upon a far and foreign soil had grown,
His life, his fame, his grave, though rifted—not thine.

Boccaccio to his parent earth bequeath'd
His dust,—and lies it now her Great among,
With many a sweet and solemn requiem breathed
O'er him who form'd the Tuscan's siren tongue?
That music in itself, whose sounds are song,
The poetry of speech? No:—even his tomb
Uptorn, must bear the hyena bigot's wrong,
No more amidst the measer dead find room,
Nor claim a passing sigh, because it told for whom?

And Santa Croce wants their mighty dust,
Yet for this want more noted, as of yore
The Caesar's pageant, shorn of Brutus' bust,
Did but of Rome's best Son remind her more:
Happier Ravenna! on thy hoary shore,
Fortress of falling empire! honor'd sleeps
The immortal exile:—Arqua, too, her store
Of unequal relics proudly claims and keeps,  
While Florence vainly begs her banish'd dead and

LX.

What is her pyramid of precious stones
Of phosphory, jasper, agate, and all hues
Of gem and marble, to encrust the bones
Of merchant-dukes? the momentary dews
Which, sparkling to the twilight stars, infuse
Freshness in the green turf that wraps the dead,
Whose names are the mausoleums of the muse,
Are gently prest with far more reverent tread
Than ever paced the slab which paves the princely head.

There be more things to greet the heart and eye,
In Arno's dome of Art's most princely shrine,
Where Sculpture with her rainbow sister vies;
There be more marvells yet—but not for mind;
For I have been accus'tomed to entwine
My thoughts with Nature rather in the fields,
Than Art in galleries: though a work divine
Calls for my spirit's homage, yet it yields
Less than it feels, because the weapon which it wields

LXII.

Is of another temper, and I roam
By Thrasimene's lake, in the deiles
Fatal to Roman rashness, more at home,
For there the Carthaginian's warlike wiles
Come back before me, as his skill beguiles
The host between the mountains and the shore.
Where Courage falls in her despairing files,
And torrents, swim to rivers with their gore,
Reek through the sultry plain, with legions scatter'd o'er

Like to a forest fell'd by mountain winds;
And such the storm of battle on this day,
And such the frenzy, whose convulsion blinds
To all save carnage, that, beneath the fray
An earthquake reel'd unheedingly away;
None felt stern Nature rocking at his feet,
And yawning forth a grave for those who lay
Upon their bucklers for a winding sheet;
Such is the absorbing hate when warring nations meet!

The Earth to them was as a rolling bark
Which bore them to Eternity: they saw
The Ocean round, but had no time to mark
The motions of their vessel; Nature's law,
In them suspended, reek'd not of the awe  
[birds Which reigns when mountains tremble, and the
Plunge in the clouds for refuge and withdraw
From their down-toppling nests; and bellowing

Stumbling o'er heaving plains, and man's dread hath

LXII.

Far other scene is Thrasimene now;
Her lake a sheet of silver, and her plain
Rent by no ravage save the gentle plough;
Her aged trees rise thick as once the slain
Lay where their roots are; but a brook hath ta'n
A little rill of scanty stream and bed—
A name of blood from that day's sanguine rain.
And Sanguinetto tells ye where the dead
Made the earth wet, and turn'd the unwilling waters red.
LYXVI.

But then Clitumnus! in thy sweetest wave

Of the most living crystal that was ever

The haunt of river nymphs, to gaze and lave

Her limbs where nothing hid them, thou dost rear

Thy grassy banks whereon the milk-white steer

Gazes; the purest god of gentle waters!

And most serene of aspect, and most clear;

Surely that stream was unprofaned by slaughters—

A mirror and a bath for Beauty’s youngest daugh-

ters!

LYXVII.

And on thy happy shore a temple still,

Of small and delicate proportion, keeps,

Upon a mild declivity of hill,

Its memory of thee; beneath it sweeps

Thy current’s cleanliness; oft from out it leaps

The finny darter with the glittering scales,

Who dwells and revels in thy grassy deeps;

While, chance, some scatter’d water-lily sails

Down where the shallower wave still tells its bub-

bling tales.

LYXVIII.

Pass not unblest the Genius of the place!

If through the air a zephyr more serene

Win to the brow, ’tis his; and if ye trace

Along his margin a more eloquent green,

If on the heart the freshness of the scene

Sprinkle its coolness, and from the dry dust

Of weary life a moment love it have clean

With Nature’s baptism,—’tis to him ye must

Pay orisons for this suspension of disgust.

LYXIX.

The roar of waters! from the headlong height

Velino cleaves the wave-worn precipice;

The fall of waters! rapid as the light

The flashing mass foams shaking the abyss;

The hell of waters! where they howl and hiss,

And boil in endless torture; while the sweat

Of their great agony, wrung out from this

Their Phlegathon, curls round the rocks of jet

That girds the gulf around, in pitiless horror set,

LXX.

And mounts in spray the skies, and thence again

Returns in an unceasing shower, which round,

With its unempted cloud of gentle rain,

Is an eternal April to the ground,

Making it all one emerald—how profound

The gulf! and how the giant element

From rock to rock leaps with deliberate bound,

Crushing the cliffs, which, downward worn and rent

With his fierce footsteps, yield in chasms a fearful vent

LXXI.

T: the broad column which rolls on, and shows

More like the fountain of an infant sea

Torn from the womb of mountains by the throes

Of a new world, than only thus to be

Parent of rivers, which flow gushingly, [back!]

With many windings, through the vale:—Look

Lo! where it comes like an eternity,

As if to sweep down all things in its track,

Charming the eye with dread.—a matchless cata-

ract.27

LXXII.

Horribly beautiful! but on the verge,

From side to side, beneath the glittering mor.

An Iris sits, amidst the infernal surge,26

Like Hope upon a death-bed, and, unworn

Its steady dyes, while all around is torn

By the distracted waters, bears serene

Its brilliant hues with all its beams unshorn,

Resembling, ’mid the torture of the scene,

Love watching Madness with unalterable mien

LXXIII.

Once more upon the woody Apennine,

The infant Alps, which—had I not before

Gazed on their mightier parents, where the pine

Sits on more shaggy summits, and where roar

The thundering launwine—might be worship’d

more:29

But I have seen the soaring Jungfrau rear

Her never trodden snow, and seen the hoar

Glaciers of bleak Mount-Blanc both far and near,

And in Chimari heard the thunder-hills of fear.

LXXIV.

Th’ Acroceraunian mountains of old name;

And on Parnassus seen the eagles fly

Like spirits of the spot, as ’twere for fame.

For still they soar’d unutterably high;

I’ve look’d on Ida with a Trojan’s eye;

Athos, Olympus, Ætna, Atlas, made

These hills seem things of lesser dignity,

All, save the lone Soracte’s heights display a

Not now in snow, which asks the lyric Roman’s aid

LXXV.

For our remembrance, and from out the plain

Heaves like a long-swept wave about to break,

And on the curl hangs pausing: not in vain

May he, who will, nis recollections rake

And quote in classic raptures, and awake

The hills with Latian echoes; I abhor’d

Too much, to conquer for the poet’s sake,

The drill’d dull lesson, forced down word by word

In my repugnant youth, with pleasure to record

LXXVI.

Aught that recalls the daily drug which turnd’

My sickening memory; and, though Time hath

My mind to meditate what then it learnt’d, [taught

Yet such the fix’d inveracity wrought

By the impatience of my early thought,

That, with the freshness wearing out before

My mind could relish what it might have sought

If free to choose, I cannot now restore

Its health; but what it then detested, still abhor.

LXXVII.

Then farewell, Horace; whom I hat’d so,

Not for thy faults, but mine; it is a curse

To understand, to feel thy lyric flow,

To comprehend, but never love thy verse.

Although no deeper moralist rehearse

Our little life, nor Bard prescribe his art,

Nor livelier Satirist the conscience pierce,

Awakening without wounding the touch’d heart.

Yet fare thee well—upon Soracte’s ridge we part.
LXXVII.

Ch Rome! my country! city of the soul!
The orphans of the heart must turn to thee,
Lone mother of dead empires! and control
In their shrat breasts their petty misery.
What are our woes and sufferance? Come and see
The cypress, hear the owl, and plod your way
O'er steps of broken thrones and temples, Ye!
Whose agonies are evils of a day—
A world is at our feet as fragile as our clay.

LXXXIX.

The Niobe of nations! there she stands
Chillless and crownless, in her voiceless wo,
An empty urn, within her wither'd hands,
Whose holy dust was scatter'd long ago;
The Scipio's tomb contains no ashes now; 41
The very sepulchres lie tenantless
Of their heroic dwellers: dost thou flow,
Old Tiber! through a marble wilderness?
Rise, with thy yellow waves, and mantle her distress.

LXXX.

The Goth, the Christian, Time, War, Flood, and Fire,
Have dealt upon the seven-hill'd city's pride;
She saw her glories star by star expire,
And up the steep barbarian monarchs ride,
Where the car clumb'd the capitol; far and wide
Temple and tower went down, nor left a site—
Chaos of ruins! who shall trace the void,
O'er the dim fragments cast a lunar light,
And say, "here was, or is," where all is doubly night?

LXXXI.

The double night of ages, and of her,
Night's daughter, Ignorance, hath wrap't and wrap
All round us; we but feel our way to err:
The ocean hath his chart, the stars their map,
And Knowledge spreads them on her ample lap;
But Rome is as the desert, where we steer
Stumbling o'er recollections; now we clap
Our hands, and cry "Eureka!" it is clear—
When but some false mirage of ruin rises near.

LXXXII.

Alas! the lofty city! and alas!
The trebly hundred triumphs! 43 and the day
When Brutus made the dagger's edge surpass
The conqueror's sword in bearing fame away!
Alas, for Tully's voice, and Virgil's lay,
And Livy's pictured page!—but these shall be
Her resurrection; all beside—decay.
Alas, for Earth, for never shall we see
That brightness in her eye she bore when Rome was free!

LXXXIII.

Oh, thou, whose chariot roll'd on Fortune's wheel, 44
Triumphant Sylva! Thou, who didst subdue
My country's foes ere thou wouldst pause to feel
The wrath of thy own wrongs, or reap the due
Of hoarded vengeance till thine eagles flew
O'er prostrate Asia—thou, who with thyrown
Annihilated senates—Roman, too,
With all thy vices, for thou didst lay down
With an atoning smile a more than earthly crown—

LXXXIV.

The dictatorial wreath,—couldst thou div ne
To what would one day dwindle that which made
Thee more than mortal? and that so supine
By aught than Romans Rome should thus be laid!
She who was named Eternal, and array'd
Her warriors but to conquer—she who veil'd
Earth with her haughty shadow, and display'd,
Until the o'er-crowned horizon fall'd,
Her rushing wings—Oh! she who was Almighty
half'd!

LXXXV.

Sylla was first of victors; but our own
The sagist of usurpers, Cromwell; he
Too swept off senators while he hew'd the throne
Down to a block—immortal rebel! See
What crimes it costs to be a moment free
And famous through all ages! but beneath
His fate the moral lurks of destiny;
His day of double victory and death
Beheld him win two realms, and, happier, yield
breath.

LXXXVI.

The third of the same moon whose former course
Had all but crown'd him, on the selfsame day
Depos'd him gently from his throne of force,
And laid him with the earth's preceding clay; 44
And show'd not Fortune thus how fam'd and away
And all we deem delightful, and consume
Our souls to compass through each arduous way,
Are in her eyes less happy than the tomb?
Were they but so in man's, how different were
doom.

LXXXVII.

And thou, dread statue! yet exist in 45
The austerest form of naked majesty,
Thou who beheld'st 'mid the assassins' din,
At thy bathed base the bloody Caesar lie,
Folding his robe in dying dignity,
An offering to thine altar from the queen
Of gods and men, great Nemesis! did he die,
And thou, too, perish, Pompey? have ye been
Victors of countless kings, or puppets of a scene?

LXXXVIII.

And thou, the thunder-stricken nurse of Rome, 46
She-wolf! whose brazen-imaged dugs impart
The milk of conquest yet within the dome
Where, as a monument of antique art,
Thou standest—Mother of the mighty heart,
Which the great founder suck'd from thy wild teat,
Searc'h'd by the Roman Jove's ethereal dart,
And thy limbs black with lightning—dost thou yet
Guard thine immortal cubs, nor thy fond charge
forget?

LXXXIX.

Thou dost;—but all thy foster babes are dead—
The men of iron; and the world hath rear'd
Cities from out their sepulchres: men bled
In imitation of the things they fear'd, 46
And fought and conquer'd, and the same cours At aprod distance; but as yet none have
Nor could, the same supremacy have near'd,
Save one vain man, who is not in the grave,

Pax, var. quisque, by himself, to his own slaves a
slave—
XC.
The foe of false dominion—and a kind
Of bastard Caesar, following him of old
With steps unequal: for the Roman's mind
Was model'd in a less terrestrial mould; 47
With passions fiercer, yet a judgment cold,
And an immortal instinct which redeem'd
The frailties of a heart so soft, yet bold,
Alicies with the dust now he seem'd.
At Cleopatra's feet,—and now himself he beam'd.

XCII.
And came—and saw—and conquer'd! But the man
Who would have tamed his eagles down to flee,
Like a train'd falcon, in the Gallic van,
Which he, in sooth, long led to victory,
With a deaf heart which never seem'd to be
A listener to itself, was strangely framed;
With but one weakest weakness—vanity,
Coquettish in ambition—still he aim'd—
At what? can he avouch—or answer what he
claim'd?

XCIV.
And thus they plod in sluggish misery,
Rotting from sire to son, and age to age,
Proud of their trampled nature, and so die,
Bequeathing their hereditary rage
To the new race of inborn slaves, who wage
War for their chains, and rather than be free,
Bleed gladiator-like, and still engage
Withi? the same arena where they see
Their fo'wows fall before, like leaves of the same tree.

XCVI.
Can tyrants but joy tyrants conquer'd be,
And Freedom find no champion and no child
Such as Columbia saw arise when she
Sprung forth a Pallas, arm'd and undefiled?
Or must such minds be nourish'd in the wild,
Deep in the unpruned forest, 'midst the roar
Of cataracts, where nursing Nature smiled
On infant Washington? Has Earth no more
Such seeds within her breast, or Europe no vast
shore?

XCVII.
But France got drunk with blood to vomit crime,
And fatal have her Saturnalia been
To Freedom's cause, in every age and clime:
Because the deadly days which we have seen,
And vile Ambition, that built up between
Man and his hopes an adaminite wall,
And the base pageant last upon the scene,
Are grown the pretext for the eternal thrall
Which nips life's tree, and dooms man's worst—his
second fall.

XCVIII.
Yet, Freedom! yet thy banner, torn, but flying,
Screams like the thunder-storm against the wind
The trumpet voice, though broken now and dying
The loudest still the tempest leaves behind;
Thy tree hath lost its blossoms, and the wind,
Chopp'd by the axe, looks rough and little worth,
But the sap lasts,—and still the seed we find
Sown deep, even in the bosom of the North;
So shall a better spring less bitter fruit bring forth

XCIX.
There is a stern round tower of other days, 23
Firm as a fortress, with its fence of stone,
Such as an army's baffled strength delays,
Standing with half its battlements alone,
And with two thousand years of ivy grown,
The garland of eternity, where wave
The green leaves over all thy time o'erthrown—
What was this tower of strength? within its care
What treasure lay so lock'd, so hid?—A woman's
grave.

Cl.
But who was she, the lady of the dead,
Tomb'd in a palace? was she chaste and fair?
Worthy a king's—or more—a Roman's bed?
What race of chiefs and heroes did she bear?
What daughter of her beauties was the heir?
How lived—how loved—how did she die? Was she
So honor'd—and conspicious there, [not
Where meaner relics must not dare to rot,
Placed to commemorate a more than mortal k t ?

Cl.
Was she as those who love their lords, or they
Who love the lords of others? such have been
Even in the olden time, Rome's annals say.
On the matron of Cornelia's mien,
Or the light air of Egypt's graceful queen,
Profuse of joy—or 'gainst it did she war,
Inveterate in virtue? did she lean
To the soft side of the heart, or wisely bar
Love from amongst her griefs?—for such the afflic-
tions are.
CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE

CII.
Perchance she died in youth: it may be, bow'd
With woes far heavier than the ponderous tomb
That weigh'd upon her gentle dust, a cloud
Might gather o'er her beauty, and a gloom
In her dark eye, prophetic of the doom
Heaven gives its favorites—early death; yet shed
A sunset charm around her, and illumine
With hectic light, the Hesperus of the dead,
Of her consuming cheek the autumnal leaf-like red.

CIII.
Perchance she died in age—surviving all,
Charms, kindred, children—with the silver gray
On her long tresses, which might yet recall,
It may be, still a somathing of the day
When they were braided, and her proud array
And lovely form were envied, praised, and eyed
By Rome—but whither would Conjecture stray?
Thus much alone we know—Metella died,
The wealthiest Roman's wife; behold his love or pride!

CIV.
I know not why—but standing thus by thee,
It seems as if I had thine inmate known,
Thou tomb! and other days come back on me
With recollection musical, though the tone
Is changed and solemn, like the cloudy groan
Of dying thunder on the distant wind;
Yet could I seat me by this ivied stone
Till I had bodied forth the heated mind
forms from the flowing wreck which Ruin leaves behind;

CV.
And from the planks, far shatter'd o'er the rocks,
Built me a little bark of hope, once more
To battle with the ocean and the shocks
Of the loud breakers, and the ceaseless roar
Which rushes on the solitary shore
Where all lies founder'd that was ever dear:
But could I gather from the wave-worn store
Enough for my rude boat, where should I steer?
There wos no home, nor hope, nor life, save what
is here.

CVI.
Then let the winds howl on! their harmony
Shall henceforth be my music, and the night
The sound shall temper with the owlets' cry,
As I now hear them, in the fusing light
Dim o'er the bird of darkness' native site,
Answering each other on the Palatine, [bright,
With their large eyes, all glistening gray and
And sailing pinions.—Upon such a shrine
What are our petty griefs?—let me not number
mine.

CVII.
Cypress and ivy, weed and wallflower grown
Matted and mass'd together, hilllocks heap'd
On what were chambers, arch crush'd, column
strown [steep'd
In fragments, choked up vaults, and frescoes
in subterranean damps, where the owl peep'd,
Deeming it midnight:—Temples, baths, or halls?
Pronounce who can; for all that Learning reap'd
From her research hath been, that these are walls—
Behold the Imperia' Mount! 'tis thus the mighty
falls. 81

CVIII.
There is the moral of all human tales; 82
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past,
First Freedom, and then Glory—when that fails,
Wealth, vice, corruption,—barbarism at last.
And History, with all her volumes vast,
Hath but one page,—'tis better written here,
Where gorgeous Tyranny had thus amass'd
All treasures, all delights, that eye or ear,
Heart, soul could seek, tongue ask—Away with
words! draw near,

CIX.
Admire, exult—despise—laugh, weep,—for here
There is such matter for all feeling:—Man,
Thou pendulum betwixt a smile and tear,
Ages and realms are crowded in this span,
This mountain, whose obliterated plan
The pyramid of empires pinnacled,
Of Glory's gewgag shining in the van
Till the sun's rays with added flame were fill'd!
Where are its golden roofs? where those who dared
To build?

CX.
Tully was not so eloquent as thou,
Thou nameless column with the buried base!
What are the laurels of the Caesar's brow?
Crowne me with ivy from his dwelling-place.
Whose arch or pillar meets me in the face,
Titus or Trajan's? No—'tis that of Time:
Triumph, arch, pillar, all he doth displace
Scotting; and apostolic statues climb
To crush the imperial urn, whose ashes slept sub
lime, 83

CXI.
Buried in air, the deep blue sky of Rome,
And looking to the stars: they had contain'd
A spirit which with these would find a home
The last of those who o'er the whole earth reign'd,
The Roman globe, for after none sustain'd,
But yielded back his conquests:—he was more
Than a mere Alexander, and, unstain'd,
With household blood and wine, serenely wore
His sovereign virtues—still we Trajan's name
adore. 84

CXII.
Where is the rock of Triumph, the high place
Where Rome embraced her heroes? where the
Tarpeian? fittest goal of Tresason's race, 85
[steep
The promontory whence the Traitor's leap
Cured all ambition. Did the conquerors heap
Their spoils here? Yes; and in you field below,
A thousand years of silenced factions sleep—
The Forum, where the immortal accents glow,
And still the eloquent air breathes—burns with
Cicero!

CXIII.
The field of freedom, faction, fame, and blood:
Here a proud people's passions were exhaled,
From the first hour of empire in the bud
To that when further worlds to conquer fail'd;
But long before had freedom's face been veil'd,
And Anarchy assumed her attributes;
Till every lawless soldier who assail'd
Trod on the trembling senate's slavish mute
Or raised the venal voice of baser prostitutes
CXIV.

Then turn we to her latest tribute’s name,
From her ten thousand tyrants turn to thee,
Redeemer of dark centuries of shame—
The friend of Petrarch—hope of Italy—
Rienzi! last of Romans! While the tree
Of freedom’s withered trunk puts forth a leaf,
Even for thy tomb a garland let it be—
The forum’s champion, and the people’s chief—
Her new-born Numa then—with reign, alas! too brief.

CXV.

Egeria! sweet creation of some heart
Which found no mortal-resting-place so fair
As thine ideal breast; whate’er thou art
Or wet,—a young Aurora of the air,
The nympholepsy of some fond despair;
Or, it might be, a beauty of the earth,
Who found a more than common votary there
Too much adoring; whatso’er thy birth,
Thou wert a beautiful thought, and softly bodied forth.

CXVI.

The mosses of thy fountain still are sprinkled
With thine Elysian water drops; the face
Of thy cave-guarded spring, with years unwrinkled,
Reflects the meek-eyed genius of the place,
Whose green, wild margin now no more erase
Art’s works; nor must the delicate waters sleep,
Prison’d in marble, bubbling from the base
Of the cleft statue, with a gentle leap
The rill runs o’er, and round, fern, flowers, and ivy creep

CXVII.

Fantastically tangled; the green hills
Are clothed with early blossoms, through the grass
The quick-eyed lizard rustles, and the bills
Of summer-birds sing welcome as ye pass;
Flowers fresh in hue, and many in their class
Implore the passing step, and with their dyes
Dance in the soft breeze in a fairy mass;
The sweetness of the violet’s deep blue eyes,
Kiss’d by the breath of heaven, seems color’d by its skies.

CXVIII.

Here didst thou dwell, in this enchanted cover,
Egeria! thy all heavenly bosom beaming
For the far footsteps of thy mortal lover;
The purple Midnight veil’d that mystic meeting
With her most starry canopy, and seating
Thyself by, thine adorer, what befell?
This cave was surely shaped out for the greeting
Of an enamoured Goddess, and the cell
Haunted by holy Love—the earliest oracle!

CXIX.

And didst thou not, thy breast to his replying,
Blend a celestial with a human heart;
And Love, which dies as it was born, in sighing,
Share with immortal transports? could thin’rt art
Make them indeed immortal, and impart
The purity of heaven to earthly joys,
Expel the venom and not blunt the dart—
The dull satiety which all destroy;
And root from out the soul the deadly weed which cloys?

CXXI.

Alas! our young affections run to waste
Or water but the desert; whence arise
But weeds of dark luxuriarice, tares of hate,
Rank at the core, though tempting to the eyes,
Flowers whose wild odors breathe but agonies,
And trees whose guns are poison; such the plan—
Which spring beneath her steps as Passion flies
O’er the world’s wilderness, and vainly pants
For some celestial fruit forbidden to our wants.

CXXII.

Oh Love! no habitant of earth thou art—
An unseen seraph, we believe in thee,
A faith whose martyrs are the broken heart,
But never yet hath seen, nor e’er shall see
The naked eye, thy form, as it should be;
The mind hath made thee, as it peopled heaven,
Even with its own desiring phantasy,
And to a thought such shape and image given,
As haunts the unquench’d soul—parch’d—wearied—wring’d—and riven.

CXXIII.

Of its own beauty is the mind diseased,
And fever into false creation:—where,
Where are the forms the sculptor’s soul hath seized
In him alone. Can Nature show so fair?
Where are the charms and virtues which we dare
Conceive in boyhood and pursue as men.
The unreach’d Paradise of our despair,
Which o’er-informs the pencil and the pen,
And overpowers the page where it would bloom again?

CXXIV.

Who loves, raves,—tis youth’s frenzy—but the cure
Is bitterer still; as charm by charm unwind
Which robid our idols, and we see too sure
Nor worth nor beauty dwells from out the mind’s
Ideal shape of such; yet still it binds
The fatal spell, and still it draws us on,
Reaping the whirlwind from the off-sown winds;
The stubborn heart, its alchemy begun,
Seems ever near the prize—wealthiest when most undone.

CXXV.

We wither from our youth, we gasp away—
Sick—sick; unfound the boon—unslak’d the thirst,
Though to the last, in verge of our decay,
Some phantom lures, such as we sought at first—
But all too late,—so are we doubly curst.
Love, fame, ambition, avarice—tis the same,
Each idle—and all ill—and none the worst—
For all are meteors with a different name,
And Death the sable smoke where vanishes the flame.

CXXVI.

Few—none—find what they love or could have loved,
Though accident, blind contact, and the strong
Necessity of loving, have removed
Antipathies—but to recur, ere long,
Envenom’d with irrevocable wrong;
And Circumstance, that unspiritual god
And miscreator, makes and helps along
Our coming evils with a rush-like rod,
Whose touch turns Hope to dust,—the dust we all have trod.
CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

CXXVI.
Our life is a false nature—'tis not in
The harmony of things,—this hard decree,
This unedifying taint of sin,
This boundless upas, this all-blasting tree,
Whose root is earth, whose leaves and branches be
The skies which rain their plagues on men like dew—
Disease, death, bondage—all the woes we see—
And worse, the woes we see not—which throb through
The immedicable soul, with heart-aches ever new.

CXXVII.
Yet let us ponder boldly—'tis a base
Abandonment of reason to resign
Our right of thought—our last and only place
Of refuge; this at least, shall still be mine:
Though from our birth the faculty divine
Is chain'd and tortured—cabin'd, cribb'd, confined,
And bred in darkness, lest the truth should shine
Too brightly on the unprepared mind,
The beam pours in, for time and skill will couch the blind.

CXXVIII.
Arches on arches! as it were that Rome,
Collecting the chief trophies of her line,
Would build up all her triumphs in one dome,
Her Coliseum stands; the moonbeams shine
As 'twere its natural torches, for divine
Should be the light which streams here, to illumine
This long-explored but still exhaustless mine
Of contemplation; and the azure gloom
Of an Italian night, where the deep skies assume
Hues which have words, and speak to ye of heaven,
Floats o'er this vast and wondrous monument,
And shadows forth its glory. There is given
Unto the things of the earth, which Time hath bent,
A spirit's feeling, and where he hath least
His hand, but broke his sorry, there is a power
And magic in the ruin'd battlement,
For which the palace of the present hour
Must yield its pomp, and wait till ages are its dower.

CXXX.
Oh Time! the beautifier of the dead,
Adornor of the ruin, comforter
And only healer when the heart hath bled—
Time! the corrector where our judgments err,
The test of truth, love,—sole philosopher,
For all beside are sophists, from thy thrift,
Which never loses though it doth defer—
Time, the avenger! unto thee I lift
My hands, and eyes, and heart, and crave of thee a gift:

CXXXI.
Amidst this wrek, where thou hast made a shrine
And temple more divinely desolate,
Among thy mightier offerings here are mine,
Ruins of years—though few, yet full of fate:—
If thou hast ever seen me too late,
Hear me not; but if calmly I have borne
Good, and reserved my pride against the hat
Which shall not whelm me, let me not have worn
This iron in my soul in vain—shall they not murn?
CXXXVIII.

The seal is set.—Now welcome, thou dread power! Nameless yet thus omnipotent, which here Walk'st in the shadow of the midnight hour With a deep awe, yet all distinct from fear; Thy haunts are ever where the dead walls rear Their ivy mantles, and the solemn scene Derives from thee a sense so deep and clear That we become a part of what has been, \and\ grow onto the spot, all-seeing but unseen.

CXXXIX.

And here the buzz of eager nations ran, In murmurd pity, or loud-roar'd applause, As man was slaughter'd by his fellow-man. And wherefore slaughter'd? wherefore, but because Such were the bloody Circus' genial laws, And the imperial pleasure.—Wherefore not? What matters where we fall to fill the maws Of worms—on battle-plains or listed spot? \both\ are but theatres where the chief actors rot.

CXI.

I see before me the Gladiator lie: \& He leans upon his hand—his manly brow Consents to death, but conquests agony. And his droop'd head sinks gradually low— And through his side the last drops, ebbing slow From the red gash, fall heavy, one by one, Like the first of a thunder-shower; and now The arena swims around him—he is gone, \ere\ ceased the inhuman shout which hail'd the wretch who won.

CXII.

He heard it, but he heeded not—his eyes Were with his heart, and that was far away. He reck'd not of the life he lost nor prize, But where his rudder lay by the Danube lay, \there\ were his young barbarians all at play, \there\ was their Dacian mother,—he, their sire, Butcher'd to make a Roman holiday— \& All this rush'd with his blood—Shall he expire And unavenged?—Arise! ye Gothis, and glut your ire!

CXIII.

But here, where Murder breathed her bloody steam, And here, where buzzing nations chocked the ways, And roar'd or murmurd like a mountain stream Dashing or winding as its torrent strays; Here, where the Roman million's blame or praise Was death or life, the playthings of a crowd, \& My voice sounds much—and fall the stars' faint rays On the arena void—seats crush'd—walls bow'd— \&nd galleries, where my steps seem echoes strangely loud.

CXIII.

A ruin—yet what ruin! from its mass Walls, palaces, half-cities have been rear'd; Yet oft the enormous skeleton ye pass, And marvel where the spoil could have appear'd. Hath it indeed been plunder'd, or but clear'd? Alas! developed, opens the decay, When the colossal fabric's form is near'd; It will not bear the brightness of the day, Which streams too much on all years, man, have \ret\ away.

CXLIV.

But when the rising moon begins to climb Its topmost arch, and gently pauses there; When the stars twinkle through the loops of time And the low night-breeze waves along the air The garland-forest, which the gray walls wear, Like laurels on the bald first Caesar's head; \& When the light shines serene but doth not glare Then in this magic circle raise the dead: Heroes have trod this spot—tis on their dust ye tread.

CXLV.

"While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand; \& "When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall; \& "And when Rome falls—the World." From our \own\ land Thus spake the pilgrims o'er this mighty wall In Saxon times, which we are wont to call Ancient; and these three mortal things are still On their foundations, and unalter'd all; Rome and her Ruin past Redemption's skill, The World, the same wide den—of thieves, or what ye will.

CXLVI.

Simple, erect, severe, austere, sublime— Shrine of all saints and temple of all gods, From Jove to Jesus—spared and blest by time; Looking tranquillity, while falls or nods Arch, empire, each thing round thee, and man plods His way through thorns to ashes—glorious dome! Shalt thou not last? Time's scythe and tyrant's Shiver upon thee—sanctuary and home \rots Of art and Piety—Pantheon!—pride of Rome!

CXLVII.

Relic of nobler days, and noblest arts! Despoil'd yet perfect, with thy circle spreads A holiness appealing to all hearts— To art a model; and to him who treads Rome for the sake of ages, Glory shall Her light through thy sole aperture; to those Who worship, here are altars for their beads; And they who feel for genius may repose Their eyes on honored forms, whose busts \around them close.

CXLVIII.

There is a dungeon, in whose dim drear light \& What do I gaze on? Nothing: Look again! Two forms are slowly shadow'd on my sight— Two insuluted phantoms of the brain: It is not so; I see them full and plain— An old man, and a female young and fair, Fresh as a nursing mother, in whose vein The blood is nectar:—but what does she there, With her unman'ted neck, and bosom white \& bare?

CXLIX.

Full swells the deep pure fountain of young life, Where on the heart, and \from the heart we took Our first and sweetest nurture, when the wise, Blest into mother, in the innocent look, Or even the piping cry of lips that brook No pain and small suspense, a joy perceives Man knows not, when from out its cradled neck She sees her little bud put forth its leaves— What may the fruit be yet?—I know not—Cain was Eve's.
CHILDE HAROLD’S PILGRIMAGE.

CL.

But her youth offers to old age the food,
The milk of his own gift:—it is her sire
To whom she renders back the debt of blood
Born with her birth. No; he shall not expire
While in those warm and lovely veins the fire
Of health and holy feeling can provide [higher
Great Nature’s Nile, whose deep stream rises
Than Egypt’s river—from that gentle side
Drink, drink and live, old man! Heaven’s realm
holds no such tide.

CLII.

The starry fable of the milky way
Has not thy story’s purity; it is
A constellation of a sweeter ray,
And sacred Nature triumphs more in this
Reverse of her decree, than in the abyss
Where sparkle distant worlds:—Oh, holiest nurse!
No drop of that clear stream its way shall miss
To thy sire’s heart, replenishing its source
With life, as our freed souls reunite the universe.

CLIII.

To turn to the Mole which Hadrian rear’d on high,
Imperial mimic of old Egypt’s piles,
Colossal copyist of deformity,
Whose travell’d phantasy from the far Nile’s
Enormous model, doom’d the artist’s toils
To build for giants, and for his vain earth,
His shrunken ashes, raise this dome: How smiles
The gazer’s eye with philosophic mirth,
To view the huge design which sprung from such a birth!

CLIV.

But lo!—the dome—the vast and wondrous dome,
To which Diana’s marvel was a cell—
Christ’s mighty shrine above his martyr’s tomb!
I have beheld the Ephesian’s miracle—
Its columns strew the wilderness, and dwell
The hyena and the jackall in their shade;
I have beheld Sophia’s bright roofs dwell
Their glittering mass I the sun, and have survey’d
Its sanctuary the while the usurping Moslem pray’d.

CLV.

But thou, of temples old, or altars new,
Standest alone—with nothing like to thee—
Worthiest of God, the holy and the true,
Since Zion’s desolation, when that He
Forsook his former city, what could be,
Of earthly structures, in his honor piled,
Of a sublimer aspect? Majesty,
Power, Glory, Strength, and Beauty, all are aiding
In this eternal arch of worship undefiled.

CLVI.

Enter: its grandeur overwhelms thee not;
And why? it is not lessend; but thy mind,
Expanded by the genius of the spot,
Has grown colossal, and can only find
A fit abode wherein appear enshrined
Thy hopes of immortality; and thou
Shalt one day, if found worthy, so defined,
See thy God face to face, as thou dost now
His Holy of Holies, nor be blasted by his brow.

CLVII.

Thou movest—but increasing with the advance,
Like climbing some great Alp, which still doth rise,
Deceived by its gigantic elegance;
Vastness which grows—but grows to harmonize—
All musical in its immensities;
[flame
Rich marbles—richer painting—shrines where
The lamps of gold—and haughty dcurn which vie
In air with Earth’s chief structure, though their
fran—
Sits on the firm-set ground—and this the clouds
must claim.

CLVIII.

Thou seest not all; but piecemeal thou must break
To separate contemplation, the great whole;
And as the ocean many bays will make,
That ask the eye—so here condense thy soul
To more immediate objects, and control
Thy thoughts until thy mind hath got by heart
Its eloquent proportions, and unroll
In mighty gradations, part by part,
The glory which at once upon thee did not dart,

CLIX.

Then pause, and be enlightened; there is more
In such a survey than the sating gaze
Of wonder pleased, or awe which would adore
The worship of the place, or the mere praise
Of art and its great masters, who could raise
What former time, nor skil, nor thought could
The fountain of sublimity displays [plan:
Its depth, and thence may draw the mind of man
Its golden sands, and learn what great conceptions can.

CLX.

Or, turning to the Vatican, go see
Laocoön’s torchy dignifying pain—
A father’s love and mortal’s agony
With an immortal’s patience blending:—Vain
The struggle; vain against the coiling strain
And grip, and deepening of the dragon’s grasp,
The old man’s cleft; the long envenomed chain.
Rivets the living links,—the enormous sap
Enforces pang on pang, and stifles gasp on gasp.

CLXI.

Or view the Lord of the unerring bow,
The God of life, and poesy, and light—
The Sun in human limbs array’d, and brow
All radiant from his triumph in the fight;
The shaft hath just been shot—the arrow bright
With an immortal’s vengeance; in his eye
And nostril beautiful disdain, and might,
And majesty, flash their full lightnings by
Developing in that one glance the Deity.
CLXII.

But in his delicate form—a dream of Love,
Shaped by some solitary nymph, whose breast
Long'd for a deathless lover from above,
And madden'd in that vision—are express
All that ideal beauty ever bless'd
The mind with in its most unearthly mood,
When each conception was a heavenly guest—
A ray of immortality—and stood;
But like around, until they gather'd to a god.

CLXIII.

And if it be Promethens stole from Heaven
The fire which we endure, it was repaid
By him to whom the energy was given
Which this poetic marble hath array'd
With an eternal glory—which, if made
By human hands, is not of human thought;
And Time himself hath hallow'd it, nor laid
One ringlet in the dust—nor hath it caught
A tinge of years, but breathes the flame with which
'twas wrought.

CLXIV.

But where is he, the Pilgrim of my song,
The being who upheld it through the past?
Methinks he cometh late and tardies long.
He is no more;—these breathings are his last,
His wanderings done, his visions ebbing fast;
And he himself as nothing—if he was
Aught but a phantasy, and could be class'd
With forms which live and suffer—let that pass—
His shadow fades away into Destruction's mass,

CLXV.

Which gathers shadow, substance, life, and all
That we inherit in its mortal shroud,
And spreads the dim and universal pall [cloud
Through which all things grow phantoms; and the
Between us sinks and all which ever glowed,
Till Glory's self is twilight, and displays
A melancholy halo scarce allow'd
To hover on the verge of darkness; rays
Sadder than saddest night, for they distract the gaze,

CLXVI.

And send us prying into the abyss
To gather what we shall be when the frame
Shall be resolved to something less than this
Its wretched essence; and to dream of fame,
And to wipe the dust from off the idle name
We never more shall hear,—but never more,
Oh, happier thought! can we be made the same?
It is enough in sooth that once we bore
These fardels of the heart—the heart whose sweat
was gore.

CLXVII.

Hark! forth from the abyss a voice proceeds,
A long low distant murmur of dread sound,
Such as arises when a nation bleeds
With some deep and immedicable wound; [ground;
Through storm and darkness yawns the rending
The gulf is thick with phantoms, but the chief
Seems royal still, though with her head discrow'd,
And pale, but lovely, w'th maternal grief
We clasps a babe to whom her breast yields no relief.

CLXVIII.

Scior of chiefs and monarchs, where art thou?
Fond hope of many nations, art thou dead?
Could not the grave forget thee, and lay low
Some less majestic, less beloved head?
In the sad midnight, while thy heart still bled,
The mother of a moment, o'er thy boy,
Death hush'd that pang for ever; with thee fled
The present happiness and promised joy
Which fill'd the imperial isles so full it seem'd to oey

CLXIX.

Peasants bring forth in safety.—Can it be,
Oh thou that wert so happy, so adored!
Those who weep not for kings shall weep for thee,
And Freedom's heart, grown heavy, cease to bear
Her many griefs for One; for she had pour'd
Her orisons for thee, and o'er thy head
Beheld her Iris.—Thou, too, lonely lord,
And desolate consort—vainly wert thou wed!
The husband of a year! the father of the dead!

CLXX.

Of sackcloth was thy wedding garment made;
Thy bridal fruit is ashes: in the dust
The fair-hair'd Daughter of the Isles is laid,
The love of millions! How we did intrust
Futurity to her! and, though it must
Darken above our bones, yet fondly deem'd
Our children should obey her child, and bless'd
Her and her hoped-for seat, whose promise seem'd
Like stars to shepherd's eyes:—twas but a meteor
beam'd.

CLXXI.

We unto us, not her; for she sleeps well:
The sickle reek of popular breath, the tongue
Of hollow counsel, the false oracle,
Which from the birth of monarchy hath rung
Its knell in princely ears, till the o'erstung
Nations have arm'd in madness, the strange fate
Which stumbles mightiest sovereigns, and hath
Against their blind omnipotence a weight [hung
Within the opposing scale, which crushes soon or late,—

CLXXII.

These might have been her destiny; but no,
Our hearts deny it: and so young, so fair,
Good without effort, great without a foe;
But now a bride and mother—and now there!
How many ties did that stern moment tear!
From thy Sire's to his humblest subject's breast
Is link'd the electric chain of that despair,
Whose shock was as an earthquake's, and oppres
The land which loved thee so that none could live
thee best

CLXXIII.

To Lo, Nemi! navell'd in the woody hills
So far, that the uprooting wind which tears
The oak from his foundation, and which spills
The ocean o'er its boundary, and bears
Its foam against the skies, reluctant spares
The oval mirror of thy glassy lake;
And, calm as cherish'd hate, its surface wears
A deep cold settled aspect nought can shake,
All coil'd into itself and round. as sleeps the snake
CLXXIV.

And near Albano's scarce divided waves
Chine fro a a sister valley:— and afar
The Tiber winds, and the broad ocean laves
The Latian coast where sprang the Epic war,
"Arms and the Man," whose resounding star
Rose o'er an empire:—but beneath thy right
Tully reprosed from Rome:— and where you bar
Of girdling mountains intercepts the sight,
The Sabine farm was till'd, the weary hards delight.  

CLXXV.

But I forget.—My Pilgrim's shrine is won,
And he and I must part,—so let it be,—
His task and mine alike are nearly done;
Yet once more let us look upon the sea;
The midland ocean breaks on him and me,
And from the Alban Mount we now behold
Our friend of youth, that ocean, which when we
Beheld it last by Calpe's rock unfold
Those waves, we follow'd on till the dark Euxine roll'd

CLXXVI.

Upon the blue Symplegades: long years—
Long, though not very many, since have done
Their work on both; some suffering and some tears
Have left us nearly where we had begun:
Yet not in vain our moral race hath run,
We have had our reward—and it is here:
That we can yet feel gladdened by the sun,
And reap from earth, sea, joy almost as dear
As if the were no man to trouble what is clear.

CLXXVII.

Oh! that the desert were my dwelling-place
With one fair Spirit for my minister,
That I might all forget the human race,
And, hating no one, love but only her!
Ye Elements!—in whose ennobling stir
I feel myself exalted—Can ye not
Accord me such a being? Do I err
In deeming such inhabit many a spot?
Though with them to converse can rarely be our lot.

CLXXVIII.

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep S. a, and music in its roar:
I love not Man the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can never express, yet cannot all conceal.

CLXXIX.

Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean—roll!
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain;
Man marks the earth with ruin—his control
Stops with the shore;—upon the watery plain
The wrecks are all thy deed, nor doth remain
A shadow of man's ravage, save his own,
When, for a moment, like a drop of rain,
He sinks into thy depths with bubbling groan,
Without a grave, unknell'd, uncoffin'd, and un

CLXXX.

His steps are not upon thy paths,—thy fields
Are not a spoil for him,—thou dost arise [wields
And shake him from thee: the vile strength be
For earth's destruction thou dost all despise,
Spurn him from thy bosom to the skies,
And send'st him, shivering in thy playful spray
And howling, to his Gods, where haply lies
His petty hope in some near port or bay,
And dashest him again to earth:—there let him stay.

CLXXXI.

The armaments which thunderstrike the walls
Of rock-built cities, bidding nations quake,
And monarchs tremble in their capitals,
The oak leviathans, whose huge ribs make
Their clay creator the vain title take
Of lord of thee, and arbiter of war:
These are thy toys, and, as the snowy flake,
They melt into thy yest of waves, which raw
Alike the Armada's pride, or spoils of Trafalgar.

CLXXXII.

Thy shores are empires, changed in all save thee—
Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthagc, what are they?
Thy waters wasted them while they were free,
And many a tyrant since; their shores obey
The stranger, slave, or savage; their decay
Has dried up realms to deserts:—not so thou,
Unchangeable save to thy wild waves' play—
Time writes no wrinkle on thy azure brow—
Such as creation's dawn beheld, thou rollest now.

CLXXXIII.

Thou glorious mirror, where the Almighty's form
Glasses itself in tempests: in all time,
Chill or convulsed—in breeze, or gale, or storm.
Icing the pole, or in the torrid clime
Dark-heaving:—boundless, endless, and sublime—
The image of Eternity—the throne
Of the Invisible; even from out thy elims
The monsters of the deep are made; each zone
Obeyes thee; thou goest forth, dread, fathomless alone.

CLXXXIV.

And I have loved thee, Ocean! and my joy
Of youthful sports was on thy breast to be—
Borne, like thy bubbles, onward: from a boy
I wan'ton'd with thy breakers—they to me.
Were a delight; and if the freshening sea
Made them a terror—twas a pleasing fear,
For I was as it were a child of thee,
And trusted to thy billows far and near,
And laid my hand upon thy mane—s I do here
My task is done—my song hath ceased—my theme has died into an echo; it is fit to
The spell should break of this protracted dream.
The torch shall be extinguish'd which hath lit my midnight lamp—and what is writ, is writ,—
Would it were warmer! but I am not now
That which I have been—and my visions fit
Less palpably before me—and the glow
Which in my spirit dwelt is fluttering, faint, and low.

Yes! sigh'd o'er Delphi's long deserted shrine.

The little village of Castri stands partly on the site of Delphi. Along the path of the mountain, from Chryso, are the remains of sepulchres hewn in and from the rock. "One," said the guide, "of a king who broke his neck hunting." His majesty and certainly chosen the fittest spot for such an achievement.

A little above Castri is a cave, supposed the Pythian, of immense depth; the upper part of it is paved, and now a cow-house.

On the other side of Castri stands a Greek monastery; some way above which is the cleft in the rock, with a range of caverns difficult of ascent, and apparently leading to the interior of the mountain; probably to the Corycian Cavern mentioned by Pausanias. From this part descend the fountain and the "Dews of Castalie."

And rest ye at our "Lady's house of we."

The Convent of "Our Lady of Punishment," Nossa Senora de Pena, on the summit of the rock. Below, at some distance, is the Cork Convent, where St. Honorius dug his den, over which is his epitaph. From the hills, the sea adds to the beauty of the view.

NOTES TO CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

CANTO I.

Throughout this purple land, where law secures not life.

It is a well known fact, that in the year 1809 the assassinations in the streets of Lisbon and its vicinity were not confined by the Portuguese to their countrymen; but that Englishmen were daily butchered: and so far from redress being obtained, we were requested not to interfere if we perceived any compatriot defending himself against his allies. I was once stopped in the way to the theatre at eight o'clock in the evening, when the streets were not more empty than they generally are at that hour, opposite to an open shop and in a carriage with a friend; had we not fortunately been armed, I have not the least doubt that we should have adorned a tale instead of telling one. The crime of assassination is not confined to Portugal; in Sicily and Malta we are knocked on the head at a handsome average nightly, and not a Sicilian or Maltese is ever punished!

4.

Behold the hall where chiefs were late convened!

The Convention of Cintra was signed in the palace of the Marchese Marialva. The late exploits of Lord Wellington have effaced the follies of Cintra. He has, indeed, done wonders; he has perhaps changed the character of a nation, reconciled rival superstitions, and baffled an enemy who never retreated before his predecessors.

5.

Yet Mafra shall one moment claim delay.

The extent of Mafra is prodigious; it contains a
NOTES TO CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

6.

*Well doth the Spanish hind the difference know* "Twixt him and Luizan slave, the lovet of the love.*

Stanza xxxiii. lines 8 and 9.

As I found the Portuguese, so I have characterized them. That they are since improved, at least in courage, is evident.

7.

*When Cara's traitor sire first call'd the band* That dyed thy mountain streams with Gothic gore.

Stanza xxx. lines 3 and 4.

Count Julian's daughter, the Helen of Spain, Pelagius preserved his independence in the fastnesses of the Asturias, and the descendants of his followers, after some centuries, completed their struggle by the conquest of Grenada.

8.

*No! as he speeda; he chants, "Vivat el Rey!"*

Stanza xlviii. line 5.

*Vivat el Rey Fernando!* Long live King Ferdinand! is the chorus of many of the Spanish patriotic songs: they are chiefly in dispraise of the old king Charles, the Queen, and the Prince of Peace. I have heard many of them; some of the airs are beautiful. God, y, the Principe de la Paz, was born at Badajoz, on the frontiers of Portugal, and was originally in the ranks of the Spanish Guards, till his person attracted the queen's eyes, and raised him to the dukedom of Alcudia, &c. &c. It is to this man that the Spaniards universally impute the ruin of their country.

9.

*Bears in his cap the badge of crimson hue,*
Which tells you whom to shun and whom to greet.*

Stanza i. lines 2 and 3.

The red cockade, with *"Fernando Septimo"* in the centre.

10.

*The ball-plied pyramid, the ever-blasing match.*

Stanza li. line last.

All who have seen a battery will recollect the pyramidal form in which shot and shells are piled. The Sierra Morena was fortified in every defile through which I passed in my way to Seville.

11.

*Fo'td by a woman's hand, before a batter'd wall.*

Stanza livi. line last.

Such were the exploits of the Maid of Saragossa. When the author was at Seville she walked daily on the Prado, decorated with medals and orders, by command of the Junta.

12.

*The soft Love's dimpling finger hath impress'd* Denotes how soft that chin which bears his touch.*

Stanza lviii. lines 1 and 2.

*Sigilla in mento impressa Amoris digitulo* Vestigio demonstrat mollitudinem." AUL. GEL.

13.

*Oh, thou Parnassus!*

Stanza lx. line 1.

These stanzas were written in Castril, (Delphos,) at the foot of Parnassus, now called Astega—Liakura.

14.

*Fair is proud Seville; let her country boast* Her strength, her wealth, her site of ancient days.*

Stanza lxv. lines 1 and 2.

Seville was the Hispalis of the Romans.

15.

*Ask ye, Boottian shades, the reason why?* Stanza lxx. line 5.

This was written at Thebes, and consequently in the best situation for asking and answering such a question: not as the birthplace of Pindar, but as the capital of Bootia, where the first riddel was propounded and solved.

16.

*Some bitter o'er the flowers its bubbling venom stings* "Medio de fonte leporum Surgit amari aliquid quod in ipsis floribus angat." Luc.

17.

*A traitor only fell beneath the feud.*

Stanza lxxxi. line 7.

Alluding to the conduct and death of Solano, the Governor of Cadiz.

18.

*"War even to the knife!"* Stanza lxxxvi. line last.

*"War to the knife." Palafox's answer to the French general at the siege of Saragosa.*

19.

*And thou, my friend! &c.*

Stanza xcii. line 1.

The Honorable J. W** of the Guards, who died of a fever at Cippena. I had known him ten years, the better half of his life, and the happiest part of mine.

In the short space of one month I had lost her who gave me being, and most of those who had made that being tolerable. To me the lines of Young are no fiction:

*"Insatiate archer! could not one suffice? Thy shaft flew thrice, and thrice my peace was slain, And thrice ere thine moon had filled her horn."*

I should have ventured a verse to the memory of the late Charles Skinner Matthews, Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge, were he not too much above all praise of mine. His powers of mind, shown in the attainment of greater honors, against the ablest candidates, than those of any graduate on record at Cambridge, have sufficiently established his fame on the spot where it was acquired: while his softer qualities live in the recollection of friends who loved him too well to envy his superiority.

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CANTO II.

1.

---despite of war and wasting fire---

Stanza i. line 1.

Part of the Acropolis was destroyed by the explosion of a magazine during the Venetian siege.
2.
But worse than steel and flame, and ages slow,
Is the dread sceptre and dominion dire
Of men who never felt the sacred gloe
That thoughts of thee and thine on polish'd breasts bestow.

Stanza 1. line 5.

We can all feel, or imagine, the regret with which the ruins of cities, once the capitals of empires, are beheld; the reflections suggested by such objects are too trite to require recapitulation. But never did the littleness of man, and the vanity of his very best virtues of patriotism to exalt, and of valor to defend his country, appear more conspicuous than in the record of what Athens was, and the certainty of what she now is. This theatre of contention between mighty factions, of the struggles of orators, the exaltation and deposition of tyrants, the triumph and punishment of generals, is now become a scene of petty intrigue and per; eternal disturbance, between the bickering agents of certain British nobility and gentry. "The wild foxes, the owls and serpents in the ruins of Babylon," were surely less degrading than such inhabitants. The Turks have the plea of conquest for their tyranny, and the Greeks have only suffered the fortune of war, incidental to the bravest; but how many of the petty fallen, when two painters contest the privilege of plundering the Parthenon, and triumph in turn, according to the tenor of each succeeding firm? Sylla could but punish, Philip subdue, and Xerxes burn Athens; but it remained for the policy antiquarian, and his despotic agents, to render her contemptible as himself and his pursuits.

The Parthenon, before its destruction in part, by fire, during the Venetian siege, had been a temple, a church, and a mosque. In each point of view it is an object of regard: it changed its worshippers; but still it was a place of worship three sacred to devotion; its violation is a triple sacrilege. But

"Man, vain man,
Drest in a little brief authority,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven
As make the angels weep."

3.

Far on the solitary shore he sleeps.

Stanza v. line 2.

It was not always the custom of the Greeks to burn their dead; the greater Ajax, in particular, was interred entire. Almost all the chiefs became gods after their decease; and he was indeed neglected, who had not annual games near his tomb, or festivals in honor of his memory by his countrymen, as Achilles, Braxidas, &c., and at last even Antigone, whose death was as heroic as his life was infamous.

4.

Here, son of Saturn! was thy favorite throne.
Stanza x. line 3.

The temple of Jupiter Olympus, of which sixteen columns, entirely of marble, yet survive; originally there were one hundred and fifty. These columns, however, are by many supposed to belong to the Pantheon.

5.

And bear these altars o'er the long relunctant brine.

Stanza xi. line last

The ship was wrecked in the Archipelago.

6.

To rise what God, and Turk, and Time have spared.

Stanza xii. line 2.

At this moment, (January 3, 1809,) besides what has been already deposited in London, an Hydriot vessel is in the Pyrenees to receive every portable relic. Thus, as I heard a young Greek observe, in common with many of his countrymen—for, lost as they are, they yet feel for this occasion—thus may Lord Elgin boast of laying ruined Athens. An Italian painter of the first eminence, named Lusieri, is the agent of devastation; and like the Greek finder of Verres in Sicily, who followed the same profession, he has proved the able instrument of plunder. Between this artist and the French Consul, I was told, a dispute was prosecuted, during which Elgin has been extremely happy in his choice of Signor Lusieri. During a residence of ten years in Athens, he never had the curiosity to proceed as far as Sanium, till he accompanied us in our second excursion. However, his works, as far as they go, are most beautiful; but they are almost all unfinished. While he and his patrons confine themselves to tanding medals, appreciating cameos, sketching columns, and cheapening gems, their little abode here as more as harmless as fox-hunting, maiden speechifying, baroche-driving, or any such pastime; but when they carry away three or four shiploads of the most valuable and massy relics that time and barbarism have left to the injury of his beloved monument, and of which they destroy, in a vain attempt to tear down, those works which have been the admiration of ages, I know no motive which can excuse, no name which can designate the perpetrators of this dishonorable and discreditable act. It was no little loss of some of the crimes laid to the charge of Verres, that he had plundered Sicily, in the manner since imitated at Athens. The most unblushing impudence could hardly go farther than to affix the name of his plunderer to the walls of the Aeropolis; while the wanton and useless defacement of the whole range of the basso-relievoa, in one compartment of the temple, will never permit that name to be pronounced by an observer without execration, bribery to

* New Cape Colonna. In all Arians, if we except Athens itself, and Marathon, there is no more interesting than Cape Colonna. To the antiquary and artist, sixteen columns are an inexhaustible source of observation and design; to the philosopher, the supposed scene of some of Plato’s conversations will not be unwelcome; and the traveller will be struck with the beauty of the prospect over "Isles that crown the Aegean deep!" but for an Englishman, Colonna has yet an additional interest, as the actual spot of Polomani’s shipwreck. Pallis and Fossati are forgotten in the recollected of Palomani and Cambell.

* Here in the dead of night by Louna’s sleep.

The thunder was heard along the deep."

This temple of Minerva may be seen at some a great distance. In two journeys which I made, and one voyage to Cape Colonna, the view from other side, &c. is, when asked those who, in our second land extension, we had a narrow escape from a party of Mazaris, concealed in the cavern beneath. We were told afterwards, by one of our princesses subsequently acquainted, that they were determined four times to attack the appearance of my two Athenians: contemplating very stupidly, but falsely, that we had a complete garrison of these Amazons at hand, they remained stationary, and thus saved our party, which was too small to have opposed any effectual resistance.

Colonna is no less a resort of pirates than of piracies: there

"The bearded pirate plants his pearly deck,
And makes degraded nature picturesque."

[See Hodgson’s Journal very, &c.]

But these Nature, with the aid of Art, has done thus for heaven. I was fortunate enough to engage a very skilful German artist; and hope to renew my acquaintance with this and many other Levantine scenes, by the scenes of his performances.
the Waywode, mining and countermining, they have done nothing at all. We had such ink-shed, and wine-shed, which almost ended in bloodshed! Lord E.'s "prig"—see Jonathan Wild for the definition of "priggism"—quarreled with another, Gropius* by name, (a very good name too for his business,) and muttered something about satisfaction, in a verbal answer to a note of the poor Prussian: this was stated at table to Gropius, who laughed, but could eat no dinner afterwards. The rivals were not reconciled when I left Greece. I have reason to remember their squabble, for they wanted to make them their arbitrator.

7.

Her sons too weak to guard the sacred shrine to guard, Yet fell some portion of their mother's power. 

Stanza xii. lines 7 and 8.

I cannot resist availing myself of the permission of my friend Dr. Clarke, whose name requires no comment with the public, but whose sanction will add tenfold weight to my testimony, to insert the following extract from a very obliging letter of his to me, as a note to the above lines: "When the last of the Metopes was taken from the Parthenon, and in moving of it, great part of the superstructure with one of the triglyphs was thrown down by the workmen whom Lord Elgin employed, the lord himself, who beheld the mishap done to the building, took his pipe from his mouth, dropped a tear, and, in a supplicating tone of voice, said to Lusieri, 'Alas!—I was present.'" The Diodor alluded to was the father of the present Diodor.

8.

Where was thine Eris, Pallia! that appall'd Stern Alaric and Havoce on their way! 

Stanza xiv. lines 1 and 2.

According to Zosimus, Minerva and Achilles frightened Alaric from the Acropolis; but others relate that the Gothic king was nearly as mischievous as the Scottish peer. See CHANDLER.

9.

—the nerved canopy. 

Stanza xviii. line 2.

The netting to prevent blocks or splinters from falling on deck during action.

10.

But not in silence pass Calypso's tale. 

Stanza xxix. line 1.

Goza is said to have been the island of Calypso.

11.

Land of Albania! let me bend mine eyes 

On thee, thou rugged nurse of savage men! 

Stanza xxxviii. lines 9 and 6.

Albania comprises part of Macedonia, Illyria, Chaonia, and Epirus. Isander is the Turkish word for Alexander; and the celebrated Scanderb (Lord Alexander) is alluded to in the third and fourth lines of the thirty-eighth stanza. I do not know whether I am correct in making Scanderb the countryman of Alexander, who was born at Pella in Macedonia, but Mr. Gibbon terms him so, and adds Pyrrhus to the list, in speaking of his exploits.

Of Albania Gibbon remarks that a country "within sight of Italy is less known than the interior of America." Circumstances, of little consequence to modern Mr. Hobbes and myself, but very interesting to us, who had ever advanced beyond the capital into the interior, are, as the reading politely assured me. Ali Pacha was at that time (October, 1809), carrying on war against Ibrahim Pacha, whom he had driven to Berat, a strong fortress which he was besieging. On our arrival at Joannina we were invited to Tepoleon, his highness's birthplace, and favorite Scali, only one day's distance from Berat; at this juncture the Vizier had made it his head-quarters.

After some stay in the capital, we accordingly followed; but though furnished with every accommodation, and escorted by one of the vizier's secretaries, we were nine days on account of the rains in accomplishing a journey which, on our return barely occupied a few hours. On our route we passed two cities, Argyrocastro and Libochabo, apparently little inferior to Yanina in size; and no pen or pen can ever do justice to the scenery in the vicinity of Zitta and Delvinchi, the frontier villages of the Barbary nation. 

On Albania and its inhabitants I am unwilling to descant, because this will be done so much better by my fellow-traveller, in a work which may probably precede this in publication, that I as little wish to follow as I would anticipate it. But some few observations are necessary to the text.

The Armououts, or Albanians, struck me forcibly by their resemblance to the Highlanders of Scotland, in dress, figure, and manner of living. Their very mountains seemed Caledonians, with the same inhabitants. The kilt, though white; the spare, active form; their dialect, Celtic in its sound, and their hardy habits, all carried me back to Morven. No nation are so destitute and dressed by their neighbors as the Albanians; the Greeks hardly regard them as Christians, or the Turks as Moslems; and in fact they are a mixture of both, and sometimes neither. Their habits are predatory—all are armed, and the red-shirted Armououts, imitating the Turks of Turkey which came within my observation; and more faithful in peril, or indefatigable in service, are rarely to be found. The Infield was named Basilius, the Moslem, Dervish Tahiri; the former a man of middle age, and the latter about my own. Basili was strictly charged by Ali Pacha in person to attend us; and Dervish was one of fifty who accompanied us through the forests of Acarmania to the banks of Achemos, and onward to Messalangi in Epirus. They took me into my own service, and never had occasion to repent it till the moment of my departure.

When, in 1810, after the departure of my friend Mr. H. for England, I was seized with a severe fever in the Mores; the Directors, leaving away my physician, whose throat they threatened to cut if I was not cured within a given time. To this consolatory assurance of posthumous retribution, and a resolution refusal of all previsions, I attributed my recovery. I had left my last remaining English servant at Athens; my druggon was as ill as myself, and my poor Armaunts nursed me with an attention that would have done honor to civilization.

They had a variety of adventures: for the Moslem, Dervish, being a remarkably handsome man, was always squabbling with the husbands of Athens.
insomuch that four of the principal Turks paid me a visit of remonstrance at the Convent, on the subject of his having taken a woman from the bath—whom he had lawfully bought, however—a thing quite contrary to etiquette.

He was extremely gallant among his own persuasion, and had the greatest veneration for the church, mixed with the highest contempt of churchmen, whom he cuffed upon occasion in a most heterodox manner. Yet he never passed a church without crossing himself; and I remember the night he ran in entering St. Sophia, in Stamboul, because it had once been a place of his worship. On remonstrating with him on his inconsistent proceedings, he invariably answered, "our church is holy, our priests are thieves," and then he crossed himself as usual, and boxed the ears of the first "papas" who refused to assist in any required operation, as was always found to be necessary where a priest had any influence with the Cogia Bachi of his village. Indeed, a more abandoned race of miscreants cannot exist than the lower order of the Greek clergy.

When preparations were made for my return, my Albanians were summoned to receive their pay. Bussi took his with an awkward show of regret at my intended departure, and marched away to his quarters, with his bag of piastres. I sent for Derwish, but for some time he was not to be found; at last he entered, just as Signor Logothet, father to the well-known mel-o-cous (I mean bis sons, and some other of my Greek acquaintances, paid me a visit. Derwish took the money, but on a sudden dashed it to the ground; and clasping his hands, which he raised to his forehead, rushed out of the room, weeping bitterly. From that moment to the hour of my embarkation, he continued his lamentations, and all our efforts to console him only produced this answer, "Ma papa!," "He leaves me." Signor Logothet, who never wept before for anything less than the loss of a mare, mumbled the pater noster of the convent, my attendants, my visitors—and I verily believe that even Sterne's "foolish fat scullion" would have left her "fish-kettle," to sympathize with the unaffected and unexpected sorrow of this Barbarian.

For my own part, when I remembered that, a short time before my departure from England, a noble and most intimate associate had excused himself from taking leave of me—owing to the necessity he had to attend a relation "to a milliner," I felt no less surprised than humiliated by the present occurrence and the past recollection.

That Derwish would leave me with some regret was to be expected, when masses and men have been scrambling over the mountains of a dozen provinces together, they are unwilling to separate; but his present feelings, contrasted with his native ferocity, improved my opinion of the human heart. I believe this almost feline fidelity is frequent among them. One day, on our journey over Parnassus, an Englishman in my service gave him a push in some dispute about the baggage, which he unluckily mistook for a blow; he spoke not, but sat down, leaning his head upon his hands. Foreseeing the consequences, we endeavored to explain away the affront, which produced the following answer:—I have been a robber; I am a soldier; no captain ever struck me; and, for my master, I have eaten your bread, but by that bread (an usual oath) had it been otherwise, I would have stabbed the dog your servant, and gone to the mountains." So the affair ended, but from that day forward he never roughly forgave the thoughtless fellow who insulted him.

Derwish excelled in the dance of his country, conjectured to be a remnant of the ancient Pyrrhic: be that as it may, it is manly, and requires wonderful agility. It is very distinct from the stupid Homaika, the dull round-about of the Greeks, of which our Athenian party had so many specimens.

The Albanians in general (I do not mean the cultivators of the earth in the provinces, who have also that appellation, but the mountaineers), have a fine cast of countenance; and the most beautiful women I ever beheld, in stature and in features, we saw levelling the road broken down by the torrents between Delvinachi and Lichocho. Their manner of walking is truly theatrical; but this strut is probably the effect of the capote, or cloak, depending from one shoulder. Their long hair reminds you of the Spartans, and their courage in desultory warfare is unquestionable. Though they have some savagery amongst the Gedes, I never saw a good Arnaout horseman; my own preferred the English saddles, which, however, they could never keep But on foot they are never to be subdued by fatigue.

12. and pass'd the barren spot, Where said Penelope o'erlook'd the wave. Stanza xxxix. lines 1 and 2.


Actium and Trafalgar need no further mention. The battle of Lepanto, equally bloody and considerable, but less known, was fought in the Gulf of Patras. Here the author of Don Quixote lost his left hand.


Lencadia, now Santa Maura. From the promontory (the Lover's Leap) Sappho is said to have thrown herself.

15. —many a Roman chief and Asian king. Stanza xlv. line 4.

It is said, that on the day previous to the battle of Actium, Anthony had thirteen kings at his levee.

16. Look where the second Caesar's trophies rose! Stanza xlv. line 6.

Nicopolis, whose ruins are most extensive, is at some distance from Actium, where the wall of the Hippodrome survives in a few fragments.


According to Pouqueville the lake of Yanina; but Pouqueville is always out.


The celebrated Ali Pacha. Of this extraordinary man there is an incorrect account in Pouqueville's Travels.

19. Yet here and there some daring mountain band Hurl their defiance far, nor yield, unless to gold. Stanza xlvii. lines 7, 8 and 9.

Five thousand Suliotes, among the rocks and in the castle of Suli, withstood thirty thousand Albanians for eighteen years; the castle at last was taken by bribery. In this contest there were several acts performed not unworthy of the better days of Greece.
As a specimen of the Albanian or Arnaout dialect of the Illyric, I here insert two of their most popular choral songs, which are generally chanted in dancing by men or women indiscriminately. The first words are merely a kind of chorus without meaning, like some in our own and all other languages.

1. Bo, Bo, Bo, Bo, Bo, Baciarura, popuso.
2. Baciarura na civin
Ha penderini ti hin
3. Ha pe uderi escrotini
Ti vin ti mar servetini.

4. Caliriote me surme
Ea ha pe sce dua tive.
5. Buo, Bo, Bo, Bo, Bo,
Gi egem spira esimiro.
6. Caliriote vu le funde
Ede vete tande funde.
7. Caliriote me surme
Ti mi put e poi mi le.
8. Se ti puta citi mora
Si mi ri ni vettiudo gia.
9. Va la ni il che cadale
Celio more, more celo.
10. Piu hari ti tiro
gPiu huron cia pra seti.

The last stanza would puzzle a commentator; the men have certainly buskins of the most beautiful texture, but the ladies (to whom the above is supposed to be addressed) have nothing under their little yellow boots and slippers but a well-turned and sometimes very white ankle. The Arnaout girls are much handomer than the Greeks, and their dress is far more picturesque. They preserve their shape much longer also, from being always in the open air. It is to be observed, that the Arnaout is not a written language; the words of this song, therefore, as well as the one which follows, are not according to the pronunciation. They are copied by one who speaks and understands the dialect perfectly, and who is a native of Athens.

1. Lo, Lo, I come, I come;
be thou silent.
2. I come, I run; open the door that I may enter.
3. Open the door: two halves that I may take my turban.
4. Caliriotes with the dark eyes, open the gate that I may enter.
5. Lo, Lo, I hear thee, my soul.
6. An Arnaout girl, in costly garb, walks with graceful pride.
7. Caliriote maid of the dark eyes, give me a kiss.
8. If I have kissed thee, what hast thou gained? My soul is consumed with fire.
9. Dance lightly, more gently, and gently still.
10. Make not so much dust to destroy your embroidered hose.

The last stanza would puzzle a commentator; the men have certainly buskins of the most beautiful texture, but the ladies (to whom the above is supposed to be addressed) have nothing under their little yellow boots and slippers but a well-turned and sometimes very white ankle. The Arnaout girls are much handomer than the Greeks, and their dress is far more picturesque. They preserve their shape much longer also, from being always in the open air. It is to be observed, that the Arnaout is not a written language; the words of this song, therefore, as well as the one which follows, are not according to the pronunciation. They are copied by one who speaks and understands the dialect perfectly, and who is a native of Athens.
7. “Siste Viator—heroa calceis!” was the epitaph on the famous count Merci;—what then must be our feelings when standing on the tumulus of the two hundred (Greeks) who fell on Marathon? The principal barrier has recently been opened by Faure; few or no relics, as vases, &c., were found by the excavator. The plain of Marathon was offered to me for sale at the sum of sixteen thousand piasters, about nine hundred pounds!—Alas!—“Expende,—quot libras in duce summo—invenies!”—was the dust of Miltiades worth no more? It could scarcely have fetched less if sold by weight.

PAPERS REFERRED TO BY NOTE 33.

1. Before I say anything about a city of which every body, traveller or not, has thought it necessary if say something, I will request Miss Owenson, when she next borrows an Athenian heroine for her four volumes, to have the goodness to marry her to somebody more of a gentleman than a “Disdar Aga,” (who by the by is not an Aga,) the most impolite of petty officers, the greatest patron of larceny Athens ever saw, (except Lord E.) and the unworthy occupant of the Aeropolis, on a handsome annual stipend of 150 piasters, (eight pounds sterling,) out of which he has only to pay his garrison, the most ill-regulated corps in the ill-regulated Ottoman Empire. I speak it tenderly, seeing I was once the cause of the husband of “Ida of Athens” nearly suffering the bastinado; and because the said “Disdar” is a turbulent husband and beats his wife; so that I exhort and beseech Miss Owenson to sue for a separate maintenance in behalf of “Ida.” Having premised thus much, on a matter of such import to the readers of romances, I may now leave Ida, to mention her birthplace.

Setting aside the magic of the name, and all those associations which it would be pedantic and superfluous to recapitulate, the very situation of Athens would render it the favorite of all who have eyes for art or nature. The climate, to me at least, appeared a perpetual spring; during eight months I never passed a day without being as many hours on horseback; rain is extremely rare, snow never lies in the plains, and a cloudy day is an agreeable rarity. In Spain, Portugal, and every part of the East which I visited, except Ionia and Attica, I perceived no such superiority of climate to our own; and at Constantinople, where I passed May, June, and part of July, (1810,) you might “damn the climate, and complain of spleen,” five days out of seven.
The air of the Moree is heavy and unwholesome, but the moment you pass the Isthmus in the direction of Megara the change is strikingly perceptible. We fear Hesiod will still be found correct in his description of a Boeotian winter.

We found at Larissa the "fort" in a Greek bishop's residence, all free thinkers! This worthy hypocrite railed against the English religion with great intrepidity, (but not before his flock,) and talked of a mass as a "cognitioner." It was impossible to think better of him for this; but, for a Boeotian, he was brisk with all his austerity. This phenomenon (with the exception indeed of Thess., the remains of Chersones, the plain of Platea, Orchomenus, Livadia, and its natural cave of Trphoponius) was the only remarkable thing we have been able to record.

The fountain of Dirce turns a mill: at least my companion (who resolving to be at once cleanly and classical, bathed in it) pronounced it to be the fountain of Dirce, and any body who thinks it worth while may contradict him. At Castri we drank of half a dozen streams, none of the purest, but we were not to our satisfaction which was the true Castalian, and even that had a Villanovich swamp, probably from his nose, though it did not throw us into a maniacal rage.

From Phylhe of which large remains still exist, the Plain of Athens, Ponticen, Hymettus, the Aegean, and the Acropolis, burst upon the eye at once; in my opinion, a more glorious prospect than even Castria. Not Thebes, however, from the Troad, with Ida, the Hellespont, and the more distant Mount Athos, can equal it, though so superior in extent.

I heard much of the beauty of Arcadia, but excepting the view from the monastery of Mogaspelion, (which is inferior to Zita, in a command of country,) and the descent from the mountains on the way from Tripolitza to Argos, Arcadia has little to recommend it beyond the name.

"Sternitur, et dulces moriens reminiscitur Argos."

Virgil could have put this into the mouth of none but an Argive, and (with reverence be it spoken) it does not deserve the epothe. And if the Polybuses of Statius, "In medias audit duo litora campis," did actually hear both shores in crossing the Isthmus of Corinth, he had better ears than have ever been born in such a journey since.

"A celebrated topographer," he said, "is still the most polished city of Greece." Perhaps it may be of Greece, but not of the Greeks; for Ioanna in Epirus is universally allowed, among themselves, to be superior to it in wealth, refinement, apparent learning, and dialect of its inhabitants. The Athenians are remarkable for their cunning; and the lower orders are not improperly characterized in that proverb, which classes them with "the Jews of Salona, and the Turks of the Negropont."

Among the various foreigners resident in Athens, French, Italians, Germans, Ruggians, &c., there was never a difference of opinion in their estimate of the Greek character, though on all other topics there are many errors. Like poor Chaiderer, Mr. Pauv declared thirty years principally at Athens, and to whose talents as an artist and manners as a gentleman one who has known him can refuse the testimony. He actually declared, that the Greeks do not deserve to be emancipated; reasoning on the grounds of their "national and individual depravity." while he forgot that such depravity is to be attributed to cause which can only be removed by the measure he reproaches.

Mr. Roque, a French merchant of responsibility long settled in Athens, asserted with the most amusing gravity, "Sir they are the same carcaille that existed in the days of Themistocles," an alarming remark to the "Laudator temporis acti." The ancients banished Themistocles, the modern cheat Monsieur Roque: thus great men have ever been treated!

In short, all the Franks who are fixtures, and most of the Englishmen, Germans, Danes, &c., a passage came over by degrees to their opinion, on this much the same lines that as their rulers would condemn the nation by wholesale, because he was wronged by his laquey, and overcharged by his washerwoman.

Certainly it was not a little staggering when the Sieurs Pauv and Chaiderer, the two greatest drunk-gones of the day, who divide between them the power of Pericles and the popularity of Leon, and puzzle the poor Waywoode with perpetual differences, agreed in the utter condemnation, "nulla virtus expunat reprobationem," of the Greeks in general, and of the Athenians in particular.

For my own humble opinion, I am loth to hazard it, knowing, as I do, that these be now in MS. no less than five tours of the first magnitude and of the most threatening aspect, all in typographical array, by persons of wit, and honor, and regular common-place books; but, if I may say this without offence, it seems to me rather to declare so positively and permanently, as almost every body has declared, that the Greeks, because they are very bad, will never be better.

Eaton and Sonnini have led us astray by their panegyrics and projects; but, on the other hand, Dr. Pauw and Thomas have debase the Greeks beyond their demerits.

The Greeks will never be independent; they will never be sovereigns as heretofore, and God forbid they ever should! but they may be subjects without being slaves. Our colonies are not independent, but they are free and industrious, and such may Greece be hereafter.

At present like the Catholics of Ireland and the Jews throughout the world, and such other caged and heterodoxed, they suffer, and they write, with equal and physical ills that can afflict humanity. Their life is a struggle against truth; they are vicious in their own defence. They are so unused to kindness, that when they occasionally meet with it they look upon it as a suspicion, a dog is often beaten, or a snap at your fingers if you attempt to caress him. "They are ungrateful, not only ungrateful, but ungrateful!"—this is a general cry. Now, in the name of Nemesis for what are they to be spared? have the humanists, the most learned and learned, ever conferred a benefit on Greece or Greeks? They are to be grateful to the Turks for their fetters, and to the Franks for their broken promises and lying councils. They are to be grateful to the Turks for their engravings on the walls, and to the antiquary who carries them away; to the traveller whose janissary flogs them, and to the scribbler whose journal abuses them. It is the amount of their obligations to foreigners.

II.

François, Comte, Athens, January 23, 1811.

Among the remnants of the barbarous policy of the earlier ages, are the traces of bondage which yet exist in different countries; whose inhabitants however divided in religion and manner, almost all agree in oppression.

The English have at last compassionated their Negroes, and under a less hard, Turke, they may probably one day release their Catholic brethren; but the interposition of foreigners alone can emancipate the Greeks, who otherwise, appear to have as small a chance of redemption from the Turks, as the Jews have from mankind in general.

Of the ancient Greeks we know more than enough; at least the younger men of Europe devoted much of their time to the study of the Greek writers and history, which would be more usefully spent in mastering their own language, and being less neglectful than they deserve; and while every man of any pretensions to learning is tuning out his
BYRON'S WORKS.

youth, and often his age, in the study of the language and of the harangues of the Athenian demagogues in favor of or against, real or supposed, descent from the sturdy republicans are left to the actual tyranny of their masters, although a very slight effort is required to strike off their chains.

To talk, as the Greeks themselves do, of their rights, or of their pristine superiority, would be ridiculous; as the rest of the world must resume its barbarism, after reasserting the sovereignty of Greece: but there seems to be no very great obstacle, except in the apathy of the Franks, to their becoming legitimate dependencies of their conquerors, with a proper guarantee;—under correction, however, it be spoken, for many and well-informed men doubt the practicability even of this.

The Greeks have never lost their hope, though they are now more divided in opinion on the subject of their probable deliverers. Religion recommends the Russians; but they have twice been deceived and abandoned by that power, and the dreadful lesson they received after the Moscovite invasion of the Morea has never been forgotten. The French they dislike; although the subjugation of the rest of Europe will, probably, be attended by the deliverance of continental Greece. The islanders look to England for success, as they have very lately possessed themselves of the Ionian republic, Corfu excepted. But whoever appear with arms in their hands will be welcome; and when that day arrives, Heaven have mercy on the Ottomans, and the Turks on the Greeks.

But instead of considering what they have been, and speculating on what they may be, let us look at them as they are.

And here it is impossible to reconcile the contrary opinions: some, particularly the merchants, deeming the Greeks in the strongest language; others, generally travellers, turning periods in their eloquiy, and publishing very curious speculations grafted on the former suits, which can have no weight on their present lot, than the existence of the Incaus on the future fortunes of Peru.

One very ingenious person terms them the "natural allies of Englishmen;" another, no less ingenious, will not allow them to be the allies of anybody; and denies their very descent from the ancients; a third, more ingenious than either, builds a Greek empire on a Russian foundation, and realizes (on paper) all the chimeras of Catherine II. As to the question of their descent, as it impart whether the Mamotas are the lineal Lacedaemonians or not? or the present Athenians as indigeneous as the bees of Hymettus, or as the grasshoppers, to which they once likened themselves? What Englishman cares if he be of a Danish, Saxon, Norman, or Trojan blood? or who, except a Welshman, is afflicted with a desire of being descended from Caractacus?

The poor Greeks do not so much abound in the good things of this world, as tender even their claims to antiquity an object of envy; it is very cruel, then, in Mr. Thornton to disturb them in the possession of all that time has left them: viz. their pedigree, of which they are the more tenacious, as it is in their power not to call their own. Would it not be wiser to publish together, and compare, the works of Messrs. Thornton and De Pauw, Etion and Sonnini; paradox on one side, and prejudice on the other. Mr. Thornton conveys himself to have claimed that the Ionians confirmed their four and twenty years' residence at Per? perhaps he may on the subject of the Turks, but this can give him no more insight into the real state of Greece and her inhabitants, than as many years spent in Wapping into that of the Highlands.

The Greeks of Constantinople live in Fanal; and Mr. Thornton did not oftener cross the Golden Horn than his brother merchants are accustomed to do. I should have placed great reliance on this information, if I had not heard of these gentlemen boast of their little general intercourse with the city, and sert of himself, with an air of triumph, that he has been but four times at Constantinople in as many years.

As to Mr. Thornton's voyage in the Black Sea with Greek vessels, they gave him the same idea of Greece as a cruise to Berwick in a Scotch smack would on Johnny Grot's house. Upon what grounds, then, does he arrogate the right of condemning by wholesale a body of men, of whom he can know little? It is a rather curious circumstance that Mr. Thornton, who so lavishly disparises Pouqueville, on every occasion of mentioning the Turks, has yet resource to him as authority for the Greeks, and terms him an impartial observer. Now Dr. Ponqueville is as little entitled to that appellation, as Mr. Thornton to confer it on him.

The fact is, we are deplorably in want of information on the subject of the Greeks, and in particular their literature, nor is there any probability of our being better acquainted, till our intercourse becomes more intimate, or their independence confirmed: the relation of passing travellers are as little to be depended on as the invectives of angry factors; but till something more can be attained, we must be content with the little to be acquired from similar sources.*

However defective these may be, they are preferable to the paradoxes of men who have read superficially of the ancients, and seen nothing of the moderns, such as De Pauw; who when he asserts the British breed of horses is ruined at Newmarket, and that the Turks are cowards in the field, he trayz an equal knowledge of English horses and Spartan men. His "philosophical observations" have a much better claim to the title of "poetical." It could not be expected that he who liberally condems some of the most celebrated institutions of the ancient, should have mercy on the modern Greeks: and it fortunately happens, that the absurdity of his hypothesis on their forefathers relates to a subject on which we do not trust, then, that in spite of the prophetic of De Pauw, and the doubts of Mr. Thornton, there is a reasonable hope of the redemption of a race of men, who, whatever may be the errors of their religion and of their policy, have been cruelly punished by three centuries and a half of captivity.

III.

Athena, Francisca, Convict, Mar. 17, 1811.

"I trust we have some talk with this learned Theban."

Some time after my return from Constantinople to this city, I received the thirty-first number of the Edinburgh Review as a great favor, and certainly at this distance an acceptable one, from the captain of an English frigate of Salamis. In that number,

* A word, or prevalent, with Mr. Thornton and Dr. Ponqueville, who have been guilty between them of wildly clipping the Sultan's Turkish.

Dr. Ponqueville tells a long story of a Moslem who swallowed cannon-balls in such quantities that he required the name of "Sublime Yeoman," i.e. quarter the Doctor's ear in outrages sacriligious. "Ah!" fancy Mr. Thornton, (angry with the Doctor for his latitude,) "have I taught you? Do you dare to use the Doctor's words in the Turkish tongue, and his vices in his own?" he observes Mr. Thornton, after mentioning on the tongue proverbial of a Turkish woman, "it seems nothing more than Sublimeyeoman the other," and quite峨er gives the supplementary "sultaneem." Now both are right, and both are wrong. If Mr. Thornton would not make more to<br
dotline>
NOTES TO CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE. 73

Art. 3. containing the review of a French translation of Strabo, there are introduced some remarks on the modern Greeks and their literature, with a short account of Coray, a grammatician, in a French version. On many remarks I mean to ground a few observations, and the spot where I now write will I hope be sufficient excuse for introducing them in a work in some degree connected with the subject. Coray, who has left at least amongst the Franks, was born at Seio, in the Review Svyzya is stated, I have reason to think, incorrectly, and, besides the translation of Becaria and other works mentioned by the Reviewer, has published a last year a French version of the last, one of a series of publications of some Danish travellers lately arrived from Paris; but the latest we have seen here in French and Greek is that of Gregory Zollihoffou. Coray has recently been involved in an unpleasant controversy with M. Gail, a Parisian, and editor of some translations from the Greek poets, in consequence of the Institute having awarded him the prize for his version of Hippocrates. The Reviewer &c., &c., &c., and consequently dispasure of the said Gail. To his exertions literary and patriotic great praise is undoubtedly due, but a part of that praise ought not to be withheld from the two brothers Zosimado, who have lately received a degree of a college; why, when at Paris, and maintained him for the express purpose of elucidating the ancient, and adding to the modern, researches of his countrymen. Coray, however, is not considered by his countrymen equal to some of the ancients, who, studied in the schools of the particularly Dorotheus of Mitlyene, whose Hellenic writings are so much esteemed by the Greeks that Meletius terms him, "Meta του θεου και Πρωτο-φορας Ελλνων." (P. 251 Ecclesiastical History, 4.)

Panagiotis, Cordrikes, a translator of Pente- nelle, and Kumaresis, who translated Ocellus Lucanus on the Universe into French, Christodoulos, and more particularly Psalida, whom I have conversed with in Joannina, is also in high repute among their literati. The last-mentioned has published in Romaic and Latin a work on "True Happiness," dedicated to Catherine II. But Polyzois, who is rated by the French to be the best, and consequently except Coray who has distinguished himself by a knowledge of Hellenic, if he be the Polyzois Lampanitzies of Yania, who has published a number of editions in Romaic, was neither more nor less than an amanuensis of books. But the contents of which he had no cognizance beyond his name on the title-page, placed there to secure his property in the publication; and he was, moreover, a man utterly destitute of scholastic acquirements. As the name, however, is not uncommon, some other Polyzois may have edited the Epistles of Aristoc- tetus. It is be regretted that the system of continental blockade has closed the few channels through which the Greeks received their publications, particularly Venice and Trieste. Even the common grammars for children are become too dear for the lower orders. Amongst their original works the Geography of Maukis, Archipelago of Athens, and the Atlases of theological quartos and poetical pamphlets, are to be met with; their grammars and lexicons of two, three, and four languages, are numerous and excellent... Their poetry is in rhyme. The most singular piece I have lately seen is a satire in dia-logue between a Russian, English, and French traveller, and the Waywode of Wallachia, (or Blackboy, as they term him,) an archbishop, a mer- chant, and Cogia Buchi, (or Primate,) in succession; to all of whom under the Turks, the writer attributes their present degeneracy. Their songs are sometimes pretty and pathetic, but their tunes generally unpleasing to the ear of a Frank: the Greeks, however, are the first to laugh at the unfortunate Riga. But from a catalogue of more than sixty authors, now before me, only five can be found who have touched on any theme except theology.

I am intrusted with a commission by a Greek of Athens, named Marmarotouri, to make arrangements, if possible, for printing in London a translation of Barthelemy's Anarchus in Romaic, as he has no other opportunity, unless he despatches the MS. to Vienna by the Black Sea and Danube.

The Reviewer mentions a school established at Hecatonies, and suppressed at the instigation of Sebastianian; he means Codiones, or, in Turkish, Halvai; a town, he says, in which something was instituted for a hundred students and three professors still exists. It is true that this establishment was disturbed by the Porto, under the ridiculous pretext that the Greeks were constructing a fortress instead of an investigating college. The account of some pursers to the Divan, it has been permitted to continue. The principal professor, named Unemian, (i.e. Benjumin,) is stated to be a man of talent, but a free thinker. He was born in Les- ban, is master of Hellenic, Latin, and some Frank languages; besides a smar- tering of the sciences.

Though it is not my intention to enter farther on this topic than may allude to the article in question. I cannot but advert to the truth that the transition over the fall of the Greeks appears singular, when he closes it with these words: "The change is to be attributed to their misfortunes rather than to any "physical degradation." It may be true that the Greeks are not physically degenerated, and that Constantinople contained, on the day it changed masters, as many men of six feet and upwards as in the hour of prosperity; but ancient history and modern politics on the one hand, that something short of physical perfection is necessary to preserve a state in vigor and independence; and the Greeks, in particular, are a melancholy example of the near connection between moral degradation and national decay.

The Reviewer mentions a plan "we believe" by Potemkin for the purification of the Romaic, and I have endeavored in vain to procure any tidings or traces of its existence. There was an academy in St. Petersburg for the Greeks; but it was suppressed by Paul, and has not been revived by his successor.

There is a slip of the pen, and it can only be a slip of the pen, in p. 68, No. 9, of the Edinburgh Review, where these three words occur: "We are told that when the capital of the East yielded to Nol- manus"—it may be presumed that this last word was, in a future edition, to be altered to Mahomet II. —

In a former number of the Edinburgh Review, 1806, it is observed: "Lord Byron passed some of his early years in Scotland, where he might have learned that porter does not mean a beggar, any more than dust means a fiddle." Query—"Was it in Scotland that the young gentleman of the Edinburgh Review learned this?..." It may mean "Mahomet II.," but that it is not..."Caesarism is a vice; provincial errors are apt.

The mistake seems so completely a lapse of the pen (from the great similarity of the two words, and the total absence of error from the former phrase of the Review) that I should hardly write about it next, had I not perceived in the Edinburgh Review much forcible evidence on all such detections, particularly a recent one, where words and syllables are the subject of juxtaposition and transposition; and the above-mentioned parallel passage to make those former errors habitual in the mind of the writer, it is to be corrected than not. The gentlemen, having enjoyed many a triumph on each occasion, will hardly begrudge me a slight correction for the present.
the "ladies of Constantinople," it seems, at that period spoke a dialect, "which would not have disgraced the lips of an Athenian." I do not know how that might be, but am sorry to say the ladies in general, and the Athenians in particular, are much altered; being far from choice either in their dialect or expressions, as the whole Attic race are barbarous to a proverb:

"Ω Αλβα πραγμα χρων
Τι γαϊδαρος τροφεις τωνα."
NOTES TO CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

nourable, friendly, and high spirited character than the true Turkish provincial Aga, or Moslem counsellor, who, for example, to designate the governors of towns, but those Agas who, by a kind of feudal tenure, possess lands and houses, of more or less extent in Greece and Asia Minor.

The lower orders are in as tolerable discipline as the civil and military cities with greater advantage to civilization. A Moslem, in walking the streets of our country-towns, would be more incommunicated in England than a Frank in a similar situation in Turkey. Regimentals are the best travelling dress.

The best accounts of the religion, and different sects of Islam are, may be found in D'Ollisson's French; of their manners, &c., perhaps in Thornton's English. The Ottomans, with all their defects, are not a people to be despised. Equal, at least, to the Spaniards, they are superior to the Portuguese. If it be difficult to pronounce what they are, we can at least say what they are not: they are not treacherous, they are not cowardly, they do not burn heretics, they are not assassins, nor has an enemy advanced to their capital. They are faithful to their sultan till he becomes unfit to govern, and devout to their God without an inquisition. Were they driven from St. Sophia to-morrow, and the French or Russians entrained in their stead, it would become a question, whether Europe would gain by the exchange? English would certainly be the loser.

With regard to that ignorance of which they are so generally, and sometimes justly accused, it may be doubted, always excepting France and England, in what uncivilized points of knowledge they are excelled by other nations. Is it in the common arts of life? In their manufactures? Is a Turkish sahib inferior to a Toledo? or is a Turk worse clothed or lodged, or fed and taught, than a Spaniard? Are the Turks worse educated than the Grandee? or anEffendi than a Knight of St. Jago? I think not.

I remember Mahfouz, the grandson of Ali Pacha, asking whether my fellow-traveller and myself were in the upper or lower Houses of Parliament. Now this question from a boy of ten years old proved that his education had not been neglected. It may be doubted if an English boy at that age knows the difference of the Divan from a College of Derivatives; but I am sure a Spaniard does. The little Mahfouz, surrounded, as he had been entirely by his Turkish tutors, has learned that there was such a thing as a Parliament it were useless to conjecture, unless we suppose that his instructors did not confine his studies to the Koran.

In all the mosques there are schools established, which are very regularly attended; and the poor are taught without the church of Turkey being put into peril. I believe the system is not yet printed; (though there is such a thing as a Turkish press, and books printed on the late military institution of the Nizam Jedid;) nor have I heard whether the Mufti and the Mullah have subscribed, or the Caimas and the Teftedar taken the alarm, for fear the ingenuous youth of the turban should be taught not to "pray to God their way." The Greeks also—a kind of Eastern Irish papists—have a college of their own at Maynooth;—no, at Haarwick; where the heterodox receive much the same kind of countenance from the Ottoman as the Catholic college from the English legislature. Who shall then affirm that the Turks are ignorant bigots, when they thus enunciate the exact proportion of Christian charity which is tolerated in the most prosperous and orthodox of all modern kingdoms? To which they allow all this, they will not suffer the Greeks to participate in their privileges; no, let them fight their battles, and pay their haireth, (taxes,) be debauched in this world, and damned in the next. And shall we then emancipate our Irish Hebrists? Macaroni forbid! We should then be bad Mussulans, and worse Christians; at present we unite the best of both—Jesuitical faith, and something not much inferior to Turkish toleration.

APPENDIX.

Amon, an enslaved people, obliged to have recourse to foreign presses even for their books of religion, it is less to be wondered at that we find so few publications on general subjects than that we find any at all. The whole number of the Greeks, scattered up and down the Turkish empire and elsewhere, may amount, at most, to three hundred; and yet, for so scanty a number, it is impossible to discover any nation with so great a proportion of books and their authors, as the Greeks of the present century. "Ay," but say the generous advocates of oppression, do they not write and publish? it is pleasant enough to hear a Frank, particularly an Englishman, who may abuse the government of his own country; or a Frenchman, who may abuse every government except his own, and who may range at will over every philosophical, religious, scientific, or miscellaneous object, succeeding at the Greek legends. A Greek must not write on politics, and cannot touch on science for want of instruction; if he doubts, he is excommunicated and damned: therefore his countrymen are not poisoned with modern philosophy; and as to morals, thanks to the Turks! there are no such things. What then is left him, if he has a turn for scribbling? Religion, and holy biography: and it is natural enough that those who have but little in the glorious, to the next. It is no great wonder then that in a catalogue now before me of fifty-five Greek writers, many of whom were lately living, not above fifteen should have touched on any thing but religion. The catalogue at all events is contained in the two hundred and sixty-sixth chapter of the fourth volume of Metelli's Ecclesiastical History. From this I subjoin an extract of those who have written on general subjects; which will be followed by some specimens of the Romanie.

LIST OF ROMANIE AUTHORS.†

Neophitus Diakonos (the deacon of the Morea), has published an extensive grammar, and also some political regulations, which last were left unfinished at his death.

Prokopius of Moscopolis, (a town in Epirus,) has written and published a catalogue of the learned Greeks.

Seraphin, of Perieia, is the author of many works in the Turkish language, but Greek character; for the Cyprians of Cypriote, who do not speak Romanie, but read the character.

Eustathius Paulidas, of Bucharest, a physician, made the tour of England for the purpose of study (1729) but though his name is enumerated here, it is not stated that he has written any thing.

Kallinikos Torgeraus, Patriarch of Constantinople: many poems of his are extant, and also protractures, and a catalogue of patriarchs since the last taking of Constantinople.

Anastasius Macdonald of Naxos, member of the royal academy of Warsaw. A church biographer.

* It is to be observed, that the names given are not in chronological order, but amount of some relating to a work or works on topics who scramble the giving of the title of Cypriotic, people to the name of Moscopole.

†
Demetrius Pamperes, a Moscopolite, has written many works, particularly "A Commentary on Herodot’s Shield of Heracleus," and two hundred tales, (of what kind is not specified,) and has published his correspondence with the celebrated George of Trebizond, his contemporary.

Meletius, a celebrated geographer; and author of the book from whence these notices are taken.

Dorotheus of Mitylene, an Aristotelian philosopher: his Hellenic works are in great repute, and, he is esteemed by the moderns (I quote the words of Meletius) metà ton Θεοκρήτου kai Ξενοφώντος ἀριστεύει "Ελλήνων. I add further, on the authority of a well-informed Greek, that he was so famous among his countrymen, that they were accustomed to say, if Thucydides and Xenophon were wanting, he was capable of repairing the loss.

Marinus Count Thurboures, of Cephalonia, professor of chemistry in the academy of Padua, and member of that academy, and those of Stockholm and Upsal. He has published, at Venice an account of some marine animal, and a treatise on the properties of iron.

Marcus, brother to the former, famous in mechanics. He has removed to St. Petersburg the immense rock on which the statue of Peter the Great was fixed in 1769. See the dissertation which he published in Paris, 1777.

George Constantin has published a four-tongued lexicon.

George Ventot: a lexicon in French, Italian, and Romaic.

There exist several other dictionaries in Latin and Romaic, French, &, besides grammars in every modern language, except English.

Among the living authors the following are most celebrated:—

Athanassius Parios has written a treatise on rhetoric in Hellenic.

Christodoulos, an Acarnanian, has published, in Vienna, some physical treatises in Hellenic.

Panigotes Kodrikas, an Athenian, the Romaic translator of Fontenelle’s "Phallicity of Worlds," (a favorite work amongst the Greeks,) is stated to be a teacher of the Hellenic and Arabic languages in Paris; in both of which he is an adept.

Athanassius, the Persian, a gentleman of a treatise on rhetoric.

Vicenzo Damodos, of Cephalonia, has written "εἰς τὸ μεσοδιάστηρον," on logic and physics.

John Kamaras, a Byzantine, has translated into French Ocelius in the "Phallicity of Worlds," and is said to be an excellent Hellenist, and Latin scholar.

Gregorio Demetrius published, in Vienna, a geographical work: he has also translated several Italian authors, and printed his versions at Venice.

Of Corey and Psalida some account has been already given.

GREEK WAR SONG.†

1. 
ΑΔΥ ΤΕ, παιδές τῶν Ἑλλήνων, 
ο θαιρὸς τῆς δέξεως άθλησεν, 
"Ας φανομεν 'αλοι κατέχω 
ποι μὲς δόλων την ἀφίκον. 
"Ας πάντως άνδρας 
τῶν ζην τῶν πολεμίδων. 
Εκδικήσωμε καταράς 
καθ᾽ οὐντίος αἰχμαλώτων. 
Τά ἐπίλα ἐξ λάβωμεν 
παιδές Ἑλλήνων, ἄγωμεν. 
Ποσαμᾶνδρος εὐθύρημα το αἷρα 
ἀπὸ τρήσα ἕξων πολέων.

† These names are not taken from any poet tradition.
† A translation of this song will be found among the smaller Poemes in page 599.

2. Ὠδὴ εἰς τῶν Ἑλλήνων 
θάκαλα ἀνήρεσθαι; 
Πενθύμα τικοπροβάλει, 
πώρα λάβετε πολέων. 
Σ την φωνήν τῆς συντήγης 
συναχθεῖτε ἕλα ὤμου. 
Τίν̄ς ὁπλών ἀνείπτε, 
καὶ νικᾶτε πρὸ παντὸς 
Τά ἐπίλα ἐξ λάβωμεν, ἀς.

3. Σφόρτα Σφορά, τι εἰσῃσά 
ποιόν άλληρον, βαύτη; 
ζέτωσαν, κρατῇ Άλλος, 
σύμμαχόν προστατεύειν. 
]:=Ευθυμίου Λευκοῦν 
μόνος τοῦ άκοπένθι, 
τοῦ άνδρίς επιμελεύει, 
φωτεῖν καὶ προμευχή. 
Τά ἐπίλα ἐξ λάβωμεν, ἀς.

4. Ὁ ποι ἐς τὰς Θερμοπύλαις 
πόλεων αὐτές κατετρα, 
καὶ τοὺ ν Πίνακος ἀποκεκλεί, 
καὶ αὐτῶν κατακατρέω. 
Μι ρηκασφές άνήρα, 
εἰς τὸ κέτορον προχώρει, 
καὶ ὕσει ἄλφαμοι, 
εἰς τὰ αἷρα ποιοτί. 
Τά ἐπίλα ἐξ λάβωμεν, ἀς.

ROMAIC EXTRACTS.

Ῥώμης. Ἀγγλος, καὶ Άλλος καμπάτεις τὰς πέριχας τῆς Ἑλλάδος, καὶ άλλοτρίως τοὺ άπλη στην κατάστασιν εἰρρνάτης καταγείρει ἐν Πρακείν φιλέλλων διὰ μάθων τῆν αἰτίαν, μετ’ αὐτόν ένα μυροπολίτη, εἰς ἑνά βλέπων, ἑπετὶ ἑνά πραγματεύεται καὶ ἑνά πρόσωπο.

Εἰ καὶ, ὁ φιλέλλω, ποις φόρεσοι τὴν αλάτινη καὶ τὴν ἀπορρόφησιν τῶν Ουρλίων τρωμανίων, τοὺς τῆς κώλας καὶ φύσευροι καὶ ανταπόδειξες ἐνωμένην, παράθυρον, γυναικῶν ἀνακοίσεσθαι φόβω διά ἔλεος ἐστιν ἀνέμουν έκείνων τῶν Ἑλλήνων τῶν εὐθύσων καὶ σοφῶν καὶ τῶν φιλελλήνων καὶ τῶν ἐκείνων απέκτησεν για τὴν Αθηναίαν. ἔνα τούτο ἐνεκοίσει ἐν τῆς τρωμανίων καὶ ποιόν γένος ἐστιν ἐστὶν ἐκάθε προσφερομένως εἰς τὴν αἰτίαν, δόμησα, εἰς κ’ ἓ διὰ οἰκομενοῦ ποῖο νῦν εκατοστάσει τὴν φαοτίνην Ἑλλάδα.

Θεάδι: ὡς ἐνα κέλλερον, ὡς κατακείμενον λαμπαδόν ὑμεῖς, οίκλας Γερακεῖς, εἴπε μη τὴν αἴτιαν 
μὴ κρατήσεις τίποτες ομός, λέει τὴν ἀπορίαν.

"Ο ΦΙΛΕ ΑΛΗΝΟΣ

Ῥοσο-γυλο-γιλλο, Ἑλλάς, καὶ άδίσσον ἦν, ὡς λέει, πάος μεγάλη
μοὶ εἱ ἄλλη, καὶ άτηία
δὴ άκρυλω συ τὴ νεονήση τοῦ τί καὶ τὴ νέτερα τὴν ἄθυμεν. 
ἀνὰ στειλεῖς, τὰ τείνει κρατεῖ,
τὰ τι πρόσετεν ὁ διὰ προστάτη, καὶ τῶς ἀλεθεῖς ἢν κρυφέτες
ἀομον ἐκεῖνον πὸ τὴν φωζῆς. 
Μή διὰς τῆς ἐκφύεις νῦν τὴν ἐκφύεις, 

νόμει στὸν δάο χωρίς τοὺς κατ’
The above is the commencement of a long dramatic satire on the Greek priesthood, princes, and poesy: it is contemptible as a composition, but perhaps curious as a specimen of their rhyme; I have the whole in MS., but this extract will be found sufficient. The Romics in this composition is so easy as to render a version an insult to a scholar; but those who do not understand the original will excuse the following bad translation of what is in itself indifferent.

TRANSLATION.

A Russian, an Englishman, and a Frenchman making the tour of Greece, and observing the miserable state of the country, interrogate, in turn, a Greek Patriot, to learn the cause; afterwards an Archbishop, then a Vlackboy,* a Merchant, and Cogia Bahi or Primate.

Thou friend of thy country! to strangers record Why b'ar ye the yoke of the Ottoman Lord? Why bear ye these fetters thus tamely display'd, The wrongs of the matron, the stripping, and maid? The descendants of Helinia's race are not ye! The patriot sons of the sage and the free, Thus sprung from the blood of the noble and brave, To vily exist as the Musulman slave! Not such were the fathers your annals can boast, Who conquer'd and died for the freedom you lost! Not such was your land in her earlier hour, The day-star of nations in wisdom and power! And still will you thus unresisting increase, Oh shamful dishonor! the darkness of Greece? Then tell us, beloved Achan! reveal The cause of the woes which you cannot conceal.

The reply of the Philellenist I have not translated, as it is no better than the question of the travelling triumvirate; and the above will sufficiently show what kind of composition the Greeks are now satisfied. I trust I have not much injured the original in the few lines given as faithfully, and as near the

measure of the Romics, as I could make them. Almost all their pieces, above a song, which aspire to the name of poetry, contain exactly the quantity of feet of

"A sardon bold of Hellas, who lived in country quarnes," which is in fact the present heroic couplet of the Romics.

SCENE FROM 'O KAFENES

TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN OF GOLDONI, BY SPEDILION VLAINTI.

ΣΧΗΝΗ ΚΙ

ΠΛΑΤΤΣΙΑ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΠΟΡΕΙΑΝ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΝΟΝΟΥ, ΚΑΙ ΟΙ ΔΙΩΝΕΝ.

ΠΛΑΤΤΣΙΑ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΠΟΡΕΙΑΝ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΝΟΝΟΥ, ΚΑΙ ΟΙ ΔΙΩΝΕΝ.

* Vlackboy, Prince of Wallishead.

"Oh, Miss Bailey! unfortunate Miss Bailey!"

* A guardsman bold of Hellas, who lived in country quarnes.

Pl. Oh God! from the window I seemed that I heard my husband's voice. If he is here, I have arrived in time to make him ashamed. [A Servant enters from the Room.] Boy, tell me, pray, who are in those chambers.

Serv. Three gentlemen: one, Signor Eugenio; the other, Signor Martio, the Neapolitan; and the third, my Lord, the Count Leander Ardentis.

Pl. Flaminio is not among these, unless he has changed his name.

Leander. [Within, drinking.] Long live t.e. good fortune of Signor Eugenio.

[The whole Company. Long live, &c.] (Literally, Na, na, si che viva il vivo.)

Pl. Without doubt that is my husband. [To the Servt.] My good man, do me the favor to a company me above to those gentlemen; I have some business.

Serv. At your command. [Aside.] The old office of us waiters. [He goes out of the Gaming-House.]

Ridolphi. [To Victoria on another part of the stage.] Courage, courage, be of good cheer, it is nothing.

Victoria. I feel as if about to die. [Leaning on him as if fainting.]

[From the windows above all within are seen rising from table in confusion: Leander starts]
at the sight of Platidia, and appears by his
gestures to threaten her life.]  
Eugenio. No, stop——  
Martin Den fit attempt——  
Leander. Away, fly from hence!  
Pla. Help! Help! [flies down the stairs, Lea-
nder attempting to follow with his sword, Eugenio
kinders him.]

[Travolta with a plate of meat leaps over the
balcony from the window, and runs into the Coffee-
House.]

[Platidia runs out of the Gaming-House, and
takes shelter in the Hotel.]

[Martin steals softly out of the Gaming-House, and
goes off, exclaiming "Rumores fuge." The Servants
from the Gaming-House enter the Hotel, and
shut the door.]

[Victoria remains in the Coffee-House assisted by
Ridolpho.]

[Leander sword in hand opposite Eugenio, ex-
claims, Give way——I will enter that hotel.
Eugenio. No, that shall never be. You are a
soundrel to your wife, and I will defend her to the
last drop of my blood.
Leander. I will give you cause to repeat this.
[Menacing with his sword.]
Eugenio. I fear you not. [He attacks Leander, and
makes him retire back so much, that finding the
doors of the dancing girl's house open, Leander
escapes through, and so finishes.]  

DIADOCHOS ORKIADOIS. FAMILIAR DIALOGUES.

Διά να ζησεις ένα πράγμα. To ask for any thing.
Σις παρακαλέω, δόστε με åτ Ι pray you, give me if you
πλοηγείτε με. Bring me.
Φάστε με. Lend me.
Φαστε με. Go to seek.
Ταρά ενδε. Now directly.
Ω' αχώρη, μου Κώρης, κάμερη
με αχώρη την χάρην.
Εγώ σας παρακαλώ.
Εγώ σας δέχεστε.
Εγώ σας το γράμμα διά χάριν.
Υποχωρέστε με εις τέσσερι
Οι να ερωτευτεί
Λογία εχθεσία.
Affectionate expressions.

Ωλή μου. My life.
Αξιώθω μου. My dear soul.
Αμασίτε μου, ακριβέ μου.
Κανότητα μου. My heart.
Αγαμά μου. My love.

Διά να ευχαρισθήσεις να κάψει To thank, pay compli-
ταιτοποιήσεις, και φιλικές
men, and testify re-
δέξιωσες.

Ωλή εις εχθεσίας.
I thank you.
Σις γεωργία χάριν. I return you thanks.
Σις είμαι υπόξεις κατά σλο. I am much obliged to you.

Διά να βεβαιωθήσετε, να άκου- To affirm, deny, consent
τε µή να κατανέχετεν, στιλ.
δε.  
Είναι αλήθεια, είναι αλήθεια. It is true, it is very true
νά d\' Ιου την αλήθεια.
To tell you the truth.

beis.  

Ουτος, ἢ ζήτει. Ουτος, ἢ ζήτει. Who doubts it?
Ποῖος ἢ χρήσιμος; Ποῖος ἢ χρήσιμος. I believe it, I do not be

Really it is so.

beis.
NOTES TO CHLORHAROO'S PILGRIMAGE

1. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

2. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

3. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

4. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

5. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

6. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

7. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

8. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

9. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by

10. The reader may think of the Oedipus story as being told by
Διάφορος ἄρχοντας, μεν ἀλλαχίσκοιον ἐς ἄρσεν πολυκλασιονίος ἐπὶ τῆς αὐτῆς ἑορτῆς ἐξομολογεῖσθαι κατὰ τὸ πάντα τῆς ἁμαρτίας, κατὰ τὸν τάξιν τῆς ἁμαρτίας, καὶ τὸν ἄνθρωπον κατὰ τὴν ἴδιαν ἀρχαίαν κατὰ τὸν τάξιν τῆς ἁμαρτίας, κατὰ τὸν τάξιν τῆς ἁμαρτίας, κατὰ τὸν τάξιν τῆς ἁμαρτίας.
NOTES TO CHILDE HAROLD’S PILGRIMAGE.

1. Pride of place "here last the eagle flew." Stanza xviii. line 5.

Pride of place" is a term of falconry, and means the highest pitch of flight. See Macbeth, &c.

"An Eagle towering in his pride of place
Was by a moaning Owl hawked at and killed." 2.

Succ as Harmodius drew on Athens’ tyrant lord.

Stanza xx. line 9.

See the famous song on Harmodius and Aristogiton.—The best English translation is in Bland’s Anthology, by Mr. Dunman.

"With myrtle my sword will I wrestle," &c.

3. And all went merry as a marriage-bell.

Stanza xxii. line 8.

On the night previous to the action, it is said that a ball was given at Brussels.

4. And Evan’s, Donald’s fame rings in each clansman’s ears.

Stanza xxvi. line 9.

Sir Evan Cameron, and his descendant Donald, the "gentle Lochiel" of the "forty-five."
11.

**The castledCraig of Drachenfels.**

Page 41, verse 1.

The castle of Drachenfels stands on the highest summit of "the seven Mountains," over the Rhine banks: it is in ruins, and connected with some singular traditions: it is the first in view on the road from Bonn, but on the opposite side of the river: on this bank, nearly facing it, are the remains of another, called the Jew's castle, and a large cross commemorative of the murder of a chief by his brother; the number of castles and cities along the course of the Rhine on both sides is very great, and their situations remarkably beautiful.

12.

**The whiteness of his soul, and thus men o'er him wept.**

Stanza Ivii. line last.

The monument of the young and lamented General Marceau (killed by a rifle ball at Altekirchen on the last day of the fourth year of the French republic) still remains as described.

The inscriptions on his monument are rather too long, and not required: his name was enough; France adored, and her enemies admired; both wept over him.—His funeral was attended by the generals and detachments from both armies. In the same grandiose General Hoche hovered, a gallant man also in every sense of the word; but though he distinguished himself greatly in battle, he had not the good fortune to die there: his death was attended by suspicions of poison.

A separate monument is not over his body, which is buried by Marceau's is raised for him near Andernach, opposite to which one of his most memorable exploits was performed, in throwing a bridge to an island on the Rhine. The shape and size are different from that of Marceau's, and the inscription more simple and pleasing.

"The Army of the Sambre and Meuse to its Commander in Chief Hoche."

This is all, and as it should be. Hoche was esteemed among the first of France's earlier generals as Bonaparte monopolized her triumphs. He was the de-tined commander of the invading army of Ireland.

13.

**Her Ehrenbreitstein, with her shatter'd wall.**

Stanza Iviii. line 1.

Ehrenbreitstein, i.e. "the broad stone of Honor," one of the strongest-fortresses in Europe, was dismantled and blown up by the French at the truce of Lecob.—It had been and could only be reduced by famine or treachery. It yielded to the former, aided by surprise. After having seen the fortifications of Gibraltar and Malta, it did not much strike by comparison, but the situation is commanding. General Marceau besieged it in vain for some time, and I slept in a room where I was shown a window at which he said to have beard standing observing the progress of the siege by moonlight, when a ball struck immediately below it.

14.

**Unspanchert hey roam'd, and shriek'd each wandering ghost.**

Stanza Iviii. line last.

The chapel is destroyed, and the pyramid of bones diminished to a small number by the Burgundian legion in the service of France, who anxiously enforced this record of the ancestors' less successful invasions. A few still remain, notwithstanding the pains taken by the Burgundians for ages, (all who passed that way removing a bone to their own country,) and the less justifiable larcenies of the Swiss postilions, who carried them off to sell for knife-handles, a purpose for which the whiteness imbibed by the bleaching of years has rendered them in great request. Of these, relics I ventured to bring away as much as may have made a quarter of a pound, for which the reason is, that if I had not, the next passer by might have perverted them to worse uses than the careful preservation for which I intend for them.

15.

**Lesvell'd Aventicum hath strew'd her subject lands.**

Stanza lxv. line last.

Aventicum (near Morat) was the Roman capital of Helvetia, where Avenches now stands.

16.

**And held within their urn one mind, one heart, one dust.**

Stanza lxvi. line last.

Julia Alpinula, a young Aventian priestess, died soon after a vain endeavor to save her father, condemned to death as a traitor by Aulus Cecina. Her epitaph was discovered many years ago;—it is thus—

Julia Alpinula
Hie jacet
Infelcis patris, infelix proles
Deo Aventiae Sacerdos;
Exorare patria necom non potui
Male mori in fatis ille erat.
Vixi annos xxxii.

I know of no human composition so effecting as this, nor a history of deeper interest. These are the names and actions which ought not to perish, and to which we turn with a true and healthy tenderness, from the wretched and glittering detail of a confused mass of conquests and battles, with which the mind is roused for a time to a false and feverish sympathy, from whence it recours at length, with all the nausea consequent on such intoxication.

17.

**In the sun's face, like yonder Alpine snow.**

Stanza lxvii. line 8.

This is written in the eye of Mont Blanc, (June 3. 1816,) which even at this distance dazzles mine.

(July 20th.) I this day observed for some time the distinct reflection of Mont Blanc and Mont Argentière in the calm of the lake, which I was crossing in my boat; the distance of these mountains from their mirror is sixty miles.

18.

**By the blue rushing of the arroyo Rhone.**

Stanza lxxi. line 8.

The color of the Rhone at Geneva is blue, to a depth of tint which I have never seen equalled in water, salt or fresh, except in the Mediterranean and Archipelago.

19.

**Than vulgar minds may be with all they seek possess.**

Stanza lxxix. line last.

This refers to the account in his "Confessions" of his passion for the Countess d'Oundetot, (the mistress of St. Lambert,) and his long walk one morning for the sake of the single kiss which was the common salutation of French acquaintance.—Rousseau's description of his feelings on this occasion may be considered as the most passionate, yet not impure description and expression of love that ever kindled into words; which after all must be felt, from their very force, to be inadequate to the delineation—a painting can give no sufficient idea of the ocean.

20.

**Of earth-c'erasing mountains.**

Stanza xci. line 3.

It is to be recollected, that the most beautiful
and impressive doctrines of the divine Founder of Christianity were delivered, not in the Temple, but on the Mount.

To waive the question of devotion, and turn to human eloquence,—the most effectual and splendid specimens were not pronounced within walls. Demosthenes addressed the public and popular assemblies. Cicero spoke in the forum. That this added to their effect on the mind of both orator and hearers, may be conceived from the difference between the sound of the voice then and that produced, and those we ourselves experience in the perusal in the closet. It is one thing to read the Iliad at Sigeum and on the tumuli, or by the springs with Mount Ida above, and the plain and river and Archipelago around you; and another to trim your taper over it in a snug library—this I know.

Were the early and rapid progress of what is called Methodism to be attributed to any cause beyond the enthusiasm excited by its vehement faith and doctrines (the truth or error of which I presume neither to canvass nor to question) I should venture to ascribe it to the practice of preaching in the fields, and the unstudied and extemporaneous compositions of its leaders.

The Mussulmans, whose erroneous devotion (at least in the lower orders) is most sincere, and therefore impressive, are accustomd to repeat their prescribed oisons and prayers wherever they may be. It is to the story—of course, entertained in the open air, kneeling upon a light mat, (which they carry for the purpose of a bed or cushion as required:) the ceremony lasts some minutes, during which they are totally absorbed, and only living in their own supposition: nothing can disturb them. On me the same and entire sincerity of those men, and the spirit which appeared to be within and upon them, made a far greater impression than any I have ever witnessed in places of public worship, of which I have seen those of almost every persuasion under the sun; impeding most of our own sectaries, and the Greek, the Catholic, the Armenian, the Lutheran, and the Mahometanism, as these are numerous in the Turkish empire, are idolaters, and have free exercise of their belief and its rites: some of these I had a distant view at Patras, and from what I could make out of them, they appeared to be of a truly pagan description, and not very agreeable to a spectator.

21.

The sky is changed!—and such a change! Oh night.

Stanza xxix. line 1.

The thunder-storm to which these lines refer occurred on the 13th of June, 1816, at midnight. I have seen among the Aegean mountains of Chirnari several more terrible, but none more beautiful.

22.

And sunset into rose-hour sees them brought.

Stanza xxix. line 6.

Rousseau's Heloise, Lettre 17, part 4, note.

"Cosmontagnes sont si hautes qu'une demi-heure après le soleil couche, leurs sommets sont encore velureis de ses rayons; dont le rouge forme sur ces cimes blanches une belle couleur de rose qu'on apperçoit de fort loin."

This applies more particularly to the heights over Meillerie.

"J'allai à Veray loger à la Cléf, et pendant deux jours que j'y restai sans voir personne, je pris pour cette ville une amour qui m'a suivi dans tous mes voyages, et qui m'y a fait établir enfin les héros de mon roman. Je disois volontiers à ceux qui out du goût et qui sont équilibrés; allez visiter le pays, examinez les sites, promenez-vous sur le lac, et dites si la Nature n'a pas fait ce beau pays pour une Julie, pour une Claire et pour un St. Preux;"


In July, 1816, I made a voyage round the Lake of Geneva; and as far as my own observations have led me, in a not uninterested nor inattentive survey of all the scenes most celebrated by Rousseau in this "Heloise," I may say, that in this there is no exaggeration. It would be difficult to see Clares, (with the scenes around it, Vevey, Chillon, Boveret, St. Gingo, Meillerie, Elvan, and the entrances of the Rhône,) without being forcibly struck with its peculiar associations. It has been a scene of such events and with which it has been peopled. But this is not all: the feeling with which all around Clares, and the opposite rocks of Meillerie, is invested, is of a still higher and more comprehensive order than the mere sympathy with individual passion; it is a sense of the existence of love in its most extended and sublime capacity, and of our own participation of its good and of its glory; it is the great principle of the universe, which is there more condensed, but not less manifested; and of which, though knowing ourselves a part, we lose our individuality, and mingle in the beauty of the whole.

If Rousseau had never written, nor lived, the same associations would not less have belonged to such scenes. He has added to the interest of his works by their adoption; he has shown his sense of their beauty by the selection; he has done that for him which no human being could do for them.

I had the fortune (good or evil as it might be) to sail from Meillerie (where we landed for some time) to St. Gingo during a lake storm, which added to the magnificence of all around, although occasionally accompanied by danger to the boat, which was small and overloaded. It was over this very part of the lake that Rousseau has driven the boat of Freux in his "Pensees," and Wulmar to Meillerie for shelter during a tempest.

On gaining the shore at St. Gingo, I found that the wind had been sufficiently strong to blow down some fine old chestnut trees on the lower part of the mountains.

On the opposite height of Clares is a chateau. The hills are covered with vineyards, and interspersed with some small but beautiful woods; one of these was the "bosquet de Julle," and it is remarkable that, though long ago cut down by the brutal selfishness of the monks of St. Bernard, (to whom the land appertained,) that the ground might be enclosed into a vineyard for the miserable drones of an exiled superstition, the inhabitants of Clares still point out the spot where its trees stood, calling it by the name which consecrated and survived them.

Rousseau has not been particularly fortunate in the preservation of the "local habitations" he has given to "airy nothings." The Prior of Great St. Bernard has cut down some of his woods for the sake of a few casks of wine, and Bonaparte has levied a tax on the vineyards of Meillerie in improving the road to Simplon. The road is an excellent one, but I cannot quite agree with a remark which I heard made, that "La route vaut mieux que les souvenirs."

23.

Laussanne! and Ferney! ye have been the abodes

Stanza cv. line 1

Voltaire and Gibbon.

24.

Had I not fried my mind, which thus itself subduced

Stanza cxix. line last

"If it be thus,

For Bonaparte's sake I fried my mind."

Michelet.

25.

O'er others' griefs that some sincerely grieve.

Stanza cxxv. line 7
CANTO IV.

1. I stood in Venice on the Bridge of Sighs; A palace and a prison on each hand.

Stanza i. lines 1 and 2.

The communication between the ducal palace and the prisons of Venice is by a gloomy bridge, or covered gallery, high above the water, and divided by a stone wall into a passage and a cell. The state dungeons, called "pozzi," or wells, were sunk in the thick walls of the palace; and the prisoner when taken out to die was conducted across the gallery. The bridge, and being then led back into the other compartment, or cell, upon the bridge, was there strangled. The low portal through which the criminal was taken into this cell is now walled up; but the passage is still open, and is still known by the name of the Bridge of Sighs. The pozzi are under the flooring of the chamber at the foot of the bridge. They were formerly twelve, but on the first arrival of the French, the Venetians hastily blocked or broke up the deeper of these dungeons. You may still, however, descend by a trap-door, and crawl down through holes, half choked by rubbish, to the depth of two stories below the first range. If you are in want of consolation for the extinction of patrician power, perhaps you may find it there; scarcely a ray of light glimmers into the narrow gallery which leads to the cells, and the places of confinement themselves are totally dark. A small hole in the wall admitted the damp air of the passages, and served for the introduction of the prisoner's food. A wooden pallet, raised a foot from the ground, was the only furniture. The conductors tell you that a light was not allowed. The cells are about five paces in length, two and a half in width, and seven feet in height. They are directly beneath one another, and respiration is somewhat difficult in the lower holes. Only one prisoner was found when the republicans descended into these hideous recesses, and he is said to have been confined sixteen years. But the inmates of the dungeons beneath had left traces of their repentence, or of their despair, which are still visible, and may perhaps owed something to recent ingenuity. Some of the detained appear to have offended against, and others to have belonged to, the sacred body, not only from their signatures, but from the churches and bellfies which they have scratched upon the walls. The reader may not object to see a specimen of the records prompted by so terrific a solitude. As nearly as they could be copied by more than one pencil, three of them are as follows:—

1. NON TI FIDAR AD ALCUNO PENSA O TACI SE FUORI VEUOI DI SPIONI INSIDE E LACCI IL PENITIBI PENITIRI NULLA OIOVA MA BEN DI VALOR TUG LA VERA PROVA 1807. ADI 2. GENARO. FULBE TEMPO P' LA BESTIEMMA P' AVER DATO DA MANZAR A UN MORTO IACOMO. GRITTI. SCRIBENS.

2. UN PARLAR POCO ET NEGARE PRONTO ET UN PENSAR AL FINE PUO DARE LA VITA A NOI ALTRI MESCHIN.

ECCLESIA BAPTIST A AD ECCLESIA MORTALIUS.

The copyist has followed, not corrected the solemnis; some of which are however not quite so decided, since the letters were evidently scratched in the dark. It only need be observed, benevemus et magniar may be read in the first inscription, which was probably written by a prisoner confined for some act of impuity committed at a funeral; that Cortellarius is the name of a parish on terra firma, near the sea; and that the last initials evidently are put for "Viva la santa Chiesa Kattolica Romana."

2. She looks a sea Cybele, fresh from ocean. Rising with her tiara of proud towers.

Stanza ii. lines 1 and 2.

An old writer, describing the appearance of Venice, has made use of the above image, which would not be poetical were it not true.

"Quo fit ut qui superbe urbem contemplantur, turritam telluris imaginem medio Oceano figuratum in petat inspicere."

3. In Venice Tasso's echoes are no more.

Stanza iii. line 1.

The well-known song of the gondoliers, of alternate stanzas from Tasso's Jerusalem, has died with the independence of Venice. Editions of the poem, with the original on one column, and the Venetian variations on the other, as sung by the boatmen, were once common, and are still to be found. The following extract will serve to show the difference between the Tuscan epic and the "Canta alla Barcariola."

ORIGINAL.

Canto l'arme pietose, e 'l capitano Che 'l gran Sepolcro libero di Cristo, Molto egli opòi cui sonno, e con la mano Molto soffi nel glorioso acquisto; E in van l' Inferno a lui s' oppone, e in vane S' armò d' Asia, e di Libia il popul misto, Che il Ciel gli die favore, e sotto a i Santi Segni ritusse i suoi compagni erranti.

VENETIAN.

L'arme pietoso de cantar gho voglia, E de Goffredo la immortal braura Che al in 'l ha libera co strassia, e dogia Del nostro buon Gesù la Sepolt, De meo mondo unito, e de quel Boga Missier Pluton non 'l ha mai paura; Dio l' ha agiato, e 'l compagni sparpagnad Tutti 'l gh' i ha messi insieme i di del Dal.

Some of the elder gondoliers will, however, take up and continue a stanza of their once familiar bard.

On the 7th of last January, the author of Child Harold, and another Englishman, the writer of this notice, rowed to the Lido with two singer, one of whom was a carpenter, and the other a gondoller. The former placed himself at the prow, the latter at the stern of the boat. A little after leaving the quay of the Piazzetta, they began to sing, and continued their exercise until we arrived at the island. They gave us, amongst other things, the death of Clorinda, and the palace of Arminia; and
did not sing the Venetian, but the Tuscan verses. The carpenter, however, who was the cleverer of the two, and was frequently obliged to prompt his companion, told us that he could translate the original. He added, that he could sing almost three hundred stanzas, but had not the patience (or words to) learn any more, or to sing what he already knew: a man must have idle time on his hands to acquire, or to repeat, and, said the "poor fellow," "look at my clothes and at me: I am staring at the river; there are no iterations of music during the performance, which habit alone can make attractive. The recitative was shrill, scrumming, and monotonous, and the gondolier behind assisted his voice by holding his hand to one side of his mouth. The carpenter used a quiet action, which he evidently endeavored to restrain; but was too much interested in his subject altogether to repress. From these men we learnt that singing is not confined to the gondoliers, and that, although the casta is seldom, if ever, voluntary, there are still several amongst the lower classes who are acquainted with a few stanzas.

It does not appear that it is usual for the performers to row and sing at the same time. At the thought of this, the Jerseymen are no longer casually heard, there is yet much music upon the Venetian canals; and upon holydays, those strangers who are not near or informed enough to distinguish properly, hear the gondolas still resound with the strains of Tasso. The writer of some remarks which appeared in the Curiosities of Literature, must excuse his being twice quoted; for, with the exception of some phrases a little too ambitious and extravagant, he has furnished a very exact, as well as agreeable, description.

In Venice, the gondoliers know by heart long passages from Ariosto and Tasso, and often chant them, unsought, as they leisurely glides. It seems at present on the decline:—at least, after taking some pains, I could find no more than two persons who delivered to me in this way a passage from Tasso. I must add, that the late Mr. Berry once chanted to me a passage from Tasso, in the manner, as he assured me, of the gondoliers.

"There are always two concerned, who alternately sing the strophes. We know the melody essentially, but our voices, not being united, has properly no melodic movement, and is a sort of medium between the canto fermo and the canto furtivo; it approaches to the former by recitativic declamation, and to the latter by passages and course, by the gondoliers, who sing as they work."

"I entered a gondola by moonlight: one singer placed himself forwards and the other aft, and thus proceeded to St. Georgio. One began the song, when he had ended his strophe, the other took up the lay, and so continued the song alternately. Throughout the whole of it, the same notes invariably returned, but, according to the subject matter of the strophe, they had a greater or a smaller stress, sometimes an one or another. After another note, and indeed changed the pronunciation of the whole strophe as the object of the poem altered."

On the whole, however, the sounds were houset and screeching; they seemed, in the manner of all rude songs, to make the advantage of their singing in the force of their voice: one seemed desirous of conquering the other by the strength of his lungs; and so far from receiving delight from this contest, it was in vain; for, on the gondola, I found myself in a very unpleasant situation.

"My companion, to whom I communicated this circumstance, being very desirous to keep up the credit of his countrymen, assured me that this singing was very agreeable when heard at a distance. Accordingly we got out upon the shore, leaving one of the singers in the gondola, while the other went to the distance of some hundred paces. They now began to sing against one another, and I kept walking up and down between them both, so as always to leave him who was to begin his part. I frequently stood still and hearkened to the one and to the other.

"Here the scene was properly introduced. The strong declamatory, and, as it were, strident sound, met the ear from far, and called forth the attention; the quickly succeeding transitions which necessarily required to be sung in a lower tone, seemed like plaintive strains succeeding the voice of the gondoliers. The other, who had listened attentively, immediately began where the former left off, answering him in milder or more vehement notes, according as the purport of the strophe required. The sleepy canals, the lofty buildings, the spire of the moon, the deep shad-ows of the few gondolas that moved like spirits hither and thither, increased the striking peculiar-ity of the scene; and amidst all these circum-stances, it was easy to confess the character of this wonderful harmony.

"It suits perfectly well with an idle, solitary mariner, living at length in his vessel at rest on one of these canals, waiting for his company, or for a fare, and there is nothing more sublime than the threepsophies of which situation is somewhat alleviated by the songs and poetical stories he has in memory. He often raises his voice as loud as he can, which extends itself to a vast distance over the tranquil mirror, and as still is around, he, as it were, in his own gondola, is the greater and more populous town. Here is no rattling of carriages, nor noise of foot passengers; a silent gondola glides now and then by him, of which the splashes of the oars are scarcely to be heard."

"At a distance he hears another, perhaps utterly unknown to him. Melody and verse immediately attach the two strangers: he becomes the responsive echo to the former, and exerts himself to be heard as he had heard the other. By tacit convention the gondolier makes his reply, and he sings with a simple and graceful melodic rest, and the song should last the whole night through, they en-tertain themselves without fatigue: the hearers, who are passing between the two, take part in the amusement."

"This vocal performance sounds best at a great distance, and is then inexpressibly charming, as it only fulfils its design in the sentiment of remoteness. It is plaintive but not dismal in its sound, and at times it is very advective and pathetic, and tins of tears. My companion, who otherwise was not a very delicately organized person, said quite unexpectedly: 't'is singolare come quel canto intonersce, e molto piu quando lo cantano meglio.'"

"I was in the gondola, when it glides, the long row of islands that divides the Adriatic from the Lagoon, particularly the women of the extreme districts of Malmocco and Palestrina, sing in like manner the works of Tasso to these and similar tunes.

"They have the custom, when their husbands are fishing out at sea, to sit along the shore in the evenings; and voice these songs, and continue to do so with great applause and amusement. I could not distinguish the responses of her own husband at a distance."

The love of music and of poetry distinguishes all classes of Venetians, even amongst the tuneful sons of Italy. The city itself can occasionally furnish respectable audiences for two and even three opera-houses at a time; and there are few events in private life that do not call forth a printed and circu-lated sonnet. Does a physician or a lawyer meditate his degree, or a clergyman preach his weekly sermon, has a surgeon performed an operation, would a harlequin announce his departure or his benefit, are you to be congratulated on a marriage, or a..."
BYRON'S WORKS.

Exposition of the most holy sacrament in the church of St. —

Theatres.

St. Moses, opera.
St. Benedict, a comedy of characters.
St. Luke, repose.

When it is recollected what the Catholics believe their consecrated wafer to be, we may perhaps think it worthy of a more respectable niche than between poetry and the play-house.

4.

Sperta hath many a worthier son than he.

Stanza x. line 5.

The answer of the mother of Brasidas to the strangers who praised the memory of her son.

5.

St. Mark yet sees his lion where he stood.

Stanza xi. line 5.

The lion has lost nothing by his journey to the Invalides but the gospel which supported the paw that is now on a level with the other foot. The horses also are returned to the ill-chosen spot whence they set out, and are, as before, half hidden under the porch of St. Mark's church.

Their history, after a desperate struggle, has been satisfactorily explored. The decisions and doubts of Erizzo and Zappetti, and, lastly, of the Count Lepoldo Cioegnara, would have given them a Roman extraction, and a pedigree not more ancient than the reign of Nero. But M. de Schlegel stepped in to teach the Venetians the value of their own areas, and a Greek vindicated, at last and for ever, the pretension of his countrymen to this noble production.* Mr. Mustozidi has not been left without a reply; but, as yet, he has received no answer. It should seem that the horses were provocatively Caesar, and were transferred to Constantinople by Theodosius. Lapidary writing is a favorite play of the Italians, and has conferred reputation on more than one of their literary characters. One of the best specimens of Bodoni's typography is a respectable volume of inscriptions, all written by his friend Pacchioni. Several were prepared for the recovered horses. It is to be hoped the best was not selected, when the following words were ranged in gold letters above the central porch.


Nothing shall be said of the Latin, but it may be permitted to observe that the injustice of the Venetians in transporting the horses from Constantinople was at least equal to that of the French in carrying them to Paris, and that it would have been more prudent to have avoided all allusions to either country. The Venetian prince, however, refused to object to affixing over the principal entrance of a metropolitan church an inscription having a reference to any other triumphs than those of religion. Nothing less than the pacification of the world can excuse such a solecism.

6.

The Suabian sued, and now the Austrian reigns—

An Emperor tramples where an Emperor knelt.

Stanza xii. lines 1 and 2.

After many vain attempts on the part of the Italians entirely to throw off the yoke of Frederic Barberossa, and as fruitless attempts of the emperor to make the Venetian people understand the principle of his Cisalpine dominions, the bloody struggles of four and twenty years were happily brought to a close in the city of Venice. The articles of a treaty, previously agreed upon between the Pope Alexander III. and Barberossa, and the former having received a safe conduct, had already arrived at Venice from Ferrara, in company with the ambassadors of the king of Sicily and the consuls of the Lombard league. There still remained, however, many points to adjust, and for several days the peace was believed to be impracticable. At this juncture it was suddenly reported that the Emperor had arrived at Chioggia, a town fifteen miles from the capital. The Venetians rose tumultuously, and insisted upon immediately conducting him to the city. The Lombards took the alarm, and departed towards Triviso. The Pope himself was apprehensive of some disaster if Frederic should suddenly advance upon him, but was reassured by the prudent and address of Sebastian Ziani, the Doge. Several embassies passed between Chioggia and the capital, until, at last, the Emperor relaxing somewhat of his pride, consented to reside in his native city; and put on the mildness of the lamb.**

On Saturday, the 23d of July, in the year 1177, six Venetian galleys transferred Frederic, in great pomp from Chioggia to the lagoon of Lido, a mile from Venice. Early the next morning the Pope, accompanied by the Sicilian ambassadors, and by the envoys of Lombardy, whom he had recalled from the main land, together with a great concourse of people, repaired, from the patriarchal palace to St. Mark's church, and solemnly absolved the Emperor and his partisans from the excommunication pronounced against him. The Chancellor of the Empire, on the part of his master, renounced the anti-popes and their schismatic adherents. Immediately the Doge, with a great suite both of the clergy and laity, got on board the galleys, and writing on Frederic, rowed him to the mighty state from the capital to the Lido. The Emperor descended from the galley at the quay of the Piazzetta. The Doge, the patriarch, his bishops and clergy, and the people of Venice with their crosses and processions followed him in solemn procession before him to the church of St. Mark. Alexander was seated before the vestibule of the basilica, attended by his bishops and cardinals, by
the patriarch of Aquileia, by the archbishops and bishops of Lombardy, all of them in state, andclothéd in their church robes. Frederic appro-
ached, and the by the Bolognese. Frederic, the Almigh-
ty in the person of Alexander, laying
made his imperial dignity, and throwing off his
mantle, re Prostrated himself at full length at the
feet of the Pope. Alexander, with tears in his
eyes, quickly accepted the generosity, he grandson
kissed him, blessed him; and immediately the
Germans of the train sang, with a loud voice, 'We
praise thee, O Lord.' The Emperor then taking
the Pope by the right hand, led him to the church,
and this benediction, returned to the
ducal palace." * The ceremony of humiliation was
repeated the next day. The Pope himself, at the
request of Frederic, said mass at St. Mark's. The
Emperor again laid aside his imperial mantle, and,
taking a wand in his hand, officiated as egerius, driv-
ing the laity from the choir, and preceding the pont-
tiff to the altar. Alexander, after reciting the gos-
pel, preached to the people. The Emperor put
himself close to the pulpit in the attitude of listen-
;ing; and the pontiff, touched by this mark of his
attention, for he knew that Frederic did not under-
stand a word he said, commanded the patriarch of
Aquileia to translate the Latin discourse into the
German tongue, for the credulity of the chaste.
Frederic made his oblation and kissed the Pope's
feet, and, mass being over, led him by the hand to his
white horse. He held the stirrup, and would have
put his own foot in to the stirrup, had not the
Pope accepted of the inclination for the per-
formance and affectionately dismissed him with his
benediction. Such is the substance of the account
left by the archbishop of Salerno, wha was present
at the scene, in whose story are confirmed in
every subsequent narration. It would be not worth
50 minute a record, were it not the triumph of lib-
erty as well as of superstition. The states of Lom-
bardy owed to it the confirmation of their privi-
leges; and Alexander had reason to thank the
Almighty, who had enabled an infirm, unarmed old
man, to subdue a terrible and potent sovereign.†

7.

Oh, for one hour of blind old Dandolo!
The octogenarian chief, Byzantium's conqueror.  
Stanza xiii. lines 3 and 4.

The reader will recollect the exclamation of the
Highlander, Oh, for one hour of Dandolo! Henry
Dandolo, when elected Doge, in 1192, was eighty-
years of age. When he commanded the Venet-
ians at the taking of Constantinople, he was con-
sidered a very old man. At this age he
annexed the fourth and a half of the whole empire
of Roman;† for so the Roman empire was then
called, to the title and to the territories of the Ven-
etian Doge. The three-eighths of this empire were
reserved in the diplomas until the dukedom of Gi-
vanni Dolfino, who made use of the above desig-
nation in the year 1357.‡

Dandolo led the attack on Constantinople in per-
cen: two ships, the Paradise and the Pilgrim, were
tied together, and a drawbridge or ladder let down
from their higher yards to the walls. The Doge was
one of the first to rush into the city. Then was
the compliment, said the Venetians, a triumphant
Erythraean sily. "A gathering together of the
powerful shall be made amid the waves of the
Adriatic, under a blind leader; they shall beat the
foes—their sunshine—Byzantium's shame blains thebuildings—her spoils shall be dispersed;
new goat shall bealt, until they have measured
out and run over fifty-four feet, nine inches, and a
half. †

Dandolo died on the first day of June, 1235, nar-
ing reigned thirteen years, six months, and five
days, and was buried in the church of St. Sphisie,
at Constantinople. Strangely enough it must sound
that the name of the rebel apothecary who received
the Doge's sword, and annullned the ancient gov-
ernment, in 1736-7, was Dandolo.

8.

But is not Doria's menace come to pass?
Are they not bridled?
Stanza xiiii. lines 3 and 4.

After the loss of the battle of Pola, and the taking
of Chioza on the 16th of August, 1379, by the uni-
ted armament of the Genoese and Francesco
d Cararra, Signor of Padua, the Venetians were
reduced to the utmost despair. An embassy was
sent to the Genoese, with a blank sheet of paper,
praying them to prescribe what terms they pleased,
and leave to Venice only her independence. The
Prince of Padua was inclined to listen to these pro-
sals, but the Genoese, who had taken Pola, had shunted "to Venice, to Venice, and long
live St. George," determined to annihilate their
rival, and Peter Doria, their commander in chief,
returned this answer to the suppliants: "On God's
spirit, gentlemen of Genoa, Venice, ye shall have
from the Signor of Padua, nor from our commune
of Genoa, until we have first put a rein upon those
unbridled horses of yours, that are upon the porch
of your evangelist St. Mark. When we have bridled
them, we shall keep you quiet. And this is the plea-
ure of us and of your commune. As for these my bro-
er[s] of Genoa, that you have brought with you to
give up to us, I will not have them: take them back; for,
for a few days, I shall consider myself the
prison of myself, both these and all the others."†
In fact, the Genoese did advance as far as Mal-
temoccio, within five miles of the capital; but their
own danger and the pride of their enemies gave
courage to the Venetians, who learned from la-

dors, and many individual sacrifices, all of them

carefully recorded by their historians. Vettor Pi-
sani was put at the head of thirty-four galleys. The
Genoese broke up from Malamocco, and retired to
Chioza in October; but they again threatened Ven-
icce, which was reduced to extremities. At this
time, the 1st of January, 1380, arrived Carlo Zeno,
who had been cruising on the Genoese coast with
fourteen galleys. The Venetians were now strong
enough to besiege the Genoese. Doria was killed
on the 22d of January by a stone bullet one hun-
dred and ninety-five pounds weight, discharged
from a bombard called the Trevisan. Chioza was
then closely invested: five thousand auxiliaries,
among whom were some English Condottieri, com-
manded by one Captain Ceccheo, joined the Ven-

† "Perpetuum in aqua Adriatica ut regnavit, ut praebat
avituram con ambiguit, Byzantiumque prophanabuntur, orbis
imperii dependet. Hiericus nonus balius autque dum lavus et
in paliolum et semetipsam emergat." [Chionieon, Lib. xii. cap. xxi.]

‡ "Atto fi nsimale, ni duodenum in Roma depone domum mea.
Sic Seminius de Padua, de nostro commune de Genesio, se primitivum non
simulasse neque in aliquo consiliis se refutasse, tam eas ut in
Eum Rerum et ab Ecce Verum Evangelium S. Marcii. Immensia et de
Lametiae, in Jerusalem, orbis color orta est in buone parte. Et quia la
interesse nostrae, et de eorum communes.
Quus, nisi frater, Genesio, quae habeas non esse per damai, non
ego in unum rem temetistis, eamque in duos et tres, comune,
accretas etiam de eorum consiliis, eamque in duos et tres, comune,
accretas etiam de eorum consiliis, eamque in duos et tres, comune,
accretas etiam de eorum consiliis, eamque in duos et tres, comune,
accretas etiam de eorum consulitabatur, eamque in duos et tres, comune,
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accretas etiam de eorum consulitabatur, eamque in duos et tres, comune,
tians. The Genoese in their turn, prayed for conditions, but none were granted, until, at last, they surrendered at discretion: and, on the 5th of June, 1520, the Doge Contarini made his triumphal entry into Chiozza. Four thousand prisoners, nineteen galleys, many smaller vessels and barks, with all the ammunition and arms, and outfit of the expedition, fell into the hands of the conquerors, who, had it not been for the inexorable answer of Donato, would have gladly reduced their dominion to the city of Venice. An account of these transactions is found in a work called the War of Chiozza, written by Daniel Chilnazzò, who was in Venice at the time.

9.

The "Planter of the Lion."
Stanza xiv. line 3.

Paux the Lion—that is, the Lion of St. Mark, the standard of the republic, which is the origin of the word Pantalon—Pantelone, Pantaleon, Pantalone.

10.

Thin streets, and foreign aspects, such as must Too oft remind her who and what enthralled.
Stanza xv. lines 7 and 8.

The population of Venice at the end of the seventeenth century amounted to nearly two hundred thousand souls. At the last census, taken two years ago, it was no more than about one hundred and three thousand, and it diminishes daily. The commerce and the official employments, which were to be the unpolluted source of Venetian grandeur, have both expired. Most of the patrician mansions are deserted, and would gradually disappear, had not the government, alarmed by the desolation of seventy-two, during the last two years, expressly forbidden this sad resource of poverty. Many remnants of the Venetian nobility are now scattered and confounded with the wealthier Jews upon the banks of the Brenta, whose paladian palaces have sunk, or are sinking in the general decay. Of the "gentiluomo Veneto," the name is still known, and that is all. He is but the shadow of his former self, but he is polite and kind. It surely may be pardoned to him if he is querulous. Whatever may have been the vices of the republic, and although the natural term of its existence may be thought by forgers to have arrived in the due course of mortality, only one sentiment can be expected from the Venetians themselves. At no time were the subjects of the republic so unanimous in their resolution to rally round the standard of St. Mark, as when it was for the last time unfurled; and the cowardice and the treachery of the few patriots who recommended the fatal neutrality were confined to the persons of the traitors themselves. The present race cannot be thought to regret the loss of their aristocratical forms, and too despotic government; they think only on their vanished independence. They pine away at the remembrance, and on this subject suspend for a moment their gay good humor. Venice may be said in the words of the Scripture, "to die daily; and so general and so apparent is the decline, as to become painful to a stranger, not reconciled to the sight of a whole nation expiring as it were before his eyes. So artificial a creation, having lost that principle which called it into life and supported its existence, must fall to pieces at once, and sink more rapidly than it rose. The abhorrence of slavery which drove the Venetians to the sea, has, since their disaster, forced them to the land, where they may be at least overlooked amongst the crowd of dependants, and not present the humiliating spectacle of a whole nation loaded with recent chains. Their liveliness, their affability, and that happy indulgence which constitution alone can give, for philosophy aspires to it in vain, have not sunk under circumstances: but many peculiarities of costume and manner have by degrees been lost, and the nobles, with a pride common to all Italians who have been masters, have not been persuaded to purify their insignificance. That splendid scene which was a proof and a portion of their power, they would not degrade into the trappings of their subtraction. They retired from the space which they had occupied in the eyes of their fellow-citizens; their commonwealth of which would have been a symptom of acquiescence, and an insult to those who suffered by the common misfortune. Those who remained in the degraded capital might be said to haunt the scenes of their departed power, than to live in them. The reflection, "who and what enthralled," will hardly bear a comment from one who is, nationally, the friend and the ally of the conqueror. It may, however, be allowed to say thus much, that to those who wish to recover their independence, any masters must be an object of detestation; and it may be safely foretold that this unhappy aversion will not have been corrected before Venice shall have sunk into the slime of her chopped canals.

11.

Redemption rose up in the Attic Muse!
Stanza xvi. line 3.

The story is told in Plutarch's life of Nicias.

12.

And Otway, Radcliffe, Schiller, Shakespeare's art.
Stanza xviii. line 5.

Venice Preserved; Mysteries of Udolpho; the Ghostseer, qn. Arabian; the Merchant of Venice; Othello.

13.

But from their nature will the tannes grow
Leastest on loftiest and least shelter'd rocks.
Stanza xx. lines 1 and 2.

Tannes is the plural of tanne, a species of fir peculiar to the Alps, which only thrives in very rocky parts, where scarcely soil sufficient for its nourishment can be found. On these spots it grows to a greater height than any other mountain tree.

14.

A single star is at her side, and reigns
With her o'er half the lovely heaven.
Stanza xxvii. lines 1 and 2.

The above description may seem fantastical or exaggerated to those who have never seen an oriental or an Italian sky; yet it is but a literal and hardly sufficient delineation of an August evening (the eighteenth) as contemplated in one of many rides along the banks of the Brenta near La Mira.

15.

Watering the tree which bears his lady's name
With his melodious tears, he gave himself to faire.
Stanza xxx. lines 8 and 9.

Thanks to the critical acumen of a Scotchman, we now know as little of Laura as ever. The discoveries of the Abbe de Sade, his triumphs, his sneers can no longer instruct or amuse. We must not, however, think that these memoirs are as much a romance as Belisarius or the Incas, although

* See an Historical and Critical Essay on the Life and Character of Petrarck; and a Dissertation on an Historical Hypothesis of the Abbe de Sade: the first appeared about the year 1784; the other is inserted in the fourth volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and both have been incorporated into a work, published under the title of Belisarius: 1826.

† Mémoires pour la Vie de Fréron.
NOTES TO CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE

and perversive, that it absorbed him, and mastered his heart.

In this case, however, he was perhaps alarmed for the culpability of his wishes; for the Abbé de Sade himself, who certainly would not have been a scrupulous or deliberate lover and have proved his descent from Petrarch, as well as the memory of mother, that, when arrived at his fortieth year, he not only had in horror, but had lost all recollection and image of any 'irregularity.' But the birth of his natural daughter cannot be assigned earlier than his thirty-ninth year; and either the modesty or the morality of the poet must have failed him, when he forgot or was guilty of this slip. The weakest argument for the purity of this love has been drawn from the permanence of effects, which sustained the object of his passion. The reflection of Mr. de la Bastie, that virtue alone is capable of making impressions which death cannot efface, is one of those which everybody applauds, and every poet of his own breast or the record of human feeling. Such apothegms can do nothing for Petrarch or for the cause of morality, except with the very weak and the very young. He that has made even a little progress has no right to demand of the child, or of the pupil, not to be edified with anything but truth. What is called vindicating the honor of an individual or a nation, is the most futile, tedious, and unconstructive of all writing; although it will always meet with more applause than that sober criticism, which is attributed to the malicious desire of reducing a great man to the common standard of humanity. It is, after all, not unlikely, that our historian was guilty in showing his favorite hypochondriacal notions which secures the architect, although it scarcely saves the honor of the still unknown mistress of Petrarch.

16. They keep his dust in Arqua, where he died.

Stanza xxvi. line 1.

Petrarch retired to Arqua immediately on his return from the unsuccessful attempt to visit Urban V. at Rome, in the year 1370, and, with the exception of his celebrated visit to Venice, in company with Francesco Novello da Carrara, he appears to have passed the great part of his lifetime in that charming solitude and Padua. For four months previous to his death he was in a state of continual languor, and in the morning of July the 19th, in the year 1374, was found dead in his library chair, with his head resting upon a book. The chair is still shown among the precious relics of Arqua, which, from the uninterrupted veneration that has been attached to every thing relative to this great man from the moment of his death to the present hour, have been preserved, a better chance of authenticity than the Shaksperean memorials of Stratford upon Avon.

Arqua (for the last syllable is accented in pronunciation, although the analogy of the English language has been observed in the verse), is twelve miles from Padua, and about three miles on the right of the high road to Rovigo, in the bosom of...
...society, and was only snatched from his intended sepulchre, may serve church by a forest death. Another tablet with a bust has been erected to him at Pavia, on account of his having passed the autumn of 1388 in that city, with his son-in-law Brossano.

The political condition of Italy, at the time, again precluded the Italians from the criticism of the living, and this has attracted the attention of the ideal. The struggle is to the full as likely to vie with demons as with our better thoughts. Satan, who

17.

Or, it may be, with demons.

Stanza xxxiv. line 7

The struggle is to the full as likely to vie with demons as with our better thoughts. Satan, who

18.

In face of all his foes, the Cruasanquire; And Boilieu, whose rash enry, etc.

Stanza v. xxxviii. lines 6 and 7.

Perhaps the coupé in which Boileau deprecates Tasso, may serve as well as any other specimen to justify the opinion given of the harmony of French verse.

A Molbve à Rome, preöeub Thoéphile, Et le disquise du Tasso a tout Par de qualité.

The biographer Serass*, out of tenderness to the reputation either of the Italian or the French poet, is eager to observe that the satire recut or explained away this censure, and subsequently allowed the author of the Jerusalem to be a "genius, sublime, vast, and happily born from the higher flights of poetry." To this we may add that the recantation is far from satisfactory, when we examine the whole anecdote as reported by Olivet. The sentence pronounced against him by Bohours is recorded only to the confusion of the critics, whose opinions the Italian makes no effort to discover, and would not perhaps accept. As to the opposition which the Jerusalem encountered from the Cruasan academy, who degraded Tasso from all competition with Ariosto, below Boilieu and Pulci, the disgrace of such opposition must also in some measure be laid to the charge of Alfonso, and the court of Ferrara. For Leonard Svaliazi, the principal and nearly the sole origin of this attack, was...
NOTES TO CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

There can be no doubt, influenced by a hope to acquire the favor of the House of Este; an object which he thought attainable by exalting the reputation of a native poet at the expense of a rival, then a prisoner of state. The hopes and efforts of Salviati must serve to show the contemporary opinion as to the nature of the poet's imprisonment; and will preserve of our indignation towards the tyrant jailer. In fact, the antagonist of Tasso was not disappointed in the reception given to his criticism; he was called to the court of Ferrara, where having endeavored to heighten with exaggerated claims to favor by panegyrics on the family of his sovereign, he was in turn abandoned, and expired in neglected poverty.

The opposition of the Cruscans was brought to a close in six years after the commence-ment of the controversy; and if the academy own its first renown to having opened with such a paradox, it is probable that, on the other hand, the care of his reputation alleviated rather than aggravated the imprisonment of the injured poet. The defence of his father and himself, for both were involved in the censure of Salviati, found employment for many of his solitary hours, and the captive could have been but little embarrased to reply to accusations, where, amongst other delin- quencies, he was imputed with omission in his comparison between France and Italy, to make any mention of the cupola of St. Maria del Fiore at Florence. The late biographer of Ariosto seems as if willing to renew the controversy by•

doubting the poet's genuineness of the inscription related in Scaramelli's life of the poet. But Tiraboschi had before laid that rivalry at rest, by showing, that between Ariosto and Tasso it is not a question of comparison, but of preference.

19.

The lightning rent from Ariosto's bust: -

The iron crown of laurel's miniced leaves.

Stanza xli. lines 1 and 2.

Before the remains of Ariosto were removed from the Benedictine church to the library of Ferrara, his bust, which surmounted the tomb, was struck by lightning, and a crown of iron laurels melted away. The event has been recorded by a writer of the last century.†

The transfer of these sacred ashes on the 6th of June, 1851, was one of the most brilliant spectacles of the Toscan Republic; to consecrate the memory of the ceremony, the once famous fallen Intrepidi were revived and reformed into the Ariostean academy. The large public place through which the procession passed was previously decorated with garlands to Stanza xli. lines 4 and 5.

The eagle, the sea calf, the laurel,† and the white vine,‡ were among the most approved preservatives against lightning; Jupiter chose the first, Augustus Caesar the second,§ and Tiberius never failed to wear a wreath of the third when the sky threatened a thunder-storm.¶ These superstitions may be received without a sneer in a country where the magical properties of the hazel twig have not lost all their credit; and perhaps the reader may not be much surprised to find that a commentator on Suetonius has taken upon himself gravely to disprove the imputed virtues of the crown of Tiberius, by mentioning that a few years before he wrote a laurel was actually struck by lightning at Rome.

21.

Know that the lightning sometimes below.

Stanza xlii. line 8.

The Curtian lake and the R minial fig-tree in the Forum, having been touched by lightning, were held sacred, and the memory of the accident was preserved by a pedestal or altar, resembling the mouth of a crocodile, with a little chapel supposed to be made by the thunderbolt. Bodies caught and persons struck dead were thought to be incorruptible; and a stroke not fatal conferred perpetual dignity upon the on so distinguished by heaven.††

Those killed by lightning were wrapped in a white garment, and buried where they fell. The superstition was not confined to the worshippers of Jupiter; the Lombards believed in the omens furnished by lighting, and a Christian priest confesses that, by a diabolical skill in interpreting thunder, a seer foretold to Agilulf, Duke of Turin, an event which came to pass, and gave him a queen and a crown.‡‡ There was, however, something equivocal in this custom, which the ancient inhabitants of Rome did not always consider propitious: and as the fears are likely to last longer than the consola-

* La Vite, &c., lib. iii. p. 30, tum. 8. The English reader may see an account of the opposition of the Cruscans to Tasso, in Dr. Black, Life, &c., cap. xvii., vol. ii.
† For farther, and, it is hoped, decisive proof, that Tasso was neither more nor less than a prisoner of state, the reader is referred to "Historical Illustrations of the 17th Canto of Childe Harold," pag. 5 and following.
‡ Orsini found the... delle Idee Don Luigio Carlisi di Ferro... delle Idole Don Doc, A. F. "Cosa," lib. iii. p. 117.
§ It was founded. In 1892, and the Cruscans answer to Pergolino's Garfosa epice poeticus was published in 1834.
¶ "Cuscante pare il sovino in lui veder alla sen posizion volonta contro manie FORUMIS." La Vite, lib. iii. p. 96, tum. 8.
** Storia della Lett., &c., lib. iii. tum. iii. lib. ili. p. 128, sect. 4.
†† Vittorio Alfieri, epistle to the earl of Ilchester. Several of his most celebrated passages are collected in a small octavo volume called "Diversi Elogi, Lettere, &c." Libri e libretti di poesia, e letteratura, raccolti in una raccolta."
‡‡ OvAcif. "Ovid, Amor, &c., lib. iii. 1797.
§§ Parmelin, Bovon, &c., ed. 1797.
***** "Dei, &c., lib. ii. p. 338, &c., 340."
††† "Dei, &c., lib. ii. p. 340."
‡‡‡ "Dei, &c., lib. ii. p. 340."
¶¶ "Dei, &c., lib. ii. p. 340.
claiming, &c., by Sir John Denisonecus, &c., in the edition of 1797.
"Dei, &c., lib. ii. p. 340.

Stanza xlii. lines 4 and 5.

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BYRON'S WORKS.

22. Itali! oh Itali! go.
Stanza xlii. line 1.

The two stanzas, XLII. and XLI., are, with the exception of a line or two, a translation of the sonnet of Filliejan:

"Itali, Itali, O tu cui sì vo sors."

23. Wandering in youth, I traced the path of him,
The Roman friend of Rome's last mortal mind.
Stanza xlv. lines 1 and 2.

The celebrated letter of Servius Sulpicius to Cicero on the death of his daughter describes it as it then was, and now is, a path which I often traced in Greece, both by sea and land, in different journeys and voyages.

"On my return from Asia, as I was sailing from Ægina towards Megara, I began to contemplate the prospect of the countries around me: Ægina was behind, Megara before me; Piræus on the right, Corinth on the left; all which towns, once famous and flourishing, now lie overturned and buried in their ruins. Upon this sight, I could not but think presently within myself, Alas! how do we pour mortals fret and vex ourselves, if any of our friends happen to die or to be killed, while life is yet so short, when the carcasses of so many noble cities lie here exposed before me in one view."  

24. And we pass
The skeletons of her Titanic form
Stanza xlv. lines 7 and 8.

It is Poggio who, looking from the Capitoline hill upon ruined Rome, breaks forth into the exclamation, "Ut nunc decore nudata, prostrata jacet, instar gigantei cadaveris corrupti atque unique exces matrimonii.-"

25. There, too, the Goddess loves in stone.
Stanza xlix. line 1.

The view of the Venus of Medecis instantly suggests the lines in the Seasons, and the comparison of the object with the description proves not only the correctness of the portrait, but the peculiar turn of thought, and, if the term may be used, the sexual imaginatn of the descriptive poet. The same conclusion may be deduced from another hint in the same episode of Musidora; for Thomson's notion of the privileges of favored love must have been either very primitive, or rather deficient in delicacy, when he made his grateful nymph inform her discreet Duncun that in some happier moment he might, perhaps, be the companion of her bath:

"The time may come you need not fly."

The reader will recollect the anecdote told in the Life of Dr. Johnson. We will not leave the Florentine gallery without a word on the Wetter. It seems strange that the character of that dispute statue should not be entirely decided, at least in the mind of any one who has seen a sarcophagus in the vestibule of the Basilica of St. Paul without the walls, at Rome, where the whole group of the table with the two capitals has been in tolerable preservation; and the Scythian slave when the knife is represented exactly in the same position as the celebrated master-piece. The slave is not naked; but it is easier to get rid of this difficulty than to suppose the knife in the hand of the Florentine statue an instrument for shaving, which it must be, if, as Lanzi supposes, the man is no other than the barber of Julius Cæsar. Winkelmann, illustrating a bas relief of the same subject, follows the opinion of Leonard Agostini, and his authority might have been thought conclusive, even if the resemblance did not strike the most careless observer.

"Among the bronzes of the same princely collection is still to be seen the inscribed tablet copied and commented upon by Mr. Gibbon. Our historian found some difficulties, but did not dissent from his illustration: he might be vexed to hear that his criticism has been thrown away on an inscription now generally recognized to be a forgery.

26. His eyes to thee upturn,
Feeding on thy sweet cheek.
Stanza li. lines 6 and 7.

"Ophthalmin estign."

Ovid. Amor, lb. ii.

27. In Santa Croce's holy precincts lie

This name will recall the memory, not only of those whose tombs have raised the Santa Croce into the centre of pilgrimage, the Mecca of Italy, but of her whose eloquence was poured over the illustrious ashes, and whose voice is now mute as those she sung. Corinna is no more; and with her should expire the fear, the flattery, and the envy, which threw too dazzling or too dark a cloud round the march of genius, and forbade the steady gaze of disinterested criticism. We have her picture embellished or distorted, as friendship or destruction has held the pencil: the impartial portrait was hardly to be expected from a contemporary. The immediate voice of her survivors will, it is probable, be far from affording a just estimate of her singular capacity. The gallantry, the love of wonder, and the hope of associated fame, which blunted the edge of censure, must cease to exist.—The dead have no sex; they can surprise by no new miracles; they can confer no privilege; Corinna has ceased to be a woman—she is only an author: and it may be foreseen that many will repay themselves for former complaisance, by a severity to which the extravagance of previous praises may perhaps give the color. Yet, in the latest posterity they will assuredly descend, will have to pronounce upon her various productions and the longer the vista through which they are seen, the more accurately will be the object, the more certain the justice, of the decision. She will enter into that existence in which the great writers of all ages and nations are, as it were, associated in a world of their own, and, from that superior sphere, shed their eternal influence for the control and consolation of mankind. But the individual will gradually disappear as the author is more distinctly seen: some one, therefore, of all those whom the charms of involuntary wit, and of easy..."
The affection of simplicity in sepulchral inscriptions, which so often leaves us uncertain whether the structure before us is an actual repository, or a cenotaph, or a simple memorial not of death but life, has given lieu to many a speculation as to the place or time of the birth or death, the age or parentage, of the historian.

There seems at least no reason why the name should not have been put above the sentence which alludes to it.

It will readily be imagined that the prejudices which have passed the name of Machiavelli into an epithet proverbial of iniquity, exist no longer at Florence. His memory was persecuted as his life had been, for an attachment to liberty incompatible with the new system of despotism, which succeeded the fall of the free governments of Italy. He was put to the torture for being a "libertine," that is, for wishing to restore the republic of Florence; and events, which are the direct result of the love of Liberty, proved, that he was interested in the perversions not only of the nature of actions, but the meaning of words, that what was once patriotism, has by degrees come to signify de bauch. We have ourselves outlined the old meaning of "libertine," which is now another word for treason in one country and for infatuation in all. It seems to have been a strange mistake to accuse the author of the Prince, as being a pandar to tyranny; and to think that the Inquisition could condemn his work for such a delinquency. The fact is that Machiavelli, as is usual with those against whom no crime can be proved, was suspected of, and charged with, atheism; and the first and last most violent opposers of the Prince were both Jesuits, one of whom persuaded the Inquisition "benché fosse tardo," to prohibit the treatise, and the other qualified the secretary of the Florentine republic as no better than a fool. The father Possevin was proved never to have read the book, and the father Lucchesini not to have understood it. It is clear, however, that such critics must have objected not to the slavery of the doctrines, but to the supposed tendency of the book, which shows how distinct are the interests of a monarch from the happiness of mankind. The Jesuits are re-established in Italy, and the last chapter of the Prince may again call forth a particular refutation, from those who are employed on its defence in modern times in rising generation, so as to receive the impressions of despotism. The chapter bears for title, "Essi tazione a liberare l'Italia dai Barbari," and concludes with:"Ma a' Artino eattimento al futuro de impotuione d'Italia. "Non si deve adunque lasciare passare questa occasione, dirci che la Italia vegga dopo tanto tempo appaio un suo redentore. N passo esprimere con qual amore e il fuso ricevuto in tutt'altre iluizioni esterne, con qual sete di vendetta, con che ostituta fede, con che lacrime. Quali porte sì sì serrerebbero? Quali popoli li negherebbero la obbedienza? Quale Italiana li negherebbe l'osservanza? Ad uno no mosse questo BARBANO DOMINO."*
of having patronized him, and the jealous skepticism of one writer would not allow Ravenna the undoubted possession of his bones. Even the critical Tiraboschi was inclined to believe that the poet had foreseen and foretold one of the discoveries of his Galilei. The Galilei, as a last step in the reign of the order of other nations, his popularity has not always maintained the same level. The last age seemed inclined to undervalue him as a model and a study; and Bettinelli one day rebuked his pupil Mouti, for pering over the hard and obscure parts of his Commedia. In the present generation, having recovered from the Galilei idolatries of Cesarotti, has returned to the ancient worship, and the Danteologia of the northern Italians, is thought even indiscreet by the more moderate Tuscanists.

There is still much curious information relative to the life and writings of this great poet which has not as yet been collected even by the Italians; but the celebrated Ugo Poscollo meditates to supply this defect, and it is not to be regretted that this national work has been reserved for one so devoted to his country and the cause of truth.

31. Like Scipio, buried by the upholding shore Thy factions, in their worse than civil war, Proscribed, &c.

Stanza lvi. lines 2, 3, and 4.

The elder Scipio Africanus had a tomb if he was not buried at Livernum, whither he had retired to volunteer his own sequestration. This command was near the sea-shore, and the story of an inscription upon it, Ingrata Patria, having given a name to a modern tower, is, if not true, an agreeable fiction. If he was not buried, he certainly lived there.†

† In cosi angustia et solitaris vilis.

Em 'h grande' sono che d'Africa s'appella
Perche prima col ferro al viva erupis.

Ingratitude is generally supposed the vice peculiar to republics; and it seems to be forgotten that for one instance of popular inconstancy, we have a hundred examples of the fall of courtly favorites. Besides, a people have often repented—a monarch schism or never. Leaving apart many familiar instances of this fact, a short story may show the difference between even an aristocracy and the multitude.

Vettor Pisani, having been defeated in 1384 at Potolongo, and many years afterwards in the more decisive action of 1401, was recalled by the Venetian government, and thrown into chains. The Avrogadore proposed to behead him, but the supreme tribunal was content with the sentence of imprisonment. Whilst Pisani was suffering this unmerited disgrace, Chioga, in the vicinity of the capital, was, by the assistance of the Signor of Padua, delivered into the hands of Pietro Doria. At the intelligence of that disaster the great bell of St. Mark's tower tolled to arms, and the people and the soldiery of the galleys were summoned to the repulse of the approaching enemy; but they protested they would not move a step, unless Pisani were liberated and placed at their head. The great council of Venice, when it was at last caused to deliberate on this question, determined to release him; and the Doge, Andrea Contarini, informed him of the demands of the people and the necessities of the state, whose only hope of safety was the great Pisani. Like the great orators of the East, and who implored him to forget the indignities he had endured in his service. "I have submitted," replied the magnanimous republican, "I have submitted to your delib-
ments without complaint; I have supported patiently the pains of imprisonment, for they were inflicted at your command: this is no time to inquire whether the liberty of the republic may have seemed to require it, and which the republic resolves is always resolved wisely. Behold me ready to lay down my life for the preservation of my country.

To crown his exertions, in conjunction with those of Carlo Zeno, the Venetians soon recovered the ascendancy over their maritime rivals.

The Italian communities were no less unjust to the Florentines than the Florentines were to the Greeks. Literature, both with the one and the other, seems to have been a national, not an individual object: and, notwithstanding the boasted equality before the laws, which an ancient Greek writer considered the great distinctive mark between his countrymen and the barbarians, the mutual rights of fellow-citizens seem never to have been the principal scope of the old democracies. The world may have not yet seen an essay by the author of the Italian Republics, in which the distinction between the liberty of former states, and the signification attached to that word by the happier constitution of England, is ingeniously developed. The Italians, however, when they had ceased to be free, still looked back with a sigh upon those times of turbulence, when every citizen might rise to a share of sovereign power, and have never been taught fully to appreciate the reposes of a monarchy. Sperone Speroni, when Francis Maria II. Duke of Etruria proposed the question, "which was preferable, the republic or the principality—the perfect and not durable, or the less perfect and not so liable to change," replied, "that our happiness is to be measured by its quality, not by its duration; and that he preferred to live for one day like a man, than for a hundred years like a brute, a stock, or a stone." This was thought, and called, a magnificent answer down to the last days of Italian servitude.

32. And the crown which Petrarch's laureate brow supremely wore, Upon a far and foreign soil had grown.

Stanza lvi. lines 6, 7, and 8.

The Florentines did not take the opportunity of Petrarch's short visit to their city to recover the decree which constituted the property of his father, who had been banished shortly after the exile of Dante. His crown did not dazzle them; but when in the next year they were in want of his protection of his university, as they repented of their injustice, and Boccaccio was sent to Padua to entreat the laureate to correct his wanderings in the bosom of his native country, where he might finish his immortal Africa, and enjoy with his recovered possessions, the esteem of all classes of his fellow-citizens. They gave him the option of the book and the science he might condescend to expound: they called him the glory of their country, who was dear, and would be dearer to them, if he could add, that there was nothing impeding in their letter, he ought to return among them: it was only to correct their style. Petrarch seemed at first to listen to their flattery and to the entreaties of his friend, but he did not return to Florence, and preferred a pilgrimage to the tomb of Laura and the shades of Vaucluse.

Boccaccio was buried in the church of St. Michele and St. James, at Certaldo, a small town in the Valdelsa, which was by some supposed the place of his birth. There he passed the latter part of his life in a course of laborious study, which shortened his existence; and there might his ashes have been secure, if not of honor, at least of repose. But the tyrranical Bayzana bought the body of Boccaccio, and ejected it from the holy precincts of St. Michael and St. James. The occasion, and, it may be hoped, the excuse, of this ejectment was the making of a new floor for the church; but the fact is, that the monks were weary of it, and thrown aside at the bottom of the building. Ignorance may share the sin with bigotry. It would be unfair to relate such an exception to the devotion of the Italians for their great names, could it not be accompanied by a trait more honorably conformable to the general character of the nation. The principal person of the district, the last branch of the house of Medici, afforded that protection to the memory of the insulted dead which her best ancestors had dispensed upon all contemporary merit. The eloquence Lenzoni rescued the tombstone of Boccaccio from the neglect in which it had sometime lain, and found it for an honorable elevation in her own churchyard.

This house she has taken measure to purchase, and proposes to devote to it that care and consideration which are attached to the cradle and to the tomb of genius.

This is the proper place to undertake the defence of Boccaccio; but the man who exhausted his little patrimony in the acquirement of learning, who was among the first, if not the first, to allure the science and the poetry of Greece to the bosom of Italy—wielder only invented a new style, but founded, or certainly fixed, a new language; who, besides the esteem of every polite court of Europe, was thought worthy of employment by the predominant republic of his own country, and, what is more, of the friendship of the Pope;—this man, in the full vigour of his life, a philosopher and a freeman, and who died in the pursuit of knowledge,—such a man might have found more consideration than he has met with from the people of his native land, and from a late English traveller, who strikes off his person as contemptible, licentious writer, whose impure remains should be suffered to rot without a record. That English traveller, unfortunately for those who have to deplore the loss of a very amiable person, is beyond all criticism; but the mortality which did not protect Boccaccio from Mr. Eustace, must not defend Mr. Eustace from the impartial judgment of his successors. Death can manumit his virtues, not his errors; and it may be modestly pronounced that he transgressed, not only as an author, but as a man, when he evoked the shade of Boccaccio in company with that of Arete, amidst the sepulchres of Santa Croce, merely to dismiss it with indignity.

* * *

"Il degno de' Pritetti,‖
Il Divo Pietro Ardino."

"Classical Tongue, esp. 1o. vol. V, p. 355, edit. 8to.‖ Of Boccaccio, the modern Periplus, we say nothing; the name of graces is more odious and more contemptible than its absence; and it impairs little where the happy occasion of a famous bone is there conceived. But mere compassion of the invention reason the traveller may pass unseen the tomb of the maligned Ardino.

This durable phantasm is barely enough to save the tombstone from the scrutiny of another blindness respecting the basilica of Arezzo, whose tomb was in the church of St. Luke at Venice, and gave rise to the famous controversy of which some nodes is taken in Church. Now the words of Mr. Eustace would have been unnecessary; for as to this, Florence, that venerable city, is well recognized. Whether the inscription so much diseste was ever written on the tomb cannot now be decided, for of momentous this author had been preserved from the church of St. Luke.
it is of little import what censure is passed upon a romancier who owes his present existence to the above burlesque character given to him by the poet whose anecdotage has preserved many other grubs and worms; but to classify Boccaccio with such a Pater


Il Palazzo, etc., torn. v. II. lib. iii. pag. 542, ed. Vol. 1756.

The tenor of the above extract is somewhat different from the text of Boccaccio, but it is not long before the whole of Europe had but one opinion of the author-the absolution of the sovereign of Italy, and the absolution of the author of Sir Walter Scott. He was succeeded at Rome by his son James, who continued to hold the office until his death.
An earthquake reek'd unheedly away.

Stanza liii, line 5.

"And such was their mutual animosity, so intent were they upon the battle, that the earthquake, which overthrew in great part many of the cities of Italy, which turned the course of rapid streams, poured benediction upon the Roman banner, and left the base of the mountains, was not felt by one of the combatants."  ♦

Such is the description of Livy. It may be doubted whether modern tactics would admit of such an abridgment.

The site of the battle of Thrasimene is not to be mistaken. The traveller from the village under Cortona to Casa di Piano, the next stage on the road to Rome, has for the first two or three miles, around him, but more particularly to the right, that flat land which Iramnillai laid waste in order to induce the Consul Flaminio to move from Arezzo. On his left, and in front of him, is a ridge of hills bending down towards the lake of Thrasimene, called the lake of Pyrgi, and here, I believe, the Gualandra. These hills he approaches at Ossaja, a village which the itineraries pretend to have been near, but which I believe to be farther from the battle-ground than Iramnillai moved from his post on the hill. From Ossaja the road begins to rise a little, but does not pass into the roots of the mountains until the sixty-seventh milestone from Florence. The ascent is long, but perpetual, and continues for twenty minutes. The lake is soon seen below on the right, with Borghetto, a round tower close upon the water, and the undulating hills partially covered with wood, among which the road winds, sink by degrees into the marshes near to this tower. Lower than the road down to the right amidst these woody hillocks, Hannibal placed his horse, in the jaws of or rather above the pass, which was between the lake and the present road, and most probably close to Borghetto, just under the lowest of the "summit." ♦

On a summit to the left, above the road, is an old circular ruin, which may be a part of the fortification of Hannibal the Carthaginian. Arrived at the highest point of the road, the traveller has a partial view of the fatal plain, which opens fully upon him as he descends the Gualandra. He soon finds himself in a vast plain, leading to that city, could, in a few hours, by the sound of a bell, bring together, 135,000 well-armed men; whereas now that city, with all the others in that province, are brought to such desperate weakness, emptiness, poverty, and baseness, that they can neither resist the oppressions of their own prince, nor defend him or themselves if they were assaulted by a foreign enemy. The people are dispersed and destroyed, and the best families sent to seek habitations in Venice, Genoa, and Naples; and his is not far effect of war or pestilence; they enjoy a perfect peace, and suffer no other plague than the government they are under." ♦ From the usurper Cosmo do not return to Gaeta, in vain for any of those unmixed qualities which should raise a patriot to the command of his fellow-citizens. The Grand Dukes, and particularly the third Cosmo, had operated so entire a change in the Tuscan character, that the Grand Duke, and his tool, nervou"s and weak, is let, and in front of him, the Gualandra hills, bending round in a segment larger than a semicircle, and running down at each end to the lake, which obliges to the right and form the chord of this mountain arc. The position cannot be guessed at from the plains of Cortona, nor appears to be so completely enclosed unless to one who is fairly within the hills. Then it, indeed, appears "a place made as it were on purpose for a snare," tunc quasi nactus natus. ♦ Borghetto is then four miles from the summit of the road, and is about a mile close to the hill and to the lake, whilst there is no other outlet at the opposite turn of the mountains than through the little town of Passignano, which is here lost in the vale, watered by the foot of a high rocky acclivity." ♦ There a wood descends from the mountains into the upper end of the plain nearer to the side of Passignano, and on this stands a white village called Torre. Polybius seems to allude to this elevation as the one on which Hannibal encamped and drew out his heavy-armed African and Spaniards in a conspicuous position. ♦ From this spot he despatched his Balearic and light armed troops round through the Gualandra heights to the right and left of the road, to prevent the wants and wishes, not of the people, of the enemy.

35.


† "Old name Livii Commentariorum Thraesimae subsid."

民国九十二年二月一日

民国九十二年二月一日
BYRON'S WORKS.

No book of travels has omitted to expatiate on the temple of the Clitumnus, between Foligno and Spoleto, and no site, or scenery even in Italy, is more worthy a description. For an account of the dissipation of this temple, the reader is referred to the Historical Illustrations of the Fourth Canto of Childe Harold.

37. Charming the eye with dread,—a matchless cat-
dread. Stanza lxxi. line 9.

I saw the ‘Cascata del marmore’ of Terni,
it is a great waterfall, and is not far from the summit of the precipice, and again from the valley below. The lower view is far to be preferred, if the traveller has time for one only; but in any point of view, either from above or below, it is worth all, the cas-
cades and torrents of Switzerland put together.

38. An Iris sets amidst the infernal surge.

Stanza lxxiii. line 3.

Of the time, place, and qualities of this kind of iris, the reader may have seen a short account in a note to Manfred. The fall looks so much like “the hell of waters,” that Addison thought the descent adumbrated to the gulph in which Alcino plunged fitted to the infernal regions. It is singular enough that two of the finest cascades in Europe should be as-

39. The thundering launus.

Stanza lxxiii. line 5.

In the greater part of Switzerland the avalanches are known by the name of launus.

40. I abhorred

Too much, to conquer for the poet’s sake,
The drill’d dull lesson, forced down word by word.

Stanza lxxv. lines 6, 7, and 8.

These stanzas may probably remind the reader of Ennius’s line, ‘Ab horribus laenas, ut minititem et consilio, but the reasons for our dislike are not exactly the same. I wish to express that we became tired of the task before we can comprehend the beauty; that we learn by rote before we can get by heart; that the freshness is worn away, and the future pleasure and advantage deadened and destroyed, by the didactic anticipation, at an age when we can neither feel nor understand the power of composi-
tions which it required an acquaintance with life, as well as Latin and Greek, to relish, or to reason upon. For the same reason we cannot aware of the fulness of some of the finest passages of Shakspeare, (‘To be, or not to be,’ for instance,) or the ‘sign of Noah,’ ‘spoken in the name of the President Deputee, saw Thrasimone in the lake of Bolsena, which lay conveniently on his way from Sienna to Rome.

36. But thou, Clitumnus.

Stanza lxvi. line 1.

whom, on every side, and before they could fall into their ranks, or draw their swords, or see by whom they were attacked, fell at once that they were sur-

rounding and lost.

There are two little rivulets which run from the Guandalia into the lake. The traveller crosses the first of them without a mile without coming into the plain, and this divides the Tuscan from the papal territories. The second, about a quarter of a mile further on, is called “the bloody rivulet,” and the peasants point out an open spot to the left between the rivulet and the road, which, they say, was the principal scene of slaughter. The other part of the plain is covered with thick set olive-trees in corn grounds, and is nowhere quite level except near the edge of the lake. It is, in

deal, most probable, that the battle was fought near this end of the valley, for the six thousand Ro-

mans, who, at the beginning of the action, broke through the enemy, escaped to the summit of an eminence which must have been in this quarter, otherwise they would have had to traverse the whole plain and to pierce through the main army of Hamil-

The Romans fought desperately for three hours, but Flaminius was the signal for a gen-
eral dispersion. The Carthaginian horse then burst in upon the fugitives, and the lake, the marsh about Borghetto, but chiefly the plain of the Sanguinette and the passages of the Guandalia, were strewn with dead and wounded. The old walls on this ridge to the left above the rivulet, many human bones have been repeatedly found, and this has confirmed the pre-
tensions and the name of the “stream of blood.”

Every district of Italy has its hero. In the north some painter is the usual genius of the place, and the foreign Julio Romano more than divides Man-
tua with her native Virgil. * To the south we hear of Roman names. Near Thrasimone, tradition is still faithful to the fame of an enemy, and Hamil-
bal the Carthaginian is the only ancient name re-

The antiquary, the horror, the poet, of the posthouse at Spoleto, tells you that his town repulsed the vic-
torious enemy, and shows you the gate still called Porta di Annibale. It was hardly worth while to remark that a French travel writer, well known to the name of the President Deputy, saw Thrasimone in the lake of Bolsena, which lay conveniently on his way from Sienna to Rome.

* Above the middle of the X! century the canto of Manfred here on one side the image and figure of Virgil. Zocca d’Italia, pl. xii. t. 6. . . . Voyage dans le Maineau, etc. par. A. Z. Millin, tom. i. p. 294, Paris, 1817.
ng been his pupil, if, by more closely following his injunctions, he could reflect any honor upon his instructor.

41. The Scipios’ tomb contains no ashes now.
Stanza lxxix. line 5.
For a comment on this and the two following stanzas, the reader may consult Historical Illustrations of the Fourth Canto of Childe Harold.

42. The troubad hundred triumphs.
Stanza lxxxi. line 2.
Orosius gives three hundred and twenty for the number of triumphs. He is followed by Panvinius; and Panvinius by Mr. Gibbon and the modern writers.

43. Oh thou, whose chariot roll’d on Fortune’s wheel, &c.
Stanza lxxxii. line 1.
Certainly were it not for these two traits in the aje of Sylla, alluded to in this stanza, we should regard him as a monarch redeemed by any admirable quality. The atonement of his voluntary resignation of empire may perhaps be accepted by us, as it seems to have satisfied the Romans, who, if they had not respected must have destroyed him. There could be no mean, no division of opinion, must have all thought, like Ercutates, that what had appeared ambition was a love of glory, and that what had been mistimed for pride was a real grandeur of soul.*

44. And laid him with the earth’s preceding clay.
Stanza lxxxvi. line 4.
On the third of September, Cromwell gained the victory of Dunbar; a year afterwards he obtained “his crowning mercy” of Worcester; and a few years after, on the same day, which he had ever esteemed the most fortunate for him, died.

45. And thou, dread statue! still existent in
The austere form of naked majesty.
Stanza lxxxvii. lines 1 and 2.
The projected division of the Spada Pompey has already been recorded by the historian of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. Mr. Gibbon found it in the memorials of Flaminian Vaece,† and it may be added to his mention of it that Pope Julius III. gave the contending owners five hundred crowns of silver for a statue; and presented it to Cardinal Capo di Ferro, who had prevented the judgment of Solomon from being executed upon the image. In a more civilized age this statue was exposed to an actual operation: for the French who acted the Brutus of Voltaire in the Coliseum, re- solved that their Caesar should fall at the base of that Pompey, which was supposed to have been sprinkled with the blood of the original dictator. The nine-foot hero was therefore removed to the arena of the amphitheatre, and to facilitate its transport suffered the temporary amputation of its right arm. The republican tragedians had to plead that the arm was a restoration: but their accusers do not believe that the integrity of the statue would have protected it. The love of finding a coincidence has discovered the true Caesarian iehor in a stain near the right knee: but colder criticism has rejected not only the blood but the portrait, and assigned the globe of power rather to the first of the emperors than to the last of the republican masters.

of Rome. Winkelmann is leath to allow an heroic statue of a Roman citizen— but the Griman Agrippa, a contemporary almost, is heroic; and naked Roman figures were only very rare, not absolutely forbidden. The face accords much better with the “hominem integrum et caustum et gracium” than with any of the busts of Augustus, and is too stern for him who was beautiful, says Suetonius, at all periods of his life. The pretended likeness to Alexander the Great cannot be lessened, but the traits resemble a military medal of Pompey. The objectionable globe may not have been an ill-applied flat-tery to him who found Asia Minor the boundary, and left it in the centre of the Roman empire. It seems that Winkelmann has made a mistake in thinking down; he has no proper right to identify this statue, with that which received the bloody sacrifice, can be derived from the spot where it was discovered. § Flaminian Vaece says soto usus calule, and this can- tina is known to have been in the Vicolo de’ Leutarii near the Cancellaria, a position corresponding ex- actly to that of the Janus before the basilica of Pompey’s theatre, to which Augustus transferred the statue after the curia was either burnt or taken down. ¶ For the pomps, &c. of the theatre, see Storie del teatro. And the porti- co, existing in the first century, of the XVth century, and the atrium was still called Saturo. So says Blondus. ** At all events, so imposing is the stern majesty of the statue, and so memorable is the poetry, that we cannot but give it a room for the exercise of the judgment, and the fiction, if a fiction it is, operates on the spectator with an ef- fect not less powerful than truth.

46. And thou, the thunder-striken nurse of Rome:
Stanza lxxxviii. line 1.
Ancient Rome, like modern Sienna, abounded most probably with images of the foster-mother of her founders, but there were two she-wolves of whom history makes particular mention. One of these, of brass in ancient work, was seen by Dionysius at the temple of Eubulus, under the Palatine, and is universally believed to be that mentioned by the Latin historian, as having been made from the money collected by a fine on usurers, and as standing under the Roman fig-tree.†† The other was that which Cicero showed celebrated in prose and verse, and which the historian Dion also records as having suffered the same accident as is alluded to by the orator. || The question agitated by the anti-

* Storia dell’ Arte, &c., Il. 111. cap. 1, pag. 321, 322, tom. II.
† Cicer. Epist. ad Atticen. vi. 6.
‡ Published by Cassian in his Museum Romanum.
§ Storia dell’ Arte, &c. 111.

** It was burnt down. See a note of Plutarch to Sestution, pag. 204.
†† To modo Pompei leonem salva mari misit. Obv. Ar. Amman.

* Roma antica, Il. 111. cap. 31.
‡‡ Ad Atticen. cap. 31. The existence, situation conditiones urbis et urbis habita homine postremo reconstructed. Lib. Hist. lib. x. cap. 111. This was in 58 year U. C. 435, or 637.


He alloffera erat Roman molestis ait
Maria, quae preservavit Moravie solemn nata.
Urbibus praeviae viculorum regius
Quos tunc usus nationem famulos Luisius
Corde, aliquo animo qui terram praevertit Rorn, quem haudum in Cap-}

tola parum aque harenarium, uberae Urbis incolarum futuri meminisse.
In Collutti, lib. II. (lib. I. de Hist. privat. cap. 28.)

Ille verum Romanum locum dedit
Maria, que preservavit Moravie solemn nata.
Urbibus praeviae viculorum regius
Quos tunc usus nationem famulos Luisius
Corde, aliquo animo qui terram praevertit Rorn, quem haudum in Cap-
quaries is, whether the wolf now in the conservators’ palace is that of Livy and Dionysius, or that of Cicer-0, or whether it is neither one nor the other. The earlier writers were more or less mistaken; Lucius Faunus says, that it is the one alluded to by both, which is impossible, and also by Virgil, which may be. Fulvius Ursinus calls it the wolf of Dionysius, and Marzialius talks of it as the one mentioned by Cicero. To him Rycuquis *trebblingly* assents. Nardini is inclined to suppose it may be one of the many wolves preserved in Ancient Rome; but of the two rather bends to the Ciceronian **version**. Rycuquis **and** Marzialius talk of it without doubt. Of the latter writers the decisive Winkelmann proclaims it as having been found at the church of Saint Theodore, where, or near where, was the temple at Romulus, and consequently makes it the wolf of Dionysius. His authority is Lucius Faunus, who, however, only says that it was placed, not found, at the Ficus Rœminialis, by the Comitium, by which he does not seem to allude to the church of Saint Theodore. Rycuquis was the first to make the mistake, and Winkelmann followed Rycuquis.

Flaminius Vaca tells quite a different story, and says he had heard the wolf with the twins was found in an arch of Sutumpa, a hermit commentator on Winkelmann is of the same opinion with that learned person, and is incensed at Nardini for not having remarked that Cicero, in speaking of the wolf struck with lightning in the Church of Saint Theodore, makes use of the past tense. But, with the Abate’s leave, Nardini does not positively assert the statue to be that mentioned by Cicero, and, if he had, the assumption would not perhaps have been so exceedingly indirect. The Abate himself is obliged to own that there are marks very like the scathing of lightning in the hinder legs of the present wolf; and, to get rid of this, adds, that the wolf seen by Dionysius might have been also struck by lightning.

Let us examine the subject by a reference to the words of Cicero. The orator in two places seems to particularize the Romulus and the Remus, especially the first, which his audience remembered to have been in the Capitol, as being struck with lightning. In his verses he records that the twins towards the east: no mention is afterwards made of the wolf. This happened in 250 B.C. 689. The Abate Foa, in noticing this passage of Dion (Storni lib. vii. cap. 129, note e) has given the name of Dionysius, which is false, and he has been generally adopted. If the temple of Dion was not destroyed, according to Cicero, that of Romulus, whom Rycuquis has wrongly been made, to the force of the blow, or the firmness with which it had been fixed. The whole strength, therefore, of the Abate’s argument hangs upon the doubt of the past tense, may be somewhat diminished by remarking that it is possible only that the statue was not then standing in its former position. Winkelmann has observed, that the present twins are modern; and it is equally clear that the statue of Romulus & Remus was not put up without doubt. Of the latter writers the decisive Winkelmann proclaims it as having been found at the church of Saint Theodore, where, or near where, was the temple at Romulus, and consequently makes it the wolf of Dionysius. His authority is Lucius Faunus, who, however, only says that it was placed, not found, at the Ficus Rœminialis, by the Comitium, by which he does not seem to allude to the church of Saint Theodore. Rycuquis was the first to make the mistake, and Winkelmann followed Rycuquis.

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ried them to the temple of Romulus.* The practice is continued to this day; and the site of the above church seems to be thereby identified with that of the temple; so that if the wolf had been really found, and no nihil glori that fighting, of the Inferior War, Romulus, having been obliged to abandon both his empire and his mistress for a sight of the Fountains of the Nile. Such did Julius Caesar appear to his cotemporaries and to those of the subsequent ages, who were the most inclined to deplore and execrate his fatal genius. But we must be so much dazzled with his surpassing glory, or with his magnanimous, his amiable qualities, to forget the decision of his impartial countrymen:

HE WAS JUSTLY SLAIN.**

48.

What from this barren being do we reap?

Our senses narrow, and our reason frail.

Stanza xxiii. lines 1 and 2.

... omnes pene veteres; qui nihil cognoscri nihil seiri possit dixerunt; angustus sensus; incultos animos, brevia curricula vitae; in profundo vertatam daemoniam; opinionibus et institutis omnium tenebris; nihil veritatis reliquis: deinceps omnia tenebris circumfusa esse dixerunt.†

The eighteen hundred years which have elapsed since Cicerro wrote this have not removed any of the imperfections of humanity: and the complaints of the ancient philosophers may, without injustice or affectation, be transcribed in a poem written yesterday.

49.

There is a stern round tower of other days.

The Palatine is one mass of ruins, particularly on the side towards the Circus Maximus. The very soil is formed of crumbling brick-work. Nothing has been told, nothing can be told, to satisfy the belief of any but a Roman antiquary. See Historical Illustrations of the 17th Canto of Childe Harley.

50.

Propheic of the doom
Heaven gives its favouris—early death.

Stanza xxii. lines 5 and 6.

* Os deo filiolibus, apud Herodes testos.

† Τα γὰρ δεινότερα τοις ἐκάτεροι ἄλλας αἰχμαλωσις.


Gnomoni, p. 231, edit. 1784.

51.

Behold the Imperial Mount! tis thus the mighty falls.

Stanza evii. line 9.

The author of the Life of Cicero, speaking of the opinion entertained of Britain by that orator and his contemporary Romans, has the following eloquent:

"Se veult in tota recent prosa transcursa
Notitiae medium."
passage: *f Roren, thier baillelness of his kind, on the barbarity and misery of our island, one cannot help reflecting on the surprising fate and revolutions of kingdoms; how Rome, once the mistress of the world, the seat of arts, empire, and glory, now lies sunk in both, ignorance, and poverty, enslaved to the most cruel as well as the most contemptible of tyrants, superstition, and religious imposture; while this remote country, anciently the jest and contempt of the polite Romans, has become the happy seat of liberty, plenty, and letters; flourishing in all the arts and refinements of civil life; yet running perhaps the same course which Rome itself had run before it, from virtuous industry to wealth; from wealth to luxury; from luxury to an *impotence of discipline, and corruption of morals; till, by a total degeneracy and loss of virtue, being grown ripe for destruction, it fell a prey at last to some hard and cruel hand, and, with the less of liberty, losing everything that is valuable, sinks gradually again into its original barbarism."*

53.

And apostolic statues climb
to crush the imperial urn, whose ashes slept sublime.
Stanza ex. lines 8 and 9.

The columns of Trajan are surmounted by St. Peter; that of Aurelius by St. Paul. See Historical Illustrations of the IVth Canto, &c.

54.

Still live Trajan’s name adored.
Stanza ex. line 9.

Trajan was proverbially the best of the Roman princes;† and it would be easier to find a sovereign making exactly the opposite characteritics, than one possessed of all the happy qualities ascribed to this emperor. "When he mounted the throne," says the historian Dion,† "he was strong in body, he was vigorous in mind; age had impaired none of his faculties; he was altogether free from envy and from detraction; he honored all the good, and he advanced them; and on this account they could not be the objects of his fear, or of his hate; he never listened to informers; he gave not way to his anger; he abstained equally from unfair exactions and unjust punishments; he had rather been loved as a man than honored as a sovereign; he was affable with his people, respectful to the senate, and universally beloved by all, he inspired none with dread but the enemies of his country."

55.

Rienzi, last of Romans.
Stanza exiv. line 5.

The name and exploits of Rienzi must be familiar to the reader of Gibbon. Some details and omitted manuscripts relative to this unhappy hero will be seen in the Illustrations of the IVth Canto.

* The History of the 12th of M. Tullius Cicero, sect. vi. vol. ii. p. 102. The contract has been examined in a late extraneous historical. A gentleman was thrown into prison at Paris; efforts were made for his release. The French adorer by his letters to detail him, under the pretence that he was not an Englishman, but only a Roman. See *interesting Facts relating to Naschin Musse,* p. 102.


† To the yap above, &c. ... of the fountain. The French adorer by his letters to detail him, under the pretence that he was not an Englishman, but only a Roman. See *interesting Facts relating to Naschin Musse,* p. 102.

† "*Poco linum de detto luogo si vendeva ad uno costante, dei quales uno Ponzio il Castrille, che con questo nome è chiamato il luogo; vi è una fontana sotto una grossa volta antica, che al presente si cede, e il Roman vi vanno Ponzii a ricercarla; nel pavimento di marmo fuoco al legno si usava, essendo la fonte di Egeria, dedicata all' intorno, e quando d'estate si usava la medesima fonte in cui si conversava.*"—Memorie, &c., ap. Nardini, pag. 126. He does not give the inscription.

† "In villa Naschinium existit legumaquale quaterna in quo eam in hac duo Ovidi carmina movit.*

Egeria's sweet creation of some bards Which found no mortal resting-place, as As thine ideal breast.

Stanza exiv. lines 1, 2, and 3.

The respectable authority of Flaminius Vacco would induce us to believe in the claims of the Egerian groto.† He assures us that he saw an inscription in the cavern, stating that the fountain was that of Egeria, dedicated to the nymphs. The inscription is not there at this day: but Montfaucon quotes two lines of Ovid from a stone in the Villa Justiniana, which he seems to think had been brought from the same groto.

This groto and valley were formerly frequented in summer, and particularly the first Sunday in May, by the modern Romans, who attached a salubrious quality to the fountain which trickles from an orifice at the bottom of the vault, and, overflowing the little pools, creeps down the matted grass into the brook below. The brook is the Ovidian Almo, whose name and qualities are lost in the modern Aqua敕。io. The valley itself is called Vallet di Caffarelli, from the dukes of that name who made over their fountain to the Pallavicini, with sixty rubbia of adjoining land.

There is little doubt that this long dell is the Egerian valley of Justinian, and the passing place of Umbritus, notwithstanding the generality of his commentators have supposed the descent of the satirist and his friend to have been into the Arician grove, when those nymphs met Umbritus, and where she was more peculiarly worshipped.

The step from the Porta Capena to the Alban hill, fifteen miles distant, would be too considerable, unless we were to believe in the wild conjecture of Vossius, who makes that gate travel from its present station, where he pretends it was during the reign of the kings, as far as the Arician grove, and then makes it reede to its old site within the shrinking city.† The tufa, or pavement, which the poet prefers to marble, is the substance composing the bank in which the grotto is sunk.

The modern topographers† find in the grotto the statue of the nymph and nine niches for the Muses, and a late traveller‡ has discovered that the cave is restored to that simplicity which the poet regretted had been exchanged for magnificent ornament. But the headless statue is palpably rather a male than a female, and has none of the attributes ascribed to it at present visible. The nine Muses could hardly have stood in six niches; and Justinian certainly does not allude to any individual cave.†

† "*Poco linum de detto luogo si vendeva ad uno costante, dei quales uno Ponzio il Castrille, che con questo nome è chiamato il luogo; vi è una fontana sotto una grossa volta antica, che al presente si cede, e il Roman vi vanno Ponzii a ricercarla; nel pavimento di marmo fuoco al legno si usava, essendo la fonte di Egeria, dedicata all' intorno, e quando d'estate si usava la medesima fonte in cui si conversava.*"—Memorie, &c., ap. Nardini, pag. 126. He does not give the inscription.


§ Vettor, Descrizione di Roma e dell’agro Romano, cortesamente d'Albani, in Roma, 1760. They believe in the grove and nymph. *Buona croce di questo fonte, essersi scoperto le acqua a ppe di esso.*


‡ Bucintoli nel secolo scorso, modificò Capaccio, figlio del nostro Numa condottore antico.

Nunca arrissima nunci, et dehens locuturus Judaeum, ne spectaret illusia atque imaginum. Quando enim monsimos proemium jussit esse Artis, et eoque meritorum utere Constatiae.*

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NOTES TO CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

103.

Nothing can be collected from the satirist but that some valley near the Porta Capena was a spot in which it was supposed Numa held nightly consultations with his nymph, and where there was a grove and a sacred fountain, and fane once consecrated to the Muses; and that from this spot there was a descent into the valley of Egeria, where several artificial caves. It is clear that the statues of the Muses made no part of the decoration which the satirist thought misplaced in these caves; for he expressly assigns other fane (delubra) to these divinities, above the valley, and moreover tells us that they had been ejected to make room for the Jews. In fact, the little temple, now called that of Bacchus, was formerly thought to belong to the Muses; and places them in a popular grove, which was in his time above the valley.

It is probable, from the inscription and position, that the cave now shown may be one of the "artificial caverns," of which, indeed, there is another a little way higher up the valley under outclefts; but a single grotto of Egeria is a mere modern invention, grafted upon the application of the epithet Egerian to these nymphs in general, and which might send us to look for the haunts of Numa upon the banks of the Thames.

Our English Juvenal was not seduced into mistranslation by his acquaintance with Pope; he carefully preserves the correct plural—

"Thence slowly winding down the vale, we view The Egerian grove; oh, how unlike the true.

The valley abounds with springs, and over these springs, which the Muses might haunt from their neighboring groves, Egeria presided; hence she was said to supply them with water; and she was the nymph of the grotto through which the fountains were taught to flow.

The whole of the monuments in the vicinity of the Egerian valley have received names at will, which have been changed at will. Veyti, owning he can see no traces of the temples of Jove, Saturn, Juno, Venus, and Diana, which Nardini found, or hoped to find. The mutilator of Caracalla's circus, the temple of Honour and Virtue, the temple of Bacchus, and, above all, the temple of the god Redculus, are the antiquaries' despair.

The circus of Caracalla depends on a medal of that emperor cited by Fulvius Ursinus, of which the reverse reverses the preceding to represent the Circus Maximus. It gives a very good idea of that place of exercise. The soil has been but little raised, if we may judge from the small cellular structure at the end of the Spina, which was probably the place of Caracalla. This cell is half beneath the soil, as it must have been in the circus itself, for Dionysius could not be persuaded to believe that this divinity was the Roman Neptune, because his altar was underground.

57. Yet let us ponder boldly.

Stanza cxxvii. line 1.

"At all events," says the author of the Academic Questions, "I trust, whatever may be the fate of my own speculations, that philosophy will regain that estimation which it ought to possess. The free and philosophic spirit of our nation has been the theme of admiration to the world. This was the proud distinction of Englishmen, and the luminous source of all their glory. Shall we then forget the many and dignified sentiments of our ancestors, to prate in the language of the mother or the nurse about our old good prejudices? This is not the way to defend the cause of truth. It was not thus that our fathers maintained it in the brilliant periods of our history. He who may be trusted to guard the outworks for a short space of time while reason slumbers in the citadel; but if the latter sink into a lethargy, the former will quickly erect a standard for herself. Philosophy, wisdom and the arts, under which we understand: he who will not reason is a bigot; he who cannot, is a fool; and he who dares not, is a slave." Preface, p. xiv. vol. I. 1805.

58. Great Nemesis!

Here, where the ancient paid the homage long.

Stanza cxxviii. lines 2 and 3.

We read in Suetonius, that Augustus, from a warping received in a dream, counterfeited, once a year, the beggar, sitting before the gate of his palace with his hand hollowed and stretched out for charity. A statue formerly in the Villa Borghese, and which should be now at Paris, represents the Emperor in that posture of supplication. The object of this self-degradation was the appeasement of Nemesis, the perpetual attendant on good fortune, of whose power the Roman conquerors were so often reminded by certain symbols attached to their ears of triumph. These symbols were the crocalo, which were discovered in the Nemesis of the Vatican. The attitude of beggary made the above statue pass for that of Belisarius: and until the criticism of Winkelman had rectified the mistake, one of the Medici was called in to support another. It was the same fear of the sudden termination of prosperity that made Amasis, king of Egypt, warn his friend Polycrates of Samos, that the gods loved those whose lives were checkered with good and evil fortunes. Nemesis was supposed to lie in wait particularly for the prudent; that is, for those whose caution rendered them accessible only to mere accidents: and her first altar was raised on the banks of the Pyræus by Archelaus, the prince of that name who killed the son of Cresus by mistake. Hence the goddess was called Adrastea.

The Roman Nemesis was sacred and august; there was a temple to her in the Palatine under the name of Rhammasia; so great indeed was the propensit of the ancients to trust to the revolution of events, and to believe in the divinity of Fortune, that this was symbolized by some who was a temple to the Fortune of the day. This is the last superstition which retains its hold over the human heart; and from concentrating in one object the credulity so natural to man, has always appeared strongest in those unenlightened ages, as by other articles of belief. The antiquaries have supposed this goddess to be synonymous with Fortune and with Fate; but it was in her vindictive quality that she was worshiped under the name of Nemesis.

* Sueton. in Vit. Aug. cap. 91. Caesamnon, in the notes, refers to Plutarch's Lives of Cæcilius and Mummius Paulus, and also to his apologium for the character of this deity. The hollowed hand was circumscribed the tax degree of degradation; and when the dead body of the proficient Romans was borne about in triumph by the people, the indignity was increased by putting his hand in that position, and thus in history.

† Storia delle Arti, &c., lib. xx. cap. i., tom. i. p. 622. Victor calls the statue, however, a Cybele. It is given in the Musæo Pio-Clementino, tom. i. p. 179.

‡ The Abuse Pen (Spiegungen des Rat) Storia, &c., tom. i. p. 553, &c. at Christiapho.

§ Dict. de Baly, article Adriana.

| It is enunciated by the regalian Victor. |
| Fortuna (hoop she. Cristiana menzoc la, de Legh. 54. |
| DEAE NEMESI | SIVE FORTUNA | RYGNVSA | V. C. LVAT. |
| LAT. XXII. c. | CORD. |

See Questions Romanæ, &c., ap. Græc. Antiq, Haanen, tom. v. p. 965. see also Münchert, Nov. Theor. inexc. Vet. tom. i. p. 98, 99, where we shall have seen in the same Latin and one Greek inscription to Nemesis, and others to Pann.
69. I see before me the Gladiator die.
Stanza cxll. line 1.

Whether the wonderful statue which suggested this image be a laucarian gladiator, which, in spite of Winkelmann's criticism has been stoutly maintained,* or whether it be a Greek herald, as that great antiquary positively asserted,† or whether it is to be thought a Spartan or barbarian shield-bearer, according to the opinion of his Italian editor,‡ it must assuredly seem a copy of that masterpiece of Ctesiolas which represented "a wounded man dying who perfectly expressed what there remained of him." § Montfaucon ‡ and Maffei ‡ thought it the identical statue; but that statue was of bronze. The gladiator was once in the villa Ludovizi, and was bought by Clement XII. The right arm is an entire restoration of Michael Angelo.**

60. He, their sire, Butcher'd to make a Roman holiday.
Stanza cxli. lines 6 and 7.

Gladiators were of two kinds, compelled and voluntary. They were supplied from several conditions; from slaves sold for that purpose; from culprits; from barbarian captives either taken in war, and, after being led in triumph, set apart for the games, or those seized and condemned as rebels; also from free citizens, some fighting for hire (auctorati) others from a debased ambition: at last even knights and senators were exhibited, a disgrace of which the first tyrant was naturally the first inventor.¶ In the end, dwarfs, and even women fought for cruelty prohibited. By Severus, of these the most to be pitied, undoubtedly, were the barbarian captives; and to this species a Christian writer §§ justly applies the epithet "innocent," to distinguish them from the professional gladiators. Aurelian and Claudius supplied great numbers of these unfortunate victims; one after his triumph, and the other on the pretext of a rebellion.¶ No wars, says Lipsius,¶¶ was ever so destructive to the human race as these sports. In spite of the laws of Constantine and Constans, gladiatorial shows sur-lived the old established religion more than seven years; but they owed their final extinction to the courage of a Christian. In the Caracallas' time, on the kalends of January, they were exhibiting the shows in the Flavian amphitheatre before the usual immense concourse of people. Almachius or Telianachus, an eastern monk, who had travelled to Rome intent on his holy purpose, rushed into the midst of the arena, and endeavoured to save the combatants. The prætor Alpythus, a person in-

* By the Abbe Brusc, dissestato, super un eloq. medico, &c. Pro fem., p. 7, who accounts for the cord round the neck, but not for the horns, which it does not appear the gladiators themselves ever wore. Note 4, Apulei de lae., tom. ii. p. 328.
† Eich in Pollides, herald of Leda, killed by Glipus; or Cepaea, herald of Euthemus, killed by the Athenians. He was murdered to drag the hero's body from the time of murder, and so his house were burnt. Note 2: the Eich, notes the action against the times of Middle of 174. Alexander, the Athenian soldier, killed by Psammenites, who were preserved the same. See S. Kirkwall &c., tom. ii. p. 329, 331, 351, 357, 360, 10. See of Exp. 2.
‡ Mcv, tom. ii. p. 307. Note. (A.)
† Antiqu. tom. iii. cap. ii, t. 332.
‡ Aet. tom. tab. 51.
§ See of Exp. 2, p. 134, edit. 1575.
¶ Julius Caesar, who rose by the fall of the aristocracy, born b.c. 100. Lucius Julius Frontinus Lepidus and A. Caesar upon the arena.
§§ Verulamius, ædile golden and silvered gladiators in London v. 1, but not the 2. The gladiatorial public house is not.
†† Julius Caesar, who rose by the fall of the aristocracy, born b.c. 100. Lucius Julius Frontinus Lepidus and A. Caesar upon the arena.
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‡‡ Verulamius, ædile golden and silvered gladiators in London v. 1, but not the 2. The gladiatorial public house is not.
62.

Like Laurels on the balest first Caesar's head.

Stanza exxiv. line 6.

Suetonius informs us that Julius Caesar was par-


ticularly gratified by that decree of the senate,


which enabled him to wear a wreath or laur'd on so

occasions as his anxious mind to show that he

was the conqueror of the wor.' but to hide that he

was bani. A stranger at Rome would hardly have

guessed at the motive, nor should we without

the help of the historian.

63.

While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand.'

Stanza exxv. line 1.

This is quoted in the Decline and Fall of the Ro-

man Empire; and a notice on the Coliseum may be

seen in the Historical Illustrations to the IVth Canto of Childe Harold.

64.

Spared and blest by time.

Stanza exxvi. line 3.

"Though plundered of all its brass, except the


tungh which was necessary to preserve the aperture

above; though exposed to repeated fires, though

sometimes flooded by the river, and always open to

the rain, no monument of equal antiquity is so

well preserved as this rotunda. It passed with lit-

tle alteration from the Pagan into the present wor-

ship; and so convenient were its niches for a

Christian altar, that Michael Angelo, so studious

of ancient beauty, introduced their design as a

model in the Catholic church."—Forsyth'S Rem-

arks, &c., on Italy, p. 137, sec. edit.

65.

And they who feel for genius may revere

Their eyes on honored forms, whose busts around

them close. Stanza exxvii. lines 8 and 9.

The Pantheon has been made a receptacle for the

rasts of modern great, or, at least, distinguished,

men. The flood of light which once fell through

the large orb above on the whole circle of divinities,

now shines on a numerous assemblage of mortals.

some one or two of whom have been almost de-

fined by the veneration of their countrymen.

66.

There is a dungeon, in whose dim, dear light.

Stanza exxviii. line 1.

This and the three next stanzas allude to the

story of the Roman daughter, which is recalled to

the traveller by the site, or pretended site, of that

adventure, now shown at the church of St. Nicho-

las in Uxen. The difficulties attending the full

belief of the tale are stated in Historical Illustra-

tions, &c.

67.

Turn to the Moie, which Hadrian rear'd on high.

Stanza clxi. line 1.

The castle of St. Angelo. See—Historical Illus-

trations.

68.

Stanza clxii.

This and the six next stanzas have a reference to the

cathedral church of St. Peter's. For a measurement of the

completeness of its basilica, and the

other great churches of Europe, see the pavement

of St. Peter's, and the classical Travels through Italy,

vol i page 125, et seq. chap. iv.
Byron's works.

Senza flows, and is almost absorbed in a wide sandy bed before it reaches the Anio. Nothing can be more fortunate for the lines of the poet, whether in a metaphorical or direct sense:

"Me quandum veliris quidam Digesta rerum, Queen Mandula biit regnum figere popum."

The stream is clear high up the valley, but before it reaches the hill of Bardela looks green and yellow like a stream in the Pyrenees. Roccio Giovanni, a ruined village in the hills, half an hour's walk from the vineyard where the pavement is shown, does seem to be the site of the fane of Vacauna, and an inscription found there tells that the Sabines and the Sabine goddess was repeated by Vespasian. With these helps, and a position corresponding exactly to everything which the poet has told us of his retreat, we may feel tolerably secure of our site.

The hill which should be Lucretius is called Campanelle, and by following up the rivulet to the pretended Bandusa, you come to the roots of the higher mountain Gennaro. Singularly enough, the only spot on the hill in whole valley is on the knoll where this Bandusa rises.

"... a suiguis annalide Pansia vornere turris Praebet, at poerii vago."

The peasants show another spring near the mosaic pavement, which they call "Oradina," and which flows down the hills into a tank, or mill-dam, and then it trickles over into the Digesta.

But we must not hope.

"To trace the Muses upward to their spring,"

by exploring the windings of the romantic valley in search of the Bandusa fountain. It seems strange that any one should have thought Bandusa a fountain of the Digesta--Horace has not let drop a word of it; and this immortal spring has in fact been discovered in possession of the holders of many good things in Italy, the monks. It was attached to the church of St. Gervais and Protas near Venaia, where it is most likely to be found.

We shall not be so lucky as a late traveller in finding the occasional pine still pendant on the poetic villa. There is not a pine in the whole valley, but there are two or three pines evidently took, or mistook, for the tree in the ode. The truth is, that the pine is now, as it was in the days of Virgil, a garden tree, and it was not at all likely to be found in the cragginess and clefts of the valley of Rustica. Horace probably had one of these pines, which closed above his farm, immediately overshadowing his villa, not on the rocky heights at some distance from his abode. The tourist may have easily supposed himself to have seen this pine figured in the above cypress, for the orange and lemon trees which throw such a blossom over his description of the royal gardens at Naples, unless they have been since displaced, were assuredly only orange and common garden shrubs. The extreme disappointment experienced by choosing the Classical Tourist as a guide in Italy must be allowed to find vent in a few observations, which, it is asserted without fear of contradiction, will be confirmed by every one who has reviewed the excursion of experience and revenge, made louder by the borrowed trumpet of Mr. Burke. Now Bolonga is at this moment, and has been for some years, notorious among the states of Italy for its attachment to the Bourbon revolution, and its sedition, and has been the only city which made any demonstrations in favor of the unfortunate Murat. This change may, however...
have been made since Mr. Eustace visited this country; but the traveller whom he has thrilled with horror at the projected stripping of the copper from the cupola of St. Peter's, must be much relieved to find that sacrilege out-of the power of the French, or any other plunderers, the cupola being covered with lead.*

If the conspiring voice of otherwise rival critics had not given considerable currency to the Classical Tour, it would have been unnecessary to warn the reader, that however it may adorn his library, it will be of little or no service to him in his carriage; and if the judgment of those critics had hitherto been suspended, no attempt would have been made to anticipate their decision. As it is, those who stand in the relation of posterity to Mr. Eustace may be permitted to appeal from cotemporary praises, and are perhaps more likely to be just in proportion as the causes of love and hatred are the farther removed. This appeal had, in some measure, been made before the above remarks were written; for one of the most respectable of the Florentine publishers, who had been persuaded by the repeated inquiries of those on their journey southwards to reprint a cheap edition of the Classical Tour, was, by the concurring advice of returning travellers, induced to abandon his design, although he had already arranged his types and paper, and had struck off one or two of the first sheets.

The writer of these notes would wish to part (like Mr. Gibbon) on good terms with the Pope and the Cardinals, but he does not think it necessary to extend the same discreet silence to their humble partisans.

* What, then, will be the astonishment, or rather the horror of my reader, when I inform him . . . . . . . that the French committee spared its attention to St. Peter’s, and employed a company of Jews to estimate and purchase the gold, silver, and brought that adorn the inside of the edifice, as well as the copper that covers the vaults and dome on the outside.”——Chas. br. p. 158 vol. ii. The story about the Jews is positively denied at Rome.
THE GIAOUR;
A FRAGMENT OF A TURKISH TALE

Our fatal remembrance—one sorrow that throws
Its black shade alike o'er our joys and our woes—
To which life nothing darker nor brighter can bring,
For which joy hath no balm, and affliction no sting.

MOORE

TO
SAMUEL ROGERS, ESQ.

AN ADVERTISEMENT.

The Tale which these disjointed fragments present, is founded upon circumstances now less common in the East than formerly; either because the ladies are more circumspect than in the "olden time," or because the Christians have better fortune, or less enterprise. The story, when entire, contained the adventures of a female slave, who was thrown, in the Mussulman manner, into the sea for infidelity, and avenged by a young Venetian, her lover, at the time the Seven Islands were possessed by the Republic of Venice, and soon after the Aragouts were beaten back from the Morea, which they had ravaged for some time subsequent to the Russian invasion. The desertion of the Mainotes, on being refused the plunder of Misitra, led to the abandonment of that enterprise, and to the desolation of the Morea, during which the cruelty exercised on all sides was unparalleled even in the annals of the faithful.

THE GIAOUR.

No breath of air to break the wave
That rolls below the Athenian's grave,
That tomb which, gleaming o'er the cliff,
First greets the homeward-veering skiff,
High o'er the land he saved in vain:
When shall such hero live again?

Fair clime! where every season smiles
Benignant o'er those blessed isles,
Which, seen from far Colonna's height,
Make glad the heart that hails the sight,
And lend to loneliness delight.
There, mildly dimpling, Ocean's cheek
Reflects the tints of many a peak
Caught by the laughing tides that love
These Edens of the Eastern wave;
And if, at times, a transient breeze
Break the blue crystal of the seas,
Or sweep one blossom from the trees,
How welcome is each gentle air
That wakes and wafts the odors there,
For there—the rose o'er crag or vale,
Sultana of the nightingales,

The maid for whom his melody,
His thousand songs are heard on high,
Blooms blushing to her lover's tale:
His queen, the garden queen, his rose,
Unbent by winds, unchilled by snows,
Far from the winters of the west,
By every breeze and season blest,
Returns the sweets by Nature given,
In softest incense back to heaven;
And grateful yields that smiling sky
Her fairest hue and fragrant sigh.
And many a summer flower is there,
And many a shade that love might share,
And many a grotto, meant for rest,
That holds the pirate for a guest;
Whose bark in sheltering cove below
Larks for the passing peaceful prow
Till the gay mariner's guitar
Is heard, and seen the evening star
Then stealing with the evening's roar,
Far shaded by the rocky shore,
Rush the night-provlers on the prey,
And turn to groans his roundelay.
Strange—that where Nature lov'd to trace
As if for gods, a dwelling place,
And every charm and grace hath mix'd,
Within the paradise she fix'd,
There man, enamor'd of distress,
Should mar it into wilderness,
And trample, brute-like, o'er each flower
That tasks not one laborious hour;
Nor claims the culture of his hand
To bloom along the fairy land,
But springs as to prelude his care,
And sweetly woo's him—but to spare!
Strange—that where all is peace beside
There passion riots in her pride,
And lust and rapine wildly reign
To darken o'er the fair domain.
It is as though the fiends prevail'd
Against the seraphs they assail'd,
And, fixed on heavenly thrones, should dwell,
The freed inheritors of hell;
So soft the scene, so form'd for joy,
So curst the tyrants that destroy!

He who hath bent him o'er the dead,
Ere the first day of death is fied,
The first dark day of nothingness,
The last of danger and distress,
(Before decay's effacing fingers
Have swept the lines where beauty lingers,)
And mark'd the mild angelic air,
The rapture of repose that's there,
The fix'd, yet tender traits that streak
The languor of the placid cheek,
And—but for that shrouded eye
That fires not, vixn not, weeps not, now,
And for that chill, changeless brow,
Where cold obstruction's apathy
Appals the gazing mourner's heart,
As if to him it could impart
The dooms that dread, yet dwells upon;
Yes, but for these, and these alone,
Some, moments, ay, one treacherous hour
He still might doubt the tyrant's power;
So fair, so calm, so softly seal'd,
The first, last look by death reveal'd!
Such is the aspect of this shore;
'Tis Greece, but living Greece no more!
No coldy sweet, so deadly fair,
We start, for soul is wanting there.
Hers is the loveliness in death,
That parts not quite with parting breath;
But beauty with that fearful bloom,
That hue which haunts it to the tomb,
Expression's last receding ray,
A gilded halo hovering round decay,
The farewell beam of feeling past away!

Cline of the unforgotten brave!
Whose land from plain to mountain-cave
Was freedom's home or glory's grave!
Shrine of the mighty! can it be,
That this is all remains of thee?
Approach, thou craven crouching slave:
Say, is not this Thermopylas?
These waters blue that round you lave,
Oh servile offspring of the free—
Pronounce what sea, what shore is this?
The gulf, the rock of Salamis!
These scenes, their story not unknown
Arise, and make again your own;
Snatch from the ashes of your sires
The ember of their former fires;
And he who in the strife expires
Will add to theirs a name of fear
That tyranny shall quake to hear,
And leave his sons a hope, a fame
They too will rather die than shame.
For freedom's battle once begun,
Bequeath'd by bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft, is ever won.
Bear witness, Greece, thy living page,
Attest it many a deathless age!
While kings, in dusty darkness hid,
Have left a nameless pyramid,
Thy heroes, though the general doom
Hath swept the column from their tomb
A mightier monument command,
The mountains of their native land!
There points thy muse to stranger's eye
The graves of those that cannot die!
'Twere long to tell, and sad to trace,
Each step from splendor to disgrace;
Enough—no foreign foe could quell
Thy soul, till from itself it fell;
Yes! self-abasement paved the way
To villain-bonds and despot sway.

What can he tell who treads thy shore?
No legend of thine olden time,
No theme on which the muse might soar
High, as that ever in days of ore,
When man was worthy of thy clime;
The hearts within thy valleys bred,
The fiery souls that might have led
Thy sons to deeds sublime,
Now crawl from cradle to the grave,
Slaves—nay, the bondsmen of a slave
And callous, save to crime;
Stain'd with each evil that pollutes
Mankind, where least above the brutes;
Without even savage virtue blest,
Without one free or valiant breast,
Still to the neighboring ports they waft
Proverbial wiles, and ancient craft;
In this the subtle Greek is found,
For this, and this alone, renown'd.
In vain might liberty invoke
The spirit to its bondage broke,
Or raise the neck that courts the yoke.
No more her sires a newan,
Yet this will be a mournful tale,
And they who listen may believe,
Who heard it first had cause to grieve
• • • • • •
On her fair cheek's unkind ing hue
The young pomegranate's blossoms grew.
Their bloom in blushes ever new;
Her hair in hyacinthine flow,
When left to roll its folds below,
As 'midst her handmaids in the hall
She stood superior to them all,
Bath swept the marble where her feet
Gleam'd whiter than the mountain sleet,
Ere from the cloud that gave it birth
It fell and caught one stain of earth.
The cygnet nobly walks the water;
So moved on earth Circe's daughter,
The loveliest bird of Franguestan!
As rears her crest the ruffled swan,
And spurs the wave with wings of pride
When pass the steps of stronger man
Along the banks that bound her tide.
Thus rose fair Leila's whiter neck;
Thus armed with beauty would she check
Intrusion's glance, till folly's gaze
Shrank from the charms it meant to praise.
Thus high and graceful was her gait;
Her heart as tender to her mate:
Her mate—stern Hassan, who was he?
Alas! that name was not for thee.

Stern Hassan hath a journey ta'en
With twenty vassals in his train,
Each arm'd, as best becomes a man,
With arquebuss and ataghan;
The chief before as deck'd for war,
Bears in his belt the scimitar
Stained with the best of Arnaut blood
When in the pass the rebels stood,
And few return'd to tell the tale
Of what befell in Parne's vale.
The pistols which his girdle bore
Were those that once a pasha wore,
Which still, though gemm'd and boss'd with gold,
Even robbers tremble to behold.
'Tis said he goes to woo a bride
More true than her who left his side;
The faithless slave that broke her bow'rs,
And worse than faithless, for a Giaour!
Beneath, a river's wintry stream
Has shrunk before the summer beam,
And left a channel bleak and bare,
Save shrubs that spring to perish there:
Each side the midway path there lay
Small broken crags of granite gray,
By time, or mountain lightning riven
From summits clad in mists of heaven;
For where is he that hath beheld
The peak of Lakura unvail'd?

They reach the grove of pine at last:
"Bismullah!" now the peril's past;
For yonder view the opening plain,
And there we'll prick our steeds amain.""The Chausa spake, and as he said,
A bullet whistled o'er his head;
The foremost Tartar bites the ground!
Scarse had they time to check the rein,
Swift from their steeds the riders bound;
But three shall never mount again;
Unseen the foes that gave the wound,
The dying ask revenge in vain.

With steel unsheathed, and carbine bent,
Some o'er their courser's harness leant,
Half shelter'd by the steed;
Some fly behind the nearest rock,
And there await the coming shock,
Nor tamely stand to bleed
Beneath the shaft of foes unseen,
Who dare not quit their craggy screen.
Stern Hassan only from his horse
Disdains to light, and keeps his course.
Till fiery dashes in the van
Proclaim too sure the robber- clan
Have well secured the only way
Could now avail the promised prey;
Then curl'd his very beard with ire,
And glared his eye with fiercer fire:
"Though far and near the bullets hiss,
I've scaped a bloodier hour than this."
And now the foe their covert quit,
And call his vassals to submit;
But Hassan's frown and furious word
Are dreaded more than hostile sword,
Nor of his little band a man
Resign'd carbine or staghain,
Nor raised the craven cry, Amaun! in fullest sight, more near and near,
The lately ambush'd foes appear,
And, issuing from the grove, advance
Some who on battle-charger prance.
Who leads them on with foreign brand,
Far flashing in his red right hand?
"'Tis he! 'tis he! I know him now;
I know him by his pallid brow;
I know him by the evil eye
That aids his envious treachery;
I know him by his jet-black barb:
Though now array'd in Arnaut garb,
Adorn't from his own vile faith,
It shall not save him from the death:
'Tis he! well met, in any hour!
Lost Leila's love, accursed Giaour!"

As rolls the river into the ocean,
In sable torrent wildly streaming;
As the sea-tide's opposing motion,
In azure column proudly gleaming,

Beats back the current many a rood,
In curling foam and mingling flood,
While eddying whirl, and breaking wave
Roused by the blast of winter, rave;
Through sparkling spray, in thundering clash
The lightnings of the waters flash
In awful whiteness o'er the shore,
That shines and shakes beneath the roar;
Thus—as the stream and ocean greet,
With waves thatadden as they meet—
Thus join the bands, whom mutual wrong
And fate, and fury, drive along.
The bickering sabres' shivering jar;
And pealing wide or ringing near
Its echoes on the throbbing ear,
The death-shot hissing from afar;
The shock, the shout, the groan of war,
Reverberate along that vale,
More suited to the shepherd's tale:
Though few the numbers—thiers the strife,
That neither spares nor speaks for life!
Ah! fondly youthful hearts can press,
To seize and share the dear caress;
But love itself could never pant
For all that beauty sighs to grant
With half the fervor hate bestows
Upon the last embrace of foes,
When grappling in the fight they fold
Those arms that ne'er shall lose their hold
Friends meet to part; love laughs at fate!
True foes, once met, are join'd to till death!

With sabre shiver'd to the hilt,
Yet dripping with the blood he spilt:
Yet strain'd within the sever'd hand
Which quivers round that faithless brand;
His turban far behind him roll'd,
And clcft in twain its firmest fold;
His flowing robe by fialchion torn,
And crimson as those clouds of morn
That, streak'd with dusky red, portend
The day shall have a stormy end;
A stain on every bush that bore
A fragment of his palamore, in full sight, more near and near,
The lately ambush'd foes appear,
And, issuing from the grove, advance
Some who on battle-charger prance.
Who leads them on with foreign brand,
Far flashing in his red right hand?
"'Tis he! 'tis he! I know him now;
I know him by his pallid brow;
I know him by the evil eye
That aids his envious treachery;
I know him by his jet-black barb:
Though now array'd in Arnaut garb,
Adorn't from his own vile faith,
It shall not save him from the death:
'Tis he! well met, in any hour!
Lost Leila's love, accursed Giaour!"

"Yes, Leila sleeps beneath the wave,
But his shall be a redder grave;
Her spirit pointed well the steel
Which taught that felon heart to feel.
He call'd the Prophet, but his power
Was vain against thevengeful Giaour.
He call'd on Allah—but the word
Arose unheeded or unheard.
Thou Paynum fool! could Leila's prayer
Be pass'd, and thine accorded there?
I watched my time, I leagued with these,
The traitor in his turn to seize;
My wrath is wrack'd, the deed is done,
And now I go—but go alone."
One sad and sole relief she knows,  
The sting she nourish’d for her foes,  
Whose venom never yet was vain,  
Gives but one pang, and cures all pain,  
And darts into her desperate brain:  
So do the dark in soul expire,  
Or live like scorpion girl by fire;  
So writhes the mind remorse hath riven,  
Unit for earth, undoom’d for heaven,  
Darkness above, despair beneath,  
Around it flame, within it death!

Black Hassan from the haram flies,  
Nor bends on woman’s form his eye;  
The unvonted chase each hour employs,  
Yet shares he not the hunter’s joys.  
Not thus was Hassan wont to fly  
When Leila dwelt in her Serai.  
Doth Leila where no longer dwell?  
That tale can only Hassan tell:  
Strange rumors in our city say  
Upon that eve she fled away,  
When Hassan’s last sun was set,  
And dashed from each minaret,  
Millions of lamps proclaim’d the feast  
Of Bairam through the boundless east.  
‘Twas then she went as to the bath,  
Which Hassan vainly search’d in wrath;  
For she was flown her master’s rage,  
In likeness of a Georgian page,  
And far beyond the Moslem’s power  
Had wrong’d him with the faithless Giaour.  
Somewhat of this had Hassan deem’d;  
But still so fond, so fair she seem’d,  
Too well he trusted to the slave  
Whose treachery deserv’d a grave;  
And on that eve he gone to mosque,  
And thence to feast in his kiosk.  
Such is the tales his Nubians tell,  
Who did not watch their charge too well;  
And others say that on that night,  
By pale Phingari’s trembling light  
The Giaour upon his jet-black steed  
Was seen, but seen alone to speed  
With bloody spur along the shore,  
Nor maid nor page behind him bore.

Her eye’s dark charm ’twere vain to tell,  
But gaze on that of the gazelle,  
It will assist thy fancy well;  
As large, as languishingly dark,  
But soul beam’d forth in every spark  
That darted from beneath the lid,  
Bright as the jewel of Gianschid,  
Yea, and, and, and should our prophet say  
That form was nought but breathing clay,  
By Alla! I would answer nay;  
Though on Al-Sira’s arch I stood  
Which totters o’er the fiery flood,  
With paradise within my view,  
And all his hours becomeng through.  
Oh! who young Leila’s glance could read  
And keep that portion of his creed  
Which saith that woman is but dust,  
A soulless toy for tyrant’s lust?  
On her might Muftis gaze, and own  
That through her eye the Immortal shone;

On her fair cheek’s unit’d hue  
The young pomegranate’s blossoms shrew  
Their bloom in blushes ever new;  
Her hair in hyacinthine flow,  
When left to roll its folds below,  
As ’midst her handmaids in the hall  
She stood superior to them all,  
Hath swept the marble where her feet  
Gleam’d whiter than the mountain sleet,  
Ere from the cloud that gave it birth  
It fed and caught one stain of earth.  
The eygael nobly walks the water;  
So moved on earth Circassia’s daughter,  
The loveliest bird of Franguestan!  
As rears her crest the ruffled swan,  
And spurns the wave with wings of pride  
When pass the steps of stranger man  
Along the banks that bound her tide.  
Thus rose fair Leila’s whiter neck:  
Thus armed with beauty would she check  
Intrusion’s glance, till folly’s gaze  
Shrunk from the charms it meant to praise.  
Thus high and graceful was her gait;  
Her heart as tender to her mate:  
Her mate—stern Hassan, who was he?  
Aha! that name was not for thee!

Stern Hassan hath a journey ta’en  
With twenty vassals in his train,  
Each arm’d, as best becomes a man,  
With arquebuss and ataghan;  
The chief before as deck’d for war,  
Bears in his belt the scimitar  
Stained with the best of Arnaut blood  
When in the pass the rebels stood,  
And few return’d to tell the tale  
Of what befell in Parne’s vale.  
The pistols which his girdle bore  
Were those that once a pasha wore,  
Which still, though gem’d and boss’d with gold  
Even robbers tremble to behold.  
’Tis said he goes to woo a bride  
More true than her who left his side;  
The faithless slave that broke her bower,  
And worse than faithless, for a Giaour!

The sun’s last rays are on the hill,  
And sparkle in the fountain rill,  
Whose welcome waters, cool and clear,  
Draw blessings from the mountaineer;  
Here may the loitering merchant Greek  
Find that repose ’twere vain to seek  
In cities lodged too near his lord,  
And trembling for his secret hoard—  
Here may he rest where none can see,  
In crowds a slave, in deserts free;  
And with forbidden wine may stain  
The bowl a Moslem must not drain.

The foremost Tartar’s in the gap,  
Conspicuous by his yellow cap;  
The rest in lengthening line the while  
Wind slowly through the long sile;  
Above the mountain rears a peak,  
Where vultures whet the thirsty beak,  
And theirs may be a feast to-night.  
Shall tempt them down ere morrow’s light.
Beneath, a river's wintry stream

Has shrunk before the summer beam,
And left a channel bleak and bare.
Save shrubs that spring to perish there:
Each side the midway path there lay
Small broken crags of granite gray,
By time, or mountain lightning riven
From summits clad in mists of heaven;
For where is he that hath beheld
The peak of Lkaru unveil'd?

They reach the grove of pine at last:
"Bismillah! now the peril's past;"
For yonder view the opening plain,
And there we'll prick our steeds again."

The Chiusa spake, and as he said,
A bullet whistled o'er his head;
The foremost Tartar bites the ground!
Scarcely had they time to check the rein,
Swift from their steeds the riders bound;
But three shall never mount again;
Unseen the foes that gave the wound,
The dying ask revenge in vain.

With steel unheathed, and carbine bent,
Some o'er their course's harness leant,
Half shelter'd by the steed;
Some fly behind the nearest rock,
And there await the coming shock,
Nor tamely stand to bleed
Beneath the shaft of foes unseen,
Who dare not quit their craggy screen.

Stern Hassan only from his horse
Disdains to light, and keeps his course.
Till fiery flashes in the van
Proclaim too sure the robber-clan
Have well secured the only way
Confid now avail the promised prey;
Then curl'd his very beard with ire,
And glared his eye with fiercer fire:
"Though far and near the bullets hiss,
I've scaped a bloodier hour than this."
And now the foe their covert quit,
And call his vassals to submit;
But Hassan's frown and furious word
Are dreaded more than hostile sword,
Nor of his little band a man
Resign'd carbine or ataghan,
Nor raised the craven cry, Amaun! in fuller sight, more near and near,
The lately ambush'd foes appear,
And, issuing from the grove, advance
Some who on battle-charger prance.
Who leads them on with foreign brand,
Far flashing in his red right hand?
"Tis he! 'tis he! I know him now;
I know him by his pallid brow;
I know him by the evil eye
That aids his envious treachery;
I know him by his jet-black barb:
Though now array'd in Arnaut garb,
Apostate from his own vile faith,
It shall not save him from the death;
'Tis he! I well met in any hour!
Lost Leila's love, accursed Glaiour!"

As rolls the river into the ocean,
In sable torrent wildly streaming;
As the sea-tide's opposing motion,
In azure column proudly gleaming,

Beats back the current many a rood,
In curling foam and mingling flood,
While eddying whirl, and breaking wave
Roused by the blast of winter, rave;
Through sparkling spray, in thundering clash
The lightnings of the waters flash
In awful whiteness o'er the shore,
That shines and shakes beneath the roar;
Thus—as the stream and ocean greet,
With waves that sudden as they meet—
Thus join the bands, whom mutual wrong,
And fate, and fury, drive along.
The bickering sabres' shivering jar;
And pealing wide or ringing near
Its echoes on the throbbing ear,
The death-shot hissing from afar;
The shock, the shout, the groan of war,
Reverberate along that vale,
More suited to the shepherd's tale:
Though few the numbers—theirs the strife,
That neither spares nor speaks for life!
Ah! fondly youthful hearts can press,
To seize and share the dear caress;
But love itself could never pant
For all that beauty sighs to grant
With half the fervor hate bestows
Upon the last embrace of foes,
When grappling in the fight they fold
Those arms that ne'er shall lose their hold
Friends meet to part; love laughs at faith;
True foes, once met, are join'd till death!

With sabre shiver'd to the hilt,
Yet dripping with the blood he spilt:
Yet stain'd within the sever'd hand
Which quivers round that faithless brand;
His turban far behind him roll'd;
And cleft in twain its firmest fold;
His flowing robe by falchion torn,
And crimson as those clouds of morn
That, streak'd with dusky red, portend
The day shall have a stormy end;
A stain on every bush that bore
A fragment of his palampore;
His breast with wounds unnumber'd riven;
His back to earth, his face to heaven,
Fallen Hassan lies—his unlosed eye
Yet lowering on his enemy,
As if the hour when seal'd his fate
Surviving left his quenchless hate;
And o'er him bends that foe with brow
As dark as his that bled below.

"Yes, Leila sleeps beneath the wave,
But his shall be a redder grave;
Her spirit pointed well the steel
Which taught that felon heart to feel.
He call'd the Prophet, but his power
Was vain against the vengeful Glaiour,
He call'd on Allah—but the word
Arose unheeded or unheard.
Thou Paynim fool! could Leila's prayer
Be pass'd, and thine accorded there?
I watched my time, I leagues with these,
The traitor in his turn to seize;
My wrath is wak'd, the deed is done,
And now I go—but go alone."

...
The browsing 'Camels' bells are tinkling:
His mother lo. k from her lattice high,
She saw the dews of eve besprinkling
The pasture green beneath her eye,
She saw the planets faintly twinkling:
"'Tis twilight—sure his train is nigh."
She could not rest in the garden bower,
But gazèd through the grate of his steapest tower:
"Why comes he not? his steeds are fleet,
Nor shrank they from the summer heat;
Why sends not the bridgroom his promised gift?
Is his heart more cold, or his barb less swift?
Oh, false reproach! yon Tartar now
Has gain'd our nearest mountain's brow,
And warily the steep descends,
And now within the valley bends;
And he bears the gift at his saddle-bow—
How could I deem his courser slow?
Right well my largess shall repay
His welcome speed, and weary way."

The Tartar lighted at the gate,
But scarce uphold his fainting weight;
His swarthy visage spake distress,
But this might be from weariness;
His garb with sanguine spots was dyed,
But these might be from his courser's side;
He drew the token, from his vest—
Angel of Death! 'tis Hassan's cloven crest—
His calpach rent—his caftan red—
"Lady, a fearful bride thy son hath wed;
Me, not for nectar, did they spare,
But this empurpled pledge to bear.
Peace to the Brave! whose blood is spilt;
We to the Giaour! for his the guilt."

A turban 33 carved in coarsest stone,
A pillar with rank weeds o'ergrown,
Whereon can now be scarcely read
The Koran verse that mourns the dead,
Point out the spot where Hassan fell
A victim in that lonely dell.
There sleeps as true an Osmanlie
As e'er at Mecca bent the knee;
As ever scorn'd forbidden wine,
Or prayed with face towards the shrine,
In orisons resumed anew
At solemn sound of "Alla Hu!" 33
Yet died he by a stranger's hand,
And stranger in his native land;
Yet died he as in arms he stood,
And unavenged, at least in blood.
But him the maids of paradise
Impatient to their halls invite,
And the dark heaven of Houri's eyes
On him shall glance for ever bright,
They come—their kerchiefs green they wave, 34
And welcome with a kiss the brave!
Who falls in battle 'gainst a Giaour
Is worthiest an immortal bower.

But thou, false infidel! shalt write
Beneath avenging Monkr's 35 scythe;
And from its torment 'scape alone
To wander round lost Eblis' 36 throne;
A fire unquench'd, unquenchable,
Around, within, thy heart shall dwell;
Nor ear can hear nor tongue can toll
The tortures of that inward hell!
But first, on earth as vampire 37 sent,
Thy corse shall from its tomb be rent.
Then ghastly haunt thy native place,
And suck the blood of all thy race;
There from thy daughter, sister, wife,
At midnight drain the stream of life;
Yet loathe the banquet which perfors
Must feed thy livid living corse:
Thy victims ere they yet expire
Shall know the demon for their sire,
As cursing then, then cursing them,
Thy bowels are wither'd on the stem.
But one that for thy crime must fall,
The youngest, most beloved of all,
Shall bless thee with a father's name—
That word shall wrap thy heart in flame
Yet must thou end thy task, and mark
Her cheek's last tinge, her eye's last spark.
And the last glassy glance must view
Which freezes o'er its lifeless blue:
Then with unhallow'd hand shalt tear
The tresses of her yellow hair,
Of which in life a lock when shorn
Affection's fondest pledge was worn;
But now is borne away by thee,
Memorial of thine agony!
Wet with thine own last blood shall drip
Thy gnashing tooth and haggard lip;
Then stalking to thy sullen grave,
Go—and with Gouls and Afrits rave;
Till these in horror shrink away
From spectre more accursed than they!

"How name ye won lone Caloyer!
His features I have scan'd before
In mine own land: 'tis many a year,
Since, dashing by the lonely shore,
I saw him urge as fleet a steed
As ever served a horseman's need.
But once I saw that face, yet then
It was so mark'd with inward pain,
I could not pass it by again;
It breathes the same dark spirit now,
As death was stamp'd upon his brow."

"'Tis twice three years at summer-tide
Since first among our freres he came;
And here it soothes him to abide
For some dark deed he will not name,
But never at our vesper prayer,
Nor e'er before confession chair
Kneels he, nor recoys he when arise
Incense or anthem to the skies,
But broods within his cell alone,
His faith and race alike unknown.
The sea from Paynim land he crost,
And here ascended from the coast;
Yet seems he not of Othman race,
But only Christian in his face:
I'd judge him some stray renegade,
Repetant of the change he made,
Save that he shuns our holy shrine,
Nor tastes the sacred bread and wine.
Great largesses to these walls he brought,
And thus our abbot's favor bought;
But were I prior, not a day
Should brook such stranger's further stay.
With dread beheld, with gloom beholding
The rights that sanctify the pile.
But when the anthem shakes the choir
And kneel the monks, his steps retire;
By yonder lone and wavering torch
His aspect glares within the porch;
There will he pause till all is done—
And hear the prayer, but utter none.
See—by the half-illumined wall
His head fly back, his dark hair fall,
That pale brow widely wreathing round,
As if the Gorgon there had bound
The sablest of the serpent-braid
That o'er her fearful forehead stray'd:
For he declines the convent oath,
And leaves those locks unhallow'd growth,
But wears our garb in all beside:
And, not from piety but pride,
Gives wealth to walls that never heard
Of his one holy vow nor word.
Lo!—mark ye, as the harmony
Peals louder praises to the sky,
That livid cheek, that stony air
Of mix'd defiance and despair!
Saint Francis, keep him from the shrine
Else may we dread the wrath divine
Made manifest by awful sign.
If ever evil angel bore
The form of mortal, such he wore:
By all my hope of sins forgiven,
Such looks are not of earth nor heaven!

To love the softest hearts are prone,
But such can ne'er be all his own;
Too timid in his woes to share,
Too meek to meet, or brave despair;
And sterner hearts alone may feel
The wound that time can never heal
The rugged metal of the mine
Must burn before its surface shine,
But plunged within the furnace-flame,
It bends and melts—though still the same;
Then temper'd to thy want, or will,
'Twill serve thee to defend or kill;
A breastplate for thine hour of need,
Or blade to bid thy foemen bleed;
But if a dagger's form it bear,
Let those who shape its edge beware!
Thus passion's fire, and woman's art,
Can turn and tame the sterner heart;
From those its form and tone are taken,
And what they make it, must remain,
But break—before it bend again.

If solitude succeed to grief,
Release from pain is slight relief;
The vacant bosom's wilderness
Might thank the pang that made it less.
We loathe what none are left to share;
Even bliss—'twere wo alone to bear;
The heart once left thus desolate
Must fly at last for ease—to hate
It is as if the dead could feel
The icy worm around them steel,
And shudder, as the reptiles creep
To revel o'er their rotting sleep,
Without the power to scare away
The cold consumers of their clay
It is as if the desert-bird, 30
Whose beak unlocks her bosom's stream
To still her famish'd nestlings' scream,
Nor mourns a life to them transferr'd,
Should rend her rash devoted breast,
And find them down her empty nest.
The keenest pangs the wretched find
Are rapture to the dreary void,
The leafless desert of the mind,
The waste of feelings unemploy'd.
Who would be doom'd to gaze upon
A sky without a cloud or sun?
Loss hideous far the tempest's roar
Than ne'er to brave the billows more—
Thrown, when the war of winds is o'er,
A lonely wreck on fortune's shore,
'Mid sullen calm, and silent bay,
Unseen to drop by dull decay;
Better to sink beneath the shock
Than moulder piecemeal on the rock!

"Father! thy days have pass'd in peace,
'Mid counted beads, and countless prayer;
To bid the sins of others cease,
Thyself without a crime or care,
Save transient ills that all must bear,
Has been thy lot from youth to age;
And thou wilt bless thee from the rage
Of passions fierce and uncontroll'd,
Such as thy penitents unfold,
Whose secret sins and sorrows rest
Within thy pure and pitying breast.
My days, though few, have pass'd below
In much of joy, but more of wo;
Yet still in hours of love or strife,
I've 'scaped the weariness of life;
Now leagued with friends, now girt by foes,
I loathed the languor of repose.
Now nothing left to love or hate,
Now more with hope or pride elate,
I'd rather be the thing that crawls
Most noxious o'er a dungeon's walls,
Than pass my dull, unvarying days,
Condemn'd to meditate and gaze.
Yet, lurks a wish within my breast
For rest—but not to feel 'tis rest.
Soon shall my fate that wish fulfil;
And I shall sleep without the dream
Of what I was, and would be still,
Dark as to thee my deeds may seem;
My memory now is but the tomb
Of joys long dead; my hope, their doom:
Though better to have died with those
Than bear a life of lingering woes.
My spirits shrunk not to sustain
The searching throes of ceaseless pain
Nor sought the self-acquitt'd grave
Of ancient fool and modern knave:
Yet death I have not fear'd to meet;
And in the field it had been sweet,
Had danger wou'd me on to move
The slave of glory, not of love,
I've braved it—not for honor's boast;
I smile at laurels won or lost;
To such let others carve their way,
For high renown, or hireling pay:
But place again before my eyes
Aught that I deem a worthy prize,

The maid I love, the man I hate;
And I will hunt the steps of fate,
To save or slay, as these require,
Through rending steel, and rolling fire;
Nor need'st thou doubt this speech from me
Who would but do—what he hath done.
Death is but what the haughty brave,
The weak must bear, the wretch must crave;
Then let life go to him who gave;
I have not quail'd to danger's brow
When high and happy—need I now?

"I loved her, friar! nay adored—
But these are words that all can use—
I proved it more in deed than word:
There's blood upon that dinted sword,
A stain its steel can never lose;
'Twas shed for her, who died for me,
It warm'd the heart of one abhor'd:
Nay, start not—nor bend thy knee,
Nor midst my sins such act record;
Thou wilt absolve me from the deed,
For he was hostile to thy creed!
The very name of Nazarene
Was wormwood to his Paynim spleen.
Ungrateful fool! since but for brands
Well welded in some hardy hands,
And wounds by Gailleans given,
The surest pass to Turkish heaven,
For him his Houris still might wait
Impatient at the prophet's gate:
I loved her—love will find its way
Through paths where wolves would fear to prey
And if it dares enough, 'twere hard
If passion met not some reward—
No matter how, or where, or why
I did not vainly seek, nor sigh;
Yet sometimes, with remorse, in vain
I wish she had not loved again.
She died—I dare not tell thee how;
But look—'tis written on my brow;
There read of Cain the curse and crime,
In characters unworn by time:
Still, ere thou dost condemn me, pause;
Not mine the act, though I the cause
Yet did he but what I had done
Had she been false to more than one.
Faithless to him, he gave the blow;
But true to me, I laid him low:
How'er deserved her doom might be,
Her treachery was truth to me;
To me she gave her heart, that all
Which tyrannv can ne'er enthrall;
And I, alas! too late to save!
Yet all I then could give, I gave,
'Twas some relief, our foes a grave.
His death sits lightly; but her fate
Has made me—what thou well may'st do.
His doom was seal'd—he knew it well,
Wear'd by the voice of stern Taheer,
Deep in whose darkly boding ear
The death-shot seal'd of murder near,
As filed the troop to where they fell
He died too in the battle broil,
A time that heeds nor pain nor toil;
One cry to Mahomet for aid,
One prayer to Alla al' he made
THE GIAOUR.

He knew and cross'd me in the fray—
I gazed upon him where he lay.
And watch'd his spirit ebb away;
Though pierc'd like pardy by hunters' steel,
He felt not half that now I feel.
I search'd, but vainly search'd, to find
The workings of a wounded mind;
Each feature of that sullen corse
Betray'd his rage, but no remorse.
Oh, what had vengeance given to trace
Despair upon his dying face?
The late repentance of that hour,
With a penitence he lost her power
To tear one terror from the grave,
And will not soothe, and cannot save.

"The cold in clime are cold in blood,
Their love can scarce deserve the name;
But mine was like the lava flood.
That boils in Ætna's breast of flame.
I cannot prate in puling strain
Of ladye-love, and beauty's chain;
If changing cheek, and scorching vein,
Lips taught to writhe, but not complain,
If bursting heart, and madd'nig brain,
And daring deed, and vengeful steel,
And all that I have felt, and feel,
Detoken love—that love was mine,
And shown by many a bitter sign.
'Tis true, I could not whine nor sigh,
I knew but to obtain or die.
I die—but first I have possess'd,
And, come what may, I have been blest.
Shall I the doom I sought upbraid?
No—reft of all, yet undismay'd
But for the thought of Leila slain,
Give me the pleasure with the pain,
So would I live and love again.
I grieve, but not, my holy guide!
For him who dies, but her who died:
She sleeps beneath the wandering wave—
Ah! had she but an earthly grave,
This breaking heart and throbbing head
Should seek and share her narrow bed.
She was a form of life and light,
That seen, became a part of sight;
And rose, where'er I turned mine eye,
The morning-star of memory!

"Yes, love indeed is light from heaven;
A spark of that immortal fire
With angels shared, by Alia given,
To lift from earth her low desire.
Devotion wafts the mind above,
But heaven itself descends in love;
A feeling from the Godhead caught,
To wean from self each sordid thought;
A ray of him who form'd the whole;
A glory circling round the soul!
I grant my love imperfect, all
That mortals by the name miscall;
Then deem it evil, what thou wilt;
But say, oh say, hers was not guilt!
She was my life's unerring light:
That quench'd, what beam shall break my night?
Oh! would it shine to lead me still,
Although to death! or dead!—no ill!

Why marvel ye, if they who lose
This present joy, this future hope,
No more with sorrow meekly cope;
In frenzy then their fate accuse:
In madness do those fearful deeds
That seem to add but guilt to wo?
Alas! the breast that inly bleeds
Hath nought to dread from outward blow
Who falls from all he knows of bliss,
Cares little into what abyss.
Fierce as the gloomy vulture's now
To thee, old man, my deeds appear:
I read abhorrence on thy brow,
And this too was I born to bear!
'Tis true that, like that bird of prey,
With havoc have I mark'd the way:
But this was taught me by the dove,
To die—and know no second love.
This lesson yet hath man to learn,
Taught by the thing he dares to spurn:
The bird that sings within the brake,
The swan that swims upon the lake
One mate, and one alone, will take.
And let the fool still prone to range,
And sneer on all who cannot change.
Partake his jest with boasting boys.
I envy not his varied joys,
But deem such feeble, heartless man,
Less than yon solitary swan;
Far, far beneath the shallow maid
He left believing and betray'd:
Such shame at least was never mine—
Leila! each thought was only thine!
My good, my guilt, my weal, my wo,
My hope on high—my all below.
Earth holds no other like to thee,
Or, if it doth, in vain for me:
For worlds I dare not view the dame
Resembling thee, yet not the same.
The very crimes that mar my youth,
This bed of death—attest my truth!
'Tis all too late—thou wert, thou art
The cherish'd madness of my heart!

"And she was lost—and yet I breathed
But not the breath of human life;
A serpent round my heart was wreathed,
And stung my every thought to strife.
Alas all time, abhor'd all place,
Shuddering I shrunk from nature's face,
Where every hue that charm'd before
The blackness of my bosom wore.
The rest thou dost already know,
And all my sins, and half my wo,
But talk no more of penitence;
Thou see'st I soon shall part from hence,
And if thy holy tale were true,
The deed that's done can't thou undo?
Think me not thankless—but this grief
Looks not to priesthood for relief. 41
My soul's estate in secret guess:
But wouldst thou pity more, say less,
When thou canst bid my Leila live,
Then will I sue thee to forgive:
Then plead my cause in that high place
Where purchased masses proffer grace.
Go, when the hunter's hand hath wrung
From forest-cave her shrieking young,
And calm the lonely lioness:
But sooth not—mock not my distress.

"In earlier days, and calmer hours,
When heart with heart delights to blend,
Where bloom my native valley's bowers,
I had—ah! have I now—a friend?
To him this pledge I charge thee send,
Memorial of a youthful vow;
I would remind him of my end:
Though souls absorbed like mine allow
Brief thought to distant friendship's claim,
Yet dear to him my blighted name.
'Tis strange—he prophesied my doom,
And I have smiled—I then could smile—
When prudence would his voice assume,
And warn—I reck'd not what—the while:
But now remembrance whispers o'er
Those accents scarcely mark'd before.
Say—that his bodings came to pass,
And he will start to hear their truth,
And wish his words had not been sooth:
Tell him, unchecked as I was,
Through many a busy bitter scene
Of all our golden youth had been,
In vain, my faltering tongue had tried
To bless his memory ere I died;
But Heaven in wrath would turn away,
If guilt should for the guiltless pray.
I do not ask him not to blame,
Too gentle he to wound my name;
And what have I to do with fame?
I do not ask him not to mourn,
Such cold request might sound like scorn;
And what than friendship's manly tear
May better grace a brother's bier?
But bear this ring, his own of old,
And tell him—what thou dost behold:
The wither'd frame, the ruin'd mind,
The wreck by passion left behind,
A shrivell'd scorl, a scatter'd leaf,
Sear'd by the autumn blast of grief!

"Tell me no more of fancy's gleam,
No, father, no, 'twas not a dream;
Alas! the dreamer first must sleep,
I only watch'd, and wish'd I weep;
But could not, for my burning brow
Throbb'd to the very brain as now:
I wish'd but for a single tear,
As something welcome, now, and dear
I wish'd it then, I wish'd it still;
Despair is stronger than my will,
Waste not thine orison, despair
Is mightier than thy pious prayer
I would not, if I might, be blest;
I want no paradise, but rest.
'Twas then, I tell thee, father! then
I saw her; yes, she lived again;
And shining in her white symar,
As through you pale gray cloud the star

Which now I gaze on, as on her,
Who look'd and looks far lovelier;
Dimly I view its trembling spark,
To-morrow's night shall be more dark
And I, before its rays appear,
That lifeless thing the living fear.
I wander, father! for my soul
Is fleeting towards the final goal.
I saw her, friar! and I rose
Forgetful of our former woes;
And rushing from my couch, I dart,
And clasp her to my desperate heart;
I clasp—what is it that I clasp?
No breathing form within my grasp,
No heart that beats reply to mine,
Yet, Leila! yet the form is thine!
And art thou, dearest, changed so much,
As meet my eye, yet mock my touch?
Ah! were thy beauties o'er so cold,
I care not; so my arms enfold
The all they ever wish to hold.
Alas! around a shadow prest,
They shrink upon my lonely breast;
Yet still 'tis there! in silence stands,
And beckons with beseeching hands!
With braided hair, and bright-black eye—
I knew 'twas false—she could not die!
But he is dead! within the dell
I saw him buried where he fell;
He comes not, for he cannot break
From earth; why then art thou awake?
They told me wild waves roll'd above
The face I view, the form I love;
They told me—'twas a hideous tale!
I'd tell it, but my tongue would fail:
If true, and from thine ocean-cave
Thou com'st to claim a calmer grave,
Oh! pass thy dewy fingers o'er
This brow that then will burn no more;
Or place them on my hopeless heart:
But, shape or shade! whate'er thou art,
In mercy, o'er again depart!
Or farther with thee bear my soul,
Than winds can waft or waters roll!

"Such is my name, and such my tale.
Confessor! to thy secret ear
I breathe the sorrows I bewail,
And thank thee for the generous tear
This glazing eye could never shed.
Then lay me with the humliest dead,
And, save the cross above my head,
Be neither name nor emblem spread,
By prying stranger to be read,
Or stay the passing pilgrim's tread.'

He pass'd—nor of his name and race
Hath left a token or a trace,
Save what the father must not say
Who shrivell him on his dying day.
This broken tale was all we knew
Of her he loved, or him he slew.
NOTES TO THE GLAOUR

1. That tomb, which, gleaming o'er the cliff.
   Page 108, line 3.
   A tomb above the rocks on the promontory, by
   some supposed the sepulchre of Themistocles.

2. Sultana of the nightingale.
   Page 108, line 16.
   The attachment of the nightingale to the rose is
   a well known Persian fable. If I mistake not, the
   'Bulbul of a thousand tales' is one of his appeals.

3. Till the gay mariner's guitar.
   Page 109, line 3.
   The guitar is the constant amusement of the
   Greek sailor by night; with a steady fair wind, and
   during a calm, it is accompanied always by the
   voice, and often by dancing.

4. Where cold obstruction's apathy.
   Page 109, line 44.
   "Ay, but to die and go we know not where,
   To lie in cold obstruction." Measure for Measure, Act III. 130, Sc. 2.

5. The first, last look by death reveal'd.
   Page 109, line 52.
   I trust that few of my readers have ever had an
   opportunity of witnessing what is here attempted
   in description, but those who have, will probably
   retain a painful remembrance of that singular beauty
   which pervades, with few exceptions, the features of
   the dead, a few hours, and but for a few hours,
   "after the spirit is not there." It is to be remarked,
   in cases of violent death by gunshot
   wounds, the expression is always that of languor,
   whatever the natural energy of the sufferer's character:
   but in death from a stab, the countenance
   preserves its traits of feeling or ferocity, and the
   mind its bias to the last.

6. Slaves—nay, the bondmen of a slave.
   Page 109, line 114.
   Athens is the property of the Kislar Aga, (the
   slave of the seraglio and guardian of the women,) who
   appoints the Waywode. A pandar and eu-
   nuch—these are not polite, yet true appellations—
   now govern the governor of Athens!

7. 'Tis palmer than thy heart, young Glaour.
   Page 109, line 24.
   Infidel.

8. In echoes of the far tophaike.
   Page 110, line 59.
   "Tophaike," musket.—The Baimam is announced
   by the cannon at sunset; the illumination of the
   mosques, and the firing of all kinds of small arms,
   vaded with ball, proclaim it during the night.

9. Scraft as the hurt'd on high, jerrred.
   Page 110, line 82.
   Jerrred, or Djerrid, a blunted Turkish javelin,
   which is darted from horseback with great force
   and precision. It is a favorite exercise of the Mussul-
   man; but I know not if it can be called a manly
   one, since the most expert in the art are the Black
   Eunuchs of Constantinople. I think, next to these,
   a Mamlouk at Smyrna was the most skilful that
   came within my observation.

10. He came, he went, like the sunroom.
    Page 110, line 116.
    The blast of the desert, fatal to everything living,
    and often alluded to in eastern poetry.

11. To bless the sacred "broad and salt."
    Page 111, line 143.
    To partake of food, to break bread and salt with
    your host, insures the safety of the guest; even
    though an enemy, his person from that moment is
    sacred.

12. Since his turban was clift by the infidel's sabre.
    Page 111, line 57.
    I need hardly observe, that Charity and Hosi-
    tality are the first duties enjoined by Mahomet,
    and, to say truth, very generally practised by his
    disciples. The first praise that can be bestowed on
    a chief is a panegyric on his bounty; the next, on
    his valor.

13. And silver-sheathed ataghan.
    Page 111, line 56.
    The ataghan, a long dagger worn with pistols in
    the belt, in a metal scabbard, generally of silver;
    and, among the wealthier, gilt, or of gold.

14. An emir by his garb of green.
    Page 111, line 58.
    Green is the privileged color of the prophet's
    numerous pretended descendants; with them, as
    here, faith (the family inheritance) is supposed to
    supersede the necessity of good works: they are the
    worst of a very indifferent brood.

15. Ho! who art thou?—this low salam.
    Page 111, line 59.
    Salam aleikoun salam! peace be with you; be
    with you peace—the salutation reserved for the faithful:—to a Christian, 'Uurlara,' a good journey;
    or saba hiesam, saba serula; good morn, good even; and sometimes, 'may your end be happy!'
    are the usual salutes.

16. The insect-queen of eastern spring.
    Page 111 line 92.
    The blue-winged butterfly of Kashmir, the most
    rare and beautiful of the species.
17. 

Or live like scorpiorn girl by fire.

Page 112, line 7.

Alluding to the dubious suicide of the scorpion, so placed for experiment by gentle philosophers. Some maintain that the position of the sting, when turned towards the head, is merely a convulsive movement; but others have actually brought in the verdict, "Felo do se." The scorpions are surely interested in a speedy decision of the question; as if once fairly established as insect Catos, they will probably be allowed to live as long as they think proper; without being martyred for the sake of an hypothesis.

18. 

When Rhamazon's last sun was set.

Page 112, line 23.

The cannon at sunset close the Rhamazon. See note 8.

19. 

By pale Phingari's trembling light.

Page 112, line 42.

Phingari, the moon.

20. 

Bright as the jewel of Giamshid.

Page 112, line 54.

The celebrated fabulous ruby of Sultan Giamshid, the embellisher of Istakhar; from its splendor, named Schebgerag, "the torch of night;" also, "the cup of the sun," &c. — In the first edition, "Giamshid" was written as a word of three syllables, so D'Herbelot has it; but I am told Richardson reduces it to a dissyllable, and writes "Jamsish." I have left in the text the orthography of the one with the pronunciation of the other.

21. 

Though on Al-Sirat's arch I stood.

Page 112, line 58.

Al-Sirat, the bridge of breadth less than the thread of a famished spider, over which the Mussulmans must slide into paradise, to which it is the only entrance; but this is not the worst, the river beneath being hell itself, into which, as may be expected, the unskilful and tender of foot contrive to tumble with a "facilis descensus Averni," not very pleasing in prospect to the next passengers. There is a shorter cut downwards for the Jews and Christians.

22. 

And keep that portion of his crest.

Page 112, line 63.

A vulgar error: the Koran allots at least a third paradise to well-behaved women; but by far the greater number of Mussulmans interpret the text their own way, and exclude their moloties from heaven. Being enemies to Platonics, they cannot discern "any fitness of things" in the souls of the other sex, conceiving them to be superseded by the Houris.

23. 

The young pomegranate's blossoms strewn.

Page 112, line 69.

An oriental simile, which may, perhaps, though fairly stolen, be deemed "plus Arabe qu'en Arabie."

24. 

Her hair in hyacinthine flow.

Page 112, line 71.

Hyacinthine, in Arabie, "Sunbul;" as common a thought in the eastern poets, as it was among the Greeks.

25. 

The loveliest bird of Frangustan.

Page 112, line 81.

Frangustan." Circassia.

26. 

Bismullah—"In the name of God;" the commencement of all the chapters of the Koran but one, and of prayer and thanksgiving.

27. 

Then would his very heart with ire.

Page 113, line 37.

A phenomenon not uncommon with an angry Mussulman. In 1809, the Capitan Pacha's whiskers, at a diplomatic audience, were no less lively with indignation than a tiger cat's, to the horror of all the dragomans; the portentous mustachios twisted, they stood erect of their own accord, and were expected every moment to change their color, but at last condescended to subside, which, probably, saved more heads than they contained hairs.

28. 

Nob raised the crane's cry, Amanu.

Page 113, line 47.

"Amanu," quarter, pardon.

29. 

I know him by the evil eye.

Page 113, line 56.

The "evil eye," a common superstition in the Levant, and of which the imaginary effects are yet very singular, on those who conceive themselves affected.

30. 

A fragment of his paipamore.

Page 113, line 111.

The flowered shawls, generally worn by persons of rank.

31. 

His canpae rent—his eoffan red.

Page 114, line 29.

The "canpae" is the solid cap or centre part of the head-dress; the shawl is wound round it, and forms the turban.

32. 

A turban carred in coarsest stone.

Page 114, line 36.

The turban, pillar, and inscriptive verse, decorate the tombs of the Osmanlies, whether in the cemetery or the wilderness. In the mountains you frequently pass similar mementos; and, on inquiry, you are informed, that they record some victim of rebellion, plunder, or revenge.

33. 

At solemn sound of "Alla Hu!"

Page 114, line 47.

"Alla Hu!" the concluding words of the Muezzin's call to prayer from the highest gallery on the exterior of the minaret. On a still evening, when the Muezzin has a fine voice, which is frequently the case, the effect is solemn and beautiful beyond all the bells in Christendom.

34. 

They come—their kерchiens green they wave.

Page 114, line 56.

The following is part of a battle-song of the Turks:—"I see—I see a dark-eyed girl op paradise, and she waves a handkerchief, a kerchief of green; and cries aloud, Come, kiss me, 'or I love thee' etc.

35. 

Beneath avenging Monkur's scythe.

Page 114, line 62.

Monik and Nekir are the inquisitors of the dead, before whom the corpse undergoes a slight novitiate and preparatory training for damnation. If the answers are none of the clearest, he is hauled up with a scythe and thumped down with a red-hot mace till properly seasoned, with a variety of subsidiary provations. The office of these angels is no sinecure; there are but two, and the number of orthodox deceased being in a small proportion to the remainder their hands are always full.
NOTES TO THE GIAOUR

121

33. To wander round lost Eblis' throne. Page 114, line 64. Eblis, the Oriental Prince of Darkness.

37. But first, on earth, as vampire sent. Page 114, line 69.

The Vampire superstition is still general in the Levant. Honest Tournefort tells a similar story, which Mr. Southey, in the notes on Thalaba, quotes, about these "Vroucolochas," as he calls them. The Romanic term is "Vardoufacha." I recollect a whole family being terrified by the scream of a child, which they imagined must proceed from such a visitation. The Greeks never mention the word without horror. I find that "Brucoholkas" is an old legitimate Hellenic appellation—at least so is applied to Arsenius, who, according to the Greeks, was after his own death possessed by the Devil. The moderns, however, use the word I mention.

38. Wet with thine own best blood shall drip. Page 114, line 95.

The freshness of the face, and the wetness of the up with blood, are the never-failing signs of a Vampire. The stories told in Hungary and Greece of these foul feeders are singular, and some of them most incredibly attested.

39. It is as if the desert-bird. Page 116, line 7.

The pelican is, I believe, the bird so libelled, by the impatience of feeding her chickens with her blood.


This superstition of a second-hearing (for I never met with downright second-sight in the east) once fell upon my own observation. On my third journey to Cape Colonna early in 1811, as we passed through the defile that leads from the hamlet of seen Keratlar and Colonna, I observed Dervish Tahiri riding rather out of the path, and leaning his head upon his hand, as if in pain. I rode up and inquired. "We are in peril," he answered. "What peril? we are not now in Albania, nor in the passes to Ephesus, Messalunghi, or Lepanto; there are plenty of us, well armed, and the Choriatists have not courage to be thieves."—"True, Affendi, but nevertheless the shot is ringing in my ears." "The shot! not a tolphuke has been fired this morning."—"I hear it notwithstanding,—Bomb—Bomb—as plainly as I hear your voice."—"Phew! "—"As you please, Affendi; if it is written, so will it be."—I left this quick-eared predestinarian, and rode up to Bussil, his Christian compatriot, whose ears, though not at all prophetic, by no means relished the intelligence. We all arrived at Colonna, remained some hours, and returned leisurely, saying a variety of brilliant things, in more languages than spoiled the building of Babel, upon the mistaken belief; Romanic, Armaout, Turkish, Italian, and English were all exercised, in various conceptions, upon the unfortunate Mussulman. While we were contemplating the beautiful prospect, Dervish was occupied about the columns. I thought he was descended into an antiquarian, and asked him if he had become a 'Pavonastro' man: "No," said he, "but these pillars will be useful in making a stand;" and added other remarks, which at least equivoed his own belief, of the future utility of the antiquities. On our return to Athens, we heard from Leone (a prisoner set ashore some days after) of the intended attack of the Mainnotes, mentioned, with the cause of its not taking place, in the notes to Childe Harold, Canto 2d. I was at some pains to question the man, and he described the dresses, arms, and marks of the horses of our party so accurately, that with other circumstances, we could not doubt of their having been in "villainous company," and ourselves in a hard-sight difficulty. In believing the soothsayer for life, and I dare say is bowing more musketry than ever will be fired, to the great refreshment of the Arnaouts of Berat, and his native mountains.—I shall mention one trait more of this singular race. In March, 1811, a remarkably stout and active Arnaout came (I believe the tenth on the same errand) to offer himself as an attendant, which was declined: "Well, Affendi," quoth he, "may you live!—you would have found me useful. I shall leave the town for the hills to-morrow, in the winter I return, perhaps you will then receive me."—Dervish, who was present, remarked, as a thing of course, and of no consequence, "In the mean time, I'll go to the Klephues (rocks,) which was true to the letter.—If not cut off, they come down in the winter, and pass it unmanned in some town, where they are often as well known as their exploits.

41. Looks not to priesthood for relief. Page 117, line 125.

The monk's sermon is omitted. It seems to have had so little effect upon the patient, that it could have no hopes from the reader. It may be sufficient to say, that it was of a customary length (as may be perceived) from the interruptions and unnessiness of the penitent,) and was delivered in the nasal tone of all orthodox preachers.

42. And shining in her white symar. Page 118, line 59

"Symar"—shroud.

43. Page 118, line 121.

The circumstance to which the above story relates was not very uncommon in Turkey. A few years ago the wife of Muehtar Pacha complained to his father of his son's supposed infidelity; he asked with whom, and she had the barbarity to give in a list of the twelve handsomest women in Yanya. They were seized, fastened up in sacks, and drown ed in the lake the same night! One of the guards who was present informed me, that not one of the victims uttered a cry, or showed a symptom of terror at so sudden a "wrench from all we know, from the date we love." The object of the sacrifice, is the subject of many a Romanic and Armaout ditty. The story in the text is one told of a young Venetian many years ago, and now nearly forgotten. I heard it by accident recited by one of the coffee-house-story-tellers who abode in the Levant, and sing or recite their narratives. The additions and interpolations by the translator will be easily distinguished from the rest by the want of Eastern imagery; and I regret that my memory has retained so few fragments of the original.

For the contents of some the notes I am indebted partly to D'Herbelot, and partly to that most eastern, and at once the most judicious, and "sublime, tale," the "Caliph Vathek." I do not know from what source the author of that singular volume may have drawn his materials; some of his incidents are to be found in the Bibliothèque Orien tale;" and fearlessness, and power of imagination, it far surpasses all European imitations; and bears such marks of originality, that those who have visited the East, will have some difficulty in believing it to be more than a translation. As an Eastern tale, even Rasselas must bow before it; his "Happy Valley" will not bear a comparison with the "Hall of Eblis."
THE BRIDE OF ABYDOS:
A TURKISH TALE.

Had we never loved so blindly,
Had we never loved so blindly,
Never met or never parted,
We had never been broken-hearted.

TO
THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD HOLLAND,
THIS TALE IS INSCRIBED,
WITH EVERY SENTIMENT OF REGARD AND RESPECT, BY HIS GRATITUDE OBLIGED AND SINCERE FRIEND,
BYRON.

CANTO I.

I.
Know ye the land where the cypress and myrtle
Are emblems of deeds that are done in their clime,
Where the rage of the vulture, the love of the turtle,
Now melt into sorrow, now madden to crime?
Know ye the land of the cedar and vine,
Where the flowers ever blossom, the beams ever shine;
Where the light wings of Zephyr, oppress'd with perfume,
Wax faint o'er the gardens of Gül 1 in her bloom;
Where the citron and olive are fairest of fruit,
And the voice of the nightingale never is mute;
Where the tints of the earth, and the hues of the sky,
In color though varied, in beauty may vie,
And the purple of ocean is deepest in dye;
Where the virgins are soft as the roses they twine,
And all, save the spirit of man, is divine?
'Tis the clime of the East; 'tis the land of the sun—
Can he smile on such deeds as his children have done? 2
Ch ild as the accents of lovers' farewell
Are the hearts which they bear, and the tales which they tell.

II.
Begirt with many a gallant slave,
Apparel'd as becomes the brave,
Awaiting each his lord's behest
To guide his steps or guard his rest,

Old Giaffir sat in his Divan:
Deep thought was in his aged eye;
And though the face of Mussulman
Not oft betrays to standers by
The mind within, well skill'd to hide
All but unconquerable pride,
His pensive cheek and pondering brow
Did more than he was wont avow.

III.
"Let the chamber be clear'd."—The train dismissed—
"Now call me the chief of the Haram guard."
With Giaffir is none but his only son,
And the Nubian awaiting the sire's award.
"Haroun—when all the crowd that wait
Are pass'd beyond the outer gate,
(Who to the head whose eye beheld
My child Zuleika's face unveil'd!)
Hence, lead my daughter from her tower;
Her fate is fix'd this very h. ur:
Yet not to her repeat my thought;
By me alone be duty taught!"

"Pacha! to hear is to obey."
No more must slave to despot say—
Then to the tower had ta'en his way
But here young Selim silence brake,
First lowly rendering reverence meet
And downcast look’d and gently spake,  
Still standing at the Pacha’s feet:
For son of Moslem must expire,  
Ere dare to sit before his sire!

"Father! for fear that thou shouldst chide
My sister, or her sable guide,
Know—for the fault, if fault there be,
Was mine, then fall thy frowns on me—
So lovelly the morning shone,
That—let the old and weary sleep—I
could not; and to view alone.

The fairest scenes of land and deep,
With none to listen and reply
To thoughts with which my heart beat high
Were irksome—for what’er my mood,
In sooth I love not solitude;

I on Zuleika’s slumber broke,
And, as thou knowest that for me
Soon turns the Haram’s grating key,
Before the guardian slaves awoke
We to the eypress groves had flown,
And made earth, main, and heaven our own.
There linger’d we, beguiled too long
With Mejnoun’s tale, or Sadi’s song; 3
Till I, who heard the deep tambour
Beat thy Divan’s approaching hour,
To thee, and to my duty true,
Warn’d by the sound, to greet thee flew:
But there Zuleika wanders yet—
Nay, father, rage not—nor forget
That none can pierce that secret bower
But those who watch the women’s tower."

IV.

Son of a slave!"—the Pacha said—
"From unbelieving mother bred,
Vain were a father’s hope to see
Aught that beseeches a man in thee.
Thou, when thine arm should bend the bow,
And hurl the dart, and curb the steed,
Thou, Greek in soul if not in creed,
Must pore where babbling waters flow,
And watch unfolding roses blow.
Would that ye orb, whose matin glow
Thy listless eyes so much admire,
Wilt lend thee something of his fire
Thou, who wouldst see this battle
By Christian cannon piecemeal rent;
Nay, tamely view old Stambol’s wall
Before the dogs of Moscow fall,
Nor strike one stroke for life and death
Against the curs of Nazareth!
Go—let thy less than woman’s hand
Assume the distaff—not the brand.
But, Haroun!—to my daughter speed—
And hark—of thine own head take heed—
If thus Zuleika oft takes wing—
Thou seest yon bow—it hath a string!"

V.

No sound from Selim’s lip was heard
At least that met old Giaffir’s ear,
But every frown and every word
Pierced keener than a Christian’s sword.

"Son of a slave!—reproach’d with fear!
Those gibes ha I cost another dear.
Son of a slave!—and who my sire?"
Thus held his thoughts their dark career;

And glances even of more than ire
Flash forth, then faintly dispear.
Old Giaffir gazed upon his son
And started; for within his eye
He read how much his wrath hath done;
He saw rebellion there begun:
"Come hither, boy—what, no reply?
I mark thee—and I know thee too;
But there be deeds thou dar’st not do
But if thy hand had manlier length,
And if thy hand had skill and strength,
I’d joy to see thee break a lance,
Albeit against my own perchance"

As sneeringly these accents fell,
On Selim’s eye he fiercely gazed:
That eye return’d him glance for glance,
And proudly to his sire’s was raised,
Till Giaffir’s qual’d and shrunk askance
And why—he felt, but durst not tell.
"Much I misdoubt this wayward boy
Will one day work me more annoy:
I never loved him from his birth,
And—but his arm is little worth,
And scarcely in the chase could cope
With timid fawn or antelope.
Far less would venture into strife
Where man contends for fame and life
I would not trust that look or tone;
No—not the blood so near my own.
That blood—he hath not heard—no more
I’ll watch him closer than before.
He is an Arab b to my sight,
Or Christian crouching in the fight—
But hark!—I hear Zuleika’s voice:
Like Houris’ hymn it meets mine ear:
She is the offspring of my choice;
Oh! more than ev’n her mother dear,
With all to hope, and nought to fear
My Peri! ever welcome here!
Sweet as the desert-fountain’s wave
To lips just cool’d in time to save—
Such to my longing sight art thou;
Nor can they waft to Mecca’s shrine
More thanks for life, than I for thine,
Who blest thy birth, and bless thee now:

VI.

Fair, as the first that fell of womankind,
When on that dread yet lovely serpent smiling,
Whose image then was stamp’d upon her mind—
But once beguiled—and ever more beguiling;
Dazzling, as that, oh! too transcendent vision
To sorrow’s phantom-peopled slumber given.
When heart meets heart again in dreams Elysian
And paints the lost on earth revived in heaven;
Soft, as the memory of buried love;
Pure, as the prayer which childhood wafts above;
Was she—the daughter of this rude old chief,
Who met the maid with tears—but not of grief.

Who hath not proved how feebly words essay
To fix one spark of beauty’s heavenly ray?
Who doth not feel, until his failing sight
Paints into dimness with its own delight,
His changing cheek, his sinking heart confesses
The might—the majesty of loveliness!
Such was Zuleika—such around her shone
The nameless charms unmark’d by her tone;
The light of love, the purity of grace,
The mind, the music breathing from her face,
The heart: whose softness harmonized the whole—
And, oh! that eye was in itself a soul!

Her graceful arms in meekness bending
Across her gently budding breast;
To clasp the neck of him who blest
His child caressing and caress,
Zuleika came—and Giaffir felt
His purpose half within him melt:
Not that against her fancied weal
His heart though stern could ever feel;
Affection chain’d her to that heart;
Ambition tore the links apart.

VII.

"Zuleika! child of gentleness!
How dear this very day must tell,
When I forget my own distress,
To bid thee with another dwell:
Another! and a braver man
Was never seen in battle’s van.
We Moslem reck not much of blood;
But yet the line of Carasman
Unchanged, unchangeable hath stood
First of the bold Timariot bands
That won and well can keep their lands.
Enough that he who comes to woo
Is kinsman of the Bey Oglou:
His years need scarce a thought employ;
I would not have thee wed a boy.
And thou shalt have a noble dower:
And his and my united power
Will laugh to scorn the death-firman,
Which others tremble but to scan.
And teach the messenger what fate
The bearer of such boun may wait.
And now thou know’st thy father’s will;
All that thy sex hath need to know:
’Twas mine to teach obedience still—
The way to love thy lord may show."

VIII.

In silence bow’d the virgin’s head;
And if her eye was fill’d with tears,
That stifled feeling dare not shed,
And changed her cheek from pale to red,
And red to pale, as through her ears
Those winged words like arrows sped,
What could such be but maiden fears?
So bright the tear in beauty’s eye,
Love half regrets to kiss it dry;
So sweet the blush of bashfulness,
Even pity scarce can wish it less.
What’er it was the sire forgot;
Or if remember’d, mark’d it not:
Thrice clapp’d his hands, and call’d his steed,
Resign’d his gem-adorn’d Chibouke,
And mounting fealty for the mead,
With Maugrabee and Mamaluke,
His way amid his Delis took,
To witness many an active deed
With sabre keen, and blunt jereed.
The Kes’ar only and his Mors
Watch’d well the Haram’s massy doors.

IX.

His head was lean: upon his hand,
His eye look’d o’er the dark-blue water
That swiftly glides and gently swells
Between the winding Dardanelles;
But yet he saw nor sea nor strand,
Nor even his Pacha’s turban’d band
Mix in the game of minic slaughter,
Careering cleave the folded felt
With sabre stroke right sharply dealt;
Nor mark’d the javelin-darting crowd,
Nor heard their Ollahs’ wild and loud—
He thought but of old Giaffir’s daughter.

X.

No word from Selim’s bosom broke;
One sigh Zuleika’s thought bespoke:
Still gazed he through the lattice grate
Pale, mute, and mournfully sedate.
To him Zuleika’s eye was turn’d,
But little from his aspect learn’d:
Equal her grief, yet not the same;
Her heart confess’d a gentler flame,
But yet that heart alarm’d or weak,
She knew not why, forbade to speak
Yet speak she must—but when essay?
"How strange he thus should turn away!
Not thus we e’er before have met;
Not thus shall be our parting yet."
Thrice paced she slowly through the room,
And watch’d his eye—it still was fix’d;
She snatch’d the urn wherein was mix’d
The Persian Atar-gul’s perfume,
And sprinkled all its odors o’er
The pictured roof and marble floor:
The drops, that through his glittering rest
The playful girl’s appeal address,
Unheed’d o’er his bosom flew,
As if that breast were marble too.
"What, sullen yet? it must not be—
Oh! gentle Selim, this from thee!"
She saw in curious order set
The fairest flowers of Eastern land—
"He loved them once; may touch them yet,
If offer’d by Zuleika’s hand."
The childish thought was hardly breath’d
Before the rose was pluck’d and wreath’d:
The next fond moment saw her seat
Her fairy form at Selim’s feet:
"This rose to calm my brother’s cares
A message from the Bulbul bears;
It says to-night he will prolong
For Selim’s ear his sweetest song;
And though his note is somewhat sad,
He’ll try for once a strain more glad,
With some faint hope his alter’d lay
May sing these gloomy thoughts away."

XI.

"What! not receive my foolish flower?
Nay then I am indeed unblest:
On me can thus thy forehead lower?
And know’st thou not who loves thee best?
Oh, Selim dear! oh, more than dearest!
Say, is it me thou hast or fearest?
Come, lay thy head upon my breast,
And I will kiss thee into rest,
Since words of mine, and songs must fail,
Even from my fabled nighingale.
I knew our sire at times was stern,
But this from thee had yet to learn:
Too well I know he loves thee not;
But is Zuleika's love forgot?
Ah! deem I right? the 'Pacha's plan—
This kinsman of Carasman
Perhaps may prove some foe of thine.
If so, I swear by Mecca's shrine,
If shrines that ne'er approach allow
To woman's step admit her vow,
Without thy free consent, command,
The Sultan should not have my hand!
Thin'st thou that I could bear to part
With thee, and learn to halve my heart?
Ah! were I sever'd from thy side,
Where were thy friend—and who my guide?
Years have not seen, time shall not see
The hour that tears my soul from thee:
Even Azrael from his deadly shaft
When flies that shaft, and fly it must,
That parts all else, shall doom for ever
Our hearts to undivided dust!"

XII.
He lived—he breathed—he moved—he felt;
He raised the maid from where she knelt;
His trance was gone—his keen eye shone
With thoughts that long in darkness dwelt;
With thoughts that burn—in rays that melt.
As the stream late conceal'd
By the fringes of its willows,
When it rushes reveal'd
In the light of its willows;
As the bolt bursts on high
From the black cloud that bound it,
Flash'd the soul of that eye
Through the long lashes round it.
A war-horse at the trumpet's sound,
A lion roused by heedless hound,
A tyrant waked to sudden strife
By graze of ill-directed knife,
Starts not to more convulsive life
Than he, who heard that vow, display'd,
And all, before repud.'d, betray'd:
"Now thou art mine, for ever mine,
With life to keep, and scarce with life resign;
Now thou art mine, that sacred oath,
Though sworn by one, hath bound us both.
Yes, fondly, wisely hast thou done;
That vow hath saved more heads than one:
But bleech not thou—thy simplest tears
Claims more from me than tenderness;
I would not wrong the slenderest hair
That cluster round thy forehead fair,
For all the treasures buried far
Within the caves of Istarak.
This morning clouds upon me lower'd,
Reproaches on my head were shower'd,
And Giafiff almost called me coward!
Now I have motive to be brave;
The son of his neglected slave,
Nay, start not 'twas the term he gave,
May show, though little apt to vaunt,
A heart his words nor deeds can daunt.
His son, indeed!—yet, thanks to thee,
Perchance I am, at least shall be;
But let our plighted secret vow
Be only known to us as now

I know the wretch who dares demand
From Giafiff thy reluctant hand;
More ill-got wealth, a meaner soul
Holds not a Musselmen's control:
Was he not bred in Egripo? a
A viler race let Israel show!
But let that pass—to none be told
Our oath; the rest shall time unfold.
To me and mine leave Osman Bey;
I've partisans for peril's day:
Think not I am what I appear;
I've arms, and friends, and vengeance near

XIII.
"Think not thou art what thou appare'st,
My Selim, thou art sadly changed:
This morn I saw thee gentlest, dearest;
But now thou'rt from thyself estranged.
My love thou'st surely knew'st before,
It ne'er was less, nor can be more.
To see thee, hear thee, near thee stay,
And hate the night I know not why,
Save that we meet not but by day;
With thee to live, with thee to die,
I dare not to my hope deny:
Thy cheek, thine eyes, thy lips to kiss,
Like this—and this—no more than this;
For, Alla! sure thy lips are flame:
What fever in thy veins is flushing?
My own—have nearly caught the same,
At least I feel my cheek too blushing.
To soothe thy sickness, watch thy health.
Partake, but never waste thy wealth;
Or stand with smiles unmurmuring by,
And lighten half thy poverty;
Do all but close thy dying eye,
For that I could not live to try;
To these alone my thoughts aspire:
More can I do? or thou require?
But, Selim, thou must answer why
We see so much of mystery?
The cause I cannot dream nor tell,
But be it, since thou say'st 'tis well;
Yet what thou mean'st by 'arms' and 'friends'
Beyond my weaker sense extends.
I meant that Giafiff should have heard
The very vow I plighted thee;
His wrath would not revoke my word:
But surely he would leave me free.
Can this fond wish seem strange in me,
To be what I have ever been?
What other hath Zuleika seen
From simple childhood's earliest hour?
What other can she seek to see
Than thee, companion of her bower,
The partner of her infancy?
These cherished thoughts with life begur,
Say, why must I no more own?
What change is wrought to make me shun
The truth; my pride, and thine till now?
To meet the gaze of stranger's eyes
Our law, our creed, our God denies;
Nor shall one wandering thought of mine
At such, our Prophet's will repine:
No! happier made by that decree!
He left me all in leaving thee.
Deep were my anguish, thus compell'd
To wed with one I ne'er beheld:
This wherefore should I not reveal?
Why wilt thou urge me to conceal?
I know the Pacha's haughty mood
To thee hath never boded good:
And he so often storms at nought,
Allah! forbid that e'er he ought!
And why, I know not, but within
My heart concealment weighs like sin.
If then such secrecy be crime,
And such it feels while lurking here;
Oh, Selim! tell me yet in time,
Nor leave me thus to thoughts of fear.
Ah! yonder see the Tchoccadar,
My father leaves the mimic war;
I tremble now to meet his eye—
Say, Selim, canst thou tell me why?"

XIV.
"Zuleika! to thy tower's retreat
Betake thee—Giafr I can greet;
And now with him I fain must prate
Of firmans, imposts, levies, state.
There's fearful news from Damuzi's bank,
Our Vizier nobly thins his ranks,
For which the Girour may give him thanks!
Our Sultan bath a shorter way
Such costly triumph to repay.
But, mark me, when the twilight drum
Hath warn'd the troops to food and sleep,
Unto thy cell will Selim come;
Then softly from the Haram creep
Where we may wander by the deep:
Our garden-battlements are steep;
Nor these will rash intruder climb
To list our words, or stint our time;
And if he doth, I want not steel
Which some have felt, and more may feel.
Then shalt thou learn of Selim more
Than thou hast heard or thought before:
Trust me, Zuleika—fear not me!
Thou know'st I hold a Haram key."

"Fear thee, my Selim! ne'er till now
Did word like this—"
"Delay not thou;
I keep the key—and Haroun's guard
Have some, and hope of more reward.
To-night, Zuleika, thou shalt hear
My tale, my purpose, and my fear:
I am not, love! what I appear"

CANTO II.

I.
The winds are high on Helles' wave,
As on that night of stormy water,
When Love, who sent, forgot to save
The young, the beautiful, the brave,
The lonely hope of Sestos' daughter.
Oh! when alone along the sky
Her turret-torch was blazing high,
Though rising gale, and breaking foam,
And shrieking sea-birds warn'd him home;
And clouds aloft and tides below,
With signs and sounds, forbade to go,
He could not see, he would not hear
Or sound or sign foreboding fear;
His eye but saw that light of love,
The only star it hail'd above;
His ear but rang with Hero's song,
"Ye waves, divide not lovers long!"—
That tale is old, but love anew
May nerve young hearts to prove as true

II.
The winds are high, and Helles' tide
Rolls darkly heaving to the main;
And night's descending shadows hide
That field with blood bedew'd in vain,
The desert of old Priam's pride
The tombs, sole relics of his reign,
All—save immortal dreams that could beguile
The blind old man of Scio's rocky isle.

III.
Oh! yet—for there my steps have been;
These feet have press'd the sacred shore;
These limbs that buoyant wave hath borne—
Minstrel! with thee to muse, to mourn,
To trace again those fields of yore,
Believing every hillock green
Contains no fabled hero's ashes,
And that around the undoubted scene
Thine own "broad Hellespont" estil dauces.
Be long my lot! and cold were he
Who there could gaze denying thee!

IV.
The night hath closed on Helles' stream,
Nor yet hath risen on Ida's hill
That moon, which shone on his high theme
No warrior chides her peaceful beam,
But conscious shepherds bless it still.
Their flocks are grazing on the mound
Of him who felt the Dardan's arrow:
That mighty heap of gather'd ground
Which Ammon's son ran proudly round
By nations raised, by monarchs crown'd,
Is now a lone and nameless bower!
Within—thy dwelling-place how narrow,
Without—can only strangers breathe
The name of him that was beneath:
Dust long outlasts the storied stone;
But thou—thy very dust is gone!

V.
Late, late to-night will Dian cheer
The swain, and chase the boatman's fear;
Till then no beacon on the cliff
May shape the course of struggling skiff;
The scatter'd lights that skirt the bay.
All, one by one, have died away;
The lamp of this lone hour
Is glimmering in Zuleika's tower:
Yes! there is light in that lone chamber,
And o'er her silken ottoman
Are thrown the fragrant beads of amber,
O'er which her fairy fingers ran;
Near these, with emerald rays beset,
(How could she thus that gem forget?)
Her mother's sainted amulet,
Whereon engraved the Koorsen text,
Could smooth this life, and win the next;
And by her comboloio lies
A Koran of illumined eyes.
And many a bright emblazon'd rhyme
By Persian scribes redeem'd from time;
And o'er those scrolls, not oft so mute,
Reclines her now neglected lute;
And round her lamp of fretted gold
Bloom flowers in urns of China's mould;
The richest work of Iran's loom,
And Sheeraz' tribute of perfume;
All that can eye or sense delight
Are gather'd in that gorgeous room:
But yet it hath an air of gloom.
She, of this Peri cell the sprite,
What doth she hence, and on so rude a night?

VI.
Wrupt in the darkest sable vest,
Which none save noblest Moslem wear,
To guard from winds of heaven the breast
As heaven itself to Selim dear,
With cautious steps the thicket threading,
And starting oft, as through the glade
The gust its hollow moanings made,
Till on the smoother pathway treading,
More free her timid bosom beat,
The wail pursued her silent guide;
And though her terror urged retreat,
How could she quit her Selim's side?
How teach her tender lips to chide?

VII.
They reach'd at length a grotto, hewn
By nature but enlarged by art,
Where oft her lute she wont to tune,
And oft her Koran com'd apart;
And oft in youthful reverie
She dream'd what Paradise might be:
Where woman's parted soul shall go
Her prophet had disdained to show;
But Selim's mansion was secure,
Nor deem'd she, could he long endure
His bow'er in other worlds of bliss,
Without her, most beloved in this!
Oh! who so dear with him could dwell?
What Hourli sooth him half so well?

VIII.
Since last she visited the spot
Some change seem'd wrought within the grot:
It might be only that the night
Disguised things seen by better light:
That brazen lamp but dimly threw
A ray of no celestial hue;
But in a nook within the cell
Her eye on stranger objects fell.
There arms were piled, not such as wield
The turban'd Devis in the field;
But brands of foreign blade and hilt,
And one was red—perchance with guilt!
Ah! how without can blood be split?
A cup too on the board was set
That did not seem to hold sherbet.
What may this mean? she turn'd to see
Her Selim—"Oh. can this be he?"

IX.
His robe of pride was thrown aside,
His brow no high-crown'd turban bore,
But in its stead a shawl of red.
Wreathed lightly round his temples wore:

That dagger, on whose hilt the gem
Were worthy of a diadem,
No longer glitter'd at his waist,
Where pistols undorn'd were braced;
And from his belt a sabre swung,
And from his shoulder loosely hung
The cloak of white, the thin capote
That decks the wandering Candidote.
Beneath—his golden-plated vest
Chung like a cuirass to his breast;
The greaves below his knee that wound
With silvery scales were sheathed and bound
But were it not that high command
Spake in his eye, and tone, and hand,
All that a careless eye could see
In him was some young Galianjoté. 28

X.
"I said I was not what I seem'd:
And now thou seest my words were true
I have a tale thou hast not dream'd,
If sooth—its truth must others rue
My story now 'twere vain to hide;
I must not see thee Osman's bride;
But had not thine own lips declared
How much of that young heart I shared,
I could not, must not, yet have shown
The darker secret of my own.
In this I speak not now of love;
That, let time, truth, and peril prove.
But first—Oh! never wed another—
Zuleika! I am not thy brother!"

XI.
"Oh! not my brother!—yet unsay—
God! am I left alone on earth
To mourn—I dare not curse—the day
That saw my solitary birth?
Oh! thou wilt love me now no more!
My sinking heart forebode ill;
But know me all I was before,
Thy sister—friend—Zuleika still.
Thou led'st me here perchance to kill;
If thou hast cause for vengeance, see
My breast is offer'd—take thy fill!
Far better with the dead to be
Than live thus nothing now to thee:
Perhaps far worse, for now I know
Why Giaffir always seem'd thine foe;
And I alas! am Giaffir's child,
For whom thou wert contemn'd, revil'd.
If not thy sister—wouldst thou save
My life? Oh! bid me be thy slave"

XII.
"My slave, Zuleika!—nay, I'm thine;
But, gentle love, this transport calm:
Thy lot shall yet be link'd with mine;
I swear it by our Prophet's shrine,
And be that thought thy sorrow's balm.
So may the Koran 29 verse display'd
Upon its steel direct my blade,
In danger's hour to guard us both,
As I preserve that awful oath!
The name in which thy heart hath prided
Must change; but, my Zuleika, know,
That tie is widen'd, not divided,
Although thv Sire's my deadliest foe.
BYRON'S WORKS.

My father was to Giaffir all
That Selim late was deem'd to thee;
That brother wrought a brother's fall,
But spared, at least, my infancy;
And lull'd me with a vain deceit
That yet a like return may meet.
He rear'd me, not with tender help,
But like the nephew of a Cain; 30
He watched me like a lion's whelp,
That guaws and yet may break his chain.
My father's blood in every vein
Is boiling; but for thy dear sake
No present vengeance will I take:
Though here I must no more remain.
But first, belov'd Zuleika! hear
How Giaffir wrought this deed of fear.

XIII.
"How fast their strife to rancor grew,
If love or envy made them foes,
It matters little if I knew;
In fiery spirits, slights, though few
And thoughtless, will disturb repose.
In war Abdallah's arm was strong,
Remember'd yet in Bosnian song,
And Paswan's 31 rebel hordes attest
How little love they bore such guest;
His death is all I need relate,
The stern effect of Giaffir's hate;
And how my birth disclosed to me,
Whate'er beside it makes, hath made me free.

XIV.
"When Paswan, after years of strife,
At last for power, but first for life,
In Widin's walls too proudly sate,
Our Pachas rallied round the state;
Nor last nor least in high command
Each brother led a separate band;
They gave their horsetails 32 to the wind,
And, muttering in Sophin's plain,
Their tents were pitch'd, their post assign'd:
To one, alas! assign'd in vain!
What need of words? the deadly bowl,
By Giaffir's order drugg'd and given,
With venom subtle as his soul,
Dismiss'd Abdallah's hence to heaven.
Reclined and feverish in the bath,
He, when the hunter's sport was up,
But little deem'd a brother's wrath
To quench his thirst had such a cup:
The bowl a bribed attendant bore;
He drank one draught, 33 nor needed more!
If thou my tale, Zuleika, doubt,
Call Haroun—he can tell it out.

XV.
"The deed once done, and Paswan's feud
In part suppress'd, though ne'er subdued,
Abdallah's Pachalick was gain'd:—
Thou know'st not what in our Divan
Can wealth procure for worse than man—
Abdallah's honors were obtain'd
By him a brother's murder stain'd;
'Tis true, the purchase nearly drain'd
His ill-got treasure, soon replaced.
Would'st question whence? Survey the waste.
And ask the squallid peasant how
His gains repay his broiling brow!—

Why me the stern usurper spared,
Why thus with me his palace shared,
I know not. Shame, regret, remorse
And little fear from infant's force;
Besides, adoption as a son
By him whom Heaven accorded none
Or some unknown cabal, caprice,
Preserved me thus; but not in peace
He cannot curb his haughty mood,
Nor I forgive a father's blood.

XVI.
"Within thy father's house are foes;
Not all who break his bread are true.
To these should I my birth disclose,
His days, his very hours were few:
They only want a heart to lead,
A hand to point them to the deed.
But Haroun only knows, or knew
This tale, whose close is almost nigh:
Hein Abdallah's palace grew,
And held that post in his Serai
Which holds he here—he saw him die:
But what could single slavery do?
Avenge his lord? alas! too late;
Or save his son from such a fate?
He chose the last, and when elate
With foes subdued, or friends betray'd,
Proud Giaffir in high triumph sate,
He led me helpless to his gate,
And not in vain it seems essay'd
To save the life for which he pray'd.
The knowledge of my birth secured
From all and each, but most from me;
Thus Giaffir's safety was insured.
Removed he too from Roumelie
To this our Asiatic side,
Far from our seats by Danube's tide,
With none but Haroun, who retains
Such knowledge—and that Nubian feels
A tyrant's secrets are but chains,
From which the captive gladly steals,
And this and more to me reveals:
Such still to guilt just Alla sends—
Slaves, tools, accomplices—no friends!

XVII.
"All this, Zuleika, harshly sound;
But harsher still my tale must be:
How'er, my tongue thy softness wounds,
Yet I must prove all truth to thee.
I saw thee start this garb to see,
Yet is it one I oft have worn,
And long must wear: this Galligée,
To whom thy plighted vow is sworn,
Is leader of those pirate hordes,
Whose laws and lives are on their swords,
To hear whose desolating tale
Would make thy waning cheek more pale,
Those arms thou see'st my hand have brought:
The hands that wield are not remote
This cup too for the rugged knaves.
Is fill'd—once quaff'd, they ne'er repose;
Our Prophet might forgive the slaves;
They're only infidels in wine.

XVIII.
"What could I be? Prescribed at home,
And taunted to a wiser to roam;
And listless left— for Giaffir’s fear
Denied the courser and the spear—
Though oft— Oh, Mahomet! how oft!—
In full Divan the despot scoff’d,
As if my weak unwilling hand
Refused the bridle or the brand:
He ever went to war alone,
And pent me here untired; unknown;
To Haroun’s care with women left,
By hope unblest, of fame bereft,
While thou— whose softness long endeav’d,
Though it unmann’d me, still had cheer’d—
To Brusa’s walls for safety sent,
Await’d there the field’s event.
Haroun, who saw my spirit pining
Beneath inaction’s sluggish yoke,
His captive, though with dread resigning,
My thraldom for a season broke,
On promise to return before
The day when Giaffir’s charge was o’er.
’Tis vain— my tongue cannot impart
My almost drunkenness of heart,
The last first this liberated eye
Survey’d Earth, Ocean, Sun, and Sky,
As if my spirit pierced them through,
And all their inmost wonders knew!
One word alone can paint to thee
That more than feeling— I was Free!—
E’en for thy presence ceased to pine;
The World— nay— Heaven itself was mine!

XIX.

’Tis true, they are a lawless brood,
But rough in form, nor mild in mood;
And every creed, and every race,
With them hath found— may find a place.
But open speech, and ready hand,
Obedience to their chief’s command;
A soul for every enterprise,
That never sees with terror’s eyes;
Friendship for each, and faith to all,
And vengeance vow’d for those who fall,
Have made them fitting instruments
For more than even my own intents.
And some— and I have studied all
Distinguish’d from the vulgar rake,
But chiefly to my counsel and
The wisdom of the cautious Frank—
And some to higher thoughts aspire,
The last of Lambro’s patriot’s there
Anticipated facts with shah;
And oft around the cavern fire
On visionary schemes debate,
To snatch the Rayahs 
from their fate.
So let them ease their hearts with prate
Of equal rights, which men ne’er knew:
I have a love for freedom too.

Ah! let me like the ocean patriarch roam,
Or only know on land the Tartar’s home!—
My tent on shore, my ghilley on the sea,
Are more than cities and serais to me:
Borne by my steed, or wafted by my sail,
Across the desert, or before the gale.
Bound where thou wilt, my barb! or glide, my prow
But be the star that guides the wanderer, Thou!
Thou, my Zuleika, shine with wonder in my bark.
The dove of peace and promise to mine ark!
Or, since that hope denied in worlds of strife,
Be thou the rainbow to the storms of life!
The evening beam that smiles the clouds away,
And hints to-morrow with prophetic ray!
Blest— as the Muez’zinn’s strain from Mecca’s wall
To pilgrim’s pure and prostrate at his call
Soft— as the melody of youthful days,
That steals the trembling tear of speechless praise.
Dear— as his native song to exile’s ears,
Shall sound each tone thy long-loved voice endears.
For thee in those bright isles is built a bower,
Blovining as Aden 
its earliest shore.
A thousand swords, with Selim’s heart and hand
Wait— wave— defend— destroy— at thy command.
Girt by my hand, Zuleika at my side,
The spoil of nations shall bedeck my pride.
The Haram’s languid years of listless ease
Are well resign’d for cares— for joys like these:
Not blind to fate, I see, where’er I rove,
Unnumber’d perils— but one only love!
Yet well my toils shall that fond breast repay,
Though fortune frowns, or false friends betray.
How dear the dream in darkest hours of ill,
Should all be changed, to find thee faithful still
Be but thy soul like Selim’s, firmly shown;
To thee be Selim’s tender as thine own;
To sooth each sorrow, share in each delight,
Blend every thought, do all— but disdain!
Once free, ‘tis mine our horde again to guide;
Friends to each other, foes to aught beside:
Yet there we follow but the bent assign’d
By fatal nature to man’s warring kind:
Mark! where his carnage and his conquest cease
He makes a solitude, and calls it— peace!
I, like the rest, must use my skill or strength,
But ask no land beyond my sabre’s length.
Power sways but by division— her resource
The blest alternative of fraud or force;
Ours be the last; in time deceit may come,
When cities crape us in a social home;
There even thy soul might err— how oft the heart
Corruption shakes which peril could not part.
And woman, more than man, when death or wo,
Or even disgrace would lay her lover low.
Sunk in the lap of luxury will shame—
Away suspicion! not Zuleika’s name;
But life is hazard at the best; and here
No more remains to win, and much to fear;
Yes, fear!— the doubt, the dread of losing thee,
By Osman’s power and Giaffir’s stern decree.
That dread shall vanish with the favoring gale,
Which love to-night hath promised to my sail:
No longer dance the pair his smile hath blest,
Their steps still roving, but their hearts at rest.
With thee all toils are sweet, each clime hath charms,
Earth— sea alike— our world within our arms!
Ay— let the loud winds whistle o’er the deck,
So that those arms cling closer round my neck.
The deepest murmur of this lip shall be
No sigh for safety, but a prayer for thee!  
The war of elements no fears impart  
To love, whose deadliest bane is human art:  
There lie the only rocks our course can check;  
Here moments menace—there are years of wreck!  
But hence ye thoughts that rise in Horror's shape!  
This hour bestows, or ever bars escape.  
 Few words remain of mine tale to close:  
Of thine but que to waft us from our foes;  
Yea—foes—to me will Giaffir's hate decline?  
And is not Osman, who would part us, thine

FORTH TO THE CAVERN MOUTH HE STEPT,  
His pistol's echo rang on high;  
Zuleika started not, nor wept,  
Despair benumb'd her breast and eye—  
"They hear me not, or if they ply  
Their ears, 'tis but to see me die;  
That sound hath drawn my foes more nigh  
Then forth my father's scimitar;  
Thou ne'er hast seen less equal war!  
Farewell, Zuleika!—Sweet! retire:  
Yet stay within—here linger safe,  
At thee his rage will only chafe.  
Stir not—lest even to thee perchance  
Some erring blade or ball should glance.  
Fear'st thou for him?—may I expire,  
If in this strife I seek thy sire!  
No—though by him that poison pour'd;  
No—though again he call me coward!  
But tamely shall I meet their steel?  
No—as each crest save his may feel!

XXI.

"His head and faith from doubt and death  
Return'd in time my guard to save;  
Few heard, none told, that o'er the wave  
From isle to isle I roved the while:  
And since, though parted from my band,  
Too seldom now I leave the land,  
No deed they've done, nor deed shall do,  
Fare I have heard and doom'd it too:  
I form the plan, decree the spoil,  
'Tis fit I oftener share the toil.  
But now too long I've held thine ear;  
Time presses, floats my bark, and here  
We leave behind but hate and fear.  
To-morrow Osman with his train  
Arrives—to-night must break thy chain;  
And wouldst thou save that haughty Bey,  
Perchance his life who gave thee thine,  
With me this hour away—away!  
But yet, though thou art plighted mine,  
Wouldst thou recall thy willing vow,  
Appall'd by truths imparted now,  
Here rest—I—not to see thee wed:  
But be that peril on my head!"

XXII.

Zuleika, mute and motionless,  
Stood like that statue of distress,  
When, her last hope for ever gone,  
The mother harden'd into stone;  
All in the maid that eye could see  
Was but a younger Niobe.  
But ere her lip, or even her eye,  
Essay'd to speak, or look reply,  
Beneath the garden's wicket porch  
Far flashed on high a blazing torch!  
Another—and another—and another—  
"Oh! sir—no more—yet now my more than  
brother!"  
Far, wide, through every thickets spread,  
The fearful lights are gleaming red;  
Nor these alone—for each right hand  
Is ready with a sheathless brand.  
They part, pursue, return, and wheel  
With searching flambeau, shining steel;  
And last of all, his sabre waving,  
Stern Giaffir in his fury raving:  
And now almost they touch the cave—  
Oh! must that grot be Selim's grave?

XXIII.

Dauntless he stood—"tis come—soon past—  
One kiss, Zuleika—'tis my last:  
But yet my band not far from shore  
May hear this signal, see the flash:  
Yet now too few—the attempt were rash:  
No matter—yet one effort more."

XXIV.

One bound he made, and gain'd the sand.  
Already at his feet hath sunk  
The foremost of the prying band,  
A gasping head, a quivering trunk:  
Another falls—but round him close  
A swarming circle of his foes;  
From right to left his path he left,  
And almost met the meeting wave:  
His boat appears—not five oars' length—  
His comrades strain with desperate strength  
Oh! are they yet in time to save?  
His feet the foremost breakers lave;  
His band are plunging in the bay,  
Their sabres glitter through the spray  
Wet—wild—unwearied to the strand  
They struggle—now they touch the land!  
They come!—'tis but to add to slaughter—  
His heart's best blood is on the water.

XXV.

Escaped from shot, unhar'm'd by steel,  
Or scarcely grazed its force to feel,  
Had Selim won, betray'd, beset.  
To where the strand and billows met:  
There as his last step left the land,  
And the last death-blow dealt his hand—  
Ah! wherefore did he turn to look  
For her his eye but sought in vain?  
That pause, that fatal gape he took,  
Hath doom'd his death, or fix'd his chain  
Sad proof, in peril and in pain,  
How late will lover's hope remain!  
His back was to the dashing spray:  
Behind, but close, his comrades lay,  
When, at the instant, hiss'd the ball—  
"So may the foes of Giaffir fall!"  
Whose voice is heard? whose carbine rang?  
Whose bullet through the night-air sang,  
Too nearly, deadly aim'd to err?  
"Tis thine—Abdallah's murderer!  
The father slowly rued thy hate,  
The son hath found a quicker fate:  
Past from his breast the blood is bubbling,  
The whiteness of the sea-foam troubling—  
If aught his lips essay'd to groan  
The rushing billows choked the tone.
XXVI.
Morn slowly rolls the clouds away;
Few trophies of the fight are there:
The shouts that shook the midnight bay
Are silent; but some signs of fray
That strand of strife may bear,
And fragments of each shiver'd brand;
Steps stamp'd; and dash'd into the sand
The print of many a struggling hand
May there be mark'd; nor far remote
A broken torch, an oarless boat;
And tangled on the weeds that heap
The beach where shelving to the deep
There lies a white capote!
'Tis rent in twain—one dark red stain
The wave yet ripples o'er in vain:
But where is he who wore?
Ye! who would o'er his relics weep,
Go, seek them where the surges sweep
Their burden round Sigeon's steep,
And cast en Lemnos' shore:
The sea-birds shriek above the prey,
O'er which their hungry beaks delay,
As shaken on his restless pillow;
His head heaves with the heaving hillow;
That hand, whose motion is not life,
Yet feebly seems to menace strife,
Flung by the tossing tide on high,
Then levell'd with the wave—
What recks it, though that corse shall lie
Within a living grave?
The bird that teares that prostrate form
Hath only robb'd the meane worm;
The only heart, the only eye
Had bled or wept to see him die,
Had seen those scatter'd limbs composed,
And mourn'd above his turban-stone,
That heart hath burst—that eye was closed—
Yea—closed before his own!

XXVII.
By Helle's stream there is a voice of wail
And woman's eye is wet—man's cheek is pale:
Zuleika! last of Giaffir's race,
Thy destined lord is come too late;
He sees not—not she shall see thy face,
Can he not hear
The loud Wu-lu-walle! 41 warn his distant ear?
Thy handmaids weeping at the gate,
The Koran-chanters of the hymn of fate,
The silent slaves with folded arms that wait,
Signs in the hall, and shrieks upon the gate,
Tell him thy tale!
Thou didst not view thy Selim fall!
That fearful moment when he left the cave
Thy heart grew chill:
He was thy hope—thy joy—thy love—thy all—
And that last thought on him thou couldst not save
Sufficed to kill;
Euryst forth in one wild cry—and all was still.
Peace to thy broken heart, and virgin grave!
Ah! happy! but of life to lose the worst!
That grief—though deep—though fatal—was thy first!
Thrice happy! ne'er to feel nor fear the force
Of absence, shame, pride, hate, revenge, remorse!
And, oh! that pang where more than madness lies!
The worm that will not sleep—and never dies;

Thought of the gloomy day and ghastly night,
That dreads the darkness, and yet loathes the light
That winds around and tears the quivering heart!
Ah! wherefore not consume it—and depart?
Woe to thee, rash and unrelenting chief!
Vainly thou heap'st the dust upon thy head,
Vainly the sackcloth o'er thy limbs doth spread
By that same hand Abdallah—Selim bled.
Now let it tear thy beard in idle grief;
Thy pride of heart, thy bride for Osman's bed.
She, whom thy sultan had but seen to wed,
Thy daughter's dead!
Hope of thine age, thy twilight's lonely beam,
The star hath set that shone on Helle's stream.
What quench'd its ray?—the blood that thou hast shed!

Hark! to the hurried question of despair:
"Where is my child?"—an echo answers—
"Where?"42

XXVIII.
Within the place of thousand tombs
That shine beneath, while dark above
The sad but living eypress glooms,
And withers not, though branch and leaf
Are stamp'd with an eternal grief,
Like early unrequited love,
One spot exists, which ever blooms,
Even in that deadly grove—
A single rose is shedding there
Its lonely lustre, meek and pale
It looks as planted by despair—
So white—so faint—the slightest gale
Might whirl the leaves on high;
And yet, though storms and blight assat,
And hands more rude than winter sky
May wring it from the stem—in vain—
To-morrow sees it bloom again!
The stalk some spirit gently rears,
And waters with celestial tears;
For well may maids of Helle deem
That this can be no earthly flower,
Which mocks the tempest's withering hour
And buds unshelter'd by a bower,
Nor droops, though spring refuse her shower,
Not woos the summer beam;
To it the livelong night there sings
A bird unseen—but not remote:
Invisible his sily wings,
But soft as harp that Houri strings
His long entrancing note!
It were the bullbul; but his throat,
Though mournful, pours not such a strain.
For they who listen cannot leave
The spot, but linger there and grieve,
As if they loved in vain!
And yet so sweet the tears they shed,
'Tis sorrow so unmix'd with dread,
They scarce can bear the morn to break
That melancholy spell,
And longer yet would weep and wake,
He sings so wild and well!
But when the day-birth bursts from high
Expires that magic melody.
And some have been who could believe
(So fondly youthful dreams deceive,
And harsh be they that blame)
That note so piercing and profound
Will shape and syllable its sound
Into Zuleika's name.43
'Tis from her cypress' summit heard,
That melts in air the liquid word;
'Tis from her lovely virgin earth
That white rose takes its tender birth.
There late was laid a marble stone;
Eve saw it placed—the morrow gone!
It was no mortal arm that bore
That deep-fix'd pillar to the shore:
For there, as Helle's legends tell,
Next morn 'twas found where Selim fell,

Lash'd by the tumbling tide, whose wave
Denied his bones a holier grave:
And there by night, reclined, 'tis said,
Is seen a ghastly turban'd head:
And hence extended by the billow,
'Tis named the "Pirate phantom's pillow"
Where first it lay that mourning flower
Hath flourish'd; flourisheth this hour,
Alone and dewy, coldly pure and pale;
As weeping beauty's check at sorrow's tale!

NOTES TO THE BRIDE OF ABYDOS.

1. Wax foint o'er the gardens of Gül in her bloom. Page 122, line 8.
   "Gül," the rose.

2. Can he smile on such deeds as his children have done? Page 122, line 17.
   "Souls made of fire, and children of the sun,
   With whom revenge is virtue.—Young's Revenge.

3. With Mejnouns tale, or Sadi's song. Page 123, line 23.
   Mejnoun and Lella, the Romeo and Juliet of the East. Sadi, the moral poet of Persia.

   Tambour, Turkish drum, which sounds at sunrise, noon, and twilight.

5. He is an Arab to my sight. Page 123, line 95.
   The Turks abhor the Arabs (who return the compliment a hundred fold) even more than they hate the Christians.

6. The mind, the music breathing from her face. Page 124, line 2.
   This expression has met with objections. I will not refer to "him who hath not music in his soul," but merely request the reader to recollect, for ten seconds, the features of the woman whom he believes to be the most beautiful; and if he then does not comprehend fully what is feebly expressed in the above line, I shall be sorry for us both. For an eloquent passage in the latest report of the first English writer of this, perhaps of any age, on the analogy (and the immediate comparison excited by that analogy), between "painting and music," see vol. iii. cap. 10. De l'ALLEMAGNE. And is not this connexion still stronger with the original than the copy? With the coloring of nature than of art?

After all, this is rather to be felt than described; still I think there are some who will understand it, at least they would have done, had they beheld the countenance whose speaking harmony suggested the idea; for this passage is not drawn from imagination, but memory, that mirror which affliction dashes to the earth, and looking down upon the fragments, only beholds the reflection multiplied.

   Carasman Oglou, or Cara Osman Oglou, is the principal landholder in Turkey: he governs Magnesia; those who, by a kind of feudal tenure, possess land on condition of service, are called Tiamroits: they serve as Spahis, according to the extent of territory, and bring a certain number into the field, generally cavalry.

8. And teach the messenger what fate. Page 124, line 36.
   When a Pacha is sufficiently strong to resist, the single messenger, who is always the first bearer of the order for his death, is strangling instead, and sometimes five or six, one after the other, on the same errand, by command of the refractory patient; if, on the contrary, he is weak or loyal, he bows, kisses the Sultan's respectable signature, and is bowstrung with great complacency. In 1810, several of these presents were exhibited in the niche of the Scraglio gate; among others, the head of the Pacha of Bagdat, a brave young man, cut off by treachery, after a desperate resistance.

9. Thrice clapp'd his hands, and call'd his steed. Page 124, line 55.
   Clapping of the hands calls the servants. The Turks hate a superfluous expenditure of voice, and they have no bells.

10. Resign'd has gem-adorn'd chibouque. Page 124, line 60.
Chouko, the Turkish pipe, of which the amber, mouth-piece and sometimes the ball which contains the leaf, is adorned with precious stones, if in possession of the wealthier orders.

Maugrabee, Moorish mercenaries.

12. His way amid his Delis took. Page 124, line 59
Deli, bravos who form the forlorn hope of the cavalry, and always begin the action.

A twisted fold of felt is used for seclusion practice by the Turks, and few but Mussulman arms can cut through it at a single stroke: sometimes a tough turban is used for the same purpose. The jereed is a game of blunt javelins, animated and graceful.

Ollaha, Alla il Allah, the "Leilies," as the Spanish poets call them, the sound is Ollah; a cry of which the Turks, for a silent people, are somewhat profuse, particularly during the jereed, or in the chase, but mostly in battle. Their animation in the field, and gravity in the chamber, with their pipes and combolios form an amusing contrast.

"Atar-gul," ottar of roses. The Persian is the finest.

The ceiling and wainscots, or rather walls, of the Mussulman apartments are generally painted, in great houses, with one eternal and highly colored view of Constantinople, wherein the principal feature is a noble contempt of perspective; below, arms, scimitars, &c., are in general fancifully and not inedly disposed.

17. A message from the Bulbul bears. Page 124, line 111.
It has been much doubted whether the notes of this "Lover of the rose," are sad or merry; and Mr. Fox's remarks on the subject have provoked some learned controversy as to the opinions of the ancients on the subject. I dare not venture a conjecture on the point, though a little inclined to the "errare mallem," &c., if Mr. Fox was mistaken.

18. Even Azael, from his deadly quiver. Page 125, line 19.
"Azael"—the angel of death.

19. Within the covers of Iskatar. Page 125, line 54.
The treasures of the Pre-Adamite Sultans. See D'Herbelot, article Iskatar.

20. Holds not a Musselin's control. Page 125, line 70.
Musselin, a governor, the next in rank after a Pacha; a Wayrode is the third; and then come the Agas.

Egripo—the Negropont,—According to the proverb the Turks of Egripo, the Jews of Salopieca, and the Greeks of Athens, are the worst of their respective races.

22. Ah! yonder see the Tchocadar. Page 125, line 13.
"Tchocadar"—one of the attendants who precedes a man of authority.

23. Thine own "broad Hellespont" still dashes. Page 126, line 83.
The wrangling about this epithet "the broad Hellespont" or the "boundless Hellespont," whether it means one or the other, or what it means at all, has been beyond all possibility of detail. I have even heard it disputed on the spot; and, not foreseeing a speedy conclusion to the controversy, amused myself with swimming across it in the mean time, and probably may again before the point is settled. Indeed, the question as to the truth of the tale of Troy divine, still continues, much of it resting upon the talismanic word "artepes"; probably Homer had the same notion of distance that a coquette has of time, and when he talks of boundless, means half a mile; as the latter, by a like figure, when she says eternal attachment, simply signifies three weeks.

24. Which Ammon's son ran proudly round. Page 126, line 94.
Before his Persian invasion, and crowned the altar with laurel, &c. He was afterwards imitated by Caracalla in his race. It is believed that the last also poisoned a friend, named Festus, for the sake of new Petrolean games. I have seen the sheep feeding on the tombs of Esieetes and Antiochus the first is in the centre of the plain.

25. O'er which her fairy fingers ran. Page 126, line 113.
When rubbed, the amber is susceptible of a perfume, which is slight but not disagreeable.

The belief in amulets engraved on gems, or closed in gold boxes, containing scraps from the Koran worn round the neck, wrist, or arm, is still universal in the East. The Korosee (throne) verse in the second chapter of the Koran describes the attributes of the Most High, and is engraved in this manner, and worn by the pious, as the most esteemed and sublime of all sentences.

27. And by her Combol cio lies. Page 126, line 119.
"Combolio"—a Turkish rosary. The MSS. particularly those of the Persians, are richly adorned and illuminated. The Greek females are kept in utter ignorance; but many of the Turkish girls are highly accomplished, though not actually qualified for a Christian coterie; perhaps some of our own "blues" might not be the worse for bleaching.

28. In him was some young Galiane. Page 127, line 77.
"Galianee"—or Galiani, a sailor, that is a
29. 
So may the Koran verse display'd.
Page 127, line 116.

The characters on all Turkish scimitars contain sometimes the name of the place of their manufacture, but more generally a text from the Koran, in letters of gold. Among those in my possession, is one with a blade of singular construction; it is very broad, and the edge notched into serpentine curves like the ripple of water, or the waving of flame. I asked the Armenian who sold it, what possible use such a figure could add; he said, in Italian, that he did not know; but the Mussulmans had an idea that those of this form gave a severed wound; and liked it because it was "pin ferroce." I did not much admire the reason, but bought it for its peculiarity.

30. 
But-like the nephew of a Cain.
Page 128, line 8.

It is to be observed, that every allusion to anything or personage in the Old Testament, such as the Ark, or Cain, is equally the privilege of Mussulman and Jew: indeed, the former profess to be much better acquainted with the lives, true and fabulous, of the patriarchs, than is warranted by our own sacred writ, and not content with Adam, they have a biography of Pre-Adamites. Solomon is the monarch of all necromancy, and Moses a prophet inferior only to Christ and Mahomet. Zuleika is the Persian name of Potiphur's wife, and her amanuens Joseph constitutes one of the finest poems in the language. It is therefore no violation of costume to put the names of Cain, or Noah, into the mouth of a Moslem.

31. 
And Passano's rebel horses attest.
Page 128, line 24.

Peswan Oglou, the rebel of Widin, who for the last years of his life, set the whole power of the Porte at defiance.

32. 
They gave their horsetails to the wind.
Page 128, line 36.

Horsetail, the standard of a Pacha.

33. * He drank one draught, nor needed more.
Page 128, line 49.

Giaffir, Pacha of Argyro Castro, or Scutari, I am not sure which, was actually taken off by the Albanian Ali, in the manner described in the text. Ali Pacha, while I was in the country, married the daughter of his victim, some years after the event had taken place, at a bath in Sophia, or Adrianople. The poison was mixed in the cup of coffee, which is presented before the sherbet by the bath-keeper, after dressing.

34. I sought by turns and saw them all.
Page 129, line 35.

The Turkish notions of almost all islands are conveyed to the Archipelago, the sea alluded to.

35. The last of Lambro's patriots there.
Page 129, line 58.

Lambro Cansani, a Greek, famous for his efforts in 1789-90 for the independence of his country, abandoned by the Russians, he became a pirate, and the Archipelago was the scene of his enterprises. He is said to be still alive at Petersburg. He and Riga are the two most celebrated of the Greek revolutionists.

36. To match the Rayahs from their fate.
Page 129, line 62.

"Rayahs" all who pay the capitation tax, called the 'Haratch.'

37. Ay, let me like the ocean-patriarch roam.
Page 129, line 66.

The first of voyages is one of the few with which the Mussulmans profess much acquaintance.

38. Or only know on land the Tartar's home.
Page 129, line 67.

The wandering life of the Arabs, Tartars, and Turkomans, will be found well detailed in any book of Eastern travels. That it possesses a charm peculiar to itself cannot be denied. A young French renegade confesses to Chatemour, that he never found himself alone, galloping in a desert, without a sensation approaching to rapture, which was indescribable.

39. Blooming as Aden in its earliest hour.
Page 129, line 57.

"Jannat al Aden," the perpetual abode, the Mussulman Paradise.

40. And mourn'd above his turban-stone.
Page 131, line 38.

A turban is carved in stone above the graves of men only.

41. The loud Wul-wulich warm his distant ear.
Page 131, line 45.

The death-song of the Turkish women. The silent slaves are the men whose notions of decorum forbid complaint in public.

42. Where is my child?"—an echo answers—"Where?"
Page 131, line 31.

"I came to the place of my birth and cried, 'the friends of my youth, where are they?' and an echo answered, 'Where are they?'"—From an Arab MS.

The above quotation (from which the idea in the text is taken) must be already familiar to every reader—it is given in the first annotation, page 67, of "The Pleasures of Memory" a poem so well known as to render a reference almost superfluous: but to whose pages all will be delighted to recur.

43. Into Zuleika's name.
Page 131, line 120.

"And airy touchez that visible man's name." Milton.

For a belief that the souls of the dead inhabit the form of birds, we need not travel to the east. Lord Lyttleton's ghost story, the belief of the Dutchess of Kendal that George I. flew into her window in the shape of a raven, (see Orford's Reminiscences,) and many other instances, bring this superstition nearer home. The most singular was the whim of a Worcestershire lady, who, believing her daughter to exist in the shape of a singing bird, literally furnished her pew in the Cathedral with cages-full of the kind; and as she was rich, her graces in beautifying the church, no objection was made to her harmless folly. For this anecdote see Orford's Letters.
THE CORSAIR;

A TALE.

—\textit{I said pensieri in lui dormir non posso.}—
\textemdash TASSO, Canto decime, Gerusalemme Liberata.

TO

THOMAS MOORE, ESQ.

MY DEAR MOORE,—

I dedicate to you the last production with which I shall trespass on public patience, and your indulgence, for some years; and I own that I feel anxious to avail myself of this latest and only opportunity of adorning my pages with a name, consecrated by unshaken public principle, and the most undoubted and various talents. While Ireland ranks you among the finest of her patriots; while you stand alone the first of her bards in her estimation, and Britain repeats and ratifies the decree, permit one, whose only regret, since our first acquaintance, has been the years he had lost before it commenced, to add the humble but sincere suffrage of friendship, to the voice of more than one nation. It will at least prove to you, that I have neither forgotten the gratification derived from your society, nor abandoned the prospect of its renewal, whenever your leisure or inclination allows you to atone to your friends for too long an absence. It is said, among those friends, I trust truly, that you are engaged in the composition of a poem whose scene will be laid in the East; none can do those scenes so much justice. The wrongs of your own country, the magnificent and fiery spirit of her sons, the beauty and feeling of her daughters, may there be found; and Collins, when he denominated his Oriental his Irish Exigues, was not aware how true, at least, was a part of his parallel. Your imagination will create a warmer sun, and less clouded sky; but wildness, tenderness, and originality are part of your national claim of oriental descent, to which you have already thus far proved your title more clearly than the most zealous of your country’s antiquarians.

May I add a few words on a subject on which all men are supposed to be fluent, and none agreeable? —Self. I have written, much, and published more than enough to demand a longer silence than I now meditate; but for some years to come, it is my intention to tempt no further the award of “gods, men, or columns.” In the present composition I have attempted not the most difficult, but, perhaps, the best adapted measure to our language, the good old and now neglected heroic couplet. The stanza of Spenser is, perhaps, too slow and dignified for narrative; though, I confess, it is the measure most after my own heart; Scott alone, of the present generation, has hitherto completely triumphed over the fatal facility of the octo-syllabic verse; and this is not the least victory of his fertile and mighty genius: in blank verse, Milton, Thomson, and our dramatists, are the beacons that shine along the deep, but warn us from the rough and barren rock on which they are kindled. The heroic couplet is not the most popular measure certainly; but as I did not deviate into the other from a wish to flatter what is called public opinion, I shall quit it without further apology, and take my chance once more with that versification, in which I have hitherto published nothing but compositions whose former circulation is part of my present, and will be of my future regret.

With regard to my story, and stories in general, I should have been glad to have rendered my personages more perfect and amiable, if possible, inasmuch as I have been sometimes criticised, and considered no less responsible for their deeds and qualities than if all had been personal. Be it so—if I have deviated into the gloomy vanity of “drawing from self,” the pictures are probably like, since they are unfavorable; and if not, those who know me are undeceived, and those who do not, I have little interest in undeceiving. I have no particular desire that any but my acquaintance should think the author better than the beings of his imagining; but I cannot help a little surprise, and perhaps amusement, at some odd critical exceptions in the present instance, when I see certain bards, (far more deserving, I allow,) in very reputable plight, and quite exempted from all participation in the faults of those heroes, who, nevertheless, might be found with little more morality than “The Glaour,” and perhaps—but no—I must admit Childe Harold to
be a very repulsive personage; and as to his identity, those who like it must give him whatever "alias" they please.

If, however, it were worth while to remove the impression, it might be of some service to me, that the man who is alike the delight of his readers and his friends, the poet of all circles, and the idol of his own, permits me here and elsewhere to subscribe myself,

Most truly,
And affectionately,
His obedient servant,

January 2, 1814.

BYRON.

CANTO I.

"O'er the glad waters of the dark blue sea,
Our thoughts as boundless, and our souls as free,
Far as the breeze can bear, the billows foam,
Survey our empire, and behold our home!
These are our realms, no limits to their sway—
Our flag the sceptre all who meet obey.
Ours the wild life in tumult still to range,
From toil to rest, and joy in every change.
Oh, whose can tell! not thou, luxurious slave!
Whose soul would sicken o'er the soothing wave:
Not thou, vain lord of wantonness and ease!
Whom slumber soothes not, pleasure cannot please—
Oh, who can tell, save he whose heart hath tried,
And danced in triumph o'er the waters wide.
The exulting sense—the pulse's maddening play,
That thrills the wanderer of that trackless way?
That for itself can woo the approaching fight,
And turn what some deem danger to delight;
Not seeks what cravens shun with more than zeal,
And where the feebler faith—can only feel—
Feel—to the rising bosom's inmost core,
Its hope awakened and its spirits soar?
No dread of death—if with us die our foes—
Save that it seems even duller than repose:
Come when it will—we snatch the life of life—
When lost—what recks it—by disease or strife?
Let him who crawls enans'm o'decay
Cling to his couch, and sicken years away;
Heave his thick breath, and shake his palsied head;
Ours—the fresh turf, and not the feverish bed.
While gasp by gasp he falters forth his soul,
Ours with one pang—one bound—escapes control.
His corse may boast its urn and narrow cave,
And they who loathed his life may gild his grave:
Ours are the tears, though few, sincerely shed,
When ocean shrouds and sepulchres our dead.
For us, even banquets fond regret supply
In the red cup that crowns our memory;
And the brief epitaph in danger's day,
When those who win at length divide the prey,
And cry, remembrance saddening o'er each brow,
How had the brave who fell exulted now!"

II.

Such were the notes that from the pirate's isle
Around the kindling watch-fire rang the while;
Such were the sounds that thrill'd the rocks along;
And unto ears as rugg'd seem'd a song!
In scatter'd groups upon the golden sand,
They game—carouse—converse—or what the brand
Select the arms—to each his blade assign,
And careless eye the blood that dims its shine;
Repair the boat, replace the helm or oar,
While others straggling muse along the shore.

For the wild bird the busy spriggis set,
Or spread beneath the sun the dripping net;
Gaze where some distant sail a speck supplies,
With all the thristing eye of enterprize;
Tell o'er the tales of many a night of toll,
And marvel where they next shall seize a spoil:
No matter where—their chief's allotment this;
Theirs, to believe no prey nor plan amiss.

But who that Chief?—his name on every shore
Is famed and fear'd—th' they ask and know no more.
With these he mingles not but to command;
Few are his words, but keen his eye and hand.
Ne'er seasons he with mirth their jovial mess,
But they forgive his silence for success.
Ne'er for his lip the purpling cup of fay fell,
That goblet passes him untasted still—
And for his face—the rudest of his crew
Would that, in turn, have pass'd untasted too.
Earth's coarsest bread, the garden's homeliest roots
And scarce the summer luxury of fruits,
His short repast in humbliness supply
With all a hermit's board would scarce deny.
But while he shuns the grosser joys of sense,
His mind seems nourish'd by that abstinence.

"Steer to that shore!"—they say. "Do thus!—"
'tis done:
"Now form and follow me!"—the spell is won
Thus prompt his accents and his act no still
And all obey and few inquire his will;
To such, brief answer and contemplous eye
Convey reproof, nor further deign reply.

III.

"A sail!—a sail!"—a promised prize to hope;
Her nation—flag—how speaks the telescope?
No prize, alas!—but yet a welcome sail;
The blood-red signal glitters in the gale.
Yes—she is ours—a home-returning bark
Blow fair, thou breeze!—she anchors ere the dark
Already doubled is the cape—our bay
Receives that prow which proudly spurns the spray
How gloriously her gallant course she goes!
Her white wings flying—never from her foes—
She walks the waters like a thing of life,
And seems to dare the elements to strike.
Who would not brave the battle-fire—the wreck—
To move the monarch of her peopled deck?

IV.

Hoarse o'er her side the rustling cable rings;
The sails are furl'd; and anchoring round she swings
And gathering loiterers on the land discern
Her boat descending from the latticed stern.
"Tis man's!—the oars keep concert to the strand
Till grates her keel upon the shallow sand.
Hail to the welcome shout!—the friendly speech!
When hand grasps hand uniting on the beach;
The smile, the question, and the quick reply,
And the heart's promise of festivity!
THE CORSAIR.

V.
The tidings spread, and gathering grows the crowd;
The hum of voices, and the laughter loud,
And woman's gentler anxious tone is heard—
Friends,—husbands,—lovers' names in each dear word:
"Oh! are they safe? we ask not of success—
But shall we see them? will their accents bless?
From where the battle roars—"the bilows chase—
They doubtless boldly did—but who are safe?
Here let them haste to gladden and surprise,
And kiss the doubt from these delighted eyes."

VI.
"Where is our chief? for him we bear report—
And doubt that joy—which hails our coming—short;
Yet thus sincere—'tis cheering, though so brief;
But, Juan! instant guide us to our chief:
Our greeting paid, we'll feast on our return,
And all shall hear what each may wish to learn."
Ascending slowly by the rock-hewn way,
To where his watch-tower beetles o'er the bay,
Bushy brake, and wild flowers blossoming,
And freshness breathing from each silver spring,
Whose scatter'd streams from granite basins burst,
Leap into life, and sparkling woo your thirst;
From crash to cliff they mount—Near yonder cave,
What lonely straggler looks along the wave?
In pensive posture leaning on the brand,
Not oft a resting-staff to that red hand?
'Tis he—'tis Conrad—here—as wont—alone;
On—Juan!—and make our purpose known.
The bark he views—and tell him we would greet
His ear with tidings he must quickly meet:
We dare not yet approach—thou knowest his mood,
When strange or uninvited steps intrude."

VII.
Him Juan sought, and told of their intent—
He spake not—but a sign express'd assent.
These Juan calls—they come—to their salute
He bends him slightly, but his lips are mute.
"These letters, Chief, are from the Greek—
The spy
Who still proclaims our spoil or peril nigh:
What'er his tidings we can well report,
Much that—'Peace, peace!'—he cuts their prating short.
Wondering they turn, abashed, while each to each
Confide whispers in his muttering speech:
They watch his glance with many a stealing look,
To gather how that eye the tidings took;
But, this as if he guess'd, with head aside,
Perchance from some emotion, doubt, or pride,
He read the scroll—"My tablets, Juan, hark—
Where is Gonsalvo?"

"In the anchor'd bark."

"There let him stay—to him this order bear—
Back to your duty—for my course prepare:
Myself this enterprise to-night will share."

"To night, Lord Conrad?"

"Ay! at set of sun:
The breeze will freshen when the day is done.
My cloak—cloak—one hour—and we are gone.
Sling on thy haggle—see that free from rust
My carbine—lock springs worthy of my trust;
Be the edge sharpen'd of my boarding brand,
And give its guard more room to fit my hand.

This let the Arm'er with speed dispose;
Last time, it more fatigued my arm than foes.
Mark that the signal-gun be duly fired,
To tell us when the hour of stay's expired."

VIII.
They make obeisance, and retire in haste,
Too soon to seek again the watery waste:
Yet they repine—not—so that Conrad guides,
And who dare question aught that he decides?
That man of loneliness and mystery,
Scarce seen to smile, and seldom heard to sign;
Whose name appals the fiercest of his crew,
And tints each swarthy cheek with sallow hue;
Still sways their souls with that commanding art
That dazzles, leads, yet chills the vulgar heart.
What is that spell, that thus his lawless train
Confess and envy, yet oppose in vain?
What should it be, that thus their fate can bind?
The power of Thought—the magic of the Mind!
Link'd with success, assumed and kept with skill,
That moulds another's weakness to its will;
Wields with their hands, but, still to these unknown
Makes even their mightiest deeds appear his own.
Such hath it been—shall be—beneath the sun,
The many still must labor for the one!
'Tis Nature's doom—but let the wretch who toils
Accuse not, hate not him who wears the spoils.
Oh! if he knew the weight of splendid chains,
How light the balance of his humbler pains!

IX.
Unlike the heroes of each ancient race,
Demons in act, but Gods at least in face,
In Conrad's form seems little to admire,
Though his dark eyebrow shades a glance of fire:
Robust but not Herenclean—to the sight
No giant frame sets forth his common height;
Yet, in the whole, who paused to look again,
Saw more than marks the crowd of vulgar men:
They gaze and marvel how—and still they gaze
That thus it is, but why they cannot guess.
Sunburnt his cheek, his forehead high and pale
The sable curls in wild profusion veil;
And oft perform his rising lip reveals
The haughtier thought it curbs, but scarce conceals
Though smooth his voice, and calm his general mien.
Still seems there something he would not have seen
His features' deepening lines and varying hue.
At times attracted, yet perplex'd the view,
As if within that munkiness of mind
Work'd feelings fearful, and yet undefined;
Such might it be—that none could truly tell—
Too close inquiry his stern glance would quell.
There breathe but few whose aspect might defy
The full encounter of his searching eye:
He had the skill, when Cunning's gaze would seem
To probe his heart and watch his changing cheek.
At once the observer's purpose to espy,
And on himself roll back his scrutiny,
Lest he to Conrad rather should betray
Some secret thought, than drag that chief's to day
There was a laughing Devil in his sner.
That raised emotions both of rage and tear;
And where his frown of hatred darkly fell,
Hope withering fled—and Mercy sigh'd farewell.

X.
Slight are the outward signs of evil thought,
Within—with-in—'twas there the spirit wrought:
Love shows all changes—Rage, Ambition, Guile,
Betray no further than the bitter smile;
The lip's least curl, the lightest paleness thrown
Along the govern'd aspect, speak alone
Of devoir passions; and to judge their mien,
He who would know must himself unseen.
Then—with the hurried tread, the upward eye,
The clenched hand, the pause of agony,
That listens, starting, lest the step too near
Approach intrusive on that mood of fear:
Then—with each feature working from the heart,
With feelings loosed to strengthen—not depart:
That rise—converse—content—that freeze, or glow,
Flush in the check, or damp upon the brow;
Then—Stranger! if thou canst, and tremblest not,
Behold his soul—the rest that soothes his lot!
Mark—how that lone and blighted boomsears
The scathing thought of excrated years!
Behold—but who hath seen, or c'er shall see,
Man as himself—the secret spirit free?

XII.

None are all evil—quickening round his heart,
One softer feeling would not yet depart;
Oft could he sneer at others as beguiled
By passions—thirty of a fool or child;
Yet 'gainst this passion vainly still he strove,
And even in it asks the name of Love!
Yes, it was love—unchangeable—unchanged,
Felt but for one from whom he never ranged;
Though fairest captives daily met his eye,
He shunn'd nor sought, but coldly pass'd them by;

Though many a beauty droop'd in prison'd bowers
None ever soothed his most unguarded hour.
Yes—it was Love—if thoughts of tenderness,
Tried in temptation, strengthened by distress,
Unmoved by absence, firm in every clime,
And yet—Oh more than all—I—untired by time;
Which nor defeated hope, nor baffled will,
Could render sullen were she near to smile,
Nor rage could fire, nor sickness fret to vent
On her one murmur of his discontent;
Which still would meet with joy, with calmness part
Lest that his look of grief should reach her heart;
Which nought removed, nor menaced to remove—
If there be love in mortals—this was love!
He was a villain—ay—reproaches shower
On him—but not the passion, nor its power,
Which only proved, all other virtues gone,
Not guilt itself could quench this love, best one!

XIII.

He paused a moment—till his hastening men
Pass'd the first winding downward to the glen.
"Strange tidings!—many a peril have I past,
Nor know I why this next appears the last!
Yet so my heart forebodes, but must not fear,
Nor shall my followers find me falter here.
'Tis rash to meet, but surer death to wait
Till here they hunt us to unthought fate;
And, if my plan but hold, and Fortune smile,
We'll furnish mourners for our funeral-plie.
Ay—let them shudder—peaceful be their dreams!
Morn ne'er awoke them with such brilliant beams
As kindle high to-night (but low, thou breeze!) To warm these slow avengers of the seas.
Now to Medora—Oh! my sinking heart,
Long may her own be lighter than thou art!
Yet was I brave—mean boast where all are brave! Ev'n insects sting for aught they seek to save.
This common courage which with brutes we share
That owes its deadliest efforts to despair,
Small merit claims—but 'twas my nobler hope
To teach my few with numbers still to copse;
Long have I led them—not to vainly bleed:
No medium now—we perish or succeed!
So let me—let it irks not me to die,
But thus to urge them whence they cannot fly.
My lot hath long had little of my care
But chases my pride thus baffled in the snare.
Is this my skill? my craft? to set at last
Hope, power, and life upon a single cast? Oh, Fate!—accuse thy folly, not thy fate—
She may redeem thee still—nor yet too late."

XIV.

Thus with himself communion held he till
He reach'd the summit of his tower-crown'd hill
There at the portal paused—for wild and soft
He heard those accents never heard too oft;
Through the high lattice far yet sweet they rang
And these the notes his bird of beauty sung:

1.

"Deep in my soul that tender secret dwells,
Lonely and lost to light for evermore,
Save when to thine my heart responsive swells,
Then trembles into silence as before.
THE CORSAR.

2.
"There in its centre, a sepulchral lamp
Burns the slow flame, eternal—but unseen;
Which not the darkness of despair can damp,
Though vain its ray as it had never been.

3.
"Remember me—Oh! pass not thy grave
Without one thought whose relics there recline.
The only pang my bosom dare not brave
Must be to find forgetfulness in thine.

4.
"My fondest—faintest—lATEST accents near—
Grief for the dead not Virtue can reprove.
Then give me all I ever ask'd—a tear.
The first—last—sole reward of so much love!"

He pass'd the portal—cross'd the corridor,
And reach'd the chamber as the strain gave o'er;
"My own Medora! sure thy song is sad—"

In Conrad's absence wouldst thou have it glad?
Without thine ear to listen to my lay,
Still must my song my thoughts, my soul betray:
Still must each accent to my bosom suit.
My heart unhush'd—although my lips were mute!
Oh! many a night on this lone couch reclined,
My dreaming fear with storms hath wing'd the wind,
And deem'd the breath that faintly seem'd thy sail
The murmuring prattle of the ruder gale;
Though soft, it seem'd the low prophetic dirge,
That morn'd thee floating on the savage surge;
Still would I rise to rouse the beacon fire,
Lest spies less true should let the blaze expire;
And many a restless hour outwatch'd each star,
And morning came—still thou wert afar.
Oh! how the chill blast on my bosom blew,
And day broke dreary on my troubled view,
And still I gazed and gazed—and not a prow
Was granted to my tears—my truth—my vow!
At length—'twas noon—I hail'd and bless the mast
That met my sight—it near'd—Alas! it past!
Another came—Oh God! 'twas thine at last!
Would that those days were over! wilt thou ne'er, my Conrad! learn the joys of peace to share?
Sure thou hast more than wealth, and many a home
As bright as this invites us not to roam;
Thou know'st it is not peril that I fear,
I only tremble when thou art not here;
Then not for mine, but that far dearer life,
Which flows from love and languishes for strife—
How strange that heart, to me so tender still,
Should war with nature and its better will!"

Yea, strange indeed—that heart hath long been changed;
Worm-like 'twas trembling—adder-like avenged,
Without one hope on earth beyond thy love,
And scarce a glimpse of mercy from above.
Yet the same feeling which thou dost condemn,
My very love to thee is hate to them,
So closely mingling here, that disentwined
I cease to love thee when I love mankind:
Yet dread not this—the proof of all the past
Assures the future that my love will last;
But—Oh, Medora! nerve thy gentle heart,
This hour again—but not for long—we part."

She rose—she sprung—she clung to his embrace.
To his heart heaved beneath her hidden face.
He dared not raise to his that deep-blue eye,
Which downcast droop'd in tearless agony.
Her long fair hair lay floating o'er his bosom,
In all the wildness of dishevell'd charms;
Scarce beat that bosom where his image dwelt
So full—that feeling seem'd almost unfelt!
Hark—peals the thunder of the signal-gun!

It told 'twas sunset—and he cursed that sun.
Again—again—that form he madly press'd,
Which mutually clasp'd, imploringly caress'd;
And tottering to the couch his bride he bore,
One moment gazed—as if to gaze no more;
Felt—that for him eath held but her alone,
Kiss'd her cold forehead—turn'd—is Conrad gone?

XV.

"And is he gone?"—on sudden solitude
How oft that fearful question will intrude!
"Twas but an instant past—and here he stood!
And now"—without the portal's porch she rush'd,
And then at length her tears in freedom gush'd;
Big—bright—and fast, unknown to her they fell;
But still her lips refused to send—"Farewell!"
For in that word—that fatal word—how'er
We promise—hope—believe—there breathes despair.
O'er every feature of that still, pale face,
Had sorrow fix'd what time can never erase:
The tender blue of that large loving eye
Grew frozen with its gaze on vacancy,
Till—Oh, how far!—it caught a glimpse of him,
And then it flow'd—and frenzied seem'd to swim
Through those long, dark, and glistening lashes dews'd
With drops of sadness oft to be renew'd.
"He's gone!"—against her heart that hand is driven,
Convulsed and quick—then gently raised to heaven;
She look'd and saw the heaving of the main;
The white sail set—the dared not look again;
But turn'd with sickening soul within the gate—
"It is no dream—and I am desolate!"

XVI.

From crag to crag descending—swiftly sped
Stern Conrad down, nor once he turn'd his head;
But shrunk where'er the windings of his way
 Forced on his eye what he would not survey,
His lone, but lovely dwelling on the steep,
That hail'd him first when homeward from the deep:
And she—the dim and melancholy star,
Whose ray of beauty reach'd him from afar,
On her he must not gaze, he must not think,
There he might rest—but on Destruction's brink;
Yet, once almost he stopp'd—and nearly gave
His fate to chance, his projects to the wave;
But no—it must not be—a worthy chief
May melt, but not betray to woman's grief.
He sees his bark, he notes how fair the wind,
And sternly gathers all his might of mind;
Again he hurries on—and as he hears
The clang of tumult vibrate on his ears,
The busy sounds, the bustle of the shore,
The shout, the signal, and the dashing car,
As marks his eye the seaboys on the mast,
The anchors rise, the sails unfurling fast,
The waving kerciefs of the crowd that urge
That mute adieu to those who stem the surge;
And more than all, his blood-red flag aloft,
He marvells how his heart could seem so soft.
Fire in his glance, and wildness in his breast,
He feels of all his former self posses't.
He bounds—he flies—until his footsteps reach
The rock, which, win'd by the cliff, borer the beach,
There checks his speed; but pauses less to breathe
The breezy freshness of the deep beneath,

Then there his wonted statelier step renew;
Nor rush, disturb'd by haste, to vulgar view:
For well had Conrad learn'd to curb the crowd,
By arts that veil, and oft preserve the proud;
His was the lofty port, the distant mien,
That seems to shun the sight—and awes if seen
The solemn aspect, and the high-born eye,
That checks low mirth, but lacks not courtesy;
All these he wielded to command assent:
But where he wish'd to win, so well unbent,
That kindness cancel'll fear in those who hears.
And others' gifts show'd men mean beside his word,
When echo'd to the heart as from his own
His deep yet tender melody of tone:
But such was foreign to his wonted mood,
He cared not what he soft'en'd, but subdued;
The evil passions of his youth had made
Him value less who loved—than what obey'd.

XVII.

Around him mustering ranged his ready guard,
Before him Juan stands—"Are all prepared?
"They are—nay more—embark'd: the latest boat
 Waits but my chief—"

"My sword, and my capote
Soon firmly girded on, and lightly slung,
His belt and cloak were o'er his shoulders flung:
"Call Pedro here! He comes—and Conrad bends
With all the courtesy he deign'd his friends;
Receive these tablets, and peruse with care,
Words of high trust and truth are graven there;
Double the guard, and when Anselmo's bark
Arrives, let him alike these orders mark:
In three days (serve the breeze) the sun shall shine
On our return—till then all peace be thine!"
This said, his brother Pirate's hand he wrung.
Then to his boat with haughty gesture spurg,
 Flash'd the dipt ears, and sparkling with the stroke,
 Around the waves' phosphoric brightness broke;
 They gain the vessel—on the deck he stands,
 Shrieks the shrill whistle—ply the busy hands—
 He marks how well the ship her helm obeys,
 How gallant all her crew—and deigns to praise.
His eyes of pride to young Gonsalvo turn—
 Why doth he start, and inly seem to mourn?
Ah! those eyes beheld his rocky tower,
And live a moment o'er the parting hour;
She—his Medora—did she mark the prow?
Ah! never loved he half so much as now!
But much must yet be done ere dawn of day—
Again he mans himself and turns away;
Down to the cabin with Gonsalvo bends,
And there unrolls his plan—his means—and ends;
Before them burns the lamp, and spreads the chart
And all that speaks and aids the naval art;
They to the midnight watch protract debate;
To anxious eyes what hour is ever late?
Meantime, the steady breeze serenely blew,
And fast and falcon-like the vessel flew;
Pass'd the high headlands of each clustering isle,
To gain their port—long—long ere morning smile:
And soon the night-glass through the narrow bay
Discovers where the Pacha's galleys lay.
Count they each sail—and mark how they supine
The lights in vain after endless Moslem shine.
Secure, unnoted, Conrad's prov'd by,
And anci-ord where his ambush meant to lie;
Bows his bent head—his hand salutes the floor
Ere yet his tongue the trusted tidings bore:
"A captive Dervise, from the pirate's nest
Escaped, is here—himself would tell the rest"
He took the sign from Seyd's asserning eye,
And led the holy man in silence nigh.
His arms were folded on his dark-green vest,
His step was feeble, and his look deprest;
Yet worn he seemed'd of hardship more than years,
And pale his cheek with penance, not from fears.
Vow'd to his God—his sable locks he wore,
And these his lofty cap rose proudly o'er:
Around his form his loose long robe was thrown,
And wrapt a breast bestow'd on heaven alone;
Submitive, yet with self-possession mann'd;
He calmly met the curious eyes that scan'd; And question of his coming fain would seek,
Before the Pacha's will allow'd to speak.

IV.
"Whence com'st thou, Dervise?"
"From the outlaw's den,
A fugitive—"
"Thy capture where and when?"
"From Scalanovo's port to Scio's isle,
The Saïck was bound; but Alla did not smile
Upon our course—the Moslem merchant's gains
The Rovers won: our limbs have worn their chains.
I had no death to fear, nor wealth to boast,
Beyond the wandering freedom which I lost:
At length a fisher's humble boat by night
Afforded hope, and offer'd chance of flight:
I seized the hour and find my safety here—
With thee—most mighty Pacha! who can fear?"
"How speed the outlaws? stand they well prepared
Their plunder'd wealth, and robber's rock, to guard?
Dream they of this our preparation, doom'd
To view with fire their scorpion nest consumed?
"Pacha! the fetter'd captive's mourning eye,
That weeps for flight, but ill can play the spy;
I only heard the reckless waters roar,
Those waves that would not bear me from the shore
I only mark'd the glorious sun and sky,
Too bright—too blue—for my captivity;
And felt—that all which Freedom's bosom cheers
Must break my chain before it dried my tears.
This may'st thou judge, at least, from my escape,
They little deem of aught in peril's shape;
Else vainly had I pray'd or sought the chance
That leads me here—if eyed with vigilance:
The careless guard that did not see me fly
May watch as idly when thy power is nigh.
Pacha!—my limbs are faint—and nature craves
Food for my hunger, rest from toasting waves:
Permit my absence—peace be with thee! Peace
With all around!—now grant repose—release."
"Stay, Dervise! I have more to question—stay,
I do command thee—sit—dost hear?—obey!
More I must ask, and food the slaves shall bring:
Thou shalt not pine where all are banqueting:
The supper done—prepare thee to reply,
Clearly and full—I love not mystery."
"Twere vain to guess what shook the pious man,
Who look'd not lovingly on that Divan;
Nor show'd high relish for the banquet's feast
And less respect for every fellow guest.
Twas but a moment's peevish hectic past
Along his cheek, and tranquilized as fast:
He sate him down in silence, and his look
Resumed the calmness which before forsook:
The feast was usher'd in—but sumptuous fare
He shunn'd as if some poison mingled there.
For one so long condemn'd to toil and fast,
Methinks he strangely spares the rich repast.

"What ails thee, Dervise? eat—dost thou suppose
This feast a Christian's? of my friends thy foes?
Why dost thou shun the salt? that sacred pledge,
Which, once partaken, blunts the saber's edge,
Makes even contending tribes in peace unite,
And hated hosts seem brethren to the sight!"

"Salt seasons daunties—and my food is still
The humblest root, my drink the simplest rill;
And my stern vow and order's laws oppose
To break or mingle bread with friends or foes;
It may seem strange—'tis true I might dread,
That peril rests upon my single head;
But for thy sway—nay more—thy Sultan's throne,
I taste nor bread nor banquet—save alone;
Infringed our order's rule, the Prophet's rage
To Mecca's dome might bar my pilgrimage."

"Well—as thou wilt—ascetic as thou art—
One question answer; then in peace depart.
How many?—Ha! it cannot sure be day?
What star—what sun is bursting on the bay?
It shines a lake of fire!—away—away!
Ho! treachery! my guards! my scimitar!
The galleys feed the flames—and I afar!
Accursed Dervise! these thy tidings—thou
Some villain spy—seize—seize him—slay him now!"

Up rose the Dervise with that burst of light,
Nor less his change of form appall'd the sight:
Up rose the Dervise—not in saintly garb,
But like a warrior bounding on his Barb,
Dash'd his high cap, and tore his robe away—
Shone his mail'd breast, and flash'd his saber's ray!
His close but glittering casque, and sable plume,
Mcre glittering eye, and black brow's sabler gloom.
Glared on the Moslems' eyes some Afris sprite,
Whose demon death-blow left no hope for flight.
The wild confusion, and the swarthy glow
Of flames on high and torches from below;
The shriek of terror, and the mingling yel—
For swords began to clash, and shouts to swell,
Plung o'er that spot of earth the air of hell!
Distracted, to and fro, the flying slaves
Behold but bloody shore and fiery waves;
Neath heeded they the Pacha's angry cry,
They seize that Dervise!—seize on Zatana! &
He saw their terror—check'd the first despair
That urged him but to stand and perish there,
Since far too early and too well they'd
The flame was kindled ere the signal made;
He saw their terror—from his baldric drew
His bugle—brie the blast—but shrilly blow;
'Tis answer'd—"well ye speed, my gallant crew!"
Why did I doubt their quickness of career?
And deem design b'hv left me single here?"

Sweeps his long arm—that saber's whirling sway
Sheds fast atonement for its first delay;
Completes his fury, what their fear begun,
And makes the many basely quail to one.

The cloven turbans o'er the chamber spread,
And scarce an arm dare raise to guard its head:
Even Seyd, convulsed, o'erwhelm'd, with rage, sur
prise,
Retreats before him, though he still defies.
No craven he—and yet he dreads the blow,
So much Confusion magnifies his foe!
His blazing galleys still distract his sight,
He tore his beard, and foaming fled the fight;
For now the pirates pass'd the Haram gate,
And burst within—and it were death to wait;
Where wild Amazement shrieking—kneeling throws
The sword aside—in vain—the blood overflows;
The Corsairs pouring, haste to where within.
Invited Conrad's bugle, and the din
Of groaning victims, and wild cries for life,
Proclaim'd how well he did the work of strife.
They shout to find him grim and lonely there,
A glutted tiger mangling in his hair!
But short their greeting—shorter his reply—
"Tis well—but Seyd escapes—and he must die;
Much hath been done—but more remains to do—
Their galleys blaze—why not their city too?"
And flame for flame and blood for blood must tell
The tide of triumphs ebb that flow'd too well—
When wrath returns to renovated strife,
And those who fought for conquest strike for life.
Conrad beheld the danger—he beheld
His followers faint by freshening foes repell'd:
"One effort—one—to break the circling host!"
"They form—unite—charge—waver—all is lost!"
Within a narrower ring compress'd, beset,
Hopeless, not heartless, strive and struggle yet—
Ah! now they fight in earnest file no more,
Hemm'd to—cut off—left down—and trampled o'er;
But each strikes singly, silently, and home,
And sinks outwielded rather than o'ercome,
His last faint quittance rendering with his breath,
Till the blade glimmers in the grasp of death!

VII.

But first, ere came the rallying host to blows,
And rank to rank, and hand to hand oppose,
Guincar and all her Harem handmaids freed,
Safe in the dome of one who held their creed,
By Conrad's mandate safely were bestow'd,
And dried those tears for life and fame that flow'd:
And when that dark-eyed lady, young Guinair,
Recall'd those thoughts late wandering in despair,
Much did she marvel o'er the courtesy
That smooth'd his accents; soften'd in his eye:
'Twas strange—that robber thus with gore bedew'd,
Seem'd gentler then than Seyd in fondest mood.
The Pacha would as if he deem'd the slave
Must seem delighted with the heart he gave;
The Corsair vow'd protection, soothed a while,
As if his homage were a woman's right.
"The wish is wrong—nay, worse for female—vain:
Yet much I long to view that chief again;
If but to thank for, what my fear forgot,
The life—my loving lord remember'd not!"

VIII.

And him she saw, where thickest carnage spread,
Eat gather'd breathing from the happier dead.
Far from his band, and battling with a host
That deem right dearly won the field he lost,
Fell—bleeding—baffled of the death he sought,
And snatch'd to expiate all the ills he wrought;
Preserved to linger and to live in vain,
While Vengeance ponder'd o'er new plans of pain,
And stalk'd the blood she saves to shed again—
But stop by stop, for Seyd's unglutted eye
Would doom him ever dying—ne'er to die!
Can this be he? triumphant late she saw,
When his red hand's wild gesture waved, a law!
Tis he indeed—disarm'd but underpress'd,
His sole regret the life he still possess'd;
His wounds too slight, though taken with that will,
Which would have kiss'd the hand that then could kill.
Or were there none, of all the many given,
To send his soul—he scarcely ask'd to heaven?
Must he alone of all retain his breath,
Who more than all had striven and stricken for death?
He deeply felt—what mortal hearts must feel,
When thus reversed on faithless fortune's wheel,
Vor crimes committed, and the victor's threat
Of lingering tortures to repay the debt—
He deeply, darkly felt; but evil pride
That led to perpetrate—now serves to hide.

Still in his stern and self-collected mien
A conqueror's more than captive's is seen,
Though faint with wasting toil and stiffening wound
But few that saw—so calmly gazed around:
Though the far shouting of the distant crowd.
Their tremors o'er, rose insolently loud,
The better warriors who beheld him near,
Insulted not the foe who taught them fear;
And the grim guards that to his durance led,
In silence eyed him with a secret dread.

IX.

The Leech was sent—but not in mercy—there.
To note how much the life yet left could bear.
He found enough to load with heaviest chain,
And promise feeling for the wrench of pain:
To-morrow—yea—to-morrow's evening sun
Will sinking see impalement's pangs begun,
And rising with the wonted blush of morn.
Behold how well or ill those pangs are borne.
Of torments this the longest and the worst,
Which adds all other agony to thirst.
That day by day death still forbears to speak,
While famished vultures flit around the stake.
"Oh! water—water!"—smiling Hafe denies
The victim's prayer—for if he drinks—he dies.
This was his doom—the Leech, the guard, were gone,
And left proud Conrad fetter'd and alone.

X.

'Twere vain to paint to what his feelings grew—
It even were doubtful if their victim knew.
There is a war, a chaos of the mind,
When all its elements convuls'd—combined—
Lie dark and jarring with perturbed force,
And gnashing with impetuous Remorse;
That juggling fiend—who never spake before—
But cries "I warn'd thee!" when the deed is o'er.
Vain voice! the spirit burning but unbent,
May writhes—rebel—the weak alone repent!
Even in that lonely hour whenmost it feels, And, to itself, all—all that self reveals,
No single passion, and no ruling thought
That leaves the rest at once unseen, unsought;
But the wild prospect when the soul reviews—
All rushing through their thousand avenues,
Ambition's dreams expiring, love's regret,
Endanger'd glory, life itself beset;
The joy untasted, the contempt or hate
'Gainst those who fain would triumph in our fate,
The hopeless past, the hasting future driven
Too quickly on to guess if hell or heaven;
Deeds, thoughts, and words, perhaps remember'd not So keenly till that hour, but ne'er forgot;
Things light or lovely in their actued time,
But now to stern refection each a crime;
The withering sense of evil unreveald,
Not cankering less because the more conceal'd
All, in a word, from which all eyes must start,
That opening sepulchre—the naked heart
Bares with its buried woes, till Pride awake,
To snatch the mirror from the soul—and break
Ay—Pride can veil, and Courage brave it all,
All—all—before—beyond—the deadliest fall.
Each hath some fear, and he who least betrays,
The only hypocrite deserving praise:
Not the loud recreant wretch who boasts and sings
But he who looks on death—and silent dies
So steel'd by pondering o'er his far career,
He half-way meets him should he menace near!

IXI.

In the high chamber of his highest tower
Sate Conrad, fetter'd in the Pacha's power.
His palace perish'd in the flame—this fort
Contain'd at once his captive and his court.
Not much could Conrad of his sentence blame,
His foe, if vanquish'd, had but shared the same—
Alone he was—in solitude had scannd him
His guilty bosom, but that breast he mannd:
One thought alone he could not—dared not meet—
"Oh, how these tidings will Medora greet?"
Then—only then—his clanking hands he raised,
And strain'd with rage the chain on which he gazed;
But soon he found—or feign'd—of dream'd relief,
And smiled in self-derision of his grief,
"And now come torture when it will—r may,
More need of rest to nerve me for the day!"
This said, with languor to his mat he slept,
And, whatsoever his visions, quickly slept.
'Twas hardly midnight when that fray begun,
For Conrad's plans matured, at one wrest were done;
And Havoc loathes so much the waste of time,
She scarce had left an uncommitted crime.
One hour beheld him since the tide he stemnd—
Digniz'd—discover'd—conquering—isaen—condemnd—
A chief on land—an outlaw on the deep—
Destroying—saving—prison'd—andsleep!

XII.

He slept in calmest seeming—for his breath
Was hush'd so deep—Ah! happy if in death!
He slept—Who o'er his placid slumber bends?
His foes are gone—and here he hath no friends:
Is it some seraph sent to grant him grace?
No, 'tis an earthly form with heavenly face!
Its white arm raised a lamp—yet gently hid,
Lost the ray flash abruptly on the lid.
Of that closed eye, which opens but to pain,
And once unclos'd—but once may close again.
That form, with eye so dark, and cheek so fair,
And aurubn wavy of gem'd and braided hair;
With shape of fairy lightness—naked foot,
That shines like snow, and falls on earth as mute—
Through guards and dunnest night how came it there?
Ah! rather ask what will not woman dare?
Whom youth and pity lead like thee, Gulnare!
She could not sleep—and while the Pacha's rest
In muttering dreams yet saw his pirate-guest,
She left his side—his signet-ring she bore,
Which oft in sport adorn'd her hand before—
And with it, scarcely question'd, won her way
Through drowsy guards that must that sign obey.
Worn out with toil, and tired with charging blows,
Their eyes had envied Conrad his repose;
And chill and nodding at the turret door,
They stretch their listless limbs, and watch no more:
Just raised their heads to hall the signet-ring,
Nor ask or what or who the sign may bring.

XIII.

She gazed in wonder, "Can he calmly sleep,
While other eyes his fall or ravage weep?
And mine in restlessness are wandering here—
What sudden spell hath made this man so dear?
True—tis to him my life, and more, I owe,
And me and mine he spared from worse than wo
'Tis late to think—but soft—his slumber breaks—
How heavily he sighs!—he starts—awakes!"
He raised his head—and dazzled with the light,
His eye seem'd dubious if it saw aright:
He moved his hand—the grating of his chain
Too harshly told him that he lived again.
"What is that form? if not a shape of air,
Methinks, my jailor's face shows wondrous fair!"
"Pirate! thou know'st me not—but I am one,
Grateful for deeds thou hast too rarely done,
Look on me—and remember her, thy hand
Snatch'd from the flames, and thy more fearful hand
I come through darkness—and I scarce know why
Yet not to hurt—would not see thee die.
"If so kind lady! thine the only eye
That would not here in that gay hope delight;
Thiers is the chance—and let them use their right.
But still I thank their courtesy or shine,
That would confess me at so fair a shrine!
Strange though it seem—yet with extremest grief
Is link'd a mirth—it doth not bring relief—
That playfulness of Sorrow ne'er beguiles,
And smiles in bitterness—yet still it smiles;
And sometimes with the wisest and the best,
Till even the scaffold he echoes with their jest!
Yet not the joy to which it seems akin—
It may deceive all hearts, save that within.
What'er it was that flash'd on Conrad, now
A laughing wildness half unbent his brow:
And these his accents had a sound of mirth,
As if the last he could enjoy on earth;
Yet 'gainst his nature—for through that short life,
Few thoughts had he to spare from gloom and strife.

XIV.

"Corsair! thy name is doomed—but I have power
To sooth the Pacha in his weaker hour.
Thee would I spare—nay more—would save thee now,
But this—time—hope—nor even thy strength allow
But all I can, I will: at least delay
The sentence that remits thee scarce a day.
More now were ruin—even thyself were lost
The vain attempt should bring but doom to both."
"Yes!—loth indeed:—my soul is nerved to all,
Or fall'n too low to fear a further fall:
Tempt not thyself with peril; me with hope
Of flight from foes with whom I could not cope:
Unfit to vanquish—shall I meanly fly,
The one of all my band that would not die?
Yet there is one—to whom my memory clings,
Till to these eyes her own wild softness sprays.
My sole resources in the path I trod
Were these—my bark—my sword—my love—my God!
The last I left in youth—he leaves me now—
And man but works his will to lay me low,
I have no thought to mock his throne with prayer;
Wrung from the coward crouching of despair;
It is enough—I breathe—and I can bear.
My sword is shaken from the worthless hand
That might have better kept so true a brand.
"THE QUEEN OF NIGHT ASSERTS HER SOLEMN REIGN." — Page 145.
THE CORSAIR.

My bark is sunk or captive—but my love—
For her in sooth my voice would mount above:
Oh! she is all that still to earth can bind—
And this will break a heart so more than kind,
And blight a form—till thine, appear’d, Guhnam! 
Mine eye ne’er ask’d if others were as fair."

"Thou lovest another then?—but what to me
Is this—’tis nothing—nothing e’er can be:
But yest—thou lovest—and Oh! I envy those:
Whose hearts on hearts as faithful can repose
Who never feel the void—the wandering thought
That sighs o’er visions such as mine hath wrought."

"Lady—methought thy love was his, for whom
This arm redeem’d thee from a fiery tomb."

"My love stern Seyd’s! Oh—No—No—not my love—
Yet much this heart, that strives no more, once strove
To meet his passion—but it would not be.
I felt—I feel—love dwells with—with the free.
I am a slave, a favor’d slave at best,
To share his splendor, and seem very blest!
Oft must my soul the question undergo,
Of—Dost thou love?—and burn to answer, ‘No!’
Oh! hard it is that fondness to sustain,
And struggle not to feel averse in vain;
But harder still the heart’s recoil to bear,
And hide from one—perhaps another there.
He takes the hand I give not—nor withhold—
Its pulse—’tis check’d—nor quicken’d—calmly cold.
And when resign’d, it drops a lifeless weight
From one I never loved enough to hate.
No warmth these lips return by his impress’d,
And chill’d remembrance shudders o’er the rest.
Yes—had I ever proved that passion’s zeal,
The change to hatred were at least to feel:
But still—he goes unmourn’d—returns unsought—
And oft when present—absent from my thought.
Or when reflection comes—and come it must—
I fear that hencefor’d ‘twill but bring disgust;
I am his slave—but, in despite of pride,
’Twere worse than bondage to become his bride.
Oh! that this doteage of his breast would cease!
Or seek another and give mine release,
But yesterday—I could have said, to peace!
Yes—if unwanted fondness now I feign,
Remember—captivate! ‘tis to break thy chain;
Repay the life that to thy hand I owe;
To give thee back to all endear’d below,
Who share such love as I can never know.
Farewell—morn breaks—and I must now away:
‘Twill cost me dear—but dread no death to-day!”

XV.

She press’d his fetter’d fingers to her heart,
And bow’d her head, and turn’d her to depart,
And noiseless as a lovely dream is gone.
And was she here? and is he now alone?—
What gem hath dropp’d and sparkles o’er his chain?
The tear most sacred, shed for others’ pain,
That starts at once—bright—pure—from Pity’s mine,
Already polish’d by the hand divine!

Oh! too convincing—dangerously dear—
In woman’s eye the unanswerable tear

That weapon of her weakness she can wield,
To save, subdue—at once her spear and shield.
Avoid it—Virtue e’er and Wisdom err,
Too fondly gazing on that grief of hers!
What lost a world, and bade a hero fly?
The timid tear in Cleopatra’s eye,
Yet be the soft triumvir’s fault forgiven,
By this—how many lose not earth—but heaven;
Consign their souls to man’s eternal foe,
And seal their own to spare some wanton’s wo

XVI.

’Tis morn—and o’er his alter’d features play
The beams—without the hope of yesterday.
What shall he be ere night? perchance a thing
O’er which the raven flaps her funeral wing:
By his closed eye, unheeded and unfelt,
While sets that sun, and dews of evening melt,
Chill—wet—and misty round each sti’en’d limb
Refeshing earth—reviving all but him—

CANTO III.

"Come well—enкор non m’abandon.

I.

SLOW sinks, more lovely ere his race be run,
Along Morea’s hills the setting sun;
Not, as in Northern climes, obscurely bright,
But one unclouded blaze of living light!
O’er the hush’d deep the yellow beam he throws
Gilds the green wave, that trembles as it glows
On old Agina’s rock, and Idra’s isle,
The god of gladness sheds his parting smile;
O’er his own regions lingering, loves to shine,
Though there his altars are no more divine;
Descending fast, the mountain shadows kiss
Thy glorious gulf, unconquer’d Salamis!
Their azure arches through the long expanse
More deeply purpled meet his mellowing glance,
And tenderest tints, along their summits driven,
Mark his gay course, and own the hues of heaven;
Till, darkly shaded from the land and deep,
Behind his Delphian cliff he sinks to sleep.
On such an eve, his palest beam he cast,
When—Athens! here thy Wisest look’d his last
How watch’d thy better sons his farewell ray,
That closed their murder’d sage’s latest day!
Not yet—not yet—Sol pauses on the hill—
The precious hour of parting lingers still;
But sad his light to agonizing eyes,
And dark the mountain’s once delightful eyes:
Gloom o’er the lovely land he seem’d to pour,
The land, where Phebus never drown’d before;
But ere he sank below Citheron’s head,
The cup of wo was quaff’d—the spirit fled;
The soul of him who scorn’d to fear or fly—
Who liv’d and died, as none can live or die!

Patro! from high Hymettus to the plain,
The queen of night asserts her silent reign.
No murky vapor, herald of the storm,
Hides her fair face, nor girds her glowing form;
With cornice glimmering as the moonbeams play,
There the white column crests her grateful ray,
And, bright around with quivering beams beset,
Her emblem sparkles o’er the minaret:
The groves of olive scatter’d dark and wide
Where meek Cephisus pours his scanty tide,
The opress saddening by the sacred mosque,
The gleaming turret of the gay Kiosk,
And, even and sombre ‘mid the holy calm,
Near Theseus’ fane you solitary palm,
All tinged with varied hues, arrest the eye—
And dull were his that pass’d them heedless by.
Again the Egeean, heard no more afar,
Lulls his chafed breast from elemental war:
Again his waves in milder tints unfold
Their long array of sapphire and of gold,
Might with the shades of many a distant isle,
That brown,—where gentler ocean seems to smile.

II.
Not now my theme—why turn my thoughts to thee?
Oh! who can look along thy native sea,
Nor dwell upon thy name, whate’er the tale,
So much its magic must o’er all prevail?
Who that beheld that Sun upon thee set,
Fair Athens! could thine evening face forget?
Not he—whose heart nor time nor distance frees,
Spell-bound within the clustering Cyclades!
Nor seems this homage foreign to his strain,
His Corsair’s isle was once thine own domain—
Would that with freedom it were thine again!

III.
The Sun hath sunk—and, darker than the night,
Sinks with its beam upon the beacon height,
Medora’s heart—the third day’s come and gone—
With it he comes not—sends not—faithless one!
The wind was fair though light; and storms were none.
Last eve Anselmo’s bark return’d, and yet—
His only tidings that they had not met!
Though wild, as how, far different were the tale,
Had Conrad waited for that single sail.
The night-breeze freshens—she that day had past
In watching all that Hope proclaim’d a mast;
Sadly she sat—on high—Impatience bore
At last her footsteps to the midnight shore,
And there she wander’d heedless of the spray
That dash’d her garments oft, and warn’d away;
She saw not—felt not this—nor dared depart,
Nor deem’d it cold—her chill was at her heart,
Till grew such certainty from that suspension—
His very Sight had shock’d from life or sense!
It came at last—a sad and shatter’d boat,
Whose inmates first beheld whom first they sought;
Some bleeding—all most wretched—those the few—
Scurse knew they how escaped—this all they knew.
In silence, darkling, each appear’d to wait
His fellow’s mournful guess at Conrad’s fate:
Something they would have said; but seem’d to fear
To trust their accents to Medora’s ear.
She saw at once, yet sunk not—trembled not—
Beneath that grief, that loneliness of lot;
Within that meek fair form, were feelings high,
That deem’d not till they found their energy.

While yet was Hope—they soften’d—flutter’d—
All lost—that softness died not—but it slept;
And o’er its slumber rose that Strength which said,
“With nothing left to love—there’s nought to dread.”
“Tis more than nature’s; like the burning mist
Delirium gathers from the fever’s height.
“Silent you stand—nor would I hear you tell
What—speak not—breathe not—for I know it well!
Yet would I ask—almost my lip denies
The—quick your answer—tell me where he lies”
“Lady! we know not—scarce with life we fled;
But here’s one denies that he is dead:
He saw him bound; and bleeding—but alive.”
She heard no further—‘twas in vain to strive—
So throb’d each vein—each thought—till then with stood;
Her own dark soul—these words at once subdued:
She totters—falls—and senseless had the wave
Perchance but snatch’d her from another grave;
But that with hands though rude, yet weeping eyes.
They yield such aid as Pity’s haste supplies:
Dash o’er her death-like cheek the ocean dew,
Raise—fan—sustain—till life returns anew;
A wake her handmaids, with the matrons leave
That fainting form o’er which they gaze and grieve
Then seek Anselmo’s cavern, to report
The tale too tedious—when the triumph short

IV.
In that wild council words wax’d warm and strange
With thoughts of ransom, rescue, and revenge;
All, save repose or flight: still lingering there
Breathed Conrad’s spirit, and forbade despair;
Whate’er his fate—the breasts he form’d and led
Will save him living, or appease him dead;
Wo to his foes! there yet survive a few
Whose deeds are daring, as their hearts are true.

V.
Within the Haram’s secret chamber sat
Stern Seyd, still pondering o’er his Captive’s fate;
His thoughts on love and hate alternate dwell,
Now with Gulnare, and now in Conrad’s cell;
Here at his feet the lovely slave reclined
Surveys his brow—would sooth his gloom of mind
While many an anxious glance her large dark eye
Sends in its idle search for sympathy,
His only beld in seeming o’er his beads;
But inly views his victim as he bleeds.

“Pacha! the day is thine; and on thy crest
Sits triumph—Conrad taken—fall’n the rest!
His doom is fix’d—he dies: and well his fate
Was earn’d—yet much too worthless for thy heart
Methinks, a short release, for ransom told
With all his treasure, not unwisely sold;
Report speaks largel of his pirate-board
Would that of this my Pacha were the lord!
While baffled, weaken’d by this fatal fray
Wattof’d—follow’d—he were then an easier prey
But once cut off—the remnant of his band
Embark their wealth, and seek a safer strand

“Gulnare!—if for each drop of blood a gem
Were offer’d rich as Stamboul’s diadem;
Twas worn—perhaps decay'd—yet silent bore
That conflict deadlier far than all before:
The heat of flight, the hurry of the gale,
Leave scarce the fleeting petal to bewail;
But bound and fix'd in fetter'd solitude,
To pine, the prey of every changing mood;
To gaze on thine own heart; and meditate
Irrevocable faults, and coming fate—
Too late the last to shun—the first to mend—
To count the hours that struggle to thine end,
With not a friend to animate, and tell
To other ears that death became thee well.
Around thee foes to forge the ready lie,
And blot life's latest scene with calumny:
Before, the tortures, which the soul can dare,
Yet doubts how well the shrinking flesh may bear;
But deeply feels a single cry would shame,
To valor's praise thy last and dearest claim;
The life thou leave'st below, denied above
By kind monopolists of heavenly love;
And more than doubtful paradise—thy heaven
Of earthly hope—thy loved one from thee riven.
Such were the thoughts that outlaw must sustain,
And govern pangs surpassing mortal pain:
And those sustain'd he—boots it well or ill?
Since not to sink beneath, is something still!

VII.

The first day pass'd—he saw not her—Gulnare—
The second—thrice and still she came not there;
But what her words avouch'd, her charms had done
Or else he had not seen another sun.
The fourth day roll'd along and with the night,
Came storm and darkness in their mingling might.
Oh! how he listen'd to the rushing deep,
That ne'er till now so broke upon his sleep.
And his wild spirit wilder wishes sent,
Roused by the roar of his own element!
Oft had he ridden on that winged wave,
And loved its roughness for the speed it gave,
And now its dashing echo'd on his ear,
A long known voice—slas! too vainly near!
Loud sung the wind above; and, doubly loud,
Shook o'er his turret cell the thunder-cloud;
And flashing the lightning by the lattic'd bar,
To him more genial than the midnight star:
Close to the glimmering grate he dragg'd his chain
And hoped that peril might not prove in vain.
He raised his iron hand to Heaven, and pray'd
One pitying flash to mar the form it made:
His steel and impious prayer attract alike—
The storm roll'd onward, and disdain'd to strike
Its peal wax'd fainter—ceas'd—he felt alone,
As if some faithless friend had spurn'd his groan.

VIII.

The midnight pass'd—and to the massy door
Leave scarce the shadow of the footsteps bore.
Slow turns the grating bolt and sullen key:
'Tis as his heart forebode—that fair she
Whate'er her sins, to him a guardian saint,
And beauteous still as hermit's hope can paint;
Yet changed since last within that cell she came.
More pale her cheek, more tremulous her frame:
On him she cast her dark and hurried eye,
Which spoke before her accents—'thou must die
Yes, thou must die—there is but one resource,
The last—the worst—if torture were not worse
BYRON'S WORKS.

"Lady! I look to none—my lips proclaim
What last proclaim'd they—Conrad still the same:
Why shouldst thou seek an outlaw's life to spare,
And change the sentence I deserve to bear?
Well have I earn'd—nor here alone—the need
Of Scyd's revenge, by many a lawless deed."

"Why should I seek? because—Oh! didst thou not
Redeem my life from worse than slavery's lot?
Why should I seek?—hath misery made thee blind
To the fond workings of a woman's mind?
And must I say—albeit my heart rebel
With all that woman feels, but should not tell—
Because—despite thy crimes—that heart is moved:
It fear I thee—thanked thee—pitted—madden'd—loved:
Reply not, tell not now thy tale again,
Thou lov'st another—and I love in vain;
Though fond as mine her bosom, form more fair,
I rush through peril which she would not dare.
If that thy heart to hers were truly dear,
Were I thine own—thou wert not lonely here:
An outlaw's spouse—and leave her lord to roam!
What hath such gentle dame to do with home?
But speak not now—o'er thine and o'er my head
Hangs the keen sabre by a single thread;
If thou hast courage still, and wouldst be free,
Receive this pawniard—rise—and follow me!"

"Ay—in my chains! my steps will gently tread,
With these adornments, o'er each slumbering head!
Thou hast forgot—is this a garb for flight?
Or is that instrument more fit, for flight?"

"Misdoubting Corsair! I have gain'd the guard,
Ripe for revolt, and greedy for reward.
A single word of mine removes that chain:
Without some aid how here could I remain?
Well, since we met, hath sped my busy time,
If in aught evil, for thy sake the crime:
The crime—'tis none to punish those of Seyd.
That hated tyrant, Conrad—he must bleed!
I see thee shudder—but my soul is changed—
Wrong'd, spurn'd, revil'd, and it shall be avenged—
Accused of what till now my heart disdain'd—
Too faithful, though to bitter bondage chain'd.
Yes, smil'd—but he had little cause to sneer,
I was not treacherous then—nor thou too dear;
But he has said it—and the jealous well,
These tyrants, teasing, tempting to rebel,
Deserve the fate their fretting lips foretell.
I never loved—he bought me—somewhat high—
Since with me came a heart he could not buy.
I was a slave unmurmuring: he hath said,
But for his rescue I with thee had fle'd.
'Twas false thou knew'st—but let such anguish rue,
Their words are omens Insult renders true.
Nor was thy repulse granted to my prayer;
This fleeting grace was only to prepare
New tortures for thy life, and my despair.
Mine too he threatens; but his dotage still
Would fain reserve me for his lordly will;
When weariest of these fleeting charms and me,
There yawns the sack—and yonder rolls the sea!
What, am I then a toy for dotard's play,
To wear but till the gilding frets away?
I saw thee—loved thee—owe thee all—would save,
If but to show how grateful is a slave.

But had he not thus menaced fame and life,
(And well he keeps his oaths pronounced in stile)
I still had saved thee—but the Pacena spared.
Now I am all thine own—for all prepared:
Thou lov'st me not—nor know'st or but the worst.
Alas! this love—that hatred are the first—
Oh! could'st thou prove my truth, thou would'st not start,
Nor fear the fire that lights an Eastern heart;
'Tis now the beacon of thy safety—now
It points within the port a Maniote prow;
But in one chamber, where our path must lead,
There sleeps—he must not wake—the oppressor Seyd!"

"Gulnare—Gulnare—I never felt till now
My abject fortune, wither'd fame so low.
Seyd is mine enemy: had swept my band
From earth with ruthless but with open hand,
And therefore came I, in my bark of war,
To smite the smiter with the semiliter;
Such is my weapon—not the secret knife—
Who spares a woman's seeks not shimer's life.
Thine saved I gladly, Lady, not for this—
Let me not deem that mercy shown amiss.
Now fare thee well—more peace be with thy breast!
Night wears apace—my last of earthly rest!"

"Rest! rest! by sunrise must thy sinews shake,
And thy limbs writhe around the ready stake.
I heard the order—saw—I will not see—
If thou wilt perish, I will fall with thee.
My life—my love—my hatred—all below
Are on this cast—Corsair! 'tis but a blow!
Without it flight were idle—how evade
His sure pursuit? my wrongs too unrepaid,
My youth disgraced—the long, long wasted year,
One blow shall cancel with our future fears;
But since the dagger suits thee less than brand,
I'll try the firmness of a female hand;
The guards are gain'd—one moment all were o'er—
Corsair! we meet in safety or no more;
If errs my feeble hand, the morning cloud
Will hower o'er thy scaffold, and my shroud."

IX.

She turn'd, and vanish'd ere he could reply,
But his glance follow'd far with eager eye;
And gathering, as he could, the links that bound
His form, to curl their length, and curb their sound
Since bar and bolt no more his steps preclude
He, fast as fetter'd limbs allow, pursued.
'Twas dark and winding, and he knew not where
That passage led; nor lamp nor guard were there:
He sees a dusky glimmering—shall he seek
Or shun that ray so indistinct and weak?
Chance guides his steps—a freshness seems to bear
Full on his brow, as if from morning air—
He reach'd an open gallery—on his eye
Gleamed the last star of night, the clearing sky;
Yet scarcely heeded these—another light
From a lone chamber struck upon his sight.
Towards it he moved; a scarcely closing door
Reveald the ray within, but nothing more.
With hasty step a figure onward past,
Then paused—and turn'd—and paused—'tis She at last!

No poniard in that hand—nor sign of ill—kill!"

"Thanks to that softening heart—she could not
Again he look'd, the wildness of her eye
Starts from the day abrupt and fearfully.
She stopp'd—threw back her dark far-floating hair,
That nearly veil'd her face and bosom fair:
As if she late had bent her leaning head
Above some object of her doubt or dread.
They met—upon her brow—unknown—forgot—
Her hurrying hand had left—'twas but a spot—
Its hue was all she saw, and scarce withstood—
Oh! slight but certain pledge of crime—'tis blood!

X.
He had seen battle—he had brooded lone
O'er promised pangs to sentenced guilt foreseen;
He had been tempted—chastened—and the chain
Yet on his arms might ever there remain:
But ne'er from strife to captivity—remorse—
From all his feelings in their inmost force—
So thrill'd—so shudder'd every creeping vein,
As now they froze before that purple stain.
That spot of blood, that light but guilty streak,
Had banish'd all the beauty from her cheek!
Blood he had view'd—could view unmoved—but then
It flow'd in combat, or was shed by men.

XI.
"'Tis done—he nearly waked—but it is done.
Corsair! he perish'd—thou art dearly won.
All words would now be vain—away—away!
Our bark is tossing—'tis already day.
The few gain'd over, now are wholly mine,
And these thy yet surviving band shall join:
Anon my voice shall vindicate my hand,
When once our sail forsakes this hated strand."

XII.
She clapp'd her hands—and through the gallery pour,
Equipp'd for flight, her vassals—Greek and Moor;
Silent but quick they stoop, his chains unbind;
Once more his limbs are free as mountain wind;
But on his heavy heart such sadness sate,
As if they there transferr'd that iron weight.
No words are utter'd—at her sign, a door
Reveals the secret passage to the shore;
The city lies behind—they speed, they reach
The glad waves dancing on the yellow beach;
And Conrad following, at her beck, obey'd,
Nor cared he now if rescued or betray'd;
Resistance were as useless as if Seyd
Yet lived to view the doom his ire decreed.

XIII.
Embark'd, the sail unfurl'd, the light breeze blew—
How much had Conrad's memory to review!
Sunk he in Contemplation, till the cape
Where last he anchor'd rear'd its giant shape.
Ah!—since that fatal night, though brief the time,
Had swept an age of terror, grief, and crime.
As its far shadow frowned above the mast,
He veil'd his face, and sorrow'd as he past;
He thought of all—Gonsalvo and his band,
His fleeting triumph, and his falling hand;
He thought on her afar, his lonely bride:
He turn'd and saw—Gulnare, the homicide!

XIV.
She watch'd his features till she could not bear
Their freezing aspect and averted air,
And that strange fierceness foreign to her eye,
Fell quench'd in tears, too late to shed or dry.

She knelt beside him, and his hand she prest—
"Thou may'st forgive though Alla's self detest;
But for that deed of darkness, what wert thou thou
Reproach me—but not yet—Oh! spare me now.
I am not what I seem—this fearful night
My brain bewilder'd—do not madden quite!
If I had never loved—though less my guilt,
Thou hast not lived to—hate me—if thou wilt;"

XV.
She wrongs his thoughts, they more himself upbraiding
Than her, though undesign'd, the wretch he made:
But speechless all, deep, dark, and unexpressed,
They bleed within that silent cell—his breast
Still onward, fair the breeze, nor rough the surge
The blue waves sport around the stern they urge;
Far on the horizon's verge appears a speck,
A spout—a mast—a sail—an armed deck!
Their little bark her men of watch descry,
And ampler canvas wos the wind from high;
She bears her down majestically near,
Speed on her prow, and terror in her tier.
A flash is seen—the ball beyond their bow
Booms harmless, hissing to the deep below.
Up rose keen Conrad from his silent trance,
A long, long absent gladness in his glance:
"'Tis mine—my blood-red flag! again—again
I am not all deserted on the main!"
They own the signal, answer to the hull,
Hoist out the boat at once, and slacken sail.
"'Tis Conrad! Conrad!" shouting from the deck,
Command nor duty could their transport check!
With light alacrity and gaze of pride,
They view him here on once more his vessels' side.
A smile relaxing in each rugged face,
Their arms can scarce forbear a rough embrace.
He, half forgetting danger and defeat,
Returns their greeting as a chief may greet,
Wings with a cordial grasp Anselmo's hand,
And feels he yet can conquer and command!

XVI.
These greetings o'er, the feelings that o'erflow,
Yet grieve to win him back without a blow;
They sail'd prepared for vengeance—had they known
A woman's hand secured that deed her own,
She were their queen—less scrupulous are they
Than haughty Conrad how they win their way
With many an asking smile, and wondering stare.
They whisper round, and gaze upon Gulnare:
And her, at once above—beneath her sex,
Whom blood appall'd not, their regal perquisites
To Conrad turns her faint imploring eye,
She drops her veil, and stands in silence by;
Her arms are meekly folded on that breast,
Which—Conrad safe—to fate resign'd the rest.
Though worse than frenzy could that bosom fill
Extreme in love or hate, in good or ill,
The worst of crimes had left her woman still!

XVII.
This Conrad mark'd, and felt—ah! could he less
Hate of that deed—but grief for her distress;
What she has done no tears can wash away,
And Heaven must punish on its angry day.
But it was done: he know, whatever guilt,
For him that poniard smote, that blood was spilt
And he was free—and she for him had given
Her all on earth, and more than all in heaven!
And now he turn'd him to that dark-ey'd slave
Whose brow was bow'd beneath the glance he gave,
Who now seem'd changed and humbled—faint and meek,
But varying oft the color of her cheek
To deeper shades of paleness—all its red
That fearful spot which stain'd it from the dead!
He took that hand—it trembled—now too late—
So soft in love—so wildly nerve'd in hate;
He clasp'd that hand—it trembled—and his own
Had lost its firmness, and his voice its tone.
"Gulnare!"—"but she replied not—"dear Gulnare!"
She rais'd her eye—her only answer there—
At once she sought and sunk in his embracce:
If he had driven her from that resting-place,
His heart had been more or less than mortal heart,
But—good or ill—it bade her not depart.
Nor chance, but for the bedings of his breast,
His latest virtue then had join'd the rest.
Yet even Medora might forget the kiss
That ask'd from form so fair no more than this,
The first, the last that Frailty stole from Faith—
To lips where Love had lavish'd all his breath,
To lips—whose broken sighs such fragrance dung,
As he had fam'd them freshily with his wing!

XVIII.
They gain by twilight's hour their lonely isle:
To them the very rocks appear to smile;
The haven hums with many a cheering sound,
The beacons blaze their wonted stations round,
The boats are darting o'er the early bay,
And sportive dolphins bend them through the spray;
Even the hoarse sea-bird's shrill, discordant shriek,
Greets like the welcome of his timeless beak!
Beneath each lamp that through its lattice gleams,
Their fancy paints the friends that trim the beams.
Oh! what can sanctify the joys of home,
Like Hope's gay glance from Ocean's troubled foam?

XIX.
The lights are high on beacon and from bower,
And midst them Conrad seeks Medora's tower:
He looks in vain—'tis strange—and all remark,
Amid so many, her's alone is dark.
'Tis strange—of yore its welcome never fail'd,
Nor now, perchance, extinguish'd, only veil'd.
With the first boat descends he for the shore,
And looks impatient on the lingering oar.
Oh! for a wing beyond the falcon's flight,
To bear him like an arrow to that height!
With the first pause the resting rowers gave,
He faintly with not—looks not—leaps into the wave,
Strives through the surge, bestrides the beach, and high
Ascends the path familiar to his eye.
He reach'd his turret door—he paused—no sound
Breke from within; and all was night around.
He knock'd, and loudly—footstep nor reply
Announced that any heard or deem'd him nigh;
He knock'd—but faintly—for his trembling hand
Refused to aid his heavy heart's demand.
The portal open—'tis a well-known face—
But not the form he pant'd to embrace,
Its lips are silent—twice his own essay'd,
And fail'd to frame the question they delay'd;
He snatch'd the lamp—its light will answer all
It quits his grasp, expiring in the fall.
He would not wait for that reviving ray—
As soon could he have linger'd there for day;
But, glimmering through the dusky corridor,
Another checkers o'er the shadow'd floor;
His steps the chamber gain—his eyes behold
All that his heart believed not—yet foretold!

XX.
He turn'd not—spoke not—sunk not—fix'd his look,
And set the anxious frame that lately shook:
He gazed—how long we gaze despite of pain,
And know, but dare not own, we gaze in vain.
In life itself it was so still and fair,
That death with gentler aspect wither'd there;
And the cold flowers 2 her colder hand contain'd,
In the last grasp as tenderly were strain'd
As if she scarcely felt, but feign'd a sleep,
And made it almost mockery yet to weep:
The long dark lashes fringed her lids of snow,
And veil'd—thought shrinks from all that lurk'd below—
Oh! o'er the eye Death most exerts his might,
And hurls the spirit from her throne of light!
Sink those blue orbs in that long last eclipse,
But spares, as yet, the charm around her lips—
Yet, yet they seem as they forbore to smile,
And wish'd repose—but only for a while;
But the white shroud, and each extended tress,
Long—fair—but spread in utter lifeless love,
Which, late the sport of every summer win, Escape the baf'fed wraith that strove to bind Those—and the pale pure cheek, became the bier—
But she is nothing—wherefore is he here?

XXI.
He ask'd no question—all were answer'd now
By the first glance on that still marble brow.
It was enough—she died—What rock'd it low?
The love of youth, the hope of better years,
The source of softest wishes, tenderest fears,
The only living thing he could not hate,
Was rest at once—and he deserved his fate,
But did not feel it less—t' the good explore,
For peace, those realms where guilt can never soar
The proud—t' the wayward—who have fix'd below
Their joy, and find this earth enough for wo,
Lose in that one their all—perchance a mate—
But who in patience parts with all delight?
Full many a stoic eye and aspect stern
Mask hearts where grief hath little left to learn
And many a withering thought lies hid, not lost
In smiles that least beft who wear them most.

XXII.
By those, that deepest feel, is ill exprest
The indistinctness of the suffering breast;
Where thousand thoughts begin to end in one,
Which seeks for all the refuge found in none;
No words suffice the secret soul to show,
For Truth denies all eloquence to Wo.
On Conrad's stricken soul exhaustion prest,
And stupor almost bled it into rest:
So feeble now—his mother's softness crept
To those wild eyes, which like an infant's wept:
NOTES TO THE CORSAIR.

The time in this poem may seem too short for the occurrences, but the whole of the Egean isles are within a few hours' sail of the continent, and the reader must be kind enough to take the wind as I have often found it.

1. Of fair Olympia loved and left of old. Page 139, line 90.
Orlando, Canto 10.

2. Around the waves phosphoric brightness broke. Page 140; line 100.
By night, particularly in a warm latitude, every stroke of the oar, every motion of the boat or ship, is followed by a slight flash like sheet lightning from the water.

3. Though to the rest the sober berry's juice. Page 141, line 39.
Coffee.

4. The long Chibouque's dissolvent cloud supply. Page 141, line 41.
Pipe.

5. While dance the Almas to wild minstrelsy. Page 141, line 42.
Dancing girls.

6. A captive Derweise, from the Pirate's nest. Page 141, line 55.
It has been objected that Conrad's entering disguised as a spy is out of nature.—Perhaps so. I find something not unlike it in history.

"Anxious to explore with his own eyes the state of the Vandals, Majorian ventured, after disguising the color of his hair, to visit Carthage in the character of his own ambassador; and Genseric was afterwards mortified by the discovery, that he had entertained and dismissed the Emperor of the Romans. Such an anecdote may be rejected as an improbable fiction, but it is a fact that he would not have been imagined unless in the life of a hero."—Gibbon, D. and F., vol. vi. p. 180.
That Conrad is a character not altogether out of nature I shall attempt to prove by some historical coincidences which I have met with since writing "The Corsair."
"Eccelin prisonnier," dit Rolandini. "s'enfo..."
moit dans un silence menaçant, il fixeait sur la terre son visage serein, et ne donnait point d'essor à sa profonde indignation.—De toutes parts cependant les soldats et les peuples accouraient; ils voulaient voir cet homme, jadis si puissant, et la joie universelle celtait de toutes parts.

"Et voilà étoit d'une petite taille; mais tout l'aspect de sa personne, tous ses mouvements, indiquaient un soldat.—Son langage était amer, son département superbe—et par son seul égard, il faisait trembler les plus hardis." Siocis, tome III. page 215, 220.

"Gizierius (Genseric, king of the Vandals, the conqueror of both Carthage and Rome) staturi medociris, et equi casu clandestans, animo profundus, venmine rarus, luxurio contemptum, ira turbidus, habendi cupidus, ad solicitandas gentes providentissimus," &c., &c. Jornandes de Rebus Geticiis, c. 33.

I beg leave to quote these gloomy realities to keep in countenance my Gisour and Corsair.

7.
And my stern vow and order's true oppose.
Page 142, line 17.

The dervises are in colleges, and of different orders, as the monks.
8.
They seize that Dervise!—seize on Zodamai!
Page 142, line 52.

Satan.
9.
He tore his beard, and foaming paid the fight.
Page 142, line 73.

A common and not very novel effect of Masulman anger. See Prince Eugene's Memoirs, page 24. * The Seraskier received a wound in the thigh; he plucked up his beard by the roots, because he was obliged to quit the field."

10.
Brief time had Conrad now to greet Gulnare.
Page 142, line 117.

Gulnare, a female name; it means, literally, the flower of the pomegranate.

11.
Till even the scaffold echoes with their jest!
Page 144, line 87.

In Sir Thomas More, for instance, on the scaffold, and A. Boleyn in the Tower, with grasping his neck, she remarked that it "was too slender to trouble the headman much." During one part of the French Revolution, it became a fashion to leave some "not" as a legacy; and the quantity of facetious last words spoken during that period would form a melancholy jest-book of a considerable size.

12.
That closed their murder'd sage's latest day.
Page 145, line 100.

Socrates drank the hemlock a short time before sunset, (the hour of execution,) notwithstanding the entreaties of his disciples to wait till the sun went down.

13.
The queen of night asserts her silent reign.
Page 145, line 112.

The twilight in Greece is much shorter than in our own country; the days in winter are longer, but in summer of shorter duration.

14.
The gleaming turret of the gay Kiosk.
Page 146, line 10.

The Kiosk is a Turkish summer-house: the palm is without the present walls of Athens, not far from the temple to Theseus, between the temple and the tree, the wall intervenes.—Cephisus' stream is indeed scanty, and Ilissus has no stream at all.

15.
That frozen—where tender oceans seem to smile.
Page 146, line 27.

The opening lines as far as Section II. have, perhaps, little business here, and were annexed to an unpublished (though printed) poem; but they were written on the spot in the spring of 1811, and—I scarce know why—the reader must excuse their appearance here if he can.

16.
His only bonds in seeming o'er his beads.
Page 146, line 104.

The Combolocio, or Mahometan rosary; the beads are in number ninety-nine.

17.
And the cold flowers her colder hand contain'd.
Page 150, line 73.

In the Levant it is the custom to strew flowers on the bodies of the dead, and in the hands of young persons to place a nosegay.

18.
Link'd with one virtue, and a thousand crimes
Page 151, line 43.

That the point of honor which is represented in one instance of Conrad's character has not been carried beyond the bounds of probability may perhaps be in some degree confirmed by the following anecdote of a brother Bucaneer in the year 1814.

Our readers have all seen the account of the enterprise against the pirates of Barratara; but few, we believe, were informed of the situation, history, or nature of that establishment. For the information of such as were unacquainted with it, we have procured from a friend the following interesting narrative of the main facts, of which he has personal knowledge, and which cannot fail to interest some of our readers.

Barratara is a bay, or a narrow arm of the Gulf of Mexico: it runs through a rich but very flat country until it reaches within a mile of the Mississippi River fifteen miles below the city of New Orleans. The bay has branches almost innumerable, in which persons can lie concealed from the severest scrutiny. It communicates with three lakes which lie on the southwest side, and these, with the lake of the same name, and which lies contiguous to the sea, where there is an island formed by the two arms of this lake and the sea. The east and west points of this island were fortified, in the year 1811, by a band of pirates under the command of one Monsieur La Fitte. A large majority of these outlaws are of that class of the population of the State of Louisiana who fled from the Island of St. Domingo during the troubles there, and took refuge in the Island of Cuba: and when the last war between France and Spain commenced, they were compelled to leave that island with the short notice of a few days. Without ceremony, they entered the United States, the most of them the State of Louisiana, with all the negroes they had possessed in Cuba. They were notified by the Governor of that State of the clause in the constitution which forbade the importation of slaves; but, at the same time, received the assurance of the Governor that he would obtain, if possible, the approbation of the General Government for their retaining this property.

The Island of Barratara is situated about lat
NOTES TO THE CORSAIR.

There is something mysterious in the history and character of Dr. Blackbourne. The former is but imperfectly known; and report has even asserted he was a buccanneer; and that one of his predecessors in that profession having asked, on his arrival in England, what had become of his old chum, Blackbourne, was answered, he is archbishop of York. We are informed, that Blackbourne was installed sub-dean of Exeter, in 1694, where he resided till 1702; but after his successor, Lewis Barneet's death, in 1704, he regained it. In the following year he became dean: and, in 1714, held it the archdeanry of Cornwall. He was consecrated bishop of Exeter, February 24, 1717, and translated to York, November 28, 1722; as a reward, according to court scandal, for aiding George I. to the Duchy of Munster. This, however, appears to have been an unfounded calumny. As archbishop he behaved with great prudence, and was equally respectable as the guardian of the revenues of the see. Rumor whispered he retained the vices of his youth. and that a passion for the fair sex formed an item in the list of his weaknesses; but so far from being convicted by seventy witnesses, he does not appear to have been directly criminated by one. In short, I look upon these aspersions as the effects of mere malice. How is it possible a buccanneer should have been so good a scholar as Blackbourne certainly was? He had some perfect knowledge of the classics, (particularly of the Greek tragedians,) as to be able to read them with the same ease as he could Shakespeare, must have taken great pains to acquire the learned languages; and have had both leisure and good masters. But he was undoubtedly educated at Christchurch College, Oxford. He is allowed to have been a pleasant man; this, however, was turned against him, by its being said, "he gained more hearts than souls.""
LARA:
A TALE.

CANTO I.

I.
The Serfs are glad through Lara's wide domain,
And Slavery half forgets her feudal chain:
He, their unhoped, but unforgotten lord,
The long self-exiled chieftain is restored;
There be bright faces in the busy hall,
Bowls on the board, and banners on the wall;
Far checkering 'er the pictured window, plays
The unwonted faggots' hospitable blaze;
And gay retainers gather round the hearth,
With tongues all loudness, and with eyes all mirth.

II.
The chief of Lara is return'd again;
And why had Lara cross'd the bounding main?
Left by his sire, too young such loss to know,
Lord of himself;—that heritage of wo,
That fearful empire which the human breast
But holds to rob the heart within of rest!—
With none to check, and few to point in time
His thousand paths that slope the way to crime;
Then, when he most required commandment, then
Had Lara's daring boyhood govern'd men.
It skills not, boots not step by step to trace
His youth through all the mazes of its race;
Short was the course his restlessness had run,
But long enough to leave him half undone.

III.
And Lara left in youth his father-land;
But from the hour he waved his parting hand
Each trace wax'd fainter of his course, till all
Had nearly ceased his memory to recall.
His sire was dust, his vassals could declare,
'Twas all they knew, that Lara was not there;
Nor sent, nor came he, till conjecture grew
Cold in the many, anxious in the few.
His hall scarce echoed with his wonted name,
His portrait darkens in its fading frame,
Another chief consoled his destined bride,
The young forgot him, and the old had died;
"Yet doth he live!" exclaims the impatient heir,
And sighs for satires which he must not wear.

A hundred scutcheons deck with gloomy grace,
The Lara's last and longest dwelling-place:
But one is absent from the mouldering pile
That now were welcome in that Gothic pile

IV.
He comes at last in sudden loneliness,
And whence they know not, why they need not guess
They more might marvel, when the greeting's o'er
Not that he came, but came not long before:
No train is his beyond a single page,
Of foreign aspect, and of tender age.
Years had roll'd on, and fast they speed away
To those that wander as to those that stay;
But lack of tidings from another clime
Had lent a flagging wing to weary Time.
They see, they recognize, yet almost deem
The present dubious, or the past a dream

He lives, nor yet is past his manhood's prime,
Though see'd by toil, and something touch'd by time;
His faults, whate'er they were, if scarce forgot,
Might be untaught him by his varied lot;
Nor good nor ill of late were known, his name
Might yet uphold his patrimonial fame;
His soul in youth was haughty, but his sins
No more than pleasure from the stripling wins,
And such, if not yet harden'd in their course,
Might be redeem'd, nor ask a long remorse.

V.
And they indeed were changed—'tis quickly seen
Whate'er he be, 'twas not what he had been:
That brow in surrow'd lines had fix'd at last,
And spoke of passions, but of passion past:
The pride, but not the fire, of early days,
Coldness of mind, and carelessness of praise:
A high demeanor, and a glance that took
Their thoughts from others by a single look;
And that sarcastic levity of tongue,
The stinging of a heart the world hath stung.
LARA. 153

That darts in seeming playfulness around,
And makes those feel that will not own the wound;
All these seem'd his, and something more beneath,
Than glance could well reveal, or accent breathe.
Ambition, glory, love, the common aim,
That some can conquer, and that all would claim,
Within his breast appear'd no more to strive,
Yet seem'd as lately they had been alive;
And some deep feeling it was vain to grace
At moments lighten'd o'er his livid face.

VI.
N: much he loved long question of the past
Nor told of wondrous wilds, and deserts vast,
In those far lands where he had wander'd lone,
And—as himself would have it seem—unknown:
Yet these in vain his eye could scarcely scan,
Nor glean experience from his fellow man:
But what he had beheld he shunn'd to show,
As hardly worth a stranger's care to know:
If still more prying such inquiry grew,
His brow fell darker, and his words more few.

VII.
Not unregretted to see him once again,
Warm was his welcome to the haunts of men;
Born of high lineage, link'd in wander'st tone,
He mingled with the Magnates of his land,
John's the carousals of the great and gay,
And saw them smile or sigh their hours away;
But still he only saw, and did not share
The common pleasure or the general care;
He did not follow what they all pursued
With hope still baff'd still to be renew'd:
Nor shadowy honor, nor substantial gain,
Nor beauty's preference, and t'io rival's pain:
Around him some mysterious circle threw
Replied'd approach, and shew'd him still alone;
Upon his eye sate something of reproof,
That kept at least frivolity aloof;
And things more timid that beheld him near,
In silence gaze'd, or whisper'd mutual fear;
And they the wiser, friendlier few confest
They deem'd him better than his air express.

VIII.
'Twas strange—in youth all action and all life,
Burning for pleasure, not averse from strife,
Woman—the field—the ocean—all that gave
Promise of gladness, peril of a grave,
In turn he tried—he ransack'd all below,
And found his recompense in joy or wo,
No tame, trite medium; for his feelings sought
In that intenseness an escape from thought:
The tempest of his heart in scorn had gaz'd
On that the feebler elements had rais'd;
The rapture of his heart hath look'd on high,
And ask'd if greater dwell beyond the sky:
Chain'd to excess, the slave of each extreme,
How woke he from the wildness of that dream?
Alas! he told not—but he did awake
To curse the wither'd heart & at would not break.

IX.
Books, for his volume heretofore was Man,
With eye more curious he appear'd to scan,
And oft, in sudden mood, for many a day
From all commune in he would start away;
And then, his rarely call'd attendants said,
Through night's long hours would sound his hurried tread
O'er the dark gallery, where his fathers srown'd
In rude but antique portraiture around:
They heard, but whisper'd—"that must not be known—"
The sound of words less earthly than his own.
Yes, they who chose might smile, but some had seen
They scarce knew what, but more than should have been.
Why gaz'd he so upon the ghastly head
Which hands profane had gather'd from the dead.
That still beside his open'd volume lay,
As if to startling all save him away?
Why slept he not when others were at rest
Why heard no music, and receive no guest?
All was not well, they deem'd—but where the wrong?
Some knew perchance—out 'twere a tale too long:
And such besides were too discreetly wise,
To more than hint their knowledge in sunrise,
But if they would—they could "—round the board
Thus Lara's vassals prattled to their Lord.

X.
It was the night—and Lara's glassy stream
The stars are studding, each with imaged beam;
So calm, the waters scarcely seem to stray,
And yet they glide like happiness away;
Reflecting far and fairy-like from high
The immortal lights that live along the sky,
Its banks are fringed with many a goodly tree,
And flowers the fairest that may feast the bee;
Such in her charplet infant Dian wave,
And Innocence would offer to her love:
These deck the shore; the waves their channel make
In windings bright and mazy like the snake.
All was so still, so soft in earth and air,
You scarce would start to meet a spirit there;
Secure that nought of evil could delight
To walk in such a scene, on such a night!
It was a moment only for the good:
So Lara deem'd, nor longer there he stood,
But turn'd in silence to his castle-gate;
Such scene his soul no more could contemplate:
Such scene reminded him of other days,
Of skies more cloudless, moons of purer blaze,
Of nights more soft and frequent, hearts that now—
No—no—the storm may beat upon his brow,
Uneft—unsparing—but a night like this,
A night of beauty, mock'd such breast as his

XI.
He turn'd within his solitary hall,
And his high shadow shot along the wall;
There were the painted forms of other times,
'Twas all they left of virtues or of crimes,
Save vague tradition; and the gloomy vaults
That hid their dust, their foilodes, and their faults.
And half a column of the pompous page,
That speeding the specious tale from age to age,
Where history's pen its praise or blame supplies
And lies like truth, and still more truly lies.
He wandering mused, and as the moonbeam shone
Through the dim lattice o'er the floor of stone,
And the high fretted roof, and saints, that there
O'er Gothic windows knelt in pictured prayer,
Reflected in fantastic figures grew.
Like life, but not like mortal life, to view;
His bris'ling locks of sable, brow of gloom,
And the wide waving of his shaken plume,
Blanc'd like a spectre's attributes, and gave
His aspect all that terror gives the grave.

XII.
'Twas midnight—all was slumber; the lone light
Dim'd in the lamp, as loth to break the night.
Hark! there be murmurs heard in Lara's hall—
A sound—a voice—a shriek—a fearful call!
A long, loud shriek—and silence—did they hear
That frantic echo burst the sleeping ear?
They heard and rose, and tremulously brave,
Rush where the sound invoked their aid to save;
The some with half-lit tapers in their hands,
And snatch'd in startled haste unbelted brands.

XIII.
Cold as the marble where his length was laid,
Pale as the beam that o'er his features play'd,
Was Lara stretch'd: his half-drawn sable near,
Droop'd as it should seem in more than nature's fear;
Yet he was firm, or had been firm till now,
And still defiance knelt his gather'd brow;
Though mix'd with terror, senseless as he lay,
There lived upon his lip the wish to slay;
Some half-form'd threat in utterance there had die'd,
Some imprecation of despairing pride;
His eye was almost seal'd, but not forsook,
Even in its trance the gladiator's look,
That oft awake his aspect could disclose,
And now was fixed in horrible repose.
They raise him—bear him;—hush! he breathes, he speaks,
The swarth'ry blush recolours in his cheeks,
His lip resumes its red, his eye, though dim,
Rolls wide and wild, each slowly quivering limb
Recalls its function, but his words are strong
In terms that seem not of his native tongue;
Distinct but strange, enough for them to understand
To deem them accents of another land,
And such they were, and meant to meet an ear
That hears him not—alas! that cannot hear!

XIV.
His page approach'd, and he alone appear'd
To know the import of the words they heard;
And, by the changes of his cheek and brow,
They were not such as Lara should awow,
Nor he interpret, yet with less surprise
Than those around their chief'stai'state he eyes.
But Lara's prostrate form he bent beside,
And in that tongue that seem'd his own replied,
And Lara heeds those tones that gently seem
To soothe away the horrors of his dream;
If dream it were, that thus could overthrow
A breast that needed not ideal wo.

XV.
What'er his frenzy dream'd or eye beheld,
Yet remember'd ne'er to be reveal'd,
Re-quits at his heart: the custom'd morning came,
And breathed new vigor in his shaken frame;
And solace sought he none from priest nor leech,
And soon the same in movement and in speech
As herebefore he fill'd the passing hours,
Nor less he smiles, nor more his forehead lowers,
Than these were wont—and if the coming night
Appear'd less w.'com' now to Lara's sight,
He to his marvelling vassals show'd it not,
Whose shuddering proved their fear was less forgot
In trembling pairs (alone they dared not) crawl
The astonished's slaves, and shun the fated hall
The waving banner, and the clapping door,
The rustling tapestry, and the echoing floor;
The long dim shadows of surrounding trees,
The flapping bat, the night song of the breeze,
Aught they behold or hear their thought appals,
As evening saddens o'er the dark gray walls.

XVI.
Vain thought! that hour of ne'er unravell'd gloom
Came not again, or Lara could assume
A seeming of forgetfulness, that made
His vassals more amazed nor less afraid—
Had memory vanish'd then with sense restored?
Since word, nor look, nor gesture of their lord
Betray'd a feeling that recall'd to these
That fever'd moment of his mind's disease.
Was it a dream? was his the voice that spoke
Those strange wild accents: his the cry that broke
Their slumber? his the oppress'd, o'erbur'd heart
That ceased to beat, the look that made them start?
Could he who thus had suffer'd, so forget,
When such as saw that suffering shudder yet?
Or did that silence prove his memory fix'd
Too deep for words, indelible, unmix'd?
In that corroding secrecy which gnaws
The heart to show the effect, but not the cause?
Not so in him; his breast had buried both,
Nor common gars could discern the growth
Of thoughts that mortal lips must leave half told:
They choke the feeble words that would unfold

XVII.
In him inexplicably mix'd appear'd
Much to be loved and hated, sought and fear'd;
Opinion varying o'er his hidden lot,
In praise or railing o'er his name forgot.
His silence form'd a theme for others' past—
They guess'd—they gazed—they fain would know
his fate.
What had he been? what was he, thus unknown,
Who walk'd their world, his lineage only known?
A hater of his kind? yet some would say,
With them he could seem gay amidst the gay;
But own'd, that smile if oft observed and near,
W'an'd in its mirth, and wither'd to a sneer;
That smile might reach his lip, but pass'd not by
None o'er could trace its laughter to his eye:
Yet there was softness too in his regard,
At times, a heart as not by nature hard,
But once perceived, his spirit seemed to chide
Such weakness, as unworthy of its pride,
And steel'd itself, as scornful to redeem
One doubt from others' half withheld esteem.
In self-inflicted penance of a breast
Which tenderness might once have wrung from rest
In vigilance of grief that would compel
The soul to hate for having loved too well.

XVIII.
There was in him a vital scorn of all,
As if the worst had fall'n a which could befall,
He stood a stranger in this breathing world,
An erring spirit from another hurl'd;
A thing of dark imagin'gs, that shaped
By choice the perils he b.' chance escaped,
out 'scape in vain, for in their memory yet
His mind would half exult and half regret:
With more capacity for love than earth
Bestows on most of mortal mould and birth,
His early dreams of good outstripp'd the truth,
And troubled manhood follow'd baffled youth;
With thought of years in phantom chase mispent,
And wasted powers for better purpose lent;
And fiery passions that had pour'd their wrath
In hurried desolation o'er his path,
And left the better feelings all at strife
In wild reflection o'er his stormy life;
But haughtily still, and loth himself to blame,
He call'd on Nature's self to share the shame,
And charged all faults upon the fleshly form
She gave to clog the soul, and feast the worm;
Till he at last contended good and ill,
And half mistook for fate the acts of will:
Too high for common selfishness, he could
At times resign his own for others' good,
But not in pity, not because he ought,
But in some strange perversity of thought,
That sway'd him onward with a secret pride
To do what few or none would do beside;
And this same impulse would, in tempting time,
Mislead his spirit equally to crime;
So much he soar'd beyond, or sunk beneath
The men with whom he felt condemn'd to breathe;
And long'd by good or ill to separate
Himself from all who shared his mortal state;
His mind abhorring this had fix'd her throne
Far from the world, in regions of her own:
Thus coldly passing all that pass'd below,
His blood in temperate seeming now would flow:
Ah! happier if it never with guilt had glow'd,
But ever in that icy smoothness flowed!
'Tis true, with other men their path he walk'd,
And like the rest in seeming did aid call'd,
Nor outraged Reason's rules by flaw nor start,
His madness was not of the head, but heart;
And rarely wander'd in his speech, or drew
His thoughts so forth as to offend the view.

XIX.
With all that chilling mystery of mien,
And seeming gladness to remain unseen,
He had (if 'twere not nature's boon) an art
Of fixing memory on another's heart:
It was not love perchance—nor hate—nor aught
That words can image to express the thought;
But they who saw him did not see in vain,
And once beheld, would ask of him again;
And those to whom he spake remember'd well,
And on the words, however slight, would dwell:
None knew nor how, nor why, but he entwined
 Himself perforce around the hearer's mind;
There he was stamp'd, in liking, or in hate,
If grovet'once; however brief the date
That friendship, pity, or aversion knew,
Still there within the inmost thought he grew,
You could not penetrate his soul, but found,
Despite your wonder, to your own he wound;
His presence haunted still; and for the breast
He forced an all unwilling interest:
Vain was the struggle in that mental net,
His spirit seem'd to dare you to forget!

XX.
There is a festival, where knights and dames,
And sought that wealth or lofty lineage claims,
Appear—a hightborn and a welcome guest,
To Otho's hall came Lara with the rest,
The long carnal shades the illumined hall,
Well speeds alike the banquet and the ball;
And the gay dance of bounding Beauty's train
Links grace and harmony in happiest chain:
Blest are the early hearts and gentle hands
That mingle there in well-accorded bands;
It is a sight the careful brow might smooth,
And make Age smile, and dream itself to Youth,
And Youth forget such hour was pass'd on earth,
So springs the exulting bosom to that mirth!

XXI.
And Lara gazed on those, sedately glad,
His brow belied him if his soul was sad;
And his glance follow'd fast each fluttering fair
Whose steps of lightness woke no echo there
He lean'd against the lofty pillar nigh,
With folded arms and long attentive eye,
Nor mark'd a glance so sternly fix'd on his—
Ill brook'd high Lara scrutiny like this:
At length he caught it, 'tis a face unknown,
But seems as searching his, and his alone;
Prying and dark, a stranger's by his mien,
Who still till now had gazed on him unseen;
At length encountering meets the mutual gaze
Of keen inquiry, and of mute amaze;
On Lara's glance emotion gathering grew,
As if distrusting that the stranger throw'd;
Along the stranger's aspect fix'd and stern,
Flash'd more than thence the vulgar eye could learn.

XXII.
"'Tis he !" the stranger cried, and those that heard,
Reecho'd fast and far the whisper'd word;
"'Tis he!"—"'Tis who?" they question far and near.
Till louder accents rung on Lara's ear;
So widely spread, few bosoms well could brook
The general marvel, or that single look;
But Lara stirr'd not, changed not, the surprise
That sprang at first to his arrested eyes
Seem'd now subsided, neither sunk nor raised,
Glanced his eye round, though still the stranger gazed;
And drawing nigh, exclaim'd, with haughty sneer,
"'Tis he!—how came he thence?—what doth he here?"

XXIII.
It were too much for Lara to pass by
Such questions, so repeated fierce and high;
With look collected, but with accent cold,
More mildly firm than petulantly bold,
He turn'd, and met the inquisitorial tone—
"My name is Lara!—when thine own is known,
Doubt not my fitting answer to requite
The unlook'd for courtesy of such a knight.
"'Tis Lara!—further wouldst thou mark or ask?
I shun no question, and I wear no mask."

"Thou shun'st no question! Ponder—is there none
Thy heart must answer, though thine ear would shun?
And deem'st thou me unknown too? Gaze again
At least thy memory was not given in vain.
Oh! never canst thou cancel half her debt
Eternity forbids thee to forget."
With slow and searching glance upon his face
Grew Lara's eyes, but nothing there could trace
They knew, or chose to know—with dubious look
He deemed no answer, but his head he shook,
And half contemptuous turn'd to pass away;
But the stern stranger motion'd him to stay.

"A word!—I charge thee say, and answer here
To one, who, wert thou noble, were thy peer,
But as thou wast and art—nay, frown not, lord,
If false, 'tis ease to disprove the word—"
But, as thou wast and art, on thee looks down,
Distrust thy smile;—it trusts not at thy frown.
Art thou not 'sa t's deeds—"

"Whate'er I be,
Words wh'd these, accusers like to thee
I list no further; those with whom they weigh
May hear the rest, nor venture to gainsay
The wondrous tale no doubt thy tongue can tell,
Which thus begins so courteously and well.

Let Otho cherish here his polish'd guest,
To him my thanks and thoughts shall be express'd."
And here their wondering host hath interposed—
"Whate'er there be between you undisclosed,
This is no time nor fitting place to mar
The mirthful meeting with a wordy war.
If thou, Sir Ezzelin, hast aught to show
Which it beths Count Lara's ear to know,
To-morrow, here, or elsewhere, as may best
Beseech your mutual judgment, speak the rest;
I pledge myself for thee, as not unknown,
Though like Count Lara now return'd alone
From other lands, almost a stranger grown;
And if from Lara's blood and gentle birth,
I augur right of courage and of worth,
He will not that untainted line belie,
Nor aught that knighthood may accord, deny."

"To-morrow be it," Ezzelin replied,
"And here our several worth and truth be tried.
I gage my life, my falchion to attest
My words, so may I mingle with the blest!"
What answers Lara? to its centre shrunk
His soul in deep abstraction sudden sunk;
The words of many, and the eyes of all
That there were gather'd, seem'd on him to fall;
But his were silent, his appear'd to stray
In far forgetfulness away—away—
Alas! that heedlessness of all around
Bespoke remembrance only too profound.

XXIV.

"To-morrow!—say, to-morrow!" farther word
Than those repeated none from Lara heard;
Upon his brow no outward passion spoke;
From his large eye no flashing anger broke;
Yet there was something fix'd in low tone,
Which show'd resolve, determined, though unknown.
He asked his cloak—his head he slightly bow'd,
And passing Ezzelin, he left the crowd;
And, as he pass'd him, smiling met the frown
With which that chieflain's brow would bear him down:
It was nor smile of mirth, no struggling pride
That curbs to scorn the wrath: it cannot hide;
But that of one in his own heart secure
Of all that he would do, or could endure.
Could this mean peace? the calmness of the good?
Or guilt grown old in desperate hardihood?

Alas! too like in confidence are each,
For man to trust to mortal look or speech;
From deeds, and deeds alone may he discern,
Truths which it wrings the unpractised heart to learn

XXV.

And Lara call'd his page, and went his way—
Well could that stripling word or sign obey:
His only follower from those climes afar,
Where the soul glows beneath a brighter star,
For Lara left the shore from whence he sprung,
In duty patient, and sedate though young;
Silent as him he served, his faith appears
Above his station, and beyond his years.
Though not unknown the tongue of Lara's land,
In such as him he rarely heard command;
But fleet his step, and clear his tones would come,
When Lara's lip breath'd forth the words of home.
Those accents as his native mountains dear,
Awake their absent echoes in his ear,
Friends', kindreds', parents', wonted voice recall,
Now lost, abjured, for one—his friend, his all:
For him earth now disclosed no other guide.
What marvel then he rarely left his side?

XXVI.

Light was his form, and darkly delicate
That brow whereon his native sun had sate,
But had not marr'd, though in his beams he grew,
The check whereon oft the unbidden blush shone through;
Yet not such blush as mounts when health would show
All the heart's hue in that delighted glow;
But 'twas a hectic tint of secret care
That for a burning moment fever'd there;
And the wild sparkle of his eye seem'd caught
From high, and lighten'd with electric thought,
Though its black orb those long low lashes' fringe
Had temper'd with a melancholy tinge;
Yet less of sorrow than of pride was there,
Or if 'twere grief, a grief that none should share;
And pleas'd not him the sport that please his age
The tricks of youth, the frolics of the page;
For hours on Lara he would fix his glance,
As all-forgotten in that watchful trance;
And from his chief withdrawn, he wander'd lone,
Brief were his answers, and his questions none;
His walk the wood, his sport some foreign book;
His resting-place the bank that curbs the brook:
He seem'd like him he served, to live apart
From all that lures the eye, and fills the heart;
To know no brotherhood, and take from earth
No gift beyond that bitter boon—our birth.

XXVII.

If sought be loved, 'twas Lara; but was shown
His faith in reverence and in deeds alone;
In mute attention; and his care, which guess'd
Each wish, fulfill'd it ere the tongue express'd.
Still there was haughtiness in all he did,
A spirit deep that brook'd not to be chid;
His zeal, though more than that of servile hands,
In act alone obeys, his air commands;
As if 'twas Lara's less than his desire
That thus he served, but surely not for hire.
Slight were the tasks enjoin'd him by his lord,
To hold the stirrup, or to bear the sword;
Again to that accustom'd couch must creep,
Where joy subsides, and sorrow sighs to sleep,
And man, o'erlabor'd with his being's strife.

Shrinks to that sweet forgetfulness of life:
There lie love's feverish hope, and cunning's grace.
Hate's working brain, and lull'd ambition's wile
O'er each vain eye oblivion's pinions wave,
And quench'd existence crouches in a grave.

What better name may slumber's bed become?
Night's sepulchre, the universal home,
Where weakness, strength, vice, virtue, sunk aspina,
Alire in naked helplessness recline;
Glad for a while to heave unconscious breath,
Yet wake to wrestle with the dread of death;
And shun, though day but dawn on ills increas,
That sleep, the loveliest, since it dreams the less.

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CANTO II.

I.

Night wanes—the vapors round the mountains curl'd
Melt into morn, and Light awakes the world
Man has another day to swell the past,
And lead him near to little, but his last;
But mighty Nature bounds as from her birth,
The sun is in the heavens, and life on earth;
Flowers in the valley, splendor in the beam,
Health on the gale, and freshness in the stream.

Immortal man! behold her glories shine,
And cry, exulting inly, "they are thine!"
Gaze on, while yet thy gazed'd eye may see;
A morrow comes when they are not for thee;
And grieve what may above thy senseless bier,
Nor earth nor sky will yield a single tear;
Nor cloud shall gather more, nor leaf shall fall,
Nor gale breathe forth one sigh for thee, for all;
But creeping things shall revel in their spoil,
And fit thy clay to fertilize the soil.

II.

'Tis morn—'tis noon—assembled in the hall
The gather'd chief-tains come to Otho's call;
'Tis now the promised hour, that must proclaim
The life or death of Lara's future fame;
When Ezzelin his charge may here unfold,
And whatsoever the tale, it must be told.
His faith was pledged, and Lara's promise given,
To meet it in the eye of man and heaven.
Why comes he not? Such truths to be divulged,
Methinks the accuser's rest is long indulged.

III.

The hour is past, and Lara too is there
With self-confiding coldly patient air:
Why comes not Ezzelin? The hour is past,
And murmurs rise, and Otho's brow o'ercast
"I know my friend! his faith I cannot fear,
If yet he be on earth, expect him here;
The roof that held him in the valley stands
Between my own and noble Lara's lands;
My halls from such a guest had honor gain'd,
Nor had Sir Ezzelin his host disdain'd,
But that some previous proof forbade his stay,
And urged him to prepare against to-day:

---
The word I pledged for his I pledge again,
Or will myself redeem his knighthood's stain.

He ceased—and Lara answer'd: "I am here
To lend at thy demand a listening ear
To tales of evil from a stranger's tongue,
Whose words already might my heart have wrung,
But that I deem'd him scarcely less than mad,
Or, at the worst, a foe ignobly bad.
I know him not—but me it seems he knew
In lands where—but I must not trifle too:
Produce this babbler—or redeem the pledge;
Here in thy hold, and with thy falchion's edge."

Proud Otho on the instant, reddening, threw
His glove on earth, and forth his sabre flew:
"The last alternative befits me best,
And thus I answer for mine absent guest."

With cheek unchanging from its sallow bloom,
However near his own or other's tomb;
With hand, whose almost careless coolness spoke
Its grasp well used to deal the sabre-stroke:
With eye, though calm, determined not to spare,
Did Lara too his willing weapon bare.
In vain the circling chieftains round them closed,
For Otho's frenzy would not be opposed;
And from his lips those words of insult fell—
His sword is good who can maintain them well.

IV.

Short was the conflict; furious, blindly rash,
Vain Otho gave his bosom to the gash:
He bled, and fell; but not with deadly wound,
Stretched by a dextrous sleight along the ground.
" Demand thy life! " He answer'd not: and then
From that red floor he no'er had risen again,
For Lara's brow upon the moment grew
Almost to blackness in its demon hue;
Ana fiercer shook his angry falchion now
Than when his foe's was level'd at his brow;
Then all was stern collectness and art,
Now rose the unleaven'd hatred of his heart;
So little sparing to the foe he fell'd,
That when the approaching crowd his arm withheld,
He almost turn'd the thirsty point on those,
Who thus for mercy dared to interpose;
But to a moment's thought that purpose bent;
Yet look'd he on him still with eye intent,
As if he loathed the ineffectual strife
That left a foe, how'er o'erthrown, with life;
As if to search how far the wound he gave
Had sent his victim onward to his grave.

V.

They raised the bleeding Otho, and to Leech
Forbade all present question, sign, and speech;
The others met within a neighboring hall,
And he, incensed and heedless of them all,
The cause and conqueror in this sudden fray,
In haughty silence slowly strode away;
He back'd his steed, his homeward path he took,
Nor cast on Otho's towers a single look.

VI.

But where was he? that meteor of a night,
Who meanc'd but to disappear with light?
Where was this Ezzelin? who came and went
To leave no other trace of his intent.

He left the dome of Otho long ere morn,
In darkness, yet so well the path was worn
He could not miss it: near his dwelling lay;
But there he was not, and with coming day
Came fast inquiry, which unfolded nought
Except the absence of the chief it sought.
A chamber tenantless, a stool at rest,
His host alarm'd, his murmuring squires distress
Their search extends along, around the path,
In dread to meet the marks of prowlers' wrath;
But none are there, and not a brake hath borne,
Nor gout of blood, nor shred of mantie torn;
Nor fall nor struggle hath defaced the grass,
Which still retains a mark where murder was;
Nor dabling fingers left to tell the tale,
The bitter print of each convulsive nail,
When agonized hands, that cease to guard,
Wound in that pang the smoothness of the sward
Some such had been, if here a life was reft;
But these were not; and doubting hope is left;
And strange suspicion, whispering Lara's name.
Now daily mutters o'er his blacken'd fame;
Then sudden silent when his form appear'd,
Awaits the absence of the thing it fear'd,
Again its wonted wondering to renew,
And dye conjecture with a darker hue.

VII.

Days roll along, and Otho's wounds are heal'd,
But not his pride; and hate no more conceal'd
He was a man of power, and Lara's foe,
The friend of all who sought to work him wo,
And from his country's justice now demands
Account of Ezzelin at Lara's hands.
Who else than Lara could have cause to fear
His presence? who had made him disappear,
If not the man on whom his menaced charge
Had sate too deeply were he left at large?
The general rumor ignorantly loud,
The mystery dearest to the curious crowd;
The seeming friendliness of him who strove
To win and confide in, and awake no love;
The sweeping fierceness which his soul betray'd,
The skill with which he wielded his keen blade;
Where had his arm unwarlike caught that art?
Where had that fierceness grown upon his heart:
For it was not the blind capricious rage
A word can kindle and a word assuage;
But the deep working of a soul unmix'd
With ight where its wrath had fix'd;
Such as long power and overgorged success
Concentrates into all that's merciless;
These, link'd with that desire which ever sways
Mankind, the rather to condemn than praise,
'Gainst Lara gathering raised at length a storm,
Such as himself might fear, and foes would form
And he must answer for the absent head
Of one who haunts him still, alive or dead.

VIII.

Within that land was many a malcontent,
Who cursed the tyranny to which he bent;
That soil full many a wringing despot saw,
Who work'd his wantonness in form of law;
Long war without and frequent broil within
Had made a path for blood and giant sin,
That waited but a signal to begin
New havoc, such as civil discord blends,
Which knows no neutral, owns but foes or friends.
fix'd in his feudal fortress each was lord,
In word and deed obey'd, in soul abhor'd.
Taus Lara had inherited his lands,
And with them pining hearts and sluggish hands;
But that long absence from his native clime
Had left him stainless of oppression's crime,
And now diverted by his milder sway,
All dread by slow degrees had worn away.
The menials felt their usual awe alone,
But more for him than them that fear was grown;
They deem'd him now unhappy, though at first
Their evil judgment augur'd of the worst;
And each long restless night, and silent mood,
Was traced to sickness, fed by solitude:
And though his lonely habits threw of late
Gloom o'er his chamber, cheerful was his gate;
For thence the wretched ne'er unsoothed withdrew,
For them, at least, his soul compassion knew.
Cold to the great, contemptuous to the high,
The humble pass'd not his unheedling eye;
Much he would speak not, but beneath his roof,
They found asylum oft, and ne'er reproov.
And they who watch'd might mark that day by day
Some new retainers gather'd to his sway;
But most of late, since Ezzelin was lost,
He play'd the courteous lord and bounteous host:
Perchance his strife with Othe made him dread
Some snare prepared for his obnoxious head;
Whate'er his view, his favor more obtains
With these, the people, than his fellow thanes
If this were policy, so far 'twas sound,
The million judged but of him as they found;
From him by sterners chiefs to exile driven
They but required a shelter, and 'twas given.
By him no peasant mourn'd his rified cot,
And scarce the Serf could murmur o'er his lot;
With him old avarice found its hoard secure,
With him contempt forbore to mock the poor;
Youth, present cheer, and promised recompense
Detain'd, till all too late to part from thence:
To hate he offer'd, with the coming change,
The deep reversion of delay'd revenge;
To love, long baffled by the unequal match,
The well-won charms success was sure to snatch.
All now was ripe, he wait's but to proclaim
That slavery nothing which was still a name.
The moment came, the hour when Otho thought
Secure at last the vengeance which he sought:
His summons found the destined criminal
Begirt by thousands in his swarming hall,
Fresh from their feudal fetters newly riven,
Defying earth, and confident of heaven.
That morning he had freed the soil-bound slaves
Who dig no land for tyrants but their graves!
Such is their cry—some watchword for the fight
Must vindicate the wrong, and warp the right:
Religion—freedom—vengeance—what you will,
A word's enough to raise mankind to kill;
Some factious phrase by cunning caught and spread,
That guilt may reign, and wolves and worms be fed!

IX.

Throughout that clime the feudal chiefs had gain'd
Such sway, their infant monarch hardly reign'd;
Now was the hour for faction's rebel growth,
The Serfs contam'd the one, and hated both:
They waited but a leader, and they found
One to their cause inseparably bound;

By circumstance compell'd to plunge again,
In self-defence, amidst the strife of men.
Cut off by some mysterious fate from those
Whom birth and nature meant not for his foes.
Had Lara from that night, to him accurst,
Prepared to meet, but not alone, the worst:
Some reason urged, whate'er it was, to shun
Inquiry into deeds at distance done;
By mingling with his own the cause of all,
Even if he fail'd, he still delay'd his fall.
The sullen calm that long his bosom kept,
The storm that once had spent itself and slept,
Roused by events that seem'd for doom'd to urge
His gloomy fortunes to their utmost verge.
Burst forth, and made him all he once had been,
And is again; he only changed the scene.
Light care had he for life, and less for fame,
But not less fitted for the desperate game:
He deem'd himself mark'd out for others' hate
And mock'd at ruin so they shared his fate.
What care he for the freedom of the crowd?
He raised the humble but to bend the proud.
He had hoped quiet in his suilen lair,
But man and destiny beset him there:
Insur'd to hunters, he was found at bay;
And they must kill, they cannot spare the prey
Stern, unambiguous, silent, he had been.
Henceforth a calm spectator of life's scene;
But, dragg'd again upon the arena, stood
A leader not unequal to the feud;
In voice—mien—gesture—savage nature spoke,
And from his eye the gladiator broke.

X.

What boots the oft-repeated tale of strife,
The feast of vultures, and the waste of life?
The varying fortune of each separate field,
The fierce that vanquish'd, and the faint that yield'd
The smoking ruin, and the crumbled wall?
In this the struggle was the same with all;
Save that distemper'd passions lent their force
In bitterness that banish'd all remorse.
None sued, for Mercy knew her cry was vain.
The captive died upon the battle-plain:
In either cause, one rage alone possesst
The empire of the alternate victor's breast;
And they that smote for freedom or for away,
Deem'd few were slain, while more remain'd to slay
It was too late to check the wasting brand,
And Desolation reap'd the banish'd land;
The torch was lighted, and the flame was spread,
And Carnage smiled upon her daily dead.

XI.

Fresh with the nerve the new-born impulse sprung
The first success to Lara's numbers chung:
But that vain victory hath ruin'd all,
They form no longer to their leader's call;
In blind confusion on the foe they press,
And think to snatch is to secure success.
The lust of booty, and the thirst of hate,
Lure on the broken brigands to their fate
In vain he doth whate'er a chief may do,
To check the headlong fury of that crew;
In vain their stubborn ardor he would tame
The hand that kindles cannot quench the flame
The wary foe alone hath turn'd their mood,
And shown their rashness to that erring brood.
The feign'd retreat—The nightly ambuscade,
The daily harass, and the flight delay'd,
The long privation, and the hoped supply,
The tenacious rest beneath the humid sky,
The stubborn wall that marks the leaguer's art,
And pulls the patience of his baffled heart,
Of these, they had not deem'd: the battle-day
They could encounter as a veteran may;
But more preferr'd the fury of the strife,
And present death, to hourly suffering life:
And famine, wrings, and fever sweeps away
His numbers melting fast from their array;
Intemperate triumph fades to discontent,
And Lara's soul alone seems still unent
But few remain to aid his voice and hand;
And thousands dwindled to a scanty band
Desperate, though few, the last and best remain'd
To mourn the discipline they late disdain'd.
One hope survives, the frontier is not far,
And thence they may escape from native war;
And bear within them to the neighboring state
An exile's sorrows, or an outlaw's hate:
Hard is the task their father-land to quit,
But harder still to perish or submit.

XII.

It is resolved—they march—consenting Night
Guides with her star their dim and torchless flight;
Already they perceive its tranquil beam
Sleep on the surface of the barrier stream;
Already they descry—Is you the bank?
Away! 'tis lined with many a hostile rank.
Return or fly!—What glitters in the rear?
'Tis Otho's banner—the pursuer's spear!
Are those the shepherds' fires upon the height?
Also! they blaze too widely for the flight;
Cut off from hope, and compass'd in the toil,
Less blood parcheur hath bought a richer spoil!

XIII.

A moment's pause, 'tis but to breathe their band,
Or shall they onward press, or here withstand?
It matters little—if they charge the foes
Who by the border-stream their march oppose,
Some few, perchance, may break and pass the line,
However link'd to baflle such design.
"The charge be ours! to wait for their assault
Were fate well worthy of a coward's halt."
Forth flies each sabre, rein'd is every steed,
And the next word shall scarce outstrip the deed;
In the next tone of Lara's gathering breath
How many shall but hear the voice of death.

XIV.

His blade is bared, in him, there is an air
As deep, but far too tranquil for despair;
A something of indifference more than then
Becomes the bravest, if they feel for men—
He turn'd his eye on Kaled, ever near,
And still too faithful to betray one fear;
Perchance 'twas but the moon's dim twilight threw
Along his aspect an unwonted hue
Of mournful paleness, whose deep tint express
The truth, and not the terror of his breast.
This Lara mark'd and laid his hand on his;
It trembled not in such an hour as this;
His lip was silent, scarcely beat his heart,
His eye alone proclaim'd, "We will not part!"

Thy band may perish, or thy friends may nec
Farewell to life, but not adieu to thee!"
The word hath pass'd his lips, and onward driven
Pours the link'd band through ranks asunder rivet.
Well has each steed obey'd the armed heel,
And fatal the sabre, and rings the steel;
Outnumber'd, not outbraved, they still oppose
Despair to daring, and a front to foes;
And blood is mingled with the dashing stream
Which runs all redly till the morning beam.

XV.

Commanding, aiding, animating all,
When foes appear'd to press, or friend to fall
Cheers Lara's voice, and waves or strikes his steed,
Inspiring hope himself had ceased to feel.
None fled, for well they knew that flight were vain.
But those that waver turn to smile again,
While yet they find the firmest of the foe
Recoil before their leader's look and blow:
Now girt with numbers, now almost alone,
He foils their ranks, or reunites his own;
Himself he spared not—once they seem'd to fly—
Now was the time, he waved his hand on high,
And shook—Why sudden droops that plumed crest!
The shaft is sped—the arrow's in his breast!
That signal arrow left the unpardoned side,
And Death hath stricken down you arm of pride.
The word of triumph faint from his tongue;
That hand, so raised, how droopingly it hung!
But yet the sword instinctively retains,
Though from its fellow shrink the falling reins;
These Kaled snatch'd: dizzy with the blow,
And senseless bending o'er his saddle-bow,
Perceives not Lara that his anxious page
Beguil'd his charger from the combat's rage.
Meantime his followers charge, and charge again—
Too mix'd the slayers now to heed the slain.

XVI.

Day glimmers on the dying and the dead,
The cloven cuirass, and the helpless head;
The war-horse masterless is on the earth,
And that last gasp hath burst his bloody girth;
And near, yet quivering with what life remain'd,
The heel that urged him and the band that rein'd;
And some too near that rolling torrent lie,
Whose waters mock the lip of those that die;
That panting thirst which scorches in the breath
Of those that die the soldier's fiery breath,
In vain impels the burning mouth to crave
One drop—the last—to cool it for the grave;
With feeble and convulsive effort swept,
Their limbs along the crimson'd turf have crept
The faint remains of life such struggles waste,
But yet they reach the stream and bend to taste
They feel its freshness, and almost partake—
Why pause? No further thirst have they to slake
It is unquench'd, and yet they feel it not;
It was an agony—but now forgot!

XVII.

Beneath a lime, remote from the scene,
Where but for him that strife had never been,
A breathing but devoted warrior lay
'Twas Lara bleeding fast from life away:
His follower one, and now his only guide,
Kneels Kaled watchful o'er his welling side,
And with his scarf would staunch the tides that rush
With each convolution. in a blacker gush;
LARA.

And then, as his faint breathing waxes low,
In feebler, not less fatal trickling flow;
He scarce can speak, but motions him 'tis vain,
And merely adds another throb to pain.
And claps the hand that pang which would assuage,
And sadly smiles his thanks to that dark page,
Who nothing fears, nor feels, nor heeds, nor sees,
Save that damp brow which rests upon his knees;
Save that pale aspect, where the eye, though dim,
Yield all the light that shone on earth for him.

XVIII.
The foe arrives, who long had search'd the field,
Their triumph nought till Lara too should yield;
They would remove him, but they see 'twere vain,
And he regards them with a calm disdain,
That rose to reconcile him with his fate,
And that escape to death from living hate:
And Otho comes, and leaping from his steed,
Looks on the bleeding foe that made him bleed,
And questions of his state; he answers not,
Scarce glances on him as on one forgot,
And turns to Kaled,—each remaining word;
They understood not, if distinctly heard;
His dying tones are in that other tongue,
To which some strange remembrance wildly clung.
They speak of other scenes, but what—is known
To Kaled, whom their meaning reach'd alone;
And he replied, though faintly, to their sound,
While gazed the rest in dumb amazement round:
They seem'd even then—that twain—unto the last
To half forget the present in the past;
To share between themselves some separate fate,
Whose darkness none beside should penetrate.

XIX.
Their words though faint were many—from the tone
Their import those who heard could judge alone;
From this, you might have deem'd young Kaled's death
More near than Lara's by his voice and breath,
So sad, so deep, and hesitating broke.
The accents his scarce-moving pale lips spoke;
But Lara's voice, though low, at first was clear
And calm, till murmuring death gisp'd hoarsely near,
But from his visage little could we guess,
So unregentant, dark and passionless,
Save that when struggling nearer to his last,
Upon that page his eye was kindly cast;
And once as Kaled's answering accents coast,
Rose Lara's hand, and pointed to the East:
Where (as then the breaking sun from high
Roll'd back the clouds) the morrow caught his eye,
Or that 'twas chance, or some remember'd scene,
That raised his arm to point where such had been,
Scarce Kaled seem'd to know, but turn'd away,
As if his heart abhor'd that coming day,
And shrunk his glance before that morning light,
To look on Lara's brow—where all grew night.
Yet sense seem'd left, though better were its loss;
For when one near display'd the absolving cross,
And proffer'd to his touch the holy bead,
Of which his parting soul might own the need,
He look'd upon it with an eye profane,
And smiled—Heaven pardon! if 'twere with disdain;
And Kaled, though he spoke not, nor withdrew
From Lara's face his fix'd despairing view,
With brow repulsive, and with gesture swift,
'Fling back the hand which held the sacred gift,
As if such but disturb'd the expiring man,
Nor seem'd to know his life but then began,
That life of Immortality, secure
To none, save them whose faith in Christ is sure.

XX.
But gasping heaved the breath that Lara drew,
And dull the film along his dim eye grew;
His limbs stretch'd flattering, and his head droop'd o'er
The weak yet still untiring knee that bore;
He press'd the hand he hold upon his heart—
It beats no more, but Kaled will not part
With the cold grasp, but feels, and feels in vain,
For that faint thro' which answers not again.
"It beats!"—away, thou dreamer! he is gone—
It once was Lara which thou look'st upon.

XXI.
He gazed, as if not yet had pass'd away
The haughty spirit of that humble clay;
And those around have roused him from his trance,
But cannot tear from thence his fixed glance;
And when in raising him from where he bore,
Within his arms the form that felt no more,
He saw the head his breast would still sustain,
Roll down like earth to earth upon the plain;
He did not dash himself thereby, nor tear
The glossy tendrils of his raven hair,
But strove to stand and gaze, but reel'd and fell,
Scarce breathing more than that he loved so well
Than that he loved! Oh! never yet beneath
The breast of man such trusty love may breathe,
That trying moment hath at once reveal'd
The secret long and yet but half-conceal'd;
In baring to revive that lifeless breast,
Its grief seem'd ended, but the sex confest;
And life return'd, and Kaled felt no shame—
What now to her was Womanhood or Fame? 3

XXII.
And Lara sleeps not where his fathers sleep,
But where he died his grave was dug as deep,
Nor is his mortal slumber less profound,
Though priest nor bless'd nor marble deck'd the mound,
And he was mourn'd by one whose quiet grief,
Less loud, outlasts a people's for their chief.
Vain was all question ask'd her of the past,
And vain o'en menace—silent to the last;
She told nor whence, nor why she left behind
Her all for one who seem'd but little kind.
Why did she love him? Curious fool!—be still—
Is human love the growth of human will?
To her he might be gentleness; the stern
Have deeper thoughts than your dull eyes discern,
And when they love, your smilers guess not how
Beats the strong heart, though less the lips avow.
They were not common links, that form'd the chain
That bound to Lara Kaled's heart and brain,
But that wild tale she brook'd not to unfold,
And seal'd is now each lip that could have told.

XXIII.
They laid him in the earth, and on his breast,
Besides the wound that sent his soul to rest,
They found the scatter'd dints of many a scar,
Which were not planted there in recent war:
Where'er had pass'd his summer years of life,
It seems they vanish'd in a land of strife;
But all unknown his glory or his guilt,
These only told that somewhere blood was spilt,
And Ezzelin, who might have spoke the past,
Return'd no more—that night appear'd his last.

XXIV.
Upon that night (a peasant's is the tale)
A Serf that cross'd the intervening vale,
When Cynthia's light almost gave way to morn,
And nearly veil'd in mist her waning horn;
A Serf, that rose betimes to thread the wood,
And hew the bough that bought his children's food,
Pass'd by the river that divides the plain
Of Otho's lands and Lara's broad domain:
He heard a tramp—a horse and horseman broke
From out the wood—before him was a cloak
Wrapt round some burden at his saddle-bow;
Bent was his head, and hidden was his brow.
Roused by the sudden sight at such a time,
And some foreboding that it might be crime,
Himself unheeded watch'd the stranger's course,
Who reach'd the river, bounded from his horse,
And lifting thence the burden which he bore,
Heaved up the bank, and dashed it from the shore,
Then paused, and look'd, and turn'd, and seem'd to watch,
And still another hurried glance would snatch,
And follow with his step the stream that flow'd,
As if even yet too much its surface show'd:
At once he started, stoop'd, around him strown
The winter floods had scatter'd heaps of stone;
Of these the heaviest thence he gather'd there,
And slung them with a more than common care.
Meantime the Serf had crept to where unseen
Himself might safely mark what this might mean;
He caught a glimpse, as of a floating breast,
And something glitter'd starlike on the vest,
But ere he well could mark the buoyant trunk,
A massy fragment smote it, and it sunk:
It rose again but indistinct to view,
And left the waters of a purple hue,
Then deeply disappear'd: the horseman gazed,
Fill'd at' b'd the latest eddy it had raised;
Then turning, vaulted on his paviug steed,
And instant spur'd him into panting speed.
His face was mask'd—the features of the dead
If dead it were, escaped the observer's dread;
But if in sooth a star its bosom bore,
Such is the badge that knighthood ever wore,
And such 'tis known Sir Ezzelin had worn
Upon the night that led to such a morn.
If thus he perish'd, Heaven receive his soul!
His undiscover'd limbs to ocean roll;
And charity upon the hope would dwell,
It was not Lara's hand by which he fell.

XXV.
And Kaled—Lara—Ezzelin, are gone,
Alike without their monumental stone!
The first, all efforts vainly strove to wean
From lingering where her chieftain's blood had been
Grief had so tamed a spirit once too proud,
Her tears were few, her wailing never loud;
But furious would you tear her from the spot
Where yet she scarce believed that he was not
Her eye shot forth with all the living fire
That haunts the tigress in her whelpless ire,
But left to waste her weary moments there,
She talk'd all idly unto shapes of air,
Such as the busy brain of Sorrow paints,
And wos to listen to her fond complaints:
And she would sit beneath the very tree
Where lay his drooping head upon her knee;
And in that posture where she saw him fall,
His words, his looks, his dying grasp recall;
And she had shorn, but saved her raven hair,
And oft would snatch it from her bosom there,
And fold, and press it gently to the ground,
As if she stanch'd anew some phantom's wound
Herself would question, and for him reply;
Then rising, start, and beckon him to fly
From some imagined spectre in pursuit;
Then seat her down upon some linden's root,
And hide her visage with her meagre hand,
Or trace strange characters along the sand—
This could not last—she lies by him she loved,
Her tale untold—her truth too dearly proved.
NOTE TO LARA.

The event in section xxiv. Canto II. was suggested by the description of the death or rather burial of the Duke of Gandia.

The most interesting and particular account of this mysterious event is given by Burchard, and is in substance as follows: 'On the eighth day of June, the Cardinal of Valenza, and the Duke of Gandia, sons of the Pope, supped with their mother, Vanozza, near the church of S. Pietro ad montan., (near the palace) where a large number of people were present at the entertainment. A late hour approaching, and the cardinal having reminded his brother, that it was time to return to the apostolic palace, they mounted their horses or mules, with only a few attendants, and proceeded together as far as the palace of the Cardinal Ascacio Sforza, when the duke informed the cardinal, that before he returned home, he had to pay a visit of pleasure. Dismissing therefore all his attendants except his stajiero, or footman, and a person in a mask, who had paid him a visit whilst he was asleep, and who, during the space of a month or thereabouts, previous to this time, had called upon him almost daily, at the apostolic palace, he took this person behind him on his mule, and proceeded to the street of the Jews, where he quitted his servant, directing him to remain there until a certain hour; when, if he did not return, he might repair to the palace. The duke then seated the person in the mask behind him, and rode, I know not whither; out in that night he was assassinated, and thrown into the river. The servant, after having been dismissed, was also assaulted and mortally wounded; and although he was attended with great care, yet such was his situation, that he could give no intelligible account of what had befallen his master. In the morning, the duke not having returned to the palace, his servants began to be alarmed; and one of them informed the pontiff of the evening excursion of his sons, and that the duke had not yet made his appearance. This gave the pope no small anxiety; but he conjectured that the duke had been attacked by some courteous to pass the night with her, and not choosing to quit the house in open day, had waited till the following evening to return home. When, however, the evening arrived, and he found himself disappointed in his expectations, he became deeply afflicted, and began to make inquiries from different persons, whom he ordered to search for the Duke. Among these was a man named Giorgio Schiavoni, who, having discharged some timber from a bark in the river, had remained on board the vessel to watch it, and being interrogated whether he had seen any one thrown into the river or the night preceding, he replied, that he saw two men on foot, who came down the street, and looked diligently about, to observe whether any person was passing. That seeing no one, they returned, and a short time afterwards two others came, and looked around in the same manner as the former: no person still appearing, they gave a sign to their companions, when a man came, mounted on a white horse, having behind him a dead body, the head and arms of which hung on one side, and the feet on the other side of the horse; the two persons on foot supporting the body, to prevent its falling. They thus proceeded towards that part where the filth of the city is usually discharged into the river, and turning the horse, with his tail towards the water, the two persons took the dead body by the arms and feet, and with all their strength flung it into the river. The person on horseback then asked if they had thrown it in, to which they replied, Signor, si (yes, Sir.) He then looked towards the river, and seeing a mantle floating on the stream, he inquired what it was that appeared black, to which they answered, it was a mantle; and one of them threw stones upon it, in consequence of which it sunk. The attendants of the pontiff then inquired from Giorgio, why he had not revealed this to the governor of the city; to which he replied, that he had seen in his time a hundred dead bodies thrown into the river at the same place, without any inquiry being made respecting them, and that he had not therefore, considered it as a matter of any importance. The fishermen and seamen were then collected, and ordered to search the river, where, on the following evening, they found the body of the duke, with his habit entire, and thirty ducats in his purse. He was pierced with nine wounds, one of which was in his throat, the others in his head, body, and limbs. No sooner was the pontiff informed of the death of his son, and that he had been thrown, like filth, into the river, than, giving way to his grief, he shut himself up in a chamber, and wept bitterly. The Cardinal of Segovia, and other attendants on the pope, went to the door, and after many hours spent in persuasions and exhortations, prevailed upon him to admit them. From the evening of Wednesday, till the following Saturday, the pope took no food; nor did he sleep from Thursday morning till the same hour on the ensuing day. At length, however, giving way to the entreaties of his attendants, he began to restrain his sorrow, and to consider the injury which his own health might sustain, by the further indulgence of his grief.'—Roscoe's Leo Tenth, vol. I. page 263.
THE SIEGE OF CORINTH.

TO

JOHN HOBHOUSE, ESQ.

THIS POEM IS INSCRIBED,

BY HIS

January 22, 1816.

FRIEND.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The grand army of the Turks, (in 1715,) under the Prime Vizier, to open to themselves a way into the heart of the Morea, and to form the siege of Napoli di Romania, the most considerable place in all that country,* thought it best in the first place to attack Corinth, upon which they made several storms. The garrison being weakened, and the governor seeing it was impossible to hold out against so mighty a force, thought it fit to beat a parley; but while they were treating about the articles, one of the magazines in the Turkish camp, wherein they had six hundred barrels of powder, blew up by accident, whereby six or seven hundred men were killed; which so enraged the infidels, that they would not grant any capitulation, but stormed the place with so much fury, that they took it, and put most of the garrison, with Signior Minotti, the governor, to the sword. The rest, with Antonio Benbo, provetor extraordinary, were made prisoners of war."—History of the Turks, vol. iii. p. 151.

I.

Many a vanish'd year and age,
And tempest's breath, and battle's rage,
Have swept o'er Corinth; yet she stands
A fortress form'd to Freedom's hand.

* Napoli di Romania is not now the most considerable place in the Morea, but Tripolitza, where the Pacha resides, and maintains his government.

Napoli is near Argos. I visited all three in 1810-11; and in the course of journeying through the country from my first arrival in 1809, I crossed the Isthmus eight times in my way from Athens to the Morea, over the mountains, as in the other direction, when passing from the Gulf of Athens to that of Lepanto. Both the routes are picturesque and beautiful, though very different: that by sea has more scenery, but the voyage being always within sight of land, and often very near it, presents many attractive views of the distant islands, Eorina, Ithaca, &c., and the coast of the continent.

The whirlwind's wrath, the earthquake's shock
Have left untouch'd her hoary rock,
The key-stone of a land, which still,
Though fall'n, looks proudly on that hill,
The landmark to the double tide
That purple rolls on either side,
As if their waters chafed to meet,
Yet pause and crouch beneath her feet.
But could the blood before her shed
Since first Timolean's brother bled,
Or baffled Persian's despot fled,
Arise from out the earth which drank
The stream of slaughter as it sank,
That sanguine ocean would o'erflow
Her isthmus idly spread below:
Or could the bones of all the slain,
Who perish'd there, be piled again,
That rival pyramid would rise
More mountain-like, through those clear sinks
Than you tower-eapt Acropolis,
Which seems the very clouds to kiss.

II.

On dun Cithaeron's ridge appears
The gleam of twice ten thousand spears;
And downward to the Isthmian plain,
From shore to shore of either main,
The tent is pitch'd, the crescent shines
Along the Moslem's leaguering lines;
And the dusk Spahi's bands advance
Beneath each bearded pacha's glance;
And far and wide as eye can reach
The turban'd cohorts throng the beach:
And there the Arab's camel kneels,
And there his steed the Tartar wheels;
The Turco-man hath left his herd,
The sabre round his loins to gird.
And there the valiant thunders pour,
Till waves grow smoother to the roar.
The trench is dug, the cannon's breath
Wings the far hissing globe of death;
Fast whirl the fragments from the wall,
Which crumbles with the ponderous ball;
And from that wall the foe replies,
O'er dusty plain and smoky skies,
With fires that answer fast and well
The summons of the Infidel.

III.
But near and nearest to the wall
Of those who wish and work its fall,
With deeper skill in war's black art
Than Othman's sons, and high of heart
As any chief that ever stood
Triumphant in the fields of blood;
From post to post, and deed to deed,
Fast spurring on his reeking steed,
Where sallying ranks the trench assail,
And make the foremost Moslem quail;
Or where the battery, guarded well,
Remains as yet impregnable,
Aliighting cheerly to inspire
The soldier slackening in his fire,
The first and freshest of the host
Which Stamboul's sultan there can boast,
To guide the follower o'er the field,
To point the tube, the lance to wield,
Or whirl around the bickering blade;—
Was Alp, the Adrian renegade!

IV.
From Venice—once a race of worth
His gentle sire—he drew his birth;
But late an exile from her shore,
Against his countrymen he bore
The arms they taught to bear; and now
The turban girt his shaven brow.
Through many a change had Corinth pass'd
With Greece to Venice' rule at last;
And here, before her walls, with those
to Greece and Venice equal foes,
He stood a foe, with all the zeal
Which young and fiery converts feel,
Within whose heated bosom thrones
The memory of a thousand wrongs.
To him had Venice ceased to be
Her ancient civic boast—‘t the Free;”
And in the palace of St. Mark
Unnamed accusers in the dark
Within the “Lion's mouth” had placed
A charge against him unexecuted;
He fled in time, and saved his life,
To waste his future years in strife,
That taught his land how great her loss
In him who triumph'd o'er the Cross,
'Gainst which he rear'd the Crescent high,
And battled to avenge or die.

V.
Coumourg'i—he whose closing scene
Adorn'd the triumph of Eugene,
When on Carlowitz's bloody plain
The last and mightiest of the slain,
He sank, regretting not to die,
But curst the Christian's victory—

Coumourgi—can his glory cease,
That latest conqueror of Greece,
Till Christian hands to Greece restore
The freedom Venice gave of yore?
A hundred years have roll'd away
Since he refused the Moslem's sway,
And now he led the Mussulman,
And gave the guidance of the van
To Alp, who well repaid the trust
By cities levell'd with the dust;
And proved, by many a deed of death,
How firm his heart in novel faith.

VI.
The walls grew weak; and fast and hot
Against them pour'd the ceaseless shot,
With unsubating fury sent
From battery to battlement;
And thunder-like the pealing din
Rose from each heated culverin;
And here and there some crackling domo
Was fired before the exploding bomb:
And as the fabric sank beneath
The shattering shell's volcanic breath,
In red and wreathing columns flash'd
The flame, as loud the ruin crash'd.
Or into countless meteors driven,
Its earth-stars melted into heaven;
Whose clouds that day grew doubly dun,
Impervious to the hidden sun,
With voluted smoke that slowly grew
To one wide sky of sulphurous hu.

VII.
But not for vengeance, long delay'd,
Alone, did Alp, the renegade,
The Moslem warriors sternly teach
His skill to pierce the promised breach;
Within these walls a maid was pent
His hope would win without consent
Of that inexorable sire,
Whose heart refused him in its ire
When Alp, beneath his Christian name,
Her virgin hand aspired to claim.
In happier mood, and earlier time,
While unimpeach'd for traitorous crime,
Gayest in gondola or ball,
He glitter'd through the Carnival;
And tun'd the softest serenade
That e'er on Adria's waters play'd
At midnight to Italian maid.

VIII.
And many deep'd her heart was won.
For sought by numbers, given to none,
Had young Francesca's hand remain'd
Still by the church's bonds unchain'd:
And when the Adriatic boats
Lanciott to the Paynim shore
Her wonted smiles were seen to fail,
And pensive wax'd the maid and pale;
More constant at confessional,
More rare at masque and festival;
Or seen at such, with downcast eyes,
Which conquer'd hearts they ceased to prize
With listless look she seems to gaze,
With humbler care her form arrays;
Her voice less lively in the song,
Her step, though light, less fleet among
The pairs, on whom the Morning's glance
Breaks, yet unsated with the dance.

IX.

sent by the state to guard the land,
(Which wrested from the Moslem's hand,
While Sobieski tamed his pride
By Buda's wall and Danube's side,
The chiefs of Venice wrung away
From Patra to Euboa's bay,)
Minotti held in Corinth's towers
The Doge's delegated powers,
While yet the pitying eye of Peace
Smiled o'er her long-forgotten Greece:
And ere that faithless trust was broke
Which freed her from the unchristian yoke.
With him his gentle daughter came,
Nor there, since Menelaus' dame
Forsook her lord and land, to prove
What woes await on lawless love,
Had fairer form adorn'd the shore
Than she, the matchless stranger, bore.

X.

The wall is rent, the ruins yawn;
And, with to-morrow's earliest dawn,
O'er the disjointed mass shall vault
The foremost of the fierce assault.
The heads are rank'd; the chosen van
Of Tartar and of Muselman,
The full of hope, misnamed "forlorn,"
Who told the thought of death in scorn,
And win their way with falchion's force,
Or pave the path with many a corse,
O'er which the following brave may rise,
Their stepping-stone—the last who dies!

XI.

'Tis midnight; on the mountains brown
The cold round moon shines deeply down;
Blue roll the waters, blue the sky
Spreads like an ocean hung on high,
Bespangled with those isles of light,
So wildly, spiritually bright;
Who ever gazed upon them shining,
And turn'd to earth without repining,
Nor wish'd for wings to flee away,
And mix with their eternal ray?
The waves on either shore lay there
Calm, clear, and azure as the air;
And scarce their foam the pebbles shook,
But murmur'd meekly as the brook.
The winds were pillow'd on the waves;
The banners droop'd along their staves,
And, as they fell around them furling,
Above them shone the crescent curling;
And that deep silence was unbroke,
Save where the watch his signal spoke,
Save where the steed neigh'd oft and shrill,
And echo answer'd from the hill,
And the wide hum of that wild host
Rustled like leaves from coast to coast,
As rose the Muezzin's voice in air
In midnight call to wonted prayer;
It rose, that chant'd mournful strain,
Like some lone spirit's o'er the plain:
'Twas musical, but sadly sweet,
Such as when winds and harp-strings meet,

And take a long unmeasured tone,
To mortal minstrelsy unknown.
It seem'd to those within the wall
A cry prophetic of their fall:
It struck even the besieger's ear
With something ominous and drear,
An undefined and sudden thrill,
Which makes the heart a moment still,
Then beat with quicker pulse, ashamed
Of that strange sense its silence framed;
Such as a sudden passing-bell
Wakes, though but for a stranger's kneel

XII.

The tent of Alp was on the shore;
The sound was hush'd, the prayer was o'er;
The watch was set, the night-round made,
All mandates issued and obey'd:
'Tis but another anxious night,
His pains the morrow may require
With all revenge and love can pay,
In guardon of their long delay.
Few hours remain, and he hath need
Of rest, to nerve for many a deed
Of slaughter; but within his soul
The thoughts like troubled waters roll.
He stood alone among the host;
Not his the loud fanatic boast
To plant the crescent o'er the cross,
Or risk a life with little loss,
Secure in paradise to be
By Houri's loved immortally:
Nor his, what burning patriots feel,
The stern exaltedness of zeal,
Profuse of blood, untired in toil,
When battling on the parent soil.
He stood alone—a renegade
Against the country he betray'd;
He stood alone amidst his band,
Without a trusted heart or hand;
They follow'd him, for he was brave,
And great the spoil he got and gave;
They eurched to him, for he had skill
To warp and wield the vulgar will;
But still his Christian origin
With them was little less than sin.
They envied even the faithless fame
He earn'd beneath a Moslem name;
Since he, their mightiest chief had been
In youth a bitter Nazarene.
They did not know how pride can stoop,
When baffled feelings withering droop;
They did not know how hate can burn
In hearts once changed from soft to stern;
Nor all the false and fatal zeal
The convert of revenge can feel.
He ruled them—man may rule the worst,
By ever daring to be first:
So lions o'er the jackal sway;
The jackal points, he fells the prey,
Then on the vulgar yelling press,
To gorge the relics of success.

XIII.

His head grows fever'd, and his pulse
The quick successive throbs convulse;
In vain from side to side he throws
His form, in courtship of repose.
THE SIEGE OF CORINTH.

Or if he dozed, a sound, a start
Awoke him with a sunken heart.
The turban on his hot brow press'd,
The mail weigh'd lead-like on his breast,
Though oft and long beneath its weight
Upon his eyes had slumber sate,
Without or couch or canopy,
Except a rougher field and sky
Than now might yield a warrior's bed,
Than now along the heaven was spread;
He could not rest, he could not stay
Within his tent to wait for day,
But walk'd him forth along the sand,
Where thousand sleepers strew'd the strand
What pillow'd them? and why should he
More wakeful than the humblest be,
Since more their peril, worse their toil?
And yet they fearless dream of spoil;
While he alone, where thousands pass'd
A night of sleep, perchance their last,
In sickly vigi wander'd on,
And envir'd all he gazed upon.

XIV
He felt his soul become more light
Beneath the freshness of the night.
Cool was the silent sky though calm,
And bathed his brow with airy balm:
Behind, the camp—before him lay,
In many a winding creek and bay,
Lepanto's gulf; and, on the brow
Of Delphi's hill, unshaken snow,
High and eternal, such as shone
Through thousand summers brightly gone,
Along the gulf, the mount, the elime;
It will not melt, like man, to time:
Tyrant and slave are swept away,
Less form'd to wear before the ray;
But that white vell, the lightest, fairest
Which on the mighty mount thou hail'st,
While tower and tree are torn and rent,
Shines o'er its craggy battlement;
In form a peak, in height a cloud,
In texture like a hovering shroud,
Thus high by parting Freedom spread,
As from her fond abode she fled,
And linger'd on the spot, where long
Her prophet spirit spake in song.
Oh, till her step at moments falters
O'er wither'd fields, and ruin'd altars,
And fain would wake, in souls too broken,
By pointing to each glorious token.
But vain her voice, till better days
Dawn in those yet remember'd rays
Which shone upon the Persian flying,
And saw the Spartan smile in dying.

XV.
Not mindless of these mighty times
Was Alp, despite his flight and crimes
And through this night, as on he wander'd,
And o'er the past and present ponder'd,
And thought upon the glorious dead
Who there in better cause had bled,
He felt how faint and feebly dim
The fame that could accrue to him,
Who cheer'd the band, and waved the sword,
A traitor in a turban'd horse:
And led them to the lawless siege,
Whose best success were sacrilege.
Not so had those his fancy number'd,
The chiefs whose dust around him slumber'd
Their phalanx marshall'd on the plain,
Whose bulwarks were not then in vain.
They fell devoted, but undying;
The very gale their names seem'd sighing:
The waters murmur'd of their name;
The woods were peopled with their fame;
The silent pillar, lone and gray,
Claim'd kindred with their sacred clay;
Their spirits wrapt the dusky mountain,
Their memory sparkled o'er the fountain:
The meanest rill, the mightiest river
Roll'd mingling with their fame for ever.
Despite of every yoke she bears,
That land is glory's still and theirs!
'Tis still a watchword to the earth:
When man would do a deed of worth,
He points to Greece, and turns to tread.
So sanction'd, on the tyrant's head:
He looks to her, and rushes on
Where life is lost, or freedom won.

XVI.
Still by the shore Alp mutely mused,
And wou'd the freshness Night diffused.
There shrinks no ebb in that tideless sea,
Which changeless rolls eternally;
So that wildest of waves, in their angriest mood,
Scarcely break on the bounds of the land for a rood.
And the powerless moon beholds them flow,
Headless if she come or go:
Calm or high, in main or bay,
On their course she hath no sway.
The rock uncur'd, its base doth bare,
And looks o'er the surf, but it comes not there.
And the fringe of the foam may be seen below,
On the line that it left long ages ago:
A smooth short space of yellow sand
Between it and the greener land.

He wander'd on, along the beach,
Till within the range of a carbine's reach
Of the leaguer'd wall; but they saw him not,
Or how could he 'scape from the hostile shot?
Did traitors lurk in the Christians' hold?
Were their hands grown stiff, or their hearts wax'd
cold?
I know not, in sooth; but from yonder wall
There flash'd no fire, and there hisse'd no ball,
Though he stood beneath the bastion's frowns,
That flank'd the seaward gate of the town;
Though he heard the sound, and could almost tell
The sullen words of the sentinel,
As his measured step on the stone below
Clank'd, as he paced it to and fro;
And he saw the lean dogs beneath the wall
Hold o'er the dead their carnival,
Gorging and growling o'er carcass and limb;
They were too busy to bark at him!
From a Tartar's skull they had stripp'd the flesh,
As ye peel the fig when its fruit is fresh;
And their white tusks craunch'd o'er the whiter skull,
As t slipp'd through their jaws, when their edge
grew dull.
As they lazily mumbled the bones of the dead,
When they scarce could rise from the spot where
they fed;
So well had they broken a lingering fast
With those who had fallen for that night's repast.
And Alp knew, by the turbans that roll'd on the sand,
The foremost of these were the best of his band:
Crimson and green were the shawls of their wear,
And each scalp had a single long tuft of hair:
All the rest was shaven and bare.
The <i>Del's</i> were in the wild dog's jaw,
The hair was tangled round his jaw.
But close by the shore, on the edge of the gulf,
There sat a vulture flapping a wolf,
Who had stolen from the hills, but kept away,
Scarred by the dogs, from the human prey;
But he seized on his share of a steed that lay
Pick'd by the birds, on the sands of the bay.

XVII.
Alp turn'd him from the sickening sight;
Never had shaken his nerves in fight;
But he better could brook to behold the dying,
Deep in the tide of their warm blood lying,
Sear'd with the death-thirst, and writhing in vain,
Than the perishing dead who are past all pain.
There is something of pride in the perilous hour,
Whate'er be the shape in which death may lower;
For Fame is there to say who bleeds,
And Honor's eye on daring deeds!
But when all is past, it is humbling to tread
O'er the wertaining field of the tombless dead,
And see worms of the earth and fowls of the air,
Beasts of the forest, all gathering there;
All regarding man as their prey,
All rejoicing at his decay,

XVIII.
There is a temple in ruin stands,
Fashion'd by long forgotten hands;
Two or three columns, and many a stone,
Marble and granite, with grass o'ergrown!
Out upon Time! it will leave no more
Of the things to come than the things before!
Out upon Time! who for ever will leave
But enough of the past for the future to grieve
O'er that which hath been, and o'er that which must be:
What we have seen our sons shall see;
Remnants of things that have pass'd away,
Fragments of stone, rear'd by creatures of clay.

XIX.
He sate him down at a pillar's base,
And pass'd his hand athwart his face;
Like one in dreary musings mood,
Declining was his attitude;
His head was drooping on his breast,
Fever'd, throbbing, and oppress'd;
And o'er his brow, so downward bent,
Oft his beating fingers went,
Hurriedly, as you may see
Your own run over the ivory key,
Ere the measured tone is taken
By the chords you would awaken:
There he sate all heavily,
As he heard the night-wind sigh.

Was it the wind, through some hollow stone,
Sent than soft and tender moan?
He lifted his head, and he look'd on the sea,
But it was unrippled as glass may be;
He look'd on the long grass—it wav'd not a blade.
How was that gentle sound convey'd?
He look'd to the banners—each flag lay still,
So did the leaves on Citharon's hill,
And he felt not a breath come over his cheek
What did that sudden sound bespeak?
He turn'd to the left—is he sure of sight?
There sate a lady, youthful and bright!

XX.
He started up with more of fear
Than if an armed foe were near.
"God of my fathers! what is here?"
Who art thou, and wherefore sent
So near a hostile armament?
His trembling hands refused to sign
The cross he deem'd no more divine:
He had resuming it in that hour,
But conscience wrung away the power.
He gazed, he saw: he knew the face
Of beauty, and the form of grace;
It was Francesca by his side,
The maid who might have been his bride!

The rose was yet upon her cheek,
But mellow'd with a tender stream:
Where was the play of her soft lips red?
Gone was the smile that univen'd their red.
The ocean's calm within their view,
Beside her eye had less of blue;
But like that cold wave it stood still,
And its glance, though clear, was chill;
Around her form a thin robe twining,
Nought conceal'd her bosom shining;
Through the parting of her hair,
Floating darkly downward there,
Her rounded arm show'd white and bare:
And ere yet she made reply,
Once she raised her hand on high:
It was so wan and transparent of hue,
You might have seen the moon shine through.

XXI
"I come from my rest to him I love best,
That I may be happy, and he may be blest.
I have pass'd the guards, the gate, the wall,
Sought thee in safety through foes and all.
'Tis said the lion will turn and fce
From a maid in the pride of her purity;
And the Power on high, that can shield the good
Thus from the tyrant of the wood,
Hath extended its mercy to guard us as well
From the hands of the leaguering infidel.
I come—and if I come in vain,
Never, oh never, we meet again!
Thou hast done a fearful deed
In falling away from thy father's creed:
But dash that turban to earth, and sign
The sign of the cross, and for ever be mine
Wring the black drop from thy heart,
And to-morrow unites us no more to part."

"And where should our bridal couch be spread?
In the midst of the dying and the dead?
For to-morrow we give to the slaughter and flame,
The sons and the shrines of the Christian name.
None, save thou and thine, I've sworn,
Shall be left upon the morn:
But thee will I bear to a lovely spot,
Where our hands shall be joined, and our sorrow forgot.

Like the Air of Venice; and her hated race,
Have felt the arm they would debase,
Scourge, with a whip of scorpions, those
Whom vice as I envy made my foes.";

Upon his hand she laid her own—
Light was the touch, but it thrilled to the bone,
And shot a chillness to his heart,
Which fixed him beyond the power to start.
Though slight was that grasp so mortal cold,
He could not lose him from his hold;
But never did clasp of one so dear
Strike upon the pulse with such feeling of fear,
As those thin fingers, long and white,
Froze through his blood by their touch that night.
The feverish glow of his brow was gone,
And his heart sank so still that it felt like stone,
As he looked on the face, and beheld its hue
So deeply changed from what he knew;
Fair but faint—without the ray
Of mind, that made each feature play
Like sparkling waves on a sunny day;
And her motionless lips lay still as death,
And her words came forth without her breath,
And there rose not a heave o'er her bosom's swell,
And there seemed not a pulse in her veins to dwell,
Though her eye shone out, yet the lids were fixed,
And the glance that it gave was wild and unmixed'd
With aught of change, as the eyes may seem,
Of the restless who walk in a troubled dream;
Like the figures on arras, that gloomily glare,
Stir'd by the breath of the wintry air,
So seen by the dying lamp's fitful light,
Lifeless, but life-like, and awful to sight;
As they seem, through the dimness, about to come down

From the shadowy wall where their images frown;
Fearfully flitting to and fro,
As the gusts on the tapestry come and go.

'Til not for love of me be given
Tis much, then, for the love of heaven,—
Again I say—that turban tear
From off thy faithless brow, and swear
Thine injured country's sons to spare,
O thou art lost; and never shalt see
Not earth—that's past—but heaven or me.
If this thou dost accord, albeit
A heavy doom 'tis thine to meet,
That doom shall half absorb thy sin,
And mercy's gate may receive thee within
But pause one moment more, and take
The curse of Him thou didst forsake;
And look once more to heaven, and see
Its love for ever shut from thee.
There is a light cloud by the moon—
'Tis passing, and will pass full soon—
If, by the time its vapors sail
Hath ceased her shaded orb to veil,
Thy heart within thee is not changed,
Then God and man are both avenged;
Dark will thy doom be, darker still
Thine immortality of ill.'

Alp look'd to heaven, and saw on high
The sign she spoke of in the sky:
But his heart was swollen, and turn'd aside
By deep, interminable pride.
'This first false passion of his breast;
Roll'd like a torrent o'er the rest.
He sue for mercy! He dismay'd
By wild words of a timid maid!
He, wrong'd by Venice, vow to save
Her sons, devoted to the grave!
No—though that cloud were thunder's worst,
And charged to crush him—let it burst!

He look'd upon it earnestly,
Without an accent of reply;
He watch'd it passing; it is flown:
Full on his eye the clear moon shone,
And thus he spake—"Whate'er my fate,
I am no changeling—'tis too late:
The reed in storms may bow and quiver,
Then rise again; the tree must shiver
What Venice made me, I must be,
Her foe in all, save love to thee;
But thou art safe—'oh, fly with me!";
He turn'd, but she is gone!
Nothing is there but the column stone.
Hath she sunk in the earth, or melted in air?
He saw not, he knew not; but nothing is there

XXII.
The night is past, and shines the sun
As if that morn were a jocund one,
Lightly and brightly breaks away
The Morning from her mantle gray,
And the Noon will look on a sultry day.
Hark to the trump, and the drum,
And the mournful sound of the barbarous horn,
And the flap of the banners that fit as they're borne,
And the neigh of the steed, and the multitude's hum,
And the clash, and the shout, "they come, they come!"
The horsetails are pluck'd from the ground, and
The sword
From its sheath; and they form, and but wait for
The word.
Tartar, and Spahi, and Turcoman,
Strike your tents, and thong to the van,
Mount ye, spur ye, skirr the plain,
That the fugitive may flee in vain,
When he breaks from the town; and none can
Aged or young, in the Christian shape;
While your fellows on foot, in a fiery mass,
Bloodstain the breach through which they pass.
The steeds are all bridled, and snort to the rein;
Curved is each neck, and flowing each mane;
White is the foam of their champ on the bit:
The spears are uplifted; the matches are lit;
The cannon are pointed, and ready to roar,
And crush the wall they have crumbled before:
Forms in his phalanx each Janizar;
Alp at their head; his right arm is bare,
So is the blade of his scimitar.
The khan and the pachas are all at their post;
The vizier himself at the head of the host.
When the culverin's signal is fired, then on;
Leave not in Corinth a living one—
A priest at her altars, a chief in her halls,
A hearth in her mansions, a stone on her walls.
God and the prophet—Alia Hu!
Up to the skyes with that wild halloo!
'There the breach lies for passage, the ladder to scale;
And your hands on your sabres, and how should ye fail?
He who first downs with the red cross may crave
His heart's dearest wish; let him ask it, and have it!
Thus utter'd Coundourgi, the dauntless vizier;
The reply was the brandish of sabre and spear,
And tle shout of fierce thousands in joyous ire;
Silence—hark to the signal—hark!

XXIII.
As the wolves, that headlong go
On the stately buffalo,
Though with fiery eyes, and angry roar,
And hoofs that stamp, and horns that gore,
He tramples on the earth, or tosses on high
The foremost, who rush on his strength but to die,
Thus against the wall they went,
Thus the first, the foremost, rush'd and rent;
Many a bosom, sheathed in brass,
Strew'd the earth like broken glass,
Shiver'd by the shot, that tore
The ground whereon they moved no more;
Even as they fell, in files they lay,
Like the mower's grass at the close of day,
When his work is done on the level'd plain;
Such was the fall of the foremost slain.

XXIV.
As the spring-tides, with heavy plash,
From the cliffs invading dash
Huge fragments, sapp'd by the ceaseless flow,
Till white and thundering down they go,
Like the avalanche's snow,
On the Alpine vales below;
Thus at length, outbreathed and worn,
Corinth's sons were downward borne
By the long and oft renew'd
Charge of the Moslem multitude.
In firmness they stood, and in masses they fell,
Hemp'd, by the host of the infidel,
Hand to hand, and foot to foot:
Nothing there, save death, was mute;
Stroke, and thrust, and flash, and cry
For quarter, or for victory,
Mingle there with the volleying thunder,
Which makes the distant cities wonder
How the sounding battle goes,
If with them, or for their foes;
If they must mourn, or may rejoice
In that annihilating voice,
Which pierces the deep hills through and through
With an echo dread and new:
Ye might have heard it, on that day,
O'er Salamis and Megara;
(We have heard the hearers say,)
Even unto Piræus bay.

XXV.
From the point of encountering blades to the hilt,
Sabres and swords with blood were gilt;

XXVI.
Hark to the Allah shout! a hand
Of the Mussulman bravest and best is at hand
Their leader's nervous arm is bare,
Swifter to smite, and never to spare—
Unclothed to the shoulder it waves them on:
Thus in the fight is he ever known;
Others a gaudier garb may show,
To tempt the spoil of the greedy foe;
Many a hand's on a richer hill,
But none on a steel more ruddily gilt;
Many a loftier turban may wear,
Alp is but known by the white arm bare;
Look through the thick of the fight, 'tis there;
There is not a standard on that shore
So well advanced the ranks before;
There is not a banner in Moslem war
Will lure the Delhis half so far;
It glances like a falling star!
Where'er that mighty arm is seen,
The bravest be, or late have been;
There the craven cries for quarter
Sadly to the vengeful Tartar;
Or the hero, silent lying,
Scorns to yield a groan in dying;
Mustering his last feeble blow
‘Gainst the naxest livell'd foe,
Though faint beneath the mutual wound
Grappling on the gory ground.

XXVII.
Still the old man stood erect,
And Alp's career a moment check'd.
"Yield thee, Minotti; quarter take
For thine own, thy daughter's sake."

"Never, renegado, never!
Though the life of thy gift would last for ever."

"Francesca!—Oh my promised bride!
Must she too perish by thy pride?"

"She is safe."—"Where? where?"—"In heaven;
From whence thy traitor soul is driven—
Far from thee, and undeified."

Grimly then Minotti smiled,
As he saw Alp staggering bow
Before his words, as with a blow.

"Oh God! when did she?"—"Yesternight—
Nor weep I for her spirit's flight:
None of my pure race shall be
Slaves to Mahomet and thee—
Come on!"—"That challenge is in vain—
Alp's already with the slain!

While Minotti's words were wreaking
A lore revenge in bitter speaking
Than his faction's point had found,
Had the time allow'd to wound,
From within the neighboring porch
Of a long defended church,
Where the last and desperate few
Would the failing fight renew,
The sharp shot dashed Alp to the ground;
Ere an eye could view the wound
That crush'd through the brain of the infidel,
Round he spun, and down he fell;
A flash like fire within his eyes
Blazed, as he bent no more to rise,
And then eternal darkness sunk
Through all the palpitating trunk;
N'ught of life left, save a quivering
Where his limbs were slightly shivering:
They turn'd him on his back; his breast
And brow were stain'd with gore and dust,
And through his lips the life-blood oozed,
From its deep veins lately loosed;
But in his pulse there was no throb,
Nor on his lips one dying sob;
Sigh, nor word, nor struggling breath
Heralded his way to death:
Ere his very thought could pray,
Ussanell'd he pass'd away,
Without a hope from mercy's aid,—
To the last a renegade.

XXVIII.
Fearfully the yell arose
Of his followers and his foes
These in joy, in fury those;
Then again in conflict mixing,
Clashing swords, and spears transfixing,
Interchanged the blow and thrust
Hurling warriors in the dust.
Street by street, and foot by foot,
Still Minotti dares dispute
The latest portion of the land
Left beneath his high command;
With him, siding heart and hand,
The remnant of his gallant band.
Still the church is tenable,
Whence issued late the fated ball
That half avenged the city's fall,
When Alp, her fierce assaulter, fell:
Thither bending sternly back,
They leave before a bloody track;
And, with their faces to the foe,
Dealing wounds with every blow,
The chief, and his retreating train,
Join to those within the fane;
There they yet may breathe awhile,
Shelter'd by the massy pile.

XXIX.
Brief breathing-time! the turban'd hos.
With adding ranks and raging boast,
Press onwards with such strength and heat,
Their numbers balk their own retreat;
For narrow the way that led to the spot
Where still the Christians yielded not;
And the foremost, if fearful, may vainly try
Through the massy column to turn and fly;
They perforce must do or die;
They die; but ere their eyes could close,
Avengers o'er their bodies rose;
Fresh and furious, fast they fill
The ranks unthim'd, though slaughter'd still;
And faint the weary Christians wax
Before the still renew'd attacks:
And now the Othman's gain the gate;
Still resists its iron weight,
And still, all deadly aim'd and hot,
From every crevice comes the shot;
From every shattered window pours
The volleys of the sulphurous shower;
But the portal wavering grows and weak—
The iron yields, the hinges creak—
It bends—it falls—and all is o'er;
Lost Corinth may resist no more!

XXX.
Darkly, sternly, and all alone,
Minotti stood o'er the altar stone:
Madonna's face upon him shone,
Painted in heavenly hues above,
With eyes of light and looks of love;
And placed upon that holy shrine
To fix our thoughts on things divine,
When pictured there, we kneeling see
Her, and the boy-God on her knee,
Smiling sweetly on each prayer
To heaven, as if to waft it there.
Still she smiled: even now she smiles,
Though slaughter streams along her aisles
Min. til lifted his aged eye,
And made the sign of a cross with a sigh,
Then seized a torch which blazed thereby;
And still he stood, while, with steel and flame,
Inward and onward the Mussulman came.

XXXI.
The vaults beneath the mosaic stone
Contain'd the dead of ages gone;
Their names were on the graven floor,
But now illegible with gore;
The carved crests, and curious hues,
Varied marble's veins diffuse,
Were smear'd, and slippery—stain'd, and strown
With broken swords, and helmets o'erthrown:
There were dead above, and the dead below
Lay cold in many a coffin's row;
You might see them piled in sable state,
By a pale-light through a gloomy grate;
But War had enter'd their dark caves,
And stored along the vaulted graves
Her sulphurous treasures, thickly spread
In masses by the fleshless dead:
Here, throughout the sirocco, had been
The Christians' chiefest magazine;
To these a late-form'd train now led,
Minotti's last and stern resource
Against the foe's overwhelming force.

XXXII.
The foe came on, and few remain
To strive, and those must strive in vain:
For lack of further lives, to slake
The thirst of vengeance now awake,
With barbarous blows they gash the dead,
And lop the already lifeless head,
And fell the statues from their niche,
And spoil the shrines of offerings rich,
And from each other's rude hands wrest
The silver vessels saints had bless'd.
To the high altar on they go;
Oh, but it made a glorious show!
On its table still behold
The cup of consecrated gold;
Massy and deep, a glittering prize,
Brightly it sparkles to plunderers' eyes:
That morn it held the holy wine,
Converted by Christ to his blood so divine,
Which his worshippers drank at the break of day
To shrive their souls ere they join'd in the fray.
Still a few drops within it lay;
And round the sacred table glow
Twelve lofty lamps, in splendid row,
From the purest metal cast;
A spoil—the richest, and the last.

XXXIII.
So near they came, the nearest stretch'd
To grasp the spoil he almost reach'd,
When old Minotti's han
Touch'd with the torch the train—
'Tis fired!
Spire—vaults, the shrine, the spoil, the slain.
The turban'd victors, the Christian band,
All that of living or dead remain,
Hurl'd on high with the shiver'd sance,
In one wild roar expired!
The shatter'd town—the walls thrown down—
The waves a moment backward bent—
The hills that shake, although unrent,
As if an earthquake pass'd—
The thousand shapeless things all driven
In cloud and flame athwart the heaven,
By that tremendous blast—
Proclaim'd the desperate conflict o'er
On that too long afflicted shore:
Up to the sky like rockets go
All that mingled there below:
Many a tall and goodly man,
Scorch'd and shrivell'd to a span,
When he fell to earth again.
Like a cinder strew'd the plain:
Down the ashes shower like rain;
Some fell in the gulf, which received the sprinkles
With a thousand circling wrinkles;
Some fell on the shore, but, far away,
Scatter'd o'er the isthmus lay;
Christian or Moslem, which be they?
Let their mothers see and say!
When in cradled rest they lay,
And each nursing mother smiled
On the sweet sleep of her child,
Little deem'd she such a day
Would rend those tender limbs away.
Not the matrons that them bore
Could discern their offspring more;
That one moment left no trace
More of human form or face,
Save a scatter'd scalp or bone:
And down came blazing rafters, strown
Around, and many a falling stone,
Deeply dinted in the clay,
All blacken'd there and reeking lay.
All the living things that heard
That deadly earth-shock disappear'd;
The wild birds flew; the wild dogs fled,
And howling left the unburied dead;
The camels from their keepers broke;
The distant steer forsook the yoke—
The nearer steed plunged o'er the plain,
And burst his girth, and tore his rein;
The bullfrog's a note, from out the marsh,
Deepmouth'd arose, and doubly harsh
The wolves yell'd on the cavern'd hill,
Where echo roll'd in thunder still;
The jackal's troop, in gather'd cry,
Buy'd from afar complainingly,
With a mix'd and mournful sound,
Like crying babe, and beaten hound:
With sudden wing, and ruffled breast,
The eagle left his rocky nest,
And mounted nearer to the sun,
The clouds beneath him seem'd so dun
Their smoke assail'd his startled beak,
And made him higher soar and shriek—
Thus was Corinth lost and won!
NOTES TO THE SIEGE OF CORINTH.

1. The Turkoman hath left his herd.
   Page 166, line 36.
   The life of the Turkomans is wandering and patriarchal; they dwell in tents.

2. Coumourgi—he whose closing scene.
   Page 167, line 57.
   All Coumourgi, the favorite of three sultans, and Grand Vizier to Achmet III. after recovering Peloponnesus from the Venetians in one campaign, was mortally wounded in the next, against the Germans, at the battle of Peterwaradin, (in the plain of Carlowitz,) in Hungary, endeavoring to rally his guards. He died of his wounds, next day. His last order was the decapitation of General Brunner, and some other German prisoners: and his last words, "Oh that I could thus serve all the Christian dogs!" a speech and act not unlike one of Caligula. He was a young man of great ambition and unbounded presumption: on being told that Prince Eugene, then opposed to him, "was a great general," he said, "I shall become a greater, and at his expense."

3. There shrinks no båd in that tideless sea.
   Page 169, line 91.
   The reader need hardly be reminded that there are no perceptible tides in the Mediterranean.

4. And their white tusks crack'd o'er the whiter skull.
   Page 170, line 8.
   This spectacle I have seen, thus described, beneath the wall of the Scraglio at Constantinople, in the little cavities worn by the Bosphorus in the rock, a narrow terrace of which projects between the wall and the water. I think the fact is also mentioned in Hobhouse's Travels. The bodies were probably those of some refractory Janizaries.

5. And each scalp had a single long tuft of hair.
   Page 170, line 60.
   This tuft, or long lock, is left from a superstition at Mahomet will draw them into Paradise by it.

6. Was it the wind, through some hollow stone.
   Page 169, line 57.
   I must here acknowledge a close, though unintentional, resemblance in these twelve lines to a passage in an unpublished poem of Mr. Coleridge, called "Christabel." It was not till after these lines were written that I heard that wild and singularly original and beautiful poem recited; and the MS. of that production I never saw till very recently, by the kindness of Mr. Coleridge himself, who, I hope, is convinced that I have not been a wilful plagiarist. The original idea—undoubtedly pertains to Mr. Coleridge, whose poem has been composed above fourteen years. Let me conclude by a hope that he will not longer delay the publication of a production, of which I can only add my mite of approbation to the applause of far more competent judges.

7. There is a light cloud by the moon.
   Page 171, line 91.
   I have been told that the idea expressed from lines 683 to 693 has been admired by those whose approbation is valuable. I am glad of it: but it is not original—at least not mine: it may be found much better expressed in pages 162–3–4 of the English version of "Vathek." (I forget the precise page of the French,) a work to which I have before referred, and never recur to, or read, without a renewal of gratification.

8. The horsetails are pluck'd from the ground, and the sword.
   Page 171, line 106.
   The horsetail fixed upon a lance, a Pacha's standard.

9. And since the day when in the strait.
   Page 172, line 98.
   In the naval battle, at the mouth of the Dardanelles between the Venetians and the Turks.

10. The jackal's troop, in gather'd cry.
    Page 174, line 109.
    I believe I have taken a poetical license to transplant the jackal from Asia. In Greece I never saw nor heard these animals; but among the ruins of Ephesus I have heard them by hundreds. They haunt ruins, and follow armies.
PARISINA.

TO

SCROPE BERDMORE DAVIES, ESQ.

THE FOLLOWING POEM IS INSCRIBED,

BY ONE WHO HAS LONG ADMIRE匕 HIS TALENTS AND VALUED HIS FRIENDSHIP

January 22, 1816.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The following poem is grounded on a circumstance mentioned in Gibbon's "Antiquities of the House of Brunswick."—I am aware, that in modern times the delicacy or fastidiousness of the reader may deem such subjects unfit for the purposes of poetry. The Greek dramatists, and some of the rest of our old English writers, were of a different opinion: as Alfieri and Schiller have also been, more recently, upon the continent. The following extract will explain the facts on which the story is founded. The name of Azo is substituted for Nicholas, as moremetrical.

"Under the reign of Nicholas III. Ferrara was polluted with a domestic tragedy. By the testimony of an attendant, and his own observation, the Marquis of Este discovered the incestuous loves of his wife Parisina, and Hugo his bastard son, a beautiful and valiant youth. They were beheaded in the castle by the sentence of a father and husband, who published his shame, and survived their execution. He was unfortunate, if they were guilty; if they were innocent, he was still more unfortunate; nor is there any possible situation in which I can sincerely approve the last act of justice of a parent."—


I.

It is the hour when from the boughs
The nightingale's high note is heard;
It is the hour when lovers' vows
Seem sweet in every whisper'd word:
And gentle winds, and waters near,
Make music to the lonely ear

Each flower the dews have lightly wet,
And in the sky the stars are met,
And on the wave is deeper blue,
And on the leaf a browner hue,
And in the heaven that clear obscure,
So softly dark, and darkly pure,
Which follows the decline of day,
As twilight melts beneath the moon away.

II.

But it is not to list to the waterfall
That Parisina leaves her hall,
And it is not to gaze on the heavenly light
That the lady walks in the shadow of night
And if she sits in Este's bower,
'Tis not for the sake of its full-blown flower—
She listens—but not for the nightingale—
Though her ear expects as soft a tale.
There glides a step through the foliage thick,
And her cheek grows pale—and her heart beats quick.
There whispers a voice through the rustling leaves,
And her blush returns, and her bosom heaves:
A moment more—and they shall meet—
'Tis past—her lover's at her feet.

III.

And what unto them is the world beside,
With all its change of time and tide?
Its living things—its earth and sky—
Are nothing to their mind and eye.
And heedless as the dead are they
Of aught around, above, beneath;
As if all else had passed away,
They only for each other breathe.
And whose that name? 'tis Hugo's,—his
In sooth he had not deemed of this!—
'Tis Hugo's,—he, the child of one
He loved,—his own all-evil son—
The offspring of his wayward youth,
When he betrayed Bianca's truth,
The maid whose folly could confide
In him who made her not his bride.

VII.
He pluck'd his poniard in its sheath,
But sheath'd it ere the point was bare.
How'er unworthy now to breathe,
He could not slay a thing so fair—
At least, not smiling—sleeping—there—
Nay more—he did not wake her then,
But gazed upon her with a glance
Which, had she roused her from her trance,
Had frozen her sense to sleep again—
And o'er his brow the burning lamp
Gleam'd on the dew-drops big and damp;
She spoke no more—but still she slumber'd—
While, in his thought, her days are number'd.

VIII.
And with the morn he sought, and found,
In many a tale from those around,
The proof of all he fear'd to know,
Their present guilt, his future woe.
The long-conning damsels seek
To save themselves, and would transfer
The guilt—the shame—the doom—to her
Concealment is no more—they speak
All circumstance which may compel
Full credence to the tale they tell:
And Azo's tortured heart and ear
Have nothing more to feel or hear.

IX.
He was not one who brook'd delay.
Within the chamber of his state,
The chief of Este's ancient sway
Upon his throne of judgment sate;
His nobles and his guards are there,
Before him is the sinful pair;
Both young—and one how passing fair!
With swordless belt, and fetter'd hand,
Oh, Christ! that such a son should stand
Before a father's face!
Yet thus must Hugo meet his sire,
And hear the sentence of his ire,
The tale of his disgrace!
And yet he seems not overcome,
Although, as yet, his voice be dumb.

X.
And still, and pale, and silently
Did Parisina wait her doom;
How changed since last her speaking eye
Glanced gladness round the glittering room
Where high-born men were proud to wait—
Where Beauty watch'd to imitate
Her gentle voice—her lovely mien—
And gather from her air and gait
The graces of its queen:
Then,—had her eye in sorrow wept,
A thousand warriors forth had leapt,
A thousand swords had sheathless flown,
And made her quarrel all their own.
XI.

And he for her had also wept,
But for the eyes that on him gazed:
His sorrow, if he felt it, slept;
Stern and erect his brow was raised.
Whate'er the grief his soul avow'd,
He would not shrink before the crowd;
But yet he dared not look on her:
Remembrance of the hours that were—
His guilt—his love—his present state—
His father's wrath—all good men's hate—
His earthy, his eternal fate—
And her's, oh, her's!—he dared not throw
One look upon that deathlike brow!
Else had his rising heart betray'd
Remorse for all the wreck it made.

XII.

And Azo spake:— "But yesterday
I gloried in a wife and son;
That dream this morning pass'd away,
 Ere day delines, I shall have none.
My life must linger on alone!
Well,—let that pass,—there breathes not one
Who would not do as I have done:
Those ties are broken—not by me;
Let that too pass—The doom's prepared!
Hugo, the priest aver's all thees,
And then—thy crime's reward!
Away! address thy prayers to Heaven,
Before its evening stars are met—
Learn if thou there canst be forgiven;
Its mercy may absolve thee yet.
But here, upon the earth beneath,
There is no spot where thou and I
Together, for an hour, could breathe:
Farewell! I will not see thee die—
But thou, frail thing! shalt view his head—
Away! I cannot speak the rest:
Go! woman of the wanton breast,
Not I, but thou his blood dost shed:
So! if that sight thou canst outlive,
And joy thee in the life I give"
He ceased—and stood with folded arms;
And on which the crowing fowls sounded.
Or all the chiefs that there were rank'd;
When those dull chains, in meeting chime.

XIV.

And now, on high, the sun was set,
Before rose up, the sun shall set,
And mock'd with grey and leaden ray,
Sent forth, the future black and white.

The convent bells are ringing;
In the gray square tower swaying.
With the black, and with the gaudy arcs.
All was confused in sympathy!

XV.

He stood, and round the painted eyes she stood.
But there with glassy gaze she stood:
And there the chief with his bare arm tarry'd.
Till then had smiled in sympathy?

That sun on his head digg'd greater
As he there did bow and listen—
That sun on his head digg'd greater
As he there did bow and listen—

PARISINA.

But yet she lived—and all too on—
Recover'd from that death-like swoon—
But most of strength, my soul of fame—
Then didst not give me life alone.

For though the mind be drest by
And Bless'd the care that o'er the soul
And the voice and spirit used to grace.
And felt then all thy father's love:

The Lay, the Lay, and all the Lay;
And every Lay, and all the Lay;
As cruel were the Lay, and all the Lay;
A Lay on her soul so deep mislay.

She gav'st the Lay, and all the Lay,
And all the Lay, and all the Lay;
The Lay, the Lay, the Lay, and Lay;
And Lay on her soul so deep mislay.

With every Lay, and all the Lay;
With every Lay, and all the Lay;
Of every Lay, and all the Lay;
Lay on her soul so deep mislay.

The Lay, the Lay, and all the Lay;
Of every Lay, and all the Lay;
The Lay, the Lay, and all the Lay;
Lay on her soul so deep mislay.
And the rings of Chestnut hair
Carl'd half down his neck so bare;
But brighter still the beam was thrown
Upon the axe which near him shone
With a clear and ghastly glitter—
Oh! that parting hour was bitter!
Even the stern stood chill'd with awe:
Dark the crime, and just the law—
Yet they shudder'd as they saw.

XVII.
The parting prayers are said and over
Of that false son—and daring lover!
His heads and sions are all account'd,
His hours to their last minute mounted—
His mantling cloak before was stripp'd,
His bright brown locks must now be clipp'd:
'Tis done—all closely are they shorn—
The vest which till this moment worn—
The scarf which Parisina gave—
Must not adorn him to the grave.
Even that must now be thrown aside,
And o'er his eyes the kerchief tied;
But no—that last indignity
Shall ne'er approach his haughty eye.
All feelings seemingly subdued,
In deep disdain were half renew'd,
When headsman's hands prepared to bind
Those eyes which would not brook such blind;
As if they dared not look on death.

"No—yours my forfeit blood and breath—
These hands are chain'd—but let me die
At least with an unshackled eye;
Strike: "—and as the word he said,
Upon the block he bow'd his head;
These the last accents Hugo spoke—
"Strike"—and flashing fell the stroke—
Roll'd the head—and, gushing, sunk
Back the stain'd and heaving trunk
In the dust, which each deep vein
Slaked with its ensanguined rain;
His eyes and lips a moment quiver,
Convulsed and quick—then fix for ever.
He died as erring man should die,
Without display, without parade;
Mockly had he bow'd his head,
As not disdaining priestly aid,
Nor desperate of all hope on high.
And while before the Prior kneeling,
His heart was wean'd from earthly feeling;
His wrathful sire—his paramour—
What were they in such an hour?
No more reproach—no more despair;
No thought but heaven—no word but prayer—
Save the few which from him broke,
When, bared to meet the headsman's stroke,
He claim'd to die with eyes unbound,
His sole adieu to those around.

XVIII.
Still as the lips that closed in death,
Each gazer's bosom held his breath;
But yet, afar, from man to man,
A cold electric shiver ran,
As down the deadly blow descended
On him whose life and love thus ended,
And with a hushing sound comprest,
A sigh shrunk back on every breast;

But no more thrilling noise rose there
Beyond the blow that to the block
Pierced through with forced and sullen shock
Save one:—what cleaves the silent air
So madly shrill, so passing wild?
That, as a mother's o'er her child,
Done to death by sudden blow,
To the sky these accents go,
Like a soul's in endless wo.
Through Azof's palace-lattice driven,
That horrid voice ascends to heaven,
And every eye is turn'd thereon;
But sound and sight alike are gone!
It was a woman's shriek—and ne'er
In madlier accents base despair;
And those who heard it, as it past,
In mercy wish'd it were the last.

XIX.
Hugo is fallen; and, from that hour
No more in palace, hall, or bower,
Was Parisina heard or seen;
Her name—as if she never had been—
Was banish'd from each lip and ear,
Like words of wantonness or fear;
And from Prince Azof's voice by none
Was mention heard of wife or son;
No tomb—no memory had they;
Theirs was unconsecrated clay;
At least the knight's who died that day,
But Parisina's fate lies hid
Like dust beneath the coffin lid:
Whether in convent she abode,
And walk'd to heaven her dreary road,
By blighted and remorseful years
Of scourg'd, and fast, and sleepless tears
Or if she fell by bowl or steel,
For that dark love she dared to feel;
Or if, upon the moment smote,
She died by tortures less remote;
Like him she saw upon the block,
With heart that shared the headsman's shoe
In quicken'd brokenness that came,
In pity, o'er her shattered frame,
None knew—and none can ever know:
But what would it be, the end below,
Her life began and closed in wo; 3

XX.
And Azof found another bride,
And goodly sons grew by his side;
But none so lovely and so brave
As him who wither'd in the grave;
Or if they were—on his cold eye
Their growth but glanced unheeded by,
Or noticed with a smother'd sigh.
But never tear his cheek descended,
And never smile his brow unbended,
And o'er that fair broad brow were wrought
The intersected lines of thought;
Those furrows which the burning share
Of Sorrow plough'd untimely there;
Sears of the lacerating mind
Which the Soul's war doth leave behind.
He was pass'd all mirth or wo:
Nothing more remain'd below
But sleepless nights and heavy days,
A mind all deaf to scorn or praise,
NOTES TO PARISINA.

A heart which shunn’d itself—and yet
That would not yield—nor could forget,
Which when it least appear’d to melt,
Intensely thought—intensely felt;
The deepest ice which ever froze
Can only o’er the surface close—
The living stream lies quick below,
And flows—and cannot cease to flow.
Still was his seal’d-up bosom haunted
By thoughts which Nature hath implanted;
Too deeply rooted thence to vanish,
How’er our stifled tears we banish:
When, struggling as they rise to start,
We check those waters of the heart,
They are not dried—those tears unshed
But flow back to the fountain head,
And resting in their spring more pure,
For ever in its depth endure,
Unseen, unwept, but unconceal’d,
And cherish’d most where least reveal’d.
With inward starts of feeling left,
To throb o’er those of life bereft;
Without the power to fill again
The desert gap which made his pain;
Without the hope to meet them where
United souls shall gladness share,
With all the consciousness that he
Had only pass’d a just decree;
That they had wrought their doom of ill;
Yet Azo’s age was wretched still.
The tainted branches of the tree;
If lopp’d with care a strength may give,
By which the rest shall bloom and live
All greenly fresh and wildly free;
But if the lightning, in its wrath,
The waving boughs with fury seath;
The massy trunk the ruin feels,
And never more a leaf reveals.

NOTES TO PARISINA.

1.
As twilight melts beneath the moon away.
Page 176, line 14.
The lines contained in Section I. were printed
as set to music some time since; but belonged to
the poem where they now appear, the greater part
of which was composed prior to "Lara," and other
compositions since published.

2.
That should have won as bought a crest.
Page 178, line 108.
Haught—haughty—"Away, haught man, thou
art insulting me."—Shakespeare, Richard II

3.
Her life began and closed in wo.
Page 180, line 109.
"This turned out a calamitous year for the people
of Ferrara, for there occurred a very tragical event
in the court of their sovereign. Our annals, both
printed and in manuscript, with the exception of
the unpolished and negligent work of Sardi, and
one other, have given the following relation of it,
from which, however, are rejected many details, and
especially the narrative of Bandelli, who wrote a
century afterwards, and who does not accord with
the contemporary historians.
"By the above-mentioned Stella dell’ Assasino,
the Marquis in the year 1405, had a son called Ugo,
a beautiful and ingenious youth. Parisina Malates
ta, second wife of Niccolo, like the generality of
step-mothers, treated him with little kindness, to
the infinite regret of the Marquis, who regarded
him with fond partiality. One day she asked leave
of her husband to undertake a certain journey, to
which he consented, but upon condition that Ugo
should bear her company; for he hoped by these
means to induce her, in the end, to lay aside the
obstinate aversion which she had conceived against
him. And indeed his intent was accomplished but
too well, since, during the journey, she not only
diverted herself of all her hatred, but fell into the
opposite extreme. After their return, the Marquis
had no longer any occasion to renew his former re-
proofs. It happened one day that a servant of the
Marquis, named Zoeo, or, as some call him, Gior-
gio, passing before the apartments of Parisina, saw
going out from them one of her chambermaids, all
terrified and in tears. Asking the reason, she told
him that her mistress, for some slight offence, had
been beating her; and, giving vent to her rage, she
added, that she could easily be revenged, if she
chose to make known the criminal familiarity which
subsisted between Parisina and her stepson. The
servant took note of the words, and related them to
his master. He was astounded thereat, but scarce-
ly believing his ears, he assured himself of the
fact, alas! too clearly, on the 18th of May, by
looking through a hole made in the ceiling of his
wife’s chamber. Instantly he broke into a furious
rage, and arrested both of them, together with Al-
dobrandino Rangoni, of Modena, her gentleman,
and also, as some say, two of the women of her
chamber, as abettors of this sinful act. He ordered them to be brought to a hasty trial, desiring the judges to pronounce sentence, in the accustomed forms, upon the culprits. This sentence was death. Some were there that bestirred themselves in favor of the delinquents, and, among others, Ugocciun Contrario, who was all powerful with Niccolo, and also his aged and much deserving minister, Alberto dal Sale. Both of these, their tears flowing down their cheeks, and upon their knees, implored him for mercy: adducing whatever reasons they could suggest for sparing the offenders, besides those motives of honor and decency which might persuade him to conceal from the public so scandalous a deed. But his rage made him inflexible, and, on the instant, he commanded that the sentence should be put in execution.

"It was, then, in the prisons of the castle, and exactly in those frightful dungeons which are seen at this day beneath the chamber called the Aurora, at the foot of the Lion's tower, at the top of the street Glovecca, that on the night of the 21st of May were beheaded, first Ugo, and afterwards Parisina. Zoese, he that accused her, conducted the latter under his arm to the place of punishment. She, all along, fancied that she was to be thrown into a pit and asked at every step, whether she was yet come to the spot? She was told that her punishment was the axe. She inquired what was become of Ugo, and received for answer, that he was already dead; at the which, sighing grievously, she exclaimed, 'Now, then, I wish not myself to live; ' and, being come to the block, she stripped herself with her own hands of all her ornaments, and wrapping a cloth around her head, submitted to the fatal stroke, which terminated the cruel scene. The same was done with Rangoni, who, together with the others, according to two calendars in the library of St. Francesco, was buried in the cemetery of that convent. Nothing else is known respecting the women."

"The Marquis kept watch the whole of that dreadful night, e. g., as he was walking backwards and forwards, inquired of the captain of the castle if Ugo was dead yet? who answered him, Yes. He then gave himself up to the most desperate lamentations, exclaiming, 'Oh! that I too were dead, since I have been hurried on to resolve thus against my own Ugo!' And then, gnawing with his teeth a cane which he had in his hand, he passed the rest of the night in sighs and in tears, calling frequently upon his own dear Ugo. On the following day, calling to mind that it would be necessary to make public his justification, seeing that the transaction could not be kept secret, he ordered the narrative to be drawn out upon paper, and sent it to all the courts of Italy.

"On receiving this advice, the Doge of Venice, Francesco Foscarì, gave orders, but without publishing his reasons, that stop should be put to the preparations for a tournament, which, under the auspices of the Marquis, and at the expense of the city of Padua, was about to take place, in the square of St. Mark, in order to celebrate his advancement to the ducal chair."

"The Marquis, in addition to what he had already done, from some unaccountable burst of vengeance, commanded that as many of the married women as were well known to him to be faithless, like his Parisina, should, like her, be beheaded. Amongst others, Barberina, or, as some call her, Laodamia Romei, wife of the court judge, underwent this sentence, at the usual place of execution, that is to say, in the quarter of St. Giacomo, opposite the present fortress, beyond St. Paul's. It cannot be told how strange appeared this proceeding in a prince, who, considering his own disposition, should, as it seemed, have been in such cases most indulgent. Some, however, there were, who did not fail to commend him."
THE PRISONER OF CHILLON;

A FABLE.

SONNET ON CHILLON.

WERNAL spirit of the chainless mind!
Brightest in dungeons, Liberty! thou art,
For there thy habitation is the heart—
He heart which love of thee alone can bind;
And when thy sons to fetters are consign'd—
To fetters, and the damp vault's dayless gloom,
Their country conquers with their martyrdom,
And Freedom's fame finds wings on every wind.
Chillon! thy prison is a holy place,
And thy sad floor an altar—for 'twas trod,
Until his very steps have left a trace
Worn, as if thy cold pavement were a sod,
By Bonnivard!—May none those marks efface!
For they appeal from tyranny to God.

I.

My hair is gray, but not with years,
Nor grew it white
In a single night,

As men's have grown from sudden fears:
My limbs are bow'd, though not with toil,
But rusted with a vile repose,
For they have been a dungeon's spoil,
And mine has been the fate of those
To whom the goodly earth and air
Are ban'td, and barr'd—forbidden fare;
But this was for my father's faith
I suffer'd chains and courted death;
That father perish'd at the stake
For tenets he would not forsake;
And for the same his linear race
In darkness found a dwelling-place;
We were seven—who now are one,
Six in youth and one in age,
Finish'd as they had begun,
Proud of Persecution's rage;
One in fire, and two in field,
Their belief with blood have seal'd:
Dying as their father died.
For the God their foes denied;
Three were in a dungeon cast,
Of whom this wreck is left the last.

II.

There are seven pillars of gothic mould,
In Chillon's dungeons deep and old,
There are seven columns; massy and gray
Dim with a dull imprison'd ray,
A sunbeam which hath lost its way.
And through the crevice and the cleft
Of the thick wall is fallen and left;
Creeping o'er the floor so damp,
Like a marsh's meteor lamp;
And in each pillar there is a ring,
And in each ring there is a chain;
That iron is a cankerling thing,
For in these limbs its teeth remain,
With marks that will not wear away,
Till I have done with this new day,
Which now is painful to these eyes,
Which have not seen the sun so rise
For years—I cannot count them o'er,
I lost their long and heavy score
When my last brother droop'd and died
And I lay living by his side.

III.

They chain'd us each to a column stone,
And we were three—yet, each alone;
We could not move a single pace,
We could not see each other's face,
But with that pale and livid light
That made us strangers in our sight,
And thus together—yet apart,
Fetter'd in hand, but pined in heart;
'Twas still some solace, in the earth
Of the pure elements of earth,
To hearken to each other's speech,
And each turn comforter to each
With some new hope, or legend old,
Or song heroically bold;
But even these at length grew cold.
Our voices took a dreary tone,
An echo of the dungeon-stone,
A grating sound—not full and free
As they of yore were wont to be;
It might be fancy—but to me
They never sounded like our own.
IV.

I was the eldest of the three,
And to uphold and cheer the rest
I ought to do—and did my best—
And each did well in his degree.
The youngest, whom my father loved,
Because our mother's brow was given
To him—'twas eyes as blue as heaven,
For him my soul was sorely moved;
And truly might it be distress
To see such bird in such a nest;
For he was beautiful as day—
(When day was beautiful to me)

As to young eagles, being free—
A polar day, which will not see
A sunset till its summer's gone,
Its sleepless summer of long light,
The snow-clad offspring of the sun;
And thus he was as pure and bright,
And in his natural spirit gay,
With tears for nought but others' ills,
And then they flow'd like mountain rills,
Unless he could assuage the wo
Which he abhor'd to view below.

V.

The other was as pure of mind,
But form'd to combat with his kind;
Strong in his frame, and of a mood
Which 'gainst the world in war had stood,
And perish'd in the foremost rank
With joy—but not in chains to pine:
His spirit wither'd with their clank,
I saw it silently decline—
And so perchance in sooth did mine;
But yet I forced it on to cheer
Those relics of a home so dear.
He was a hunter of the hills,
Had follow'd there the deer and wolf;
To him this dungeon was a gulf,
And getter'd feet the worst of ills.

VI.

Lake Leman lies by Chillon's walls;
A thousand feet in depth below
Its massy waters meet and flow;
Thus much the fathom-line was sent
From Chillon's snow-white battlement;
Which round about the wave enthralls;
A double dungeon wall and wave
Have made—and like a living grave.
Below the surface of the lake
The dark vault lies wherein we lay,
We heard it ripple night and day;
Sounding o'er our heads it knock'd;
And I have felt the winter's spray
Wash through the bars when winds were high;
And wanton in the happy sky;
And then the very rock hath rock'd,
And I have felt it shake, unshock'd,
Because I could have smiled to see
The death that would have set me free.

VII.

I said my nearer brother pined,
I said his mighty heart declined,
He loathed and put away his food;
It was not that 'twas coarse and rude.

For we were used to hunter's fare,
And for the like had little care:
The milk drawn from the mountain goats
Was changed for water from the mount,
Our bread was such as captive's tears
Have moisten'd many a thousand years
Since man first pent his fellow men
Like brutes within an iron den:
But what were these to us or him?
These wasted not his heart or limb,
His brother's soul was of that mould
Which in a palace had grown cold,
Had his free breathing been denied
The range of the steep mountain's side;
But why delay the truth?—he died.
I saw, and could not hold his head,
Nor reach his dying hand—nor dead,
Though hard I strove, but strive in vain,
To rend and gnash my bonds in twain.
He died—and they unlock'd his chain,
And scoop'd for him a shallow grave
Even from the cold earth of our cave.
I begg'd them, as a boon, to lay
His corpse in dust whereon the day
Might shine—it was a foolish thought,
But then within my brain it wrought,
That even in death his free-born breast
In such a dungeon could not rest.
I might have spared my idle prayer—
They coldly laugh'd—and laid him there
The flat and turfless earth above
The being we so much did love;
His empty chain above it leant,
Such murder's fitting monument!

VIII.

But he, the favorite and the flower,
Most cherish'd since his natal hour,
His mother's image in fair face,
The infant love of all his race,
His martyr'd father's dearest thought,
My latest care, for whom I sought
To hoard my life, that his might be
Less wretched now, and one day free;
He, too, who yet had held untired
A spirit natural and inspired—
He, too, was struck, and day by day
Was wither'd on the track away.
Oh God! it is a fearful thing
To see the human soul take wing
In any shape, in any mood:
I've seen it rushing forth in blood,
I've seen it on the breaking ocean
Strive with a swain convulsive motion.
I've seen the sick and ghastly bed
Of Sin delirious with its dread:
But these were horrors—this was wo
Unmix'd with such—but sure and slow;
He faded, and so calm and meek,
So softly worn, so sweetly weak,
So tearless, yet so tender—kind,
And grieve'd for those he left behind:
With all the while a cheek whose bloom
Was as a mockery of the tomb,
Whose tints as gently sunk away
As a departing rainbow's ray—
An eye of most transparent light,
That almost made the dungeon bright.
And not a word of murmur—not
A groan o'er his untimely lot,—
A little talk of better days,
A little hope my own to raise,
For I was sunk in silence—lost
In this last loss, of all the most;
And then the sighs he would suppress
Of fainting nature's feebleness,
More slowly drawn, grew less and less:
I listen'd, but I could not hear—
I call'd, for I was wild with fear:
I knew 'twas hopeless, but my dread
Would not be thus admonished;
I call'd, and thought I heard a sound—
I burst my chain with one strong bound,
And rush'd to him;—I found him not,
I only stirr'd in this black spot,
I only lived—I only drew
The accursed breath of dungeon-dew:
The last—the sole—the dearest link
Between me and the eternal brink,
Which bound me to my falling race,
Was broken in this fatal place.
One on the earth, and one beneath—
My brothers—both had ceased to breathe;
I took that hand which lay so still;
Alas! my own was full as chill;
I had not strength to stir, or strive,
But felt that I was still alive—
A frantic feeling, when we know
That what we love shall ne'er be so.
I know not why
I could not die,
I had no earthly hope—but faith,
And that forbade a selfish death.

IX.
What next befell me then and there
I know not well—I never knew—
First came the loss of light, and air,
And then of darkness too:
I had no thought, no feeling—none—
Among the stones I stood a stone,
And was, scarce conscious what I wist,
As shrubless crags within the mist;
For all was blank, and bleak, and gray:
It was not night—it was not day,
It was not even the dungeon-light,
So hateful to my heavy sight,
But vacancy absorbing space,
And fixness—without a place;
There were no stars—no earth—no time—
No check—no change—no good—no crime—
But silence, and a stilly breath
Which neither was of life nor death;
A sea of stagnant idleness,
Blind, boundless mute, and motionless!

X.
A light broke in upon my brain,—
It was the carol of a bird;
It ceased, and then it came again,
The sweetest song ear ever heard,
And mine was thankful till my eyes
Ran over with the glad surprise,
And they that moment could not see
I was the mate of misery;
But then by dull degrees came back
My senses to their wonted track

I saw the dungeon walls and floor
Close slowly round me as before,
I saw the glimmer of the sun
Creeping as it before had done,
But through the crevice where it came
That bird was perch'd, as fond and tame,
And tamer than upon the tree;
A lovely bird, with azure wings,
And song that said a thousand things,
And seem'd to say them all for me!
I never saw its like before,
I ne'er shall see its likeness more:
It seem'd like me to want a mate,
But was not half so desolate,
And it was come to love me when
None lived to love me so again,
And cheering from my dungeon's brink,
Had brought me back to feel and think.
I know not if it late were free,
Or broke its cage to perch on mine,
But knowing well captivity,
Sweet bird! I could not wish for thine,
Or if it were, in winged guise,
A visitant from Paradise;
For—Heaven forgive that thought! the while
Which made me both to weep and smile—
I sometimes deem'd that it might be
My brothers soul come down to me:
But then at last away it flew,
And then 'twas mortal—well I knew,
For he would never thus have flown,
And left me twice so doubly lone,—
Lone—as the corpse within its shroud,
Lone—as a solitary cloud,
A single cloud on a sunny day,
While all the rest of heaven is clear,
A frown upon the atmosphere,
That hath no business to appear
When skies are blue, and earth is gay.

XI.
A kind of change came in my fate,
My keepers grew compassionate,
I know not what had made them so,
They were inured to sights of wo,
But so it was—my broken chain
With links unfasten'd did remain,
And it was liberty to stride
Along my cell from side to side,
And up and down, and then athwart,
And tread it over every part;
And round the pillars one by one,
Returning where my walk began,
Avoiding only, as I trod,
My brothers' graves without a sod;
For if I thought with heedless tread
My step profan'd their lowly bed,
My breast came gaspingly and thick,
And my crush'd heart fell blind and sick.

XII.
I made a footing in the wall,
It was not therefrom to escape,
For I had buried one and all,
Who loved me in a human shape;
And the whole earth would henceforth be
A wider prison unto me;
No child—no sire—no kin had I,
No partner in my misery;
I thought of this, and I was glad,
For thought of them had made me mad;
But I was curious to ascend
To my barr’d windows, and to bend
Once more, upon the mountains high,
The quiet of a loving eye.

XIII.
I saw them—and they were the same,
They were not changed like me in frame;
I saw their thousand years of snow
Or, high—their wide long lake below,
And the blue Rhone in fullest blow;
I heard the torrents leap and rush
O’er channel’d rock and broken bush;
I saw the white-wall’d distant town,
And whiter sails go skimming down;
And then there was a little isle,
Which is, my very face did smile,
The only one in view;
A small green isle, it seem’d no more,
Scarce broader than my dungeon floor;
But in it there were three tall trees,
And o’er it blew the mountain breeze,
And by it there were waters flowing,
And on it there were young flowers growing
Of gentle breath and hue.
The fish swam by the castle wall,
And they seem’d joyous each and all;
The eagle rode the rising blast,
Methought he never flew so fast
As then to me he seem’d to fly,
And then new tears came in my eye,
And I felt troubled—and would fain
I had not left my recent chain;
And when I did descend again,
The darkness of my dim abode
Fell on me as a heavy load:
It was as is a new-dug grave,
Closing o’er one we sought to save,
And yet my glance, too much oppressed,
Had almost need of such a rest.

XIV.
It might be months, or years, or days
I kept no count—I took no note,
I had no hope my eyes to raise,
And clear them of their dreary view;
At last men came to set me free,
I ask’d not why, and reck’d not where.
It was at length the same to me,
Fetter’d or fetterless to be,
I learn’d to love despair.
And thus when they appear’d at last,
And all my bonds aside were cast,
These heavy walls to me had grown
A hermitage—and all my own!
And half I felt as they were come
To tear me from a second home:
With spiders I had friendship made,
And watch’d them in their sullen trade.
Had seen the mice by moonlight play,
And why should I feel less than they?
We were all inmates of one place,
And I, the monarch of each race,
Had power to kill—yet, strange to tell
In quiet we had learn’d to dwell—
My very chains and I grew friends,
So much a long communion tends
To make us what we are—even I
Regain’d my freedom with a sigh.

NOTES TO THE PRISONER OF CHILLON.

1. By Bonnivard!—may none those marks efface!
Page 183, line 13.
Francois de Bonnivard, fils de Louis de Bonnivard, originaire de Seyscel et Seigneur de Lunes, naquit en 1496; il fit ses études à l’université de Genève.
Il est très curieux de noter que le texte que nous avons cité est en fait une citation directe de la Histoire de Genève de St. Victor, qui aborde plusieurs aspects de la vie de Bonnivard. Il est évident que l'auteur du poème a fait preuve d’une grande préparation et d’une connaissance approfondie du sujet. Sa vision du passé est enrichie par une compréhension profonde des idées et des personnalités de l'époque. Cela en fait un travail d'écriture puissant et inspirant.
NOTES TO THE PRISONER OF CHILLON

Bonnivard, encore jeune, s'annonça hautement comme le défenseur de Genève contre le Duc de Savoie et l'Évêque.

En 1518, Bonnivard devint le martyr de sa patrie. Le Duc de Savoie, tant entré dans Genève avec cinq cent hommes, Bonnivard criaît le ressentiment du Duc; il voulut se retirer à Fribourg pour éviter les suites; mais il fut traîné par deux hommes qui l'accompagnaient, et conduit par ordre du Prince à Grolé où il resta prisonnier pendant deux ans. Bonnivard eût malheureux dans ses voyages; comme ses malheurs n'avoient point ralenti son zèle pour Genève, il eût toujours un ennemi redoutable pour ceux qui le menaçaient, et par consequent il levoit être exposé à leurs coups. Il fut rencontré en 1530 sur le Jura, par des voleurs, qui le dépouillaient, et qui le mirèrent encore entre les mains du Château de Chillon, où il resta sans être interrogé jusqu'en 1535; il fut alors livré par les Bernois, qui s'emparaient du Pays de Vaud.

Bonnivard, en sortant de sa captivité, eut le plaisir de trouver Genève libre et réformée; la République s'empressa de lui reconnaître sa reconnaissance et de le dédommager des maux qu'il avait soufferts; elle le rétablit Bourgeois de la ville au mois de Juin 1536; elle lui donna la maison habitée autrefois par le Vicaire général, et elle lui assigna une pension de 200 fans d'où tant qu'il séjournerait à Genève. Il fut admis dans le Conseil de Deux-Cents en 1537.

Bonnivard n'a pas fini d'être utile: appréc avoir travaillé à rendre Genève libre, il réussit à la rendre tolérante. Bonnivard engagea le Conseil à accorder aux Églises-théologiques et aux paysans un temps suffisant pour examiner les propositions qu'on leur faisait: il réussit par sa douceur: on prêche toujours le Christianisme avec succès quand on le prêche avec charité.

Bonnivard fut savant; ses manuscrits, qui sont dans la Bibliothèque publique, prouvent qu'il avait bien lu les auteurs classiques latins, et qu'il avait approfondi la théologie et l'Histoire. Ce grand homme aimait les sciences, et il croyait qu'elles pouvaient faire la gloire de Genève; aussi il ne dédaigna rien pour les fixer dans cette ville natale; en 1531 il donna sa bibliothèque au public; elle fut le commencement de notre bibliothèque publique; et ces livres sont en partie les rares et belles éditions du quinzième siècle qu'on voit dans notre collection. Enfin, pendant la même année, ce bon patriote institua la République son héritière à condition qu'elle emploierait ses biens à entretenir le collège dont on projetait la fondation.

Il paroit que Bonnivard mourut en 1570; mais on ne peut l'assurer, parce qu'il y a une lacune dans le Nécrologe depuis le mois de Juillet 1570 jusqu'en 1671.

In a single night.

Page 133, line 17.

Ludovico Sforza, and others.—The same is asserted of Marie Antoinette’s, the wife of Louis XVI, though not in quite so short a period. Grief is said to have the same effect to such, and not to fear this change in hers was to be attributed.

From Chillon’s snow-white settlement.

Page 184, line 43.

The Château de Chillon is situated between Clarens and Villeneuve, which last is at one extremity of the Lake of Geneva. On its left are the entrances of the Rhône, and opposite are the heights of Montreux and the range of Alps above Berozet and St. Gingy.

Near it, on a hill behind, is a torrent; below it, washing its walls, the lake has been fathomed to the depth of eight hundred feet. (French measure;) within it are a range of dungeons, in which the early reformers, and subsequently prisoners of state, were confined. Across one of the vaults is a beam black with age, on which we were informed that the condemned were formerly executed. In the cells are seven pillars, or rather, eight, one being half merged in the wall, in some of these are rings for the fetters and the fettered; in the pavement the steps of Bonnivard have left their traces—he was confined here several years.

It is by this castle that Rousseau has fixed the catastrophe of his Heloise, in the rescue of one of her children by Julie from the water; the shock of which, and the illness produced by the immersion is the cause of her death.

The château is large, and seen along the lake for a great distance. The walls are white.

And then there was a little isle.

Page 186, line 10.

Between the entrances of the Rhône and Villeveau, not far from Chillon, is a very small island; the only one I could perceive, in my voyage round and over the lake, within its circumference. It contains a few trees, (I think not above three,) and from its singleness and diminutive size has a peculiar effect upon the view.

When the foregoing poem was composed, I was not sufficiently aware of the history of Bonnivard, or I should have endeavored to dignify the subject by an attempt to celebrate his courage and his virtues. Some account of his life will be found in a note appended to the “Sonnet on Chillon,” with which I have been furnished by the kindness of a citizen of that Republic, which is still proud of the memory of a man worthy of the best age of ancien freedom.”
BEPPO;

A VENETIAN STORY.

1st known. Farewell, Monteverdi Traveller; Look you beg, and wear strange suits: disable all the benefits of your
own country; be out of love with your Nativitie, and almost chide God for making you that countenance you are; or I
will scarce think that you have swam in a Convales.--As You Like It, Act IV. Sc. I.

Annotation of the Commentators.

That is, been at Venice, which was much visited by the young English gentlemen of those times, and was then what
Porta is now—the seat of all dissoluteness.—B. A.

I.
All countries, at least it should be, that throughout
the Catholic persuasion,
Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about,
The people take their fill of recreation,
and buy repentance, ere they grow devout,
However high their rank, or low their station,
With fiddling, feasting, drinking, masking,
And other things which may be had for asking.

II.
The moment night with dusky mantle covers
The skies, (and the more duskyly the better,)
The time less liked by husbands than by lovers.
Begins, and prudery flings aside her fetter;
And gayety on restless tiptoe hovers,
Giggling with all the gallants who beget her;
And there are songs and quavers, roaring, humming,
Guitars, and every other sort of strumming.

III.
And there are dresses splendid, but fantastical,
Masks of all times and nations, Turks and Jews,
And harlequins and clowns, with feats gymnastical,
Greens, Romans, Yankee-doodles, and Hindoos;
All kinds of dress, except the ecclesiastical,
All people, as their fancies hit, may choose,
But no one in these parts may quiz the clergy,
Therefore take heed, ye Freethinkers! I charge ye.

IV.
You'd better walk about begirt with briers,
Instead of coat and small-clothes, than put on
A single stitch reflecting upon friars,
Although you swore it only was in fun;
They'd haul you o'er the coals, and stir the fires
Of Phlegathon with every mother's son.
No, say one mass to cool the caldron's bubble
That boil'd your bones, unless you paid them double.

V.
But saving this, you may put on what'ever
You like by way of doublet, cape, or cloak,
Such as in Monmouth-street, or in Rag Fair
Would rig you out in seriousness or joke;
And even in Italy such places are,
With prettier name in softer accents spoke,
For, baiting Covent Garden, I can hit on
No place that's call'd "Piazza!" in Great Britain.

VI.
This feast is named the Carnival, which being
Interpreted, implies "farewell to flesh;"—
So call'd, because the name and thing agreeing,
Through Lent they live on fish both salt and fresh,
But why they usher Lent with so much glee in,
Is more than I call to, although I guess
'Tis as we take a glass with friends at parting,
In the stage-coach or packet just at starting.

VII.
And thus they bid farewell to carnal dishes,
And solid meats, and highly spiced ragouts,
To live for forty days on ill-dress'd fishes,
Because they have no sauces to their stews,
A thing which causes many "poohs" and "pishes;"
And several oaths which would not suit the Muse
From travellers accustomed to a boy
To eat their salmon, at the least, with soy;

VIII.
And therefore humbly I would recommend
"The curious in fish-sauce," before they cross
The sea, to bid their cook, or wife, or friend,
Walk or ride to the Strand, and buy in gross.
(Or if set out beforehand, these may send
By any means least liable to loss,
Ketchup, Soy, Chili-vinegar, and Harvey,
Or, by the Lord! a Lent will well nigh starve ye,
IX.
That is to say, if your religion's Roman,
And you at Rome would do as Romans do,
According to the proverb,—although no man,
If foreign, is obliged to fast; and you,
If Protestant, or sickly, or a woman,
Would rather dine in sin on a ragout—
Dine and be d—d! I don't mean to be coarse,
But that's the penalty, to say no worse.

X.
Of all the places where the Carnival
Was most facetious in the days of yore,
For dance, and song, and serenade, and ball,
And masque, and mine, and mystery, and more
Than I have time to tell now, or at all,
Venice the bell from every city bore,
And at the moment when I fix my story
That seaborne city was in all her glory.

XI.
They've pretty faces yet, those same Venetians,
Blacks eye, arch'd brows, and sweet expressions
still;
Such as of old were copied from the Grecians,
In ancient arts by moderns mimick'd ill;
And like so many Venus of Titian's,
(The best's at Florence—see it, if ye will,) They look when leaning over the balcony,
Or stepp'd from out a picture by Giorgione,

XII.
Whose tints are truth and beauty at their best;
And when you to Manfrini's palace go,
That picture (howsoever fine the rest)
Is loveliest to my mind of all the show;
It may perhaps be also to your zest,
And that's the cause I rhyme upon it so;
'Tis but the portait of his son, and wife,
And self; but such a woman! love in life.

XIII.
Love in full life and length, not love ideal,
No, nor ideal beauty, that fine name,
But something better still, so very real,
That the sweet model must have been the same;
A thing that you would purchase, beg, or steal,
Wor't not impossible, besides a shame:
The face recalls some face, as 'twere with pain,
You once have seen but ne'er will see again;

XIV.
One of those forms which fit us, when we
Are young, and fix our eyes on every face;
And, Oh! the loveliness at times we see
In momentary gliding, the soft grace,
The youth, the bloom, the beauty which agree,
In many a nameless being we retrace,
Whose course and home we knew not, nor shall know
Like the lost Pleiad I seen no more below.

XV.
I said that like a picture by Giorgione
Venetian women were, and so they are,
Particularly seen from a balcony,
(For beauty's sometimes best set off afar,) And there, just like a heroine of Goldoni,
They peep from out the blind, or o'er the bar;
And truth to say, they're mostly very pretty,
And rather like to show it, more's the pity!

XVI.
For glances beget ogles, ogles sighs,
Sighs wishes, wishes words, and words a letter,
Which flies on wings of light-heel'd Mercuaries,
Who do such things because they know no better
And then, God knows, what mischief may arise,
When love links two young people in one fetter,
Vile assignations, and adulterous beds,
Elopements, broken vows, and hearts, and heads.

XVII.
Shakspeare described the sex in Desdemona
As very fair, but yet suspect in fame,
And to this day from Venice to Verona
Such matters may be probably the same,
Except that since those times was never known a
Husband whom mere suspicion could inflame
To suffocate a wife no more than twenty,
Because she had a 'e cavalier servente.'

XVIII.
Their jealousy (if they are ever jealous)
Is of a fair complexion altogether,
Not like that sotty devil of Othello's,
Which smoothers women in a bed of feather,
But worthier of these much more jolly fellows.
When weary of the matrimonial tether,
His head for such a wife no mortal bothers
But takes at once another, or another's.

XIX.
Didst ever see a gondola? For fear
You should not, I'll describe it you exactly:
'Tis a long cover'd boat that's common here,
Carved at the prow, built lightly, but compactly
Row'd by two rowers, each call'd 'Gondolier,'
It glides along the water looking blackly,
Just like a coffin clapt in a canoe,
Where none can make out what you say or do.

XX.
And up and down the long canals they go,
And under the Rialto shoot along,
By night and day, all paces, swift or slow,
And round the theatres, a sable throng,
They wait in their dusk livery of wo,
But not to them do woful things belong,
For sometimes they contain a deal of fun,
Like mourning coaches when the funeral's done.

XXI.
But to my story.—'Twas some years ago,
It may be thirty, forty, more or less,
The carnival was at its height, and so
Were all kinds of buffoonery and dress;
A certain lady went to see the show,
Her real name I know not, nor can guess,
And so we'll call her Laura, if you please,
Because it slips into my verse with ease.

XXII.
She was not old, nor young, nor at the years
Which certain people call a 'certain age,'
Which yet the most uncertain age appears,
Because I never heard, nor could engage
A person yet by prayers, or bribes, or tears,
To name, define by speech, or write on page,
The period meant precisely by that word.—
Which surely is exceedingly absurd.
XXIII.
Laura was blooming still, had made the best
Of time, and time return'd the compliment,
And treated her gently, so that, drest,
She look'd extremely well where'er she went:
A pretty woman is a welcome guest,
And Laura's brow a brow had rarely bent,
Indeed she shone all smiles, and seem'd to flatter
Mankind with her black eyes for looking at her

XXIV.
She was a married woman; 'tis convenient,
Because in Christian countries 'tis a rule
To view their little slips with eyes more lenient,
Whereas, if single ladies play the fool,
(Unless within the period intervenient
A well-timed wedding makes the scandal cool)
I don't know how they ever can get over it,
Except they manage never to discover it.

XXV.
Her husband sail'd upon the Adriatic,
And made some voyages, too, in other seas,
And when he lay in quarantine for prattique,
(A forty days' precaution 'gainst disease,
His wife would mount, at times, her highest attic,
For thence she could discern the ship with ease.
He was a merchant trading to Aleppo,
His name Giuseppe, call'd more bready, Beppo.

XXVI.
He was a man as dusky as a Spaniard,
Sunburnt with travel, yet a portly figure;
Though color'd, as it were, within a tanyard,
He was a person both of sense and vigor—
A better seaman never yet did man yard;
And she, although her manners show'd no rigor,
Was deem'd a woman of the strictest principle,
So much as to be thought almost invincible.

XXVII.
But several years elapsed since they had met;
Some people thought the ship was lost, and some
That he had somehow blunder'd into debt,
And did not like the thought of steering home;
And there were several offer'd any bet,
Or that he would, or that he would not come,
For most men (till by losing render'd sager)
Will back their own opinions with a wager.

XXVIII.
'Tis said that their last parting was pathetic,
As partings often are, or ought to be,
And their presentiment was quite prophetic
That they should never more each other see,
(A sort of morbid feeling, half poetic,
Which I have known occur in two or three,) When kneeling on the shore upon her sad knee,
He left his Adriatic Ariadne.

XXIX.
And Laura waited long, and wept a little,
And thought of wearing weeds, as well she might;
She almost lost all appetite for victual,
And could not sleep with ease alone at night;
She deem'd the window-frames and shutters brittle
Against a daring housebreaker or sprite,
And so she thought it prudent to connect her
With a vice-husband, chiefly to protect her.

XXX.
She chose, (and what is there they will not choose
If only you will but oppose their choice?)
Till Beppo should return from his long cruise,
And bid once more her faithful heart rejoice,
A man some women like, and yet abuse—
A coxcomb was he by the public voice;
A count of wealth, they said, as well as quality,
And in his pleasures of great liberality.

XXXI.
And then he was a count, and then he knew
Music, and dancing, fiddling, French, and Tuscan
The last, not easy, be it known to you,
For few Italians speak the right Etruscan.
He was a critic upon operas, too,
And knew all niceties of the sock and buskin,
And no Venetian audience could endure a
Song, scene, or air, when he cried "seccatura"

XXXII.
His "bravo" was decisive, for that sound
Hush'd "academia" sigh'd in silent awe;
The fiddlers trembled as he look'd around,
For fear of some false note's detected flaw;
The "prima donna's" tuneful heart would bound,
Dreading the deep damnation of his "bah!"
Soprano, basso, even the contra-alto,
Wish'd him five fathoms under the Rialto.

XXXIII.
He patronized the Improvisatori,
Nay, could himself extemporize some stanzas,
Wrote rhymes, sung songs, could also tell a story,
Sold pictures, and was skilful in the dance as
Italians can be, though in this their glory
Must surely yield the palm to that which France
In short, he was a perfect cavaliero,
And to his very valet seem'd a hero.

XXXIV.
Then he was faithful, too, as well as amorous,
So that no sort of female could complain,
Although they're now and then a little clamorous,
He never put the pretty souls in pain;
His heart was one of those which most enamour us
Wax to receive, and marble to retain.
He was a lover of the good old school,
Who still become more constant as they cool.

XXXV.
No wonder such an accomplishments should turn
A female head, however sage and steady—
With scarce a hope that Beppo could return,
In law he was almost as good as dead, he
Nor sent, nor wrote, nor show'd the least concern,
And she had waited several years already;
And really if a man won't let us know
That he's alive, he's dead, or should be so.

XXXVI.
Besides, within the Alps, to every woman,
(Although, God knows, it is a grievous sin,
'Tis, I may say, permitted to have two men;
I can't tell who first brought the custom in,
But "Cavalier Serventes" are quite common.
And no one notices, nor cares a pin;
And we may call this (not to say the worst),
A second marriage which corrupts the first.
XXXVII.
The word was formerly a "Cicisbeo,"
But that is now grown vulgar and indecent;
The Spaniards call the person a "Cortoso," (recent; For the same mode subsists in Spain, though
In short it reaches from the Po to Tejo,
And may perhaps at last be o'er the sea sent.
But Heaven preserve Old England from such
counsels!
Or what becomes of damage and divorces?

XXXVIII.
However, I still think, with all due deference
To the fair single part of the creation,
That married ladies should preserve the preference
In late-a-while or general conversation—
And this I say without peculiar reference
To England, France, or any other nation—
Because they know the world, and are at ease,
And being natural, naturally please.

XXXIX.
Tis true your budding Miss is very charming,
But shy and awkward at first coming out,
So much alarm'd that she is quite alarming,
All Giggle, Blush; half Pertness, and half Pout;
And glancing at Mammon, for fear there's harm in
What you, she, it, or they may be about,
The Nursery still lips out in all they utter—
Besides, they always smell of bread and butter.

XL.
But "Cavalier Servente" is the phrase
Used in politest circles to express
This supernumerary slave, who stays
Close to the lady as a part of dress,
Her word the only law which he obeys.
His is no sincere, as you may guess;
Chair, servants, gondola, he goes to call,
And carries fan and tippet, gloves and shawl.

XLI.
With all its sinful doings, I must say,
That Italy's a pleasant place to me,
Who love to see the Sun shine every day,
And vines (not nail'd to walls) from tree to tree
Pestoon'd, much like the back scene of a play,
or melodrame, which people flock to see,
When the first act is ended by a dance
In vineyards copied from the south of France.

XLII.
I like on Autumn evenings to ride out,
Without being forced to bid my groom be sure
My cloak is round his middle strapp'd about,
Because the skies are not the most secure;
I know too that, if stopp'd upon my route,
Where the green alleys w windingly allure,
Reeling with grapes red wagons choke the way,—
In England 'twould be dunt, dust, or a dray.

XLIII.
I also like to dine on beefsteaks,
To see the Sun set, sure he'll rise to-morrow,
Not through a misty morning twinkling weak
As a drunken man's dead eye in maudlin sorrow,
But with all Heaven t' himself; that day will break as
Seateous as cloudless, nor be forced to borrow
That sort of farthing candlelight which glimmers
Where reeking Lond'n's smoky caldron simmers.

XLIV.
I love the language, that soft bastard Latin,
Which melts like kisses from a female mouth,
And sounds as if it should be writ on satin,
With syllables which breathe of the sweet South.
And gentle liquids gliding all so pat in,
That not a single accent seems uncouth,
Like our harsh northern whistling, granting guttural,
Which we're obliged to hiss, and spit, and sputter all.

XLV.
I like the women too, (forgive my folly)
From the rich peasant cheek of ruddy bronze,
And large black eyes that flash on you a valley
Of rays that say a thousand things at once,
To the high dam's brow, more melancholy,
But clear, and with a wild and liquid glance,
Heart on her lips, and soul within her eyes,
Soft as her clime, and sunny as her skies.

XLVI.
Eve of the land which still is Paradise!
Italian beauty! didst thou not inspire
Raphael, who died in thy embrace, and vies
With all we know of Heaven, or can desire,
In what he hath bequeath'd us?—in what guise
Though flashing from the fervor of the lyre,
Would words describe thy past and present glow
While yet Canova can create below?*

XLVII.
"England! with all thy faults I love thee still"*
I said at Calais, and have not forgot it;
I like to speak and lucubrate my fill;
I like the government, (but that is not it)
I like the freedom of the press and quill;
I like the Habeas Corpus, (when we've got it)
I like a parliamentary debate,
Particularly when 'tis not too late:

XLVIII.
Like the taxes, when they're not too many,
I like a coal-steel fire, when not too dear;
I like a beef-steak, too, as well as any;
Have no objection to a pot of beer;
I like the weather, when it is not rainy;
That is, I like two months of every year.
And so God save the Regent, Church, and King
Which means that I like all and every thing.

XLIX.
Our standing army, and disbanded seamen,
Poor's rate, Reform, my own, the nation's debt.
Our little riots just to show we are free men.
Our trifling bankruptcies in the Gazette,
Our cloudy climate, and our chilly women,
All these I can forgive, and those forget,
And greatly venerate our recent glories,
And wish they were not owing the Tories.

* Note.
(In talking thus, the writer, more especially
Of women, would be understood to say,
He spoke as a spectator, not officially,
And always, reader, in a mocking way;
Perhaps, too, in no very great degree shall be
Appear to have offended in this lay,
Since, as all know, without the sex, our sentences
Would seem unsatisfy'd like their unmind'd breasts.)
(Signed)
Princes a Death.
L.
But to my tale of Laura,—for I find
Digression is a sin, that by degrees
Becomes exceeding tedious to my mind,
And, therefore, may the reader too displease—
The gentle reader, who may wax unkind,
And caring little for the author's ease,
Insist on knowing what he means, a hard
And hapless situation for a bard.

Oh that I had the art of easy writing
What should be easy reading! could I scale
Parnassus, where the Muses sit inditing
Those pretty poems, never known to fall,
How quickly would I print, (the world delighting,)
A Grecian, Syrian, or Assyrian tale:
And sell you, mix'd with western sentimentism,
Sane samples of the first Orientalism.

But I am but a nameless sort of person,
(A broken Dandy lately on my travels,)
And take for rhyme, to hook my rambling verse on,
The first that Walker's Lexicon unravels,
And when I can't find that, I put a worse on,
Not caring as I ought for critics' civilities;
I've a half mind to tumble down to prose,
But verse is more in fashion—so here goes.

The Count and Laura made their new arrangement,
Which lasted, as arrangements sometimes do,
For half a dozen years without estrangement;
They had their little differences; too;
Those jealous whiffs, which never any change meant:
In such affairs there probably are few
Who have not had this pouting sort of squabble,
From sinners of high station to the rabble.

But on the whole, they were a happy pair,
As happy as unlawful love could make them;
The gentleman was fond, the lady fair,
Their chains so slight, 'twas not worth while to break them:
The world beheld them with indulgent air;
The pious only wish'd "the devil take them!"
He took them not; he very often waits,
And leaves old sinners to be young one's baits.

But they were young; Oh! what without our youth
Would love be! What would youth be without love!
Youth lends it joy, and sweetness, vigor, truth,
Heart's soul, and all that seems as from above:
But, languishing with years, it grows uncouth—
One of few things experience don't improve,
Which is, perhaps, the reason why 'd fellows
Are always so preposterously jealous.

It was the Carnival, as I have said
Some six and thirty stanzas back, and so
Laura the usual preparations made,
Which you do when your mind's made up to go
To-night to Mrs. Boehm's masquerade,
Spectator, or partaker in the show;
The only difference known between the cases
Is—here, we have six weeks of "varnish'd faces."

Laura, when drest, was (as I sang before)
A pretty woman as was ever seen,
Fresh as the Angel o'er a new inn door,
Or frontispiece of a new Magazine,
With all the fashions which the last month wore,
Color'd, and silver paper leaved between
That and the title-page, for fear the press
Should soil with words of speech the parts of dress.

They went to the Ridotto;—'tis a ball
Where people dance, and sup, and dance again;
Its proper name, perhaps, was a masqued ball,
But that's of no importance to my strain;
'Tis (on a smaller scale) like our Vauxhall,
Excepting that it can't be spoilt by rain:
The company is "mix'd," (the phrase I quote so
As much as saving, they're below your notice;)

For a "mix'd company" implies that, save
Yourself and friends, and half a hundred more
Whom you may bow to without looking grave,
The rest are but a vulgar set, the bore
Of public places, where they basely brave
The fashionable stare of twenty score
Of well-bred persons, call'd "the World;" but I
Although I know them, really don't know why

This is the case in England; at least was
During the dynasty of Dandies, now
Perchance succeeded by some other class
Of imitated imitators—how
Irreparably soon decline, alas!
The demagogues of fashion: all below
Is frail; how easily the world is lost
By love, or war, and now and then by frost.

Crush'd was Napoleon by the northern Thor,
Who knock'd his army down with icy hammer,
Stopp'd by the elements, like a whaler, or
A blundering novice in his new French grammar.
Good cause had he to doubt the chance of war.
And as for Fortune—but I dare not d— a her,
Because, were I to ponder to infinity,
The more I should believe in her divinity.

She rules the present, past, and all to be yet,
She gives us luck in lotteries, love, and marriage.
I cannot say that she's done much for me yet;
Nor that I mean her bounties to disparage,
We've not yet closed accounts, and we shall see yet
How much she'll make amends for past miscarriage;
Meantime the goddess I'll no more important,
Unless to thank her when she's made my fortune.

To turn,—and to return,—the devil take it!
This story slips for ever through my fingers,
Because, just as the stanza likes to make it,
It needs must be—and so it rather lingers;
This form of verse began, I can't well break it,
But must keep time and tune like public singer;
But if I once get through my present measure,
I'll take another when I'm next at leisure.
LXIV.
They went to the Ridotto, ('tis a place To which I mean to go myself to-morrow, Just to divert my thoughts a little space, Because I'm rather hippish, and may borrow Some spirits, guessing at what kind of face May luck beneath each mask, and as my sorrow Slackens its pace sometimes, I'll make, or find, Some thing shall leave it half an hour behind.)

LXV.
Now Laura moves along the joyous crowd, Smiles in her eyes, and simpers on her lips; To some she whispers, others speaks aloud; To some she curtsies, and to some she dips, Complaints of warmth, and this complaint avow'd, Her lover brings the lemonade, she sips; She then surveys, condemns, but pities still Her dearest friends for being drest so ill.

LXVI.
One has false curls, another too much paint, "A third—where did she buy that frightful turban? A fourth so pale she fears she's going to faint, A fifth's look's vulgar, dowdyish, and suburban, A sixth's white silk has got a yellow taint, A seventh's thin muslin surely will be her bane, And lo! an eighth appears,—'twill see no more!" For fear, like Banquo's kings, they reach a score.

LXVII.
Meantime, while she was thus at others gazing, Others were levelling their looks at her; She heard the men's half-whisper'd mode of praising, And, till 'twas done, determined not to stir; The women only thought it quite amazing That at her time of life so many were admirers still,—but men are so debased, Those brazen creatures always suit their taste.

LXVIII.
For my part, now, I ne'er could understand Why naughty women— but, don't discuss A thing which is a scandal to the land, I only don't see why it should be thus; And if I were but in a gown and band, Just to entitle me to make a fuss, I'd preach on this till Wilberforce and Romilly Should quote in their next speeches from my homily.

LXIX.
While Laura thus was seen and seeing, smiling, Talking, she knew not why and cared not what, So that her female friends, with envy broiling, Beheld her airs and triumph, and all that; And well drest males still kept before her filing, And passing bow'd and mingled with her chat; More than the rest one person seem'd to stare With pertinacity that's rather rare.

LXX.
He was a Turk, the color of mahogany; And Laura saw him, and at first was glad, Because the Turks so much admire philogyny, Although their usage of their wives is sad; 'Tis sa'd they use no better than a dog any Poor woman, whom they purchase like a pad: They have a number, though they ne'er exhibit 'em, Four wives by law, and conclude "ad libitum."

LXXI.
They lock them up, and veil, and gnar' them daily, They scarcely can behold their male relations, So that their moments do not pass so gaily As is supposed the case with northern nations; Confine'ment, too, must make them look quite pale, And as the Turks after long conversations, Their days are either past in doing nothing, Or bathing, nursing, making love, and clothing.

LXXII.
They cannot read, and so don't lip in criticism; Nor write, and so they don't affect the muse; Were never caught in epigram or witticism, Have no romances, sermons, plays, reviews,— In harams learning soon would make a pretty schiera But luckily these beauties are no "blues," No bustling Botherbys have they to show 'em "That charming passage in the last new poem."

LXXIII.
No solemn, antique gentleman of rhyme, Who having angled all his life for fame, And getting but a nibble at a time, Still fussily keeps fishing on, the same Small "Triton of the minnows," the sublime Of mediocrity, the furious tame, The echo's echo, usher of the school Of female wits, boy bards,—in short, a fool!

LXXIV.
A talking oracle of awful phrase, [laws] The approving "Good!" (by no means good in Humming like flies around the newest blaze, The bluest of bluebottles you e'er saw, Teasing with blame, exculcating with praise, Gorging the little fame he gets all raw, Translating tongues he knows not even by letter, And sweating plays so middling, bad were better.

LXXV.
One hates an author that's all author, fellows In foolscap uniforms turn'd up with ink, So very anxious, clever, fine, and jealous, One don't know what to say to them, or think, Unless to puff them with a pair of bellows; Of coxcombry's worst coxcomb e'en the pink Are preferable to these shreds of paper, These unquench'd snuffings of the midnight taper.

LXXVI.
Of these same we see several, and of others, Men of the world, who know the world like men Scott, Rogers, Moore, and all the better brothers, Who think of something else besides the pen; But for the children of the "mighty mother," The would-be wits and can't-be gentlemen, I leave them to their daily "tea is ready," Smug coterie, and literary lady.

LXXVII.
The poor dear Mussulwomen whom I mention Have none of these instructive pleasant people And one would seem to them a new invention, Unknown as belis within a Turkish steetle; I think 'twould almost be worth while to pension (Though best-sown projects very often reap ill A missionary author, just to preach) Our Christian usage of the parts of speech.
LXXVIII.

No chemistry for them unfolds her gasses,
No metaphysics are let loose in lectures,
No circulating library amasses
Religious novels, moral tales, and strictures
Upon the living manners, as they pass us;
No exhibition glares with annual pictures:
They stare not on the stars from out their attics,
Nor deal (thank God for that!) in mathematics.

LXXIX.

Why I thank God for that is no great matter,
I have my reasons, you no doubt suppose,
And as, perhaps, they would not highly flatter,
I’ll keep them for my life (to come) in prose;
I fear I have a little turn for satire,
And yet methinks the older that one grows
Inclines us more to laugh than scold, though laughter
Leaves us so doubly serious shortly after.

LXXX.

Oh, Mirth and Innocence! Oh, Milk and Water!
Ye happy mixtures of more happy days!
In these sad centuries of sin and slaughter,
Abominable Man no more allays
His thirst with such pure beverage.
No matter, I love you both, and both shall have my praise:
Oh, for old Saturn’s reign of sugar-candy!—
Meantime I drink to your return in brandy.

LXXXI.

Our Laura’s Turk still kept his eyes upon her,
Less in the Mussulman than Christian way,
Which seems to say, “Madam, I do you honor,
And while I please to stare, you’ll please to stay.”
Could staring win a woman, this had won her,
But Laura could not thus be led astray;—
She had stood fire too long and well, to boggle
Even at this stranger’s most outlandish ogle.

LXXXII.

The morning now was on the point of breaking,
A turn of time at which I would advise
Ladies who have been dancing, or partaking
In any other kind of exercise,
To make their preparations for forsaking
The ball-room ere the sun begins to rise,
Because when once the lamps and candles fail,
His blushes make them look a little pale.

LXXXIII.

I’ve seen some balls and revels in my time,
And stayed them over for some silly reason,
And then I look’d (I hope it was no crime)
To see what lady best stood out the season;
And though I’ve seen some thousands in their prime,
Lovely and pleasing, and who still may please on,
I never saw but one, (the stars withdrawn,)—
Whose bloom could after dancing dare the dawn.

LXXXIV.

The name of this Aurora I’ll not mention,
Although I might, for she was nought to me
More than that patent work of God’s invention,
A charming woman, whom we like to see;
But writing names would merit reprehension,
Yet if you like to find out this fair she,
At the next London or Parisian ball
You still may mark her cheek, out-blooming all.

LXXXV.

Laura, who knew it would not do at all
To meet the daylight after seven hours’ sitting
Among three thousand people at a ball,
To make her curtesy thought it right and fitting
The Count was at her elbow with her shawl,
And they the room were on the point of quitting
When lo! those cursed gondoliers had got
Just in the very place where they should not.

LXXXVI.

In this they’re like our coachmen, and the cause
Is much the same—the crowd, and pulling hauling.
With blasphemies enough to break their jaws,
They make a never intermittent hawling.
At home, our Bow-street gemmen keep the laws,
And here a sentry stands within your calling;
But for all that, there is a deal of swearing,
And nauseous words past mentioning or bearing

LXXXVII.

The Count and Laura found their boat at last,
And homeward floated o’er the silent tide,
Discussing all the dances gone and past;
The dancers and their dresses, too, beside;
Some little scandals eke: but all agast
(As to their palace stairs the rowsers glide)
Sate Laura by the side of her Adorer,
When lo! the Mussulman was there before her.

LXXXVIII.

“Sir,” said the Count, with brow exceeding grave
“Your unexpected presence here will make
It necessary for myself to crave
Its import? But perhaps ‘tis a mistake;
I hope it is so; and at once to wave
All compliment, I hope so for your sake;
You understand my meaning, or you shall.”
“Sir,” (quothat the Turk,) “‘tis no mistake at all

LXXXIX.

“That lady is my wife!” Much wonder paints
The lady’s changing cheek, as well it might;
But where an Englishwoman sometimes faints,
Italian females don’t do so outright;
They only call a little on their saints,
And then come to themselves, almost or quite,
Which saves much hartshorn, salts, and sprinkling faces,
And cutting stays, as usual in such cases.

XC.

She said,—what could she say? Why not a word
But the Count courteously invited in
The stranger, much appeased by what he heard:
“Such things, perhaps, we’d best desist within,’”
 Said he; “don’t let us make ourselves absurd
In public, by a scene, nor raise a din,
For then the chief and only satisfaction
Will be much quizzing on the whole transaction.”

XCI.

They enter’d, and for coffee call’d—it came,
A beverage for Turks and Christians both,
Although the way they make it’s no* the same.
Now Laura, much recover’d, oh! was loth
To speak, cries “Beppo! what’s your pagan name
Bless me! your beard is of amazing growth.
And how came you to keep away so long?
Are you not sensible ‘twas very wrong?
NOTES TO BEPPO.

XCVII. Himself, and much (heaven knows how gotten) cash
He then embark'd with risk of life and limb,
And got clear off, although the attempt was rash.
He said that Providence protected him—
For my part, I say nothing, lost we clash
In our opinions: well, the ship was trim
Set sail, and kept her reckoning fairly on
Except three days of calm when off Cape Bonn.

XCVIII. They reach'd the island, ne transferr'd his lading
And self and live-stock, to another bottom,
And pass'd for a true Turkey merchant, trading
With goods of various names, but I've forgot 'em.
However, he got off by this evading,
Or else the people would perhaps have shot him,
And thus at Venice landed to reclaim
His wife, religion, house, and Christian name.

XCIX. His wife received, the patriarch rebaptized him,
(He made the church a present by the way;)
He then threw off the garments which disguised him.
And borrow'd the Count's small-clothes for a day;
His friends the more for his long absence prized him.
Finding he'd wherewithal to make them gay
With dinners, where he oft became the laugh of them,
For stories—but I don't believe the half of them.

NOTES TO BEPPO.

1. 

"Cortezo" is pronounced "Cortecho," with an anterior accent, according to the Arabesque guttural. It means what there is as yet no precise name for in England, though the practice is as common as in any tranmontane country whatever.

4. 

Raphael, who died in thy embraces. Page 101, line 19

For the received accounts of the cause of Raphael's death, see his Lives.

1. Like the lost Pleiad, seen no more below.
Page 195, line 48.

Que septem diui sec tamen esse solent."—Ovid.

2. His name Giuseppe, called more briefly, Beppo.
Page 190, line 24.

Beppo is the Joe of the Italian Joseph.

3. The Spaniards call the person a "Cortezo."
Page 191, line 3.
MAZEPHA.

ADVERTISEMENT.

"Celui qui remplissait alors cette place était un gentilhomme Polonais, nommé Mazeppa, né dans le palatinat de Padolle; il avait été élevé page de Jean Casimir, et avait pris à sa cour quelque teinture des belles-lettres. Une intrigue qu'il eut dans sa jeunesse avec la femme d'un gentilhomme Polonais, ayant été découverte, le mari le fit lier tout nu sur un cheval farouche, et le laissa aller en cet état. Le cheval, qui était du pays de l'Ukraine, y retourna, et y porça Mazeppa, demi-mort de fatigue et de fièvre. Quelques paysans le secoururent: il resta longtemps parmi eux, et se signala dans plusieurs courses contre les Tartares. La supériorité de ses lumières lui donna une grande considération parmi les Cosaques: sa réputation s'augmentant de jour en jour, obligea le Czar à le faire Prince de l'Ukraine."—Voltaire, Hist. de Charles XII. p. 196.

"Le roi fuyant et poursuivi eut son cheval tué sous lui; le Colonel Gieta, blessé, et perdant tout son sang, lui donna le sien. Ainsi on remit deux fois à cheval, dans la fuite, ce conquérant qui n'avait pu y monter pendant la bataille."—Voltaire, Hist. de Charles XII. p. 216.

"Le roi alla par un autre chemin avec quelques cavaliers. Le carrosse, où il était, ronhip dans la marche; on le remit à cheval. Pour comble de disgrâce, il s'égarait le soir dans un bois; là, son courage ne pouvant plus suppléer à ses forces épuisées, le douleur de sa blessure devenues plus insupportables par fatigue, son cheval étant tombé de laissitude, il se coucha quelques heures au pied d'un arbre, en danger d'être surpris à tout moment par les vainqueurs qui le cherchaient de tous côtés."—Voltaire, Hist. de Charles XII. p. 218.

I.

'Twas after dread Pultowa's day,
When fortune left the royal Swede,
Around a slaughter'd army lay,
No more to combat and to bleed.
The power and glory of the war,
Faithless as their vain votaries, men,
Had pass'd to the triumphant Czar,
And Moscow's walls were safe again,

Until a day more dark and drear,
And a more memorable year,
Should give to slaughter and to shame,
A mightier host and haughtier name:
A greater wreck, a deeper fall,
A shock to one—a thunderbolt to all.

II.

Such was the hazard of the die;
The wounded Charles was taught to fly
By day and night through field and flood,
Stain'd with his own and subjects blood;
For thousands fell that flight to aid:
And not a voice was heard t' upbraid
Ambition in his humbled hour,
When truth had nought to dread from power,
His horse was slain, and Gieta gave
His own—and died the Russians slave.
This too sinks after many a league
Of well sustained, but vain fatigue;
And in the depth of forests, darkling
The watch-fires in the distance sparkling—
The beacons of surrounding foes—
A king must lay his limbs at length.
Are these the laurels and repose
For which the nations strain their strength!
They laid him by a savage tree,
In outworn nature's agony;
His wounds were stiff—his limbs were stark—
The heavy hour was chill and dark;
The fever in his blood forbade
A transient slumber's fitful aid,
And thus it was; but yet through all,
Kinglike the monarch bore his fall,
And made, in this extreme of ill,
His pangs the vassals of his will;
All silent and subdued were they,
As once the nations round him lay.

III.

A band of chiefs! alas! how few,
Since but the fleeting of a day
Had thinn'd it; but this wreck was true
And chivalrous: upon the clay
Each sate him down, all sad and mute,
Beside his monarch and his steed,
For danger levels man and brute,
And all are fellows in their need.
Among the rest, Mazeppa made
His pillow in an old oak's shade—
Himself as rough, and scarce less old,
The Ukraine's hetman, calm and bold;
But first, outspent with this long course,
The Cossack prince rubb'd down his horse,
And made for him a leafy bed,
And smoothed his fetlocks and his name,
And slack'd his girth, and stripp'd his rein,
And joy'd to see how well he fed;
For until now he had the dread
His wearied courser might refuse
To browse beneath the midnight dews:
But he was hardy as his lord,
And little cared for bed and board;
But spirited and docile too;
Whatever was to be done, would do.
Shaggy and swift, and strong of limb,
All Tartar-like he carried him;
Oberd his voice, and came to call,
And knew him in the midst of all;
Though thousands were around,—and Night,
Without a star, pursued her flight,—
That steed from sunset until dawn
His chief would follow like a fawn.

IV.
This done, Mazeppa spread his cloak,
And laid his lance beneath his oak,
Felt if his arms in order good
The long day's march had well withstood—
If still the powder fill'd the pan,
And flints unloos'd kept their lock—
His sabre's hilt and scabbard felt,
And whether they had chafed his belt—
And next the venerable man,
From out his haversack and can,
Prepared and spread his slender stock;
And to the monarch and his men
The whole or portion offer'd them,
With far less of inquietude
Than courtiers at a banquet would.
And Charles of this his slender share
With smiles partook a moment there,
To force of cheer a greater show,
And seem above both wounds and wo—
And then he said—" Of all our band,
Though firm of heart and strong of hand,
In skirmish, march, or forage, none
Can less have said or more have done
Than thee, Mazeppa! On the earth
So fit a pair had never birth,
Since Alexander's days till now,
As thy Bucephalus and thou:
All Scythia's fame to thine should yield
For pricking on o'er flood and field."
Mazeppa answer'd—"Ill betide
The school wherein I learn'd to ride!"
Quoth Charles—" Old Hetman, wherefore so,
Since thou hast learn'd the art so well?"
Mazeppa said—" Twere long to tell:
And we have many a league to go,
With every now and then a blow,
And ten to one at least the foe,
Before our steeds may graze at ease
Beyond the swift Borysthenes:
And, sire, your limbs have need of rest,
And I will be the sentinel
Of this your troop."—" But I request,

Said Sweden's monarch, "thou wilt tell
This tale of thine, and I may reap,
Perchance, from this the boon of sleep,
For at this moment from my eyes
The hope of present slumber flies."

"Well, sire, with such a hope, I'll track
My seventy years of memory back:
I think 'twas in my twentieth spring,—
Ay, 'twas,—when Casimir was king—
John Casimir,—I was his page
Six summers, in my earlier age;
A learned monarch, faith I was he,
And must unlike your majesty;
He made no wars, and did not gain
New realms to lose them back again;
And (save debates in Warsaw's diet)
He reigned in most unseemly quiet;
Not that he had no cares to vex,
He lov'd the muses and the sex;
And sometimes these so froward are,
They made him wish himself at war,
But soon his wrath being o'er, he took
Another mistress, or new book:
And then he gave prodigious fêtes—
All Warsaw gather'd round his gates
To gaze upon his splendid court,
And dames, and chiefs, of princely port;
He was the Polish Solomon,
So sung his poets, all but one,
Who, being unpassion'd, made a satire,
And boasted that he could not flatter.
It was a court of jests and mimes,
Where every courtier tried at rhymes;
Even I for once produced some verses,
And sign'd my odes Despairing Thirias.
There was a certain Palatine,
A count of fair and high descent,
Rich as a salt or silver mine; *
And he was proud ye may divine,
As if from heaven he had been sent;
He had such wealth in blood and ore
As few could match beneath the throne;
And he would gaze upon his store,
And o'er his pedigree would pore,
Until by some confusion led,
Which almost look'd like want of head,
He thought their merits were his own.
His wife was not of his opinion—
His junior she by thirty years—
Grew daily tired of his dominion;
And, after wishes, hopes, and fears,
To virtue a few farewell tears,
A restless dream or two, some glances
At Warsaw's youth, some songs, and dances
Awaited but the usual chances,
Those happy accidents which render
The coldest dames so very tender,
To deck her Count with titles given,
'Tis said, as passports into heaven;
But, strange to say, they rarely boast
Of these who have deserved them most

V.
"I was a goodly stripling then;
At seventy years I so may say,
That there were few, or boys or men,  
Who, in my dawning time of day,  
Of vassal or of knight's degree,  
Could vie in vanities with me;  
For I had strength, youth, gayety,  
A port, not like to this ye see,  
But smooth, as all is rugged now:  
For time, and care, and war, have plough'd  
My very soul from out my brow;  
And thus I should be disadvow'd  
By all my kind and kin, could they  
Compare my day and yesterday;  
This change was wrought, too, long ere age  
Had ta'en my features for his page:  
With years ye know, have not declined  
My strength, my courage, or my mind,  
Or at this hour I should not be  
Telling old tales beneath a tree,  
With starless skies my canopy.  
But let me on: Theresa's form—  
Methinks it glides before me now,  
Between me and your chestnut's bough,  
The memory is so quick and warm;  
And yet I find no words to tell  
The shape of her I loved so well:  
She had the Asiatic eye,  
Such as our Turkish neighborhood  
Hath mingled with our Polish blood,  
Dark as above us is the sky;  
But through it stole a tender light,  
Like the first moonrise of midnight;  
Large, dark, and swimming in the stream,  
Which seem'd to melt to its own beam;  
All love, half languor, and half fire,  
Like saints that at the stake expire,  
And lift their raptured looks on high,  
As though it were a joy to die.  
A brow like a midsummer lake,  
Transparent with the sun therein,  
When waves no murmur dare to make,  
And heaven beholds her face within.  
A cheek and lip—but why proceed?  
I loved her then—I love her still;  
And such as I am, love indeed  
In fierce extremes—in good and ill.  
But still we love even in our rage,  
And haunted to our very age  
With the vain shadow of the past,  
As is Mazeppa tc the last.

VI.

"We met—we gazed—I saw, and sigh'd,
She did not speak, and yet replied;
There are ten thousand tones and signs
We hear and see, but none defines—
Involuntary sparks of thought,
Which strike from out the heart o'erwrought,
And form a strange intelligence,
Alike mysterious and intense,
Which link the burning chain that binds,
Without their will, young hearts and minds;
Conveying, as the electric wire,
We know not how, the absorbing fire.—
I saw, and sigh'd—in silence wept,
And still reluctant distance kept,
Until I was made known to her,
And we might then and there confer
Without suspicion—then even then
I long'd, and was resolved to speak,
But on my lips they died again,
The accents tremulous and weak,
Until one hour.—There is a game,
A frivolous and foolish play,
Wherewith we while away the day;
It is—I have forgot the name—
And we to this, it seems, were set,
By some strange chance, which I forget.
I reck'd not if I won or lost,
It was enough for me to be
So near to hear, and oh! to see
The being whom I loved the most.—
I watch'd her as a sentinel,
(May ours this dark night watch as well!)  
Until I saw, and thus it was,
That she was pensive, nor perceived
Her occupation, nor was grieved
Nor glad to lose or gain; but still
Play'd on for hours, as if her will
Yet bound her to the place, though not
That hers might be the winning lot.
Then through my brain the thought did past
Even as a flash of lightning there,
That there was something in her air
Which would not doom me to despair;
And on the thought my words broke forth.
All incoherent as they were—
Their eloquence was little worth,
But yet she listened—'twas enough—
Who listens once will listen twice;
Her heart, be sure, is not of ice,
And one refusal no rebuff.

VII.

"I loved, and was beloved again—
They tell me, Sir, you never knew
Those gentle frailties; if 'tis true,
I shorten all my joy or pain;
To you 'twould seem absurd as vain;
But all men are not born to reign,
or o'er their passions, or as you
Thus o'er themselves and nations too.
I am—or rather was—a prince,
A chief of thousands, and could lead
Them on where each would foremost bleed
But could not o'er myself en vive
The like control—But to resume:
I loved, and was beloved again;
In sooth, it is a happy doom,
But yet where happiest ends in pain—
We met in secret, and the hour
Which led me to that lady's bower
Was fiery Expectation's dower.
My days and nights were nothing—all
Except that hour, which doth recall,
In the long lapse from youth to age,
No other like itself—I'd give
The Ukraine back again to live
It o'er once more—and be a page,
The happy page, who was the lord
Of one soft heart, and his own sword,
And had no other gem nor wealth
Save nature's gift of youth and health—
We met in secret—doubly sweet,
Some say, they find it so to meet;
I know not that—I would have given
My life but to have call'd her mine
In the full view of earth and heaven;
MAZEPPE.

For I did oft and long repine
'That we could only meet by stealth.

VIII.

'For lovers there are many eyes,
And such there were on us;—the devil
On such occasions should be civil—
The devil!—I'm loth to do him wrong,
It might be some untoward saint,
Who would not be at rest too long,
But to his pious bile gave vent—
But one fair night, some lurking spies
Surprised and seized us both.
The Count was something more than wroth:
I was unarm'd; but if in steel,
All cap-a-pie from head to heel,
What 'gainst their numbers could I do?—
'Twas near his castle, far away
From city or from succor near,
And almost on the break of day;
I did not tk nk to see another,
My moments seem'd reduced to few;
And with one prayer to Mary Mother,
And, it may be, a saint or two,
As I resign'd me to my fate,
They led me to the castle gate:
Theresa's doom I never knew,
Our lot was henceforth separate.—
An angry man, ye may opine,
Was he, the proud Count Palatine;
And he had reason good to be,
But he was most enraged lest such
An accident should chance to touch
Upon his future pedigree;
Nor less amazed, that such a blot
His noble 'scutcheon should have got,
While he was highest of his line;
Because unto himself he seem'd
The first of men, nor less he deem'd
In others' eyes, and most in mine.
'Beast! with a page—perchance a king
Had reconciled him to our thing;
But with a stripling of a page—
I felt—but cannot paint his rage.

IX.

"Bring forth the horse!"—the horse was brought;
In truth, he was a noble steed,
A Tartar of the Ukraine breed,
Who look'd as though the speed of thought
Were in his limbs; but he was wild,
Wild as the wild deer, and untaught,
With spur and bridle undefiled—
"Twas but a day he had been caught;
And snorting, with erected mane,
And struggling fiercely, but in vain,
In the full foam of wrath and dread
To me the desert-born was led;
They bound me on, that menial throng,
Upon his back with many a thong;
Then lost him with a sudden lash—
Away!—away!—and on we dash!—
Torrents less rapid and less rash.

X.

"Away!—away!—my breath was gone—
I saw not where he hurried on:
'Twas scarcely yet the break of day,
And on he foam'd—away!—away—
The last of human sounds when rose,
As I was darted from my foes,
Was the wild shout of savage laughter,
Which on the wind came roaring after
A moment from that rabble rout:
With sudden wrath I wrench'd my head,
And snapped the cord, which to the mane
Had bound my neck in lieu of rein,
And, writing half my form about,
Howl'd back my curse; but 'midst the tread
The thunder of my courser's speed,
Perchance they did not hear nor heed:
It vexes me—for I would fall
Have paid their insult back again.
I paid it well in after days:
There is not of that castle gate,
Its drawbridge and portcullis' weight,
Stone, bar, moat, bridge, or barrier left;
Nor of its fields a blade of grass,
Save what grows on a ridge of wall,
Where stood the hoarth-stone of the hall;
And many a time ye there might pass,
Nor dream that o'er that fortress was:
I saw its turrets in a blaze,
Their crackling battlements all cif,
And the hot lead pour down like rain
From off the scorched and blackening roof,
Whose thickness was not vengeance-proof.
They little thought that day of pain,
When launch'd, as on the lightning's flash,
They bade me to destruction dash.
That one day I should come again,
With twelve five thousand horse, to thank
The Count for his uncourteous ride.
They play'd me then a bitter prank,
When, with the wild horse for my guide
They bound me to his foaming flank;
At length I play'd them one as frank—
For time at last sets all things even.
And if we do but watch the hour,
There never yet was human power
Which could evade it, unforgift,
The patient search and vigil long
Of him who treasures up a wrong.

XI.

"Away, away, my steed and I,
Upon the pinions of the wind,
All human dwellings left behind;
We sped like meteors through the sky,
When with its crackling sound the nigh
Is checker'd with the northern light:
Town—village none were on our track,
But a wild plain of far extent,
And bounded by a forest black;
And, save the scarce seen battlement
On distant heights of some strong hold
Against the Tartar's built of old,
No trace of man,—the year before
A Turkish army had march'd o'er;
And where the Spahi's hoof hath trod
The verdure flies the bloody sod—
The sky was dull, and dim, and gray,
And a low breeze erept moaning by—
I could have answered with a sigh—
But fast we fled, away, away—
And I could neither sigh nor pray;
And my cold sweat-drops fell like rain
Upon the courser's bristling mane:
But, snorting still with rage and fear,
He flew upon his far career;
At times I almost thought, indeed,
He must have slacken'd in his speed;
But no—he bounds and slender frame
Was nothing to his angry might,
And merely like a spur became:
Each motion which I made to free
My swollen limbs from their agony
Increased his fury and affright:
(tried my voice,—'twas faint and low,
But yet he swarved as from a blow:
And, starting to each accent, sprang
As from a sudden trumpet's clang:
Meantime my cords were wet with gore,
Which, oozing through my limbs, ran o'er;
And in my tongue the thirst became
A something fierer far than flame.

XII.

"We neer'd the wild wood—'twas so wide,
I saw no bounds on either side;
'Twas studded with old sturdy trees,
That bent not to the roughest breeze
Which howls down from Siberia's waste,
And strips the forest in its haste,—
But these were few, and far between,
Set thick with shrubs more young and green,
I variant with their annual leaves.
Ere strown by those autumnal eyes
That nip the forest's foliage dead,
Discolor'd with a lifeless red,
Which stands thereon like stiften'd gore
Upon the slain when battle's o'er,
And some long winter's night hath shed
Its frost o'er every tombless head,
So cold and stark the raven's beak
May peck unperched each frozen cheek;
'Twas a wild waste of underwood,
And here and there a chestnut stood,
The strong oak, and the hardy pine!
But far apart—and well it were,
Or else a different lot were mine—
The boughs gave way, and did not tear
My limbs; and I found strength to bear
My wounds, already scor'd with cold—
My bonds forbade to loose my hold.
We rustled through the leaves like wind,
Loft shrubs, and trees, and wolves behind;
By night I heard them on the track,
Their troop came hard upon our back,
With their long gallop, which can tire
The hound's deep hate, and hunter's fire;
Where'er we flew they followed on,
Nor left us with the morning sun;
Behind I saw them, scarce a rood,
At day-break winding through the wood,
And through the night had heard their feet
Their stealing, rustling step repeat.
Oh! how I wish'd for spear or sword,
At least to die amidst the horde,
And perish—if it must be so,
At last, destroying many a foe.
When first my courser's race begun,
I wish'd the goal already won;
But now I doubted strength and speed.
Vain doubt! his swift and savage breed
Had nerved him like the mountain-roo;
Nor faster falls the blinding snow
Which whips the peasant near the door
Whose threshold he shall cross no more,
Bewilder'd with the dazzling blast,
'Tan through the forest paths he past—
Untired, untamed, and worse than wild;
All furious as a favor'd child
Balk'd of its wish; or fiercer still—
A woman piq'd—who has her will.

XIII.

The wood was past; 'twas more than noon
But chill the air, although in June;
Or it might be my veins ran cold—
Prolong'd endurance tames the bold;
And I was then not what I seem,
But heselong as a wintry stream,
And wore my feelings out before
I well could count their causes o'er;
And what with fury, fear, and wrath,
The tortures which beset my path,
Cold, hunger, sorrow, shame, distress,
Thus bound in nature's nakedness;
Sprung from a race whose rising blood
When stirr'd beyond its calmer mood,
And trodden hard upon, is like
The rattle'snake's, in act to strike,
What marvel if this worn-out trunk
Beneath its woes a moment sink?
The earth gave way, the skies roll'd round,
I seem'd to sink upon the ground
But err'd, for I was fastly bound.
My heart turn'd sick, my brain grew more,
And throbb'd awhile, then beat no more:
The skies spun like a mighty wheel;
I saw the trees like drunkards reel,
And a slight flash sprang o'er my eyes,
Which saw no farther: he who dies
Can die no more than then I died.
Overtortured by that ghastly ride,
I felt the blackness come on, and,
And strange to wake; but could not make
My senses climb up from below:
I felt as on a plank at sea,
When all the waves that dash o'er thee,
At the same time upheave and whelm,
And hurl thee towards a desert realm.
My undulating life was as
The fancied lights that fleeting pass
Our shut eyes in deep midnight, when
Fever begins upon the brain;
But soon it pass'd, with little pain,
But a confusion worse than such;
I own that I should deem it much
Dying, to feel the same again;
And yet I do suppose we must
Feel far more ere we turn to dust:
No matter; I have bared my brow
Full in death's face—before—and now.

XIV.

"My thoughts came back; where was I? Cold
And numb, and glad to feel my pulse
Life reassumed its lingering hold,
And throb by throb; till grown a pang
Which for a moment would conuuls
My blood lessow'd though thick and chill;
My ear with uncothh noises rang,
My heart began once more to thrill;
My sight return'd, though dim; alas!
The dizzy race seem'd almost done,
Although no goal was nearly won
Some streaks announced the coming sun—
How slow, alas! he came!
Methought that mist of dawning gray
Would never dapple into day;
How heavily it roll'd away
Before the eastern flame
Rose crimson, and deposed the stars,
And call'd the radiance from their cars,
And fill'd the earth from his deep throne,
With lonely lustre, all his own.

XVII.
"Up rose the sun; the mists were curl'd
Back from the solitary world
Which lay around—behind—before;
What booted it to traverse o'er
Plain, forest, river! Man nor brute,
Nor dint of hoof, nor print of foot,
Lay in the wild luxuriant soil;
No sign of travel—none of toil;
The very air was mute;
And not an insect's shrill small horn,
Nor matin bird's new voice was borne
From herb nor thicket. Many a wert,
Panting as if his heart would burst,
The weary brute still stagger'd on;
And still we were—or seem'd—alone:
At length, while reeling on our way,
Methought I heard a courser neigh,
From out yon tuft of blackening firs.
Is it the wind those branches stir?
No, no! from out the forest prance
A trampling troop; I see them come!
In one vast squadron they advance!
I strove to cry—my lips were dumb.
The steeds rush on in plunging pride;
But where are they the reins to guide?
A thousand horse—and none to ride!
With flowing tail, and flying mane,
Wide nostrils—never stretch'd by pain,
Mouths bloodless to the bit or rein,
And feet that iron never shod,
And flanks unscarr'd by spur or rod,
A thousand horse, the wild, the free,
Like waves that follow o'er the sea,
Came thickly thundering on,
As if our faint approach to meet;
The sight renounced my courser's feet,
A moment staggering, feebly fleet,
A moment, with a faint low neigh,
He answer'd, and then fell;
With gasps and glazing eyes he lay,
And reeking limbs immovable,
His first and last career is done!
On came the troop—they saw him stoop,
They saw me strangely bound along
His back with many a bloody thong;
They stop—they start—they snuff the air,
Gallop a moment here and there,
Approach, retire, wheel round and round,
Then plunging back with sudden bound,
Headed by one black mighty steed,
Who seem'd the patriarch of his breed,
Without a single speck or hair
Of white upon his shaggy hide;
They snort—they foam—neigh—werve saide
And backward to the forest fly,
By instinct, from a human eye.—
They left me there, to my despair,
Lrank’d to the dead and stiffening wretch,
Whose lifeless limbs beneath me stretch,
Relieved from that unwonted weight,
From whence I could not extricate
Nor him nor me—and there we lay,
The dying on the dead!
I little deem’d another day
Would see my houseless, helpless head.

"And there from morn till twilight bound,
I felt the heavy hours toll round,
With just enough of life to see
My last of suns go down on me,
In hopeless certainty of mind,
That makes us feel at length resign’d
To that which our foreboding years
Presents the worst and last of fears
Inevitable—even a boon,
No more unkind for coming soon;
Yet shunn’d and dreaded with such care,
As if it only were a snare
That prudence might escape;
At times both wish’d for and implored,
At times sought with self-pointed sword,
Yet still a dark and hideous close
To even intolerable woes,
And welcome in no shape.
And, strange to say, the songs of pleasure,
They who have revel’d beyond measure
In beauty, wassail, wine, and treasure,
Dip calm, or calmer, oft than he
Whose heritage was misery:
For he who hath in turn run through
All that was beautiful and new,
Hath nought to hope, and nought to leave;
And, save the future, (which is view’d
Not quite as men are base or good,
But as their nerves may be endued,)
With nought perhaps to grieve:—
The wretch still hopes his woes must end,
And Death, whom he so wildly deem his friend,
Appears, to his distemper’d eyes,
Arrived to rob him of his prize,
The tree of his new paradise.
To-morrow would have given him all,
Repaid his pangs, repair’d his fall;
To-morrow would have been the first
Of days no more deplored or curst,
But bright, and long, and beekoning years,
Seen dazling through the mist of tears,
Guerdon of many a painful hour;
To-morrow would have given him power
To rule, to shine, to smite, to save—
And must it dawn upon his grave?

XVIII.
"The sun was sinking—still I lay
Chain’d to the chill and stiffening steed,
I thought to mingle there our clay;
And my dim eyes of death had need,
No hope arose of being freed:
I cast my last looks up the sky,
And there between me and the sun
I saw the expecting raven fly,
Who scarce could wait till both should die,
 Ere his repast began;
He flew, and perch’d, then flew once more,
And each time nearer than before;
I saw his wing through twilight flit,
And once so near me he alit
I could have smote, but lack’d the strength
But the slight motion of my hand,
And feeble scratching of the sand,
The exerted throat’s faint struggling noise
Which scarcely could be called a voice.
Together scared him off at length.—
I know no more—my latest dream
Is something of a lovely star
Which fix’d my dull eyes from afar,
And went and came with wandering beam,
And of the cold, dull, swimming, dense
Sensation of recurring sense,
And then subsiding back to death,
And then again a little breath,
A little thrill, a short suspense,
An icy sickness curdling o’er
My heart, and sparks that cross’d my brain—
A gasp, a throb, a start of pain,
A sigh, and nothing more.

XIX.
"I woke—Where was I?—Do I see?
A human face look down on me?
And doth a roof above me close?
Do these limbs on a couch repose?
Is this a chamber where I lie?
And is it mortal you bright eye,
That watches me with gentle glance?
I closed my own again once more,
As doubtful that the former trance
Could not as yet be o’er:
A slender girl, long-haired, and tall,
Sage watching by the cottage wall;
The sparkle of her eye I caught,
Even with my first return of thought,
For ever and anon she threw
A prying, pitying glance on me
With her black eyes so wild and free.
I gazed, and gazed, until I knew
No vision it could be,—
But that I lived, and was released
From adding to the vulture’s feast:
And when the Cossack maid beheld
My heavy eyes at length unsealed,
She smiled—and I essay’d to speak,
But fail’d—and she approach’d, and made
With lip and finger signs that said,
I must not strive as yet to break
The silence, till my strength should be
Enough to leave my accents free;
And then her hand on mine she laid,
And smooth’d the pillow for my head,
And stole along on tiptoe tread,
And gently oped the door, and spoke
In whispers—was ’er voice so sweet?
Even music follow’d her light feet:—
But those she call’d were not awake,
And she went forth; but, ere she pass’d
Another look on me she cast,
Another sign she made, to say,
That I had nought to fear, that all
Were near, at my command or call,
And she would not delay
Her due return:—while she was gone,
Methought I felt too much alone.
THE ISLAND

XX.
She came with mother and with sire—
What need of more?—I will not tire
With long recital of the rest,
Since I became the Cossack's guest;
They found me senseless on the plain—
They bore me to the nearest hut—
They brought me into life again—
Me—one day o'er their realm to reign!
Thus the vain fool who strove to glut
His rage, refining on my pain,
Sent me forth to the wilderness,
Bound, naked, bleeding, and alone,
To pass the desert to a throne,—
What mortal his own doom may guess?
Let me despond, let none despair!

To-morrow the Borysthenes
May see our coursers graze at ease
Upon his Turkish bank,—and never
Had I such welcome for a river
As I should yield when safely there.
Comrades, good night!"—The Hetman threw
His length beneath the oak-tree shade,
With leafy couch already made,
A bed not comfortless nor new
To him, who took his rest where'er
The hour arrived, no matter where:
His eyes the hastening slumbers steep,
And if ye marvel Charles forgot
To thank his tale, he wondered not.—
The king had been an hour asleep.

THE ISLAND;
OR,
CHRISTIAN AND HIS COMRADES.

ADVERTISEMENT.
The foundation of the following story will be
found partly in the account of the mutiny of the
Bounty in the South Seas, (in 1789,) and partly in
"Mariner's account of the Tonga Islands."

CANTO I.

I.
The morning watch was come; the vessel lay
Her course, and gently made her liquid way;
The cloven billow dash'd from off her prow
In furrows form'd by that majestic plough;
The waters with their world were all before—
Behind, the South Sea's many an islet shore.
The quiet night, now dappling, 'gan to wane,
Dividing darkness from the dawning main;
The dolphins, not unconscious of the day,
Swam high, as eager of the coming ray;
The stars from broader beams began to creep,
And lift their shining eyelids from the deep;

The sail resumed its lately shadow'd white,
And the wind flutter'd with a freshening flight;
The purpling ocean owns the coming sun,
But ere he break—a deed is to be done.

II.
The gallant chief within his cabin slept,
Secure in those by whom the watch was kept:
His dreams were of Old England's welcome shore
Of toils rewarded, and of dangers o'er;
His name was added to the glorious roll
Of those who search the storm-surrounded Pole
The worst was over, and the rest seem'd sure,
And why should not his slumber be secure?
Alas! his deck was trod by unwilling feet,
And wilder hands would hold the vessel's sheet;
Young hearts, which languish'd for some sunny isle,
Where summer years and summer women smile
Men without country, who, too long estranged,
Had found no native home, or found it changed
And, half uncivilized, prefer'd the cave
Of some soft savage to the uncertain wave—
The gushing fruits that nature gave untill'd;
The wood without a path but where they will'd;
THE FIELD O'ER WHICH PROMISSOUNCIOUS PLENTY POUR'D
HER HORN: THE EQUAL LAND WITHOUT A LORD;
THE WISH—WHICH AGES HAVE NOT YET SUBDUED
IN MAN—TO HAVE NO MASTER SAVE HIS MOOD:
THE EARTH, WHOSE MINE WAS ON ITS FACE, UNSOLD,
THE GLOWING SUN AND PRODUCE ALL ITS GOLD;
I FEED FREEDOM WHICH CAN CALL EACH GROT HOME;
THE GENERAL GARDEN, WHERE ALL STEPS MAY ROAM,
WHERE NATURE OWNS A NATION AS HER CHILD,
EXULTING IN THE ENJOYMENT OF THE WILD;
THEIR SHELLS, THEIR FRUITS, THE ONLY WEALTH THEY KNOW;
THEIR UNEXPLORING NAVY, THE CANOE;
THEIR SPORT, THE DASHING BREAKERS AND THE CHASE;
THEIR STRANGEST SIGHT, AN EUROPEAN FACE—
SUCH WAS THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THESE STRANGERS YEARN'D
TO SEE AGAIN; A SIGHT THEY DEARLY EARN'D.
AWAKE, BOLD BLIGH! THE FOE IS AT THE GATE,
AWAKE! AWAKE!—ALAS! IT IS TOO LATE!
FIERCELY BESIDE THY COT THE MUTINEER
STANDS, AND PROCLAIMS THE REIGN OF RAGE AND FEAR.
THY LINPS ARE BOUND, THE BAYONET AT THY BREAST;
THE HANDS, WHICH TREMBLED AT THY VOICE, ARREST;
DRAGG'D O'ER THE DECK, NO MORE AT THY COMMAND
THE OBEDIENT Pelm SHALL VEER, THE SAIL EXPAND;
THE SAVAGE SPIRIT, WHICH WOULD HULL BY WRATH
ITS DESPERATE ESCAPE FROM DUTY'S PATH,
GLARES ROUND THEE, IN THE SCARCE BELIEVING EYES
OF THOSE WHO FEAR THE CHIEF THEY SACRIFICE:
FOR NE'ER CAN MAN HIS CONSCIENCE ALL ASSUAGE,
UNLESS HE DRAIN THE WINE OF PASSION—RAGE.

IV.
IN VAIN, NOT SILENCED BY THE EYE OF DEATH,
THOU CAL'ST THE LOYAL WITH THY MENACE'D BREATH;
THEY COME NOT; THEY ARE FEW, AND, OVER-AWED,
MUST ACQUIESCE, WHILE STERNER HEARTS APPLAUD,
IN VAIN THOU DOST DEMAND THE CAUSE: A CURSE
IS ALL THE ANSWER, WITH THE THREAT OF WORSE.
FULL IN THINE EYES IS WAVED THE GLITTERING BLADE,
CLOSE TO THY THROAT THE POINTED BAYONET LAID,
THE LEVEL'D MUSKETS CIRCLE ROUND THY BREAST
IN HANDS AS STEELED TO DO THE DEADLY TEST.
THOU DAREST THEM TO THE WORST, EXCLAIMING—
"FIRE!"
BUT THEY WHO PITT'D NOT COULD YET ADLECT:
SOME LURKING REMNANT OF THEIR FORMER AWE
RESTRAIN'D THEM LONGER THAN THEIR BROKEN LAW;
THEY WOULD NOT DIP THEIR SOULS AT ONCE IN BLOOD,
BUT LEFT THEE TO THE MERCIES OF THE FLOOD.

V.
"HOIST OUT THE BOAT!" WAS NOW THE LEADER'S CRY;
AND WHO DARE ANSWER "NO!" TO MUTINY,
IN THE FIRST DAWNING OF THE DRUNKEN HOUR,
THE SATURNALIA OF UNHOPED-FOR POWER?
THE BOAT IS LOWER'D WITH ALL THE HASTE OF HATE,
WITH ITS SLIGHT PLANK BETWEEN THEE AND THY FATE;
HER ON'TY CARGO SUCH A SCANT SUPPLY
AS PROMISES THE DEATH THEIR HANDS DENY;
AND JUST ENOUGH OF WATER AND OF BREAD
TO KEEP, SOMERS, THE DYING FROM THE DEAD:
SOME CORDAGE, CANVANS, SAILS, AND LINES, AND TWINE,
BUT Treasures All TO HERMITS OF THE BRINE,
WERE ADDED AFTER, TO THE EARNEST PRAYER
OF THOSE WHO SAW NO HOPE, SAVE SEA AND AIR;
AND LAST, THAT TREMBLING VASSAL OF THE POLE—
THE FEELING COMPASS—NAVIGATION'S SOUL.

VI.
AND NOW THE SELF-ELECTED CHIEF FINDS TIME
TO STUN THE FIRST SENSATION OF HIS CRIME,
AND RAISE IT IN HIS FOLLOWERS—"HO! THE BOWL;
LEAST PASSION SHOULD RETURN TO REASON'S SHEL.
"BRANDY FOR HEROES!" BURKE COULD ONCE EXCLAIM—
NO DOUBT A LIQUID PATH TO EPIC FAME;
AND SUCH THE NEW-BORN HEROES FOUND IT HERE,
AND DRAIN'D THE DRUUGHT WITH AN APPLAUDING CHEER
"HURRA FOR OTHAELE!" WAS THE CRY,
HOW STRANGE SUCH SHOUTS FROM SONS OF MUTINY,
THE GENTLE ISLAND, AND THE GENIAL SOIL,
The FRIENDLY HEARTS, THE FEASTS WITHOUT A TOIL,
The COURTEOUS MANNERS BUT FROM NATURE DRAWN,
The WEALTH UNHOARDED AND THE LOVE UNBOUGHT;
COULD THESE HAVE CHARM'S FOR RUDEST SEASOBS, DRIVEN
BEFORE THE MAST BY EVERY WIND OF HEAVEN?
AND NOW, EVEN NOW PREPARED WITH OTHER'S WOES
TO EARN MILD VIRTUE'S VAIN DESIRE, REPOSE?
ALAS! SUCH IS OUR NATURE! ALL BUT AIM
AT THE SAME END BY PATHWAYS NOT THE SAME,
OUR MEANS, OUR BIRTH, OUR NATION, AND OUR NAME,
OUR FORTUNE, TEMPER, EVEN OUR OUTWARD FRAME,
ARE FAR MORE POTENT O'ER OUR YIELDING CLAY
THAN SIGHT WE KNOW BEYOND OUR LITTLE DAY;
YET STILL THERE WHISPERS THE SMALL VOICE WITHIN,
HEARD THROUGH GAIN'S SILENCE, AND O'ER GLORY'S DIN
WHATSOEVER CRED HE TAUGHT OR LAND HE TROD,
MAN'S CONSCIENCE IS THE ORACLE OF GOD.

VII.
THE LAUNCH IS CROWDED WITH THE FAITHFUL FEW
WHO WAIT THEIR CHIEF, A MELANCHOLY CREW:
BUT SOME REMAIN'D RELUCTANT ON THE DECK
OF THAT PROUD VESSEL—NOW A MORAL WRECK—
AND VIEW'D THEIR CAPTAIN'S FATE WITH PITEOUS EYES.
WHILE OTHERS SCOFF'D HIS AUGUR'D MISERIES,
SNEER'D AT THE PROSPECT OF HIS PYGMAL SAIL
AND THE SLIGHT BARK SO LAIDEN AND SO FRAIL.
THE TENDER NAUTILUS, WHO STRES HIS PROW,
THE SEABORN SAILOR OF HIS SHELL CANOE,
THE OCEAN MAB, THE FAIRY OF THE SEA,
SEEMS FAR LESS FRAGILE, AND, ALAS! MORE FREE.
HE, WHEN THE LIGHTNING-WING'D TORNADOES SWEET
THE SURGE, IS SAFE—HIS PORT IS IN THE DEEP—
AND TRIUMPHS O'ER THE ARMADAS OF MANKIND,
WHICH SHAKE THE WORLD, YET CRUMBLE IN THE WIND.

VIII.
WHEN ALL WAS NOW PREPARED, THE VESSEL CLEAR
WHICH HAL'D HER MASTER IN THE MUTINEER—
A SEAMAN, LESS OBSTEANT THAN HIS MATES,
SHOW'D THE VAIN PITY WHICH BUT IRRITATES;
WATCH'D HIS LATE CHIEFTAIN WITH EXPLORING EYE,
AND TOLD, IN SIGNS, REPEASANT SYMPATHY;
HELD THE MOIST SHADDOCK TO HIS PARCHED MOUTH,
WHICH FELT EXHAUSTION'S DEEP AND BITTER DROUTH.
BUT SOON OBSERVED, THIS GUARDIAN WAS WITHDRAWN
FOR NO FURTHER MERCY CLOUDS REVOLUTION'S DAWN.
THEN FORWARD STEPP'D THE BOLD AND FORFORDAY
HIS CHIEF HAD CHERISH'D ONLY TO DESTROY,
AND, POINTING TO THE HELPLESS PROW BENEATH,
EXCLAIM'D, "DEPART AT ONCE! DELAY IS DEATH!"
YET THEN, EVEN THEN, HIS FEELINGS CEASED NOT ALL
IN THAT LAST MOMENT COULD A WORD RECALL
REMEMBER FOR THE BLACK DEED AS YET HALF DONE.
AND WHAT HE HID FROM MANY SHOW'D TO ONE:
THE ISLAND.

When Bligh in stern reproach demanded where
Was now his grateful sense of former care?
Where all his hopes to see his name aspire,
And blaze on Britain's thousand glories? higher?
His feverish lips thus broke their gloomy spell,
"Tis that! 'tis that! I am in hell! in hell!"
No more he said; but urging to the bark
His chief, commits him to his fragile ark,
These the sole accents from his tongue that fell,
But volumes lurk'd below his fierce farewell.

IX.
The arctic sun rose broad above the wave;
The breeze now sank, now whisper'd from his cave;
As on the Æolian harp, his fitful wings
Now swell'd, now flutter'd o'er his ocean strings.
With slow, despairing oar, the abandon'd skiff
Ploughs its drear progress to the scarce-seen cliff,
Which lifts its peak a cloud above the main:
That boat and ship shall never meet again!
But 'tis not mine to tell their tale of grief,
Their constant peril and their scant relief;
Their days of danger, and their nights of pain;
Their manly courage even when deem'd in vain;
The sapping famine, rendering scarce a son
Known to his mother in the skeleton;
The ills that lessen'd still their little store,
And starved even Hunger till he wrung no more;
The varying frowns and favors of the deep,
That now almost engulf, then leaves to creep
With crazy oar and shatter'd strength along
The tide that yields reluctant to the strong;
The incessant fever of that arid thirst
Which welcomes, as a well, the clouds that burst
Above their naked bones, and feels delight
In the cold drenching of the stormy night,
And from the outspread canvas gladly wrings
A drop to moisten life's all gasping springs;
The savage foe escaped, to seek again
More hospitable shelter from the main;
The ghastly spectres which were doom'd at last,
To tell as true a tale of dangers past,
As ever the dark annals of the deep
Disclosed for man to dread or woman weep.

X.
We leave them to their fate, but not unknown
Nor unredress'd. Revenge may have her own:
Roused discipline aloud proclaims their cause,
And injured navies urge their broken laws.
Pursue we on his track the mutineer,
Whom distant vengeance had not taught to fear.
Wide o'er the wave—away! away! away!
Once more his eyes shall hail the welcome bay;
Once more the happy shores without a law
Receive the outlaws whom they lately saw;
Nature, and Nature's goddess—woman—woos
To lands where, save their conscience, none accuse;
Where all partake the earth without dispute,
And bread itself is gather'd as a fruit: *
Where none contest the fields, the woods, the streams:
The goddessd age, where gold disturbs no dreams,
Inhabitants or inhabited the shore,
'Till Europe taught them better than before;
Bestow'd her customs, and amended theirs,
But left her vices also to their heirs.
Away with this! behold them as they were,
Do good with Nature, or with Nature err.
"Huzza! for Otaheite!" was the cry,
As stately swept the gallant vessel by.
The breeze springs up; the lately flapping sail
Extends its arch before the growing gale;
In swifter ripples stream aside the seas,
Which her bold bow flings off with dashing care.
Thus Argo plough'd the Euxine's virgin foam;
But those she wafted still look back to home—
These spurn their country with their rebel bark,
And fly her as the raven fle'd the ark;
And yet they seek to nestle with the dove
And tame their fiery spirits down to love.

CANTO II.

I.
How pleasant were the songs of Toobonai,
When summer's sun went down the coral bay.
Come, let us to the islet's softest shade,
And hear the warbling birds! the damsels said.
The wood-dove from the forest depth shall coo,
Like voices of the gods from Bolotoo;
We'll call the flowers that grow above the dead,
For these most bloom where rests the warrior's head.
And we will sit in twilight's face, and see
The sweet moon glancing through the tooa tree,
The lofty accents of whose sighing bough
Shall sadly please us as we lean below;
Or climb the steep, and view the surf in vain
Wrestle with rocky giants o'er the main,
Which spawn in columns back the buff'd spray.
How beautiful are these! how happy they!
Who, from the toil and tumult of their lives,
Steal to look down where nought but ocean strives
Even he too loves at times the blue lagoon,
And smooths his ruffled mane beneath the moon.

II.
Yes—from the sepulchre we'll gather flowers,
Then feast like spirits in their promised bowers
Then plunge and revel in the rolling surf,
Then lay our limbs along the tender turf,
And, wet and shining from the sportive toil,
Anoint our bodies with the fragrant oil,
And plait our garlands gather'd from the grave,
And wear the wreaths that sprung from out the brave
But lo! night comes, the Moon woos us back,
The sound of mats are heard along our track;
Anon the torchlight dance shall fling its sheen
In flashing maze's o'er the Marly's green;
And we too will be there; we too recall
The memory bright with many a festival,
Ere Fiji blew the shell of war, when foes
For the first time were wafted in canoes.
Alas! for them the flower of mankind bleeds;
Alas! for them our fields are rank with weeds:

* The first three sections are taken from an actual song of the Tonga Islanders, of which a prose translation is given in "Mariners Account of the Tonga Islands." Toobonai is not however one of them; but was one of those where Christian and the mutineers took refuge. I have altered and added, but have retained as much as possible of the original.
Forgotten is the rapture, or unknown,
Of wandering with the moon and love alone.
But be it so—you taught us how to wield
The club and rain our arrows o'er the field.
Now let them reap the harvest of their art!
But feast to-night! to-morrow we depart.
Strike up the dance! the cava bowl fill high!
Drain every drop!—to-morrow we may die.
In summer garments be our limbs array'd;
Around our waists the tappa's white display'd;
Thick wreaths shall form our coronal, like spring's;
And round our necks shall glance the hooni strings;
So shall their brighter hues contrast the glow
Of the dusky bosoms that beat high below.

III.

But now the dance is o'er—yet stay awhile;
Ah, pause! nor yet put out the social smile.
To-morrow for the Moon we depart,
But to-night—to-night is for the heart.
Again bestow the wreaths we gently woo,
Ye young enchantresses of gay Licoo!
How lovely are your forms! how every sense
Bows to your beauties, softly'd, but intense,
Like to the flowers on Matacoco's steep,
Which fling their fragrance far athwart the deep—
We too will see Licoo; but—oh! my heart!—
What do I say?—to-morrow we depart!

IV.

Thus rose a song—the harmony of times
Before the winds blew Europe o'er these climes.
True, they had vices—such are nature's growth—
But only the barbarian's—we have both:
The sordor of civilization, mix'd
With all the savage which man's fall hath fix'd.
Who hath not seen Dissimulasion's reign,
The prayers of Abel link'd to deeds of Cain?
Who such would see may from his lattice view
The Old World more degraded than the New,
Nor new no more, save where Columbia rears
Twin giants, born by Freedom to her spheres,
Where Chimborazo, over air, earth, wave,
Glare's with his Titan eye, and sees no slave.

V.

Such was this ditty of tradition's days,
Which to the dead—a lingering fame conveys
In song, where fame as yet hath left no sign
Beyond the sound whose charm is half divine;
Which leaves no record to the skeptic eye,
But yields young history all to harmony;
A boy Achilles, with the centaur's lyre
In hand, to teach him to surpass his sire.
For one long-cherish'd ballad's simple stave
Rung from the rock, or mingled with the wave,
Or from the bubbling streamlet's grassy side,
Or gathering mountain echoes as they glide,
Hath greater power o'er each true heart and ear,
Than all the columns Conquest's minions rear:
Invites, when hieroglyphics are a theme
For sage's labors or the student's dream.
Attracts, when history's volumes are a toll,—
The first, the freshest bud of Feeling's soil.
Such was this rude rhyme—rhyme is of the rude—
But such inspired the Norseman's solitude,
Who came and conquer'd; such, wherever rise
Lands where no foes destroy or civilize.

Exist: and what can our accomplish'd art
Of verse do more than reach the awaken'd heart?

VI.

And sweetly now those untaught melodies
Broke the luxurious silence of the skies,
The sweet siesta of a summer day,
The tropic afternoon of Toobonal,
When every flower was bloom, and air was balm,
And the first breeze began to stir the palm,
The first young voluble wind to urge the wave
All gently to refresh the thirsty cave,
Where sat the songstress with the stranger boy,
Who taught her passion's desolating joy,
Too powerful over every heart, but most
O'er those who know not how it may be lost;
O'er those who, burning in the new-born fire,
Like martyrs revel in their funeral pyre,
With such devotion to their ecstasy,
That life knows no such rapture as to die:
And do they do; for earthly life has nought
Match'd with that burst of nature, even in thought
And all our dreams of better life above
But close in one eternal glas of love.

VII.

There sat the gentle savage of the wild,
In growth a woman, though in years a child,
As childhood dates within our colder clime,
Where nought is ripen'd rapidly save crime;
The infant of an infant world, as pure
From nature—lovely, warm, and premature;
Dusky like night, but night with all her stars:
Or cavern sparkling with its native spars;
With eyes that were a language and a spell,
A form like Aphrodite's in her shell,
With all her loves around her on the deep,
Voluptuous as the first approach of sleep;
Yet full of life—for through her tropic cheek
The blush would make its way, and all but speak;
The sun-born blood suffused her neck and threw
O'er her clear nutbrown skin a lucid hue,
Like coral reddening through the darken'd wave
Which draws the diver to the crimson cave.
Such was this daughter of the Southern seas,
Herself a billow in her energies,
To bear the bark of others' happiness,
Nor feel a sorrow till their joy grew less:
Her wild and warm yet faithful bosom knew
No joy like what it gave; her hopes ne'er drew
Aught from experience, that chill touchstone, whose
Sad proof reduces all things from their hues:
She fear'd no ill, because she knew it not,
Or what she knew was soon—too soon—forgot:
Her smiles and tears had pass'd, as light winds pass
O'er lakes, to ruffle, not destroy, their glass,
Whose depths unsearch'd, and fountains from the hill,
Restore their surface, in itself so still,
Until the earthquake tear the naiad's cave,
Root up the spring, and trample on the wave,
And crush the living waters to a mass,
The amphibious desert of the dank morass!
And must their fate be hers? The eternal change
But grasps humanity with quicker range;
And they who fall but fall as worlds will fall,
To rise, if just, a spirit o'er them all.
Of a long race, the valiant and the free,
The naked knights of savage chivalry.
Whose grassy curves ascend along the shore;
And thine—I've seen—Achilles! I do no more.
She, when the thunder-bearing stainers came,
In vast canoes, begirt with bolts of flame,
Topp'd with tall trees, which, loftier than the palm
Seem'd rooted in the deep amid its calm;
But when the winds awaken'd, shot forth wings
Broad as the cloud along the horizon flies,
And sway'd the waves, like cities of the sea,
Making the very billows look less free;
She, with her paddling oar and dancing prow,
Shot through the surf, like reindeer through the snow
Swift-gliding o'er the breaker's whitening edge,
Light as a nereid in her ocean sledge,
And gazed and wonder'd at the giant bulk,
Which heaved from wave to wave its trembling bulk
The anchor dropp'd; it lay along the deep,
Like a huge lion in the sun asleep,
While round it warm'd the proas' fitting chain,
Like summer bees that hum around his mane.

XI.
The white man landed!—need the rest be told?
The New World stretch'd its dusky hand to the Old
Each was to each a marvel, and the tie
Of wonder warm'd to better sympathy
Kind was the welcome of the sun-born sires,
And kinder still their daughters' gentle fires.
Their union grew: the children of the storm
Found beauty link'd with many a dusky form;
While these in turn admired the paler glow,
Which seem'd so white in climes that knew no snow
The chase, the race, the liberty to roam,
The soil where every cottage show'd a home;
The sea-spread net, the lightly-launch'd canoe,
Which stem'd the studded archipelago,
O'er whose blue bosom rose the starry isles;
The healthy slumber, caroled by sportive toils;
The palm, the loftiest dryad of the woods,
Within whose bosom infant Bacchus broods,
While eagles scarce build higher than the crest
Which shadows o'er the vineyard in her breast;
The cava feast, the yam, the cocoa's root,
Which bears at once the cup, and milk, and fruit;
The bread-tree, which, without the ploughshare
Yields
The unrep'd harvest of unfurrow'd fields,
And bakes its unadulter'd loaves
Without a furnace in unpurchased groves,
And dines off famine from its fertile breast,
A priceless market for the gathering guest;
These, with the luxuries of seas and woods,
The airy joys of social solitudes,
Tamed each rude wanderer to the sympathies
Of those who were more happy, if less wise,
Did more than Europe's discipline had done.
And ci-lized civilization's son!

XII.
Of these, and there was many a willing pair,
Neusa and Torquil were not the least fair;
Both children of the isles, though distant far,
Born both beneath a sea-presiding star;
Both nourish'd amid nature's native scenes,
Loved to the last, whatever intervenes
Between us and our childhood's sympathy,
Which still revert to what first caught the eye.
He who first met the Highlands' swelling blue  
Will love each peak that shows a kindred hue,  
Hail in each crag a friend's familiar face,  
And clasp the mountain in his tender embrace.  
Long have I roamed through lands which are not mine,  
Adored the Alp, and loved the Apennine,  
Revered Parnassus, and beheld the steep  
Jove's Ida and Olympus crown the deep:  
But'twas not all long ages, nor all  
Their nature held me in their thrilling thrall.  
The infant rapture still survived the boy,  
And Loch-na-gar with Idâ look'd o'er Troy.*  
Mix'd Celtic memories with the Phrygian mount,  
And Highland linns with Castalie's clear fount.  
Forgive me, Homer's universal shade!  
Forgive me, Phæbus! that my fancy stray'd;  
The north and nature taught me to adore  
Your scenes sublime, from those beloved before.

XIII.

The love which maketh all things fond and fair,  
The youth which makes one rainbow of the air,  
The dangers past, that make even man enjoy  
The pause in which he ceases to destroy,  
The mutual beauty, which the sternest feel  
Strike to their hearts like lightning to the steel,  
United the half savage and the whole,  
The maid and boy, in one absorbing soul.  
No more the thundering memory of the fight  
Wrapp'd his wean'd bosom in its dark delight;  
No more the irksome restlessness of rest  
Disturb'd him like the eagle in her nest,  
Whose whetted beak and far-pervading eye  
Darts for a victim over all the sky;  
His heart was tamed to that voluptuous state,  
At once Elysian and effeminate,  
Which leaves no laurels o'er the hero's urn:—  
These wither when for aught save blood they burn;  
Yet when their ashes in their nook are laid,  
Doth not the myrtle leave a sweet a shade?  
Had Caesar known but Cleopatra's kiss,  
Rome had been free, the world had not been his.  
And what have Caesar's deeds and Caesar's fame  
Done for the earth? We feel them in our shame:  
The gory sanction of his glory stains  
The rust which tyrants cherish on our chains.  
Roused millions do what single Brutus did—  
Sweep these mere mock-birds of the despot's song  
From the tall bough where they have perch'd so long.—  
Still are we hawk'd at by such mousing owls,  
And take for falcons those ignoble fowls,  
When but a word of freedom would dispel  
These bugbears, as their terrors show too well.

XIV.

Rapt in the fond forgetfulness of life,  
Neatha, the South Sea Girl, was all a wife,  
With no distracting world to call  
From love; with no society to scoff  
At the new transient flame; no babbling crowd  
Of coxcombs in admiration loud,  
Or with adulterous whisper to alloy  
Her duty, and her glory, and her joy.  
With faith and feelings naked as her form,  
She stood as stands a rainbow in a storm,  
Changing its hues with light variety,  
But still expanding lovelier o'er the sky,  
When o'er its arch may swell, its colors move,  
The cloud-compelling harbinger of love.

XV.

Here, in this grotto of the wave-worn shore,  
They pass'd the trolic's red meridian o'er;  
Nor long the hours—they never pass'd o'er time,  
Unbroken by the clock's finereal chiming,  
Which deals the daily pittance of our span,  
And points and mocks with iron laugh at man  
What does and they of the future do? the past?  
The present, like a tyrant, held them fast;  
Their hour-glass was the sea-sand, and the tide  
Like her smooth billow, saw their moments glide;  
Their clock the sun, in his unbounded tow'r;  
They reckon'd not, whose day was but an hour:  
The nightingale, their only vespertine,  
Sung sweetly to the rose the day's farewell:—  
The broad sun set, but not with lingering sweep  
As in the north he mellow's o'er the deep,  
But fiery, and fierce, as if he left  
The world for ever, earth of light bereft,  
Plunged with red forehead down along the wave  
As dives a hero headlong to his grave.  
Then rose they, looking first along the skies,  
And then for light into each other's eyes,  
Wondering that summer show'd so brief a sun.  
And asking if indeed the day were done.

XVI.

And let not this seem strange: the devotee  
Lives not in earth, but in his estate;  
Around him days and worlds are needless driven,  
His soul is gone before his dust to heaven.  
Is love less potent? No—his path is trod,  
Alike uplifted gloriously to God:  
Or link'd to all we know of heaven below,  
The other better self, whose joy or woe  
Is more than ours; the all-absorbing flame  
Which, kindled by another, grows the same.  
Wrapp'd in one blaze; the pure, yet funeral pile:  
Where gentle hearts, like Brumani, sit and smile  
How often we forget all time, when lone,  
Admiring Nature's universal throne,  
Her woods, her wilds, her waters, the intense  
Reply of hers to our intelligence!  
Live not the stars and mountains? Are the waves  
Without a spirit? Are the dropping coves  
Without a feeling in their silent tears?  
No, no;—they woo and clasp us to their spheres,  
Dissolve this clog and clo'd of clay before  
Its hour, and merge our soul in the great shore,  
Strip off this fond and false identity!—  
Who thinks of self, when gazing on the sky?  
And who, though gazing lower, ever thought,  
In the young moments ere the heart is taught

* When very young, about eight years of age, after an attack of the scarlet fever at Aberdeen, I was removed by medical advice into the Highlands. Here I passed occasionally some summers, and from this period I date my love of mountainous countries. I can never forget the effect, a few years afterwards in England, of the only thing I had long seen, even in miniature, of a mountain, in the Malvern Hills. After I returned to Cheb- shalgh, I used to watch them every afternoon, at sunset, with a sensa- tion which I cannot describe. This was boyish enough; but I was then only thirteen years of age, and it was in the holidays.

* The now well-known story of the loves of the knight's galà and rose need not be more alluded to, being a discovery, in the common reader.
Tune's lesson, of man's baseness or his own?
All nature is his realm, and love his throne.

VII.
Nuena arose, and Torquil: twilight's hour
Come sad and softly to their rocky bowers,
Which, kindly by degrees its dewy spars,
Echoed their dim light to the mastering stars,
Slowly the pair, partaking nature's calm,
Sought out their cottage, built beneath the palm;
Now smiling and now silent, as the scene;
Lovely as Love — the spirit! — when serene.
The Ocean scarce spoke louder with his swell,
Than breathes his mimic murmurer in the shell.
As, far divided from his parent deep,
The sea-born infant cries, and will not sleep,
Raising his little plaint in vain, to rave
For the broad bosom of his nursing wave:
The woods droop'd darkly, as inclined to rest,
The tropic bird wheel'd rock-ward to his nest,
And the blue sky spread round them like a lake
Of peace, where Piety her thirst might slake.

VIII.
But through the palm and plantain, hark, a voice!
Not such as would have been a lover's choice,
In such an hour, to break the air so still;
No dying nigh — breathe, harping o'er the hill,
Striking the strings of nature, rock and tree,
Those best and earliest lyres of harmony,
With Echo for their chorus; nor the alarm
Of the loud war whoop to dispel the charm;
Nor the soliogiy of the hermit owl,
Exhaling all his solitary soul,
The dim though large-eyed winged anchoretie,
Who peals his dreary pean o'er the night; —
But a loud, long, and naval whistle, shrill
As ever started through a sea-bird's bill;
And then a pause, and then a hoarse, "Hillo!
Torquil! my boy! what cheer? Ho! brother, ho!
"Who hails?" cried Torquil, following with his eye
The sound. "Here's one," was all the brief reply.

X.
But here the herald of the self-same mouth
Came breathing o'er the aromatic south,
Not like a "bed of violets" on the gale,
But such as wafts its cloud o'er grog or ale,
Borne from a short frail pipe, which yet had blown
Its gentle odors over either zone,
And puff'd where'er winds rise or waters roll,
Had wafted smoke from Portsmouth; * the Pcle,
Opposed its vapor as the lightning flash'd,
And rook'd, 'mid mountain billows unabash'd,
To Zulia a constant sacrifice,
Through every change of all the varying skies.
And what was he that bore it? — I may err,
But deem him sailor or philosopher.†

* If the reader will apply to his ear the sea-shell on his chimney-piece, he will be aware of what is allowed if the Live or Sleeper's voice is allowed in the shores of the British empire, he will find in "Glebe," the same idea better expressed in two lines — The poem of the reader, but have heard the lines quoted by a more refined reader, who seems to be of a different opinion from the author of the Quarterly Review, who qualified it, in his answer to the Critical Reviewer of his Journal, as trash of the worst and most lance description. It is to Mr. Locke, the author of "Glebe," so qualified, and of some Latins poets, which he with Martial or Catullus in obscurity, that the incommensurable Mr. Secretary addresses his declaration against prosperity!...
† Hobbes, the father of Locke's and other philosophy, was an heterogeneous wanderer, never to pipecs beyond cymomgion.

Sublime tobacco! which from east to west
Cheers the tar's labor or the Turkman's rest;
Which on the Moslem's ottoman divides
His hours, and rivals opium and his bride;
Magnificent in Stamboul, but less grand,
Though not less loved, in Wapping or the Strand
Divine in hookas, glorious in a pipe,
When tipp'd with amber, mellow, rich, and ripe;
Like other charmers, wooing the caress
More dazzlingly when daring in full dress;
Yet thy true lovers more admire by far
Thy naked beauties — Give me a cigar!

XX.
Through the approaching darkness of the wood
A human figure broke the solitude,
Fantastically, it may be, array'd,
A seaman in a savage masquerade;
Such as appears to rise out from the deep,
When o'er the line the merry vessels sweep,
And the rough satnallia of the tar
Flock o'er the deck, in Neptune's borrow'd ear;* and
And pleased the god of ocean sees his name
Revive once more, though but in mimic game
Of his true sons, who riot in the breeze
Undreamt of in his native Cythera;
Still the old god delights, from out the main,
To snatch some glimpses of his ancient reign
Our sailor's jacket, though in ragged trim,
His constant pipe, which never yet burn'd dim
His foremast air, and somewhat rolling gait,
Like his dear vessel, spoke his former state;
But then a sort of kerchief round his head,
Not over-tightly bound, nor nicely spread;
And stead of a sword, (ah! too early torn!
For even the mildest woods will have their thorn)
A curious sort of somewhat scanty mat
Now served for inexpressibles and hat;
His naked feet and neck, and sunburnt face,
Perchance might suit alike with either race.
His arms were all his own, our Europe's growth;
Which two worlds bless for civilizing both;
The musket swung behind his shoulders broad
And somewhat stoop'd by his marine abode,
But brawny as the boat's; and hung beneath,
His cutlass droop'd, unconscious of a sheath.
Or lost or worn away; his pistols were
Link'd to his belt, a matrimonial pair,—
(Not let this metaphor appear a scoff,
Though one miss'd fire, the other would go off;)
These, with a bayonet, not so free from rust
As when the arm chest held its brighter trust,
Completed his accoutrements, as Night Survey'd him in his garb heteroclite.

XXI.
"What cheer, Ben Bunting?" cried (when in full view
Our new acquaintance) Torquil, "Aught of new?"
"Ey, ey!" quoth Ben, "not new, but news now;
A strange sail in the offing. — Sail! and how?
What! could you make her out? It cannot be,
I've seen no rag of canvas on the sea."
"Bolke," said Ben, "you might not from the bay,
But from the bluff-head, where I watch'd to-day,
I saw her in the doldrums; for the wind
Was light and baulding. — "* When the sun declined

* This rough but joyful ceremony, used in crossing the line, has been a
often and as well described, that it would not be more alluded to
CANTO III.

I.

The fight was o'er; the flashing through the gloom,
Which robes the cannon as he wings a tomb,
Had ceased; and sulphur vapors upward driven
Had left the earth, and but polluted heaven:
The rattling roar which rung in every volley
Had left the echoes to their melancholy;
No more they shriek'd their horror, boom for boom;
The strife was done, the vanquish'd had their doom;
The mutineers were crush'd, dispersed, or ta'en,
Or lived to deem the happiest were the slain.
Few, few escaped, and those were hunted o'er
The isle they loved beyond their native shore.
No further home was theirs, it seem'd, on earth,
Once renegades to that which gave them birth;
Track'd like wild beasts, like them they sought the wild,
As to a mother's bosom flies the child;
But vainly wolves and lions seek their den,
And still more vainly men escape from men.

II.

Beneath a rock whose jutting base protrudes
Far over ocean in his fiercest moods,
When scaling his enormous crag the wave
Is hurl'd down headlong, like the foremost brave,
And falls back on the foaming crowd behind,
Which fight beneath the banners of the wind,
But now at rest, a little remnant drew
Together, bleeding, thirsty, faint, and few,
But still their weapons in their hands, and still
With something of the pride of former will,
As men not all unused to meditate,
And strive much more than wonder at their fate.

Their present lot was what they had foreseen,
And dared as what was likely to have been;
Yet still the lingering hope, which deem'd their lot
Not pardon'd, but unsought for or forgot.
Or trusted that, if sought, their distant caves
Might still be miss'd amid the world of waves,
Had wean'd their thoughts in part from what they saw
And felt, the vengeance of their country's law.
Their sea-green isle, their guilt-crown paradise,
No more could shield their virtue or their vice.
Their better feelings, if such were, were throw'n
Back on themselves,—their sins remain'd alone.
Proscribed even in their second country, they
Were lost; in vain the world before them lay.
All outlets seem'd secure. Their new allies
Had fought and bled in mutual sacrifice:
But what avail'd the club, and spear, and arm
Of Hercules against the sulphur charm,
The magic of the thunder, which destroy'd
The warrior ere his strength could be employ'd for
Dog, like a spreading pestilence, the grave
No less of human bravery than the brave:
Their own scant numbers acted all the few
Against the many oft will dare and do;
But though the choice seems native to die free,
Even Greece can boast but one Thermopylae,
Till now, when she has forger her broken chain
Back to a sword, and dies and lives again!

III.

Beside the jutting rock the few appear'd,
Like the last remnant of the red-deer's herd;
Their eyes were feverish, and their aspect worn,
But still the hunter's blood was on their horn,
A little stream came tumbling from the height,
And straggling into ocean as it might,
Its bounding crystal r'd this in the ray,
And gush'd from cliff to crag with saltless spray;
Close on the wild, wide ocean, yet as pure
And fresh as innocence, and more secure,
Its silver torrent glitter'd o'er the deep,
As the shy chamois' eye o'erlooks the steep,
While far below the vast and sullen swell
Of ocean's alpine azure rose and fell:
To this young spring they rush'd,—all feelings first
Absorb'd in passion's and in nature's thirst,—
Drank as they do who drink their last, and threw
Their arms aside to revel in its dew;
Cool'd their scorched throats, and wash'd the gory stains
From wounds whose only bandage might be chains;
Then, when their drought was quench'd, look'd sadly round,
As wondering how so many still were found
Alive and fetterless:—but silent all,
Each sought his fellow's eyes, as if to call
On him for language which his lips denied,
As though their voices with their cause had died.

IV.

Stern, and aloof a little from the rest,
Stood Christian, with his arms across his chest.
The ruddy, reckless, dauntless, hue once spread
Along his cheek was livid now as lead;

* Archilochus, king of Sparta, and son of Agesilaus, whom he saw a machine invented for the casting of stones and darts, exclaimed that it was the "grave of valor." The same story has been told of some knights on the first application of gunpowder; but its original source is in Pindarus.
His light-brown locks, so graceful in their flow,
Now rose like startled vipers o'er his brow,
Still as a statue, with his lips compress'd
To stifle even the breath within his breast.
Fast by the rock, all menacing, but mute,
He stood; and, save a slight beat of his foot,
Which deepen'd now and then the sandy dint
Beneath his heel, his form seem'd turn'd to flint.
Some paces further Torquil lean'd his head
Against a bank, and spoke not, but he bled,—
Not mortally—his worst wound was within:
His brow was pale, his blue eyes sunken in,
And blood-drops, sprinkled o'er his yellow hair,
Show'd that his faintness came not from despair,
But nature's ebb. Beside him was another,
Rough as a bear, but willing as a brother,—
Ben Bunting, who essay'd to wash, and wipe,
And bind his wound—then calmly lit his pipe,
A trophy which survived a hundred fights,
A beacon which had cheer'd ten thousand nights.
The fourth and last of this deserted group
Walk'd up and down—at times would stand, then a stop.
To pick a pebble up—then let it drop—
Then hurry as in haste—then quickly stop—
Then cast his eyes on his companions—then
Half whistle half a tune, and pause again—
And then his former movements would redouble,
With something between carelessness and trouble:
This is a long description, but applies
To scarce five minutes pass'd before the eyes;
But yet what minutes! Moments like to these
Rend men's lives into immortalties.

V.
At length Jack Skyserape, a mercurial man,
Who flutter'd over all things like a fan,
More brave than firm, and more disposed to dare
And die at once than wrestle with despair,
Exclaim'd "G—d Damn!"—"Those syllables intense,—
Nucleus of England's native eloquence,
As the Turk's "Allah " or the Roman's more
Pagan "Proh Jupiter!" was wont of yore
To give their first impressions such a vent,
By way of echo to embarrassment.
'ack was embarrass'd, never hero more,
And as he knew not what to say, he swore;
Nor swore in vain; the long congenial sound
Revisit Ben Bunting from his pipe profound:
He drew it from his mouth, and look'd full wise,
But merely added to the oath his eye;
Thus rendering the paper phrase complete,
A peroration I need not repeat.

VI.
But Christian, of a higher order, stood
Like an extinct volcano in his mood;
Silent, and sad, and savage,—with the trace
Of passion reeking from his clouded face;
Till lifting up again his sombre eye,
It glanced on Torquil, who lean'd faintly by.
"And is it thus," he cried, "unhappy boy!
And thee, too, thee—my madness must destroy!"
He said, and strode to where young Torquil stood,
Yet dabbled with his lately flowing blood;
Seized his hand visitfully, but did not press,
And shrank as fearful of his own cares—
Inquired into his state; and when he heard
The wound was slighter than he deem'd or fear'd.
A moment's brightness pass'd along his brow,
As much as such a moment would allow.
"Yes," he exclaim'd, "we are taken in the toil,
But not a coward or a common spoli;
Dearly they have bought us—death you still may buy,
And I must fall; but have you strength to fly?
'Twould be some comfort still, could you survive;
Our dwindled band is now too few to strive.
Oh! for a sole canoe! though but a shell,
To bear you hence to where a hope may dwell!
For me, my lot is what I sought; to be,
In life or death, the fearless and the free."

VII.
Even as he spoke, around the promontory,
Which nod'd o'er the billows high and heavy.
A dark speck dotted ocean—on it flew
Like to the shadow of a roused sea-mew;
Onward it came—and, lo! a second follow'd—
Now seen—now hid—where ocean's vale was ho! low'd;
And near, and nearer, till their dusky crew
Presented well-known aspects to the view,
Till on the surf their skimming paddles play,
Buoyant as wings, and flitting through the spray,
Now perching on the wave's high curl, and now
Dash'd downward in the thundering foam below
Which flings its broad and boiling sheet on sheet,
And slings its high flakes, shiver'd into sleet;
But floating still through surf and swell, drew nigh
The banks, like small birds through a lowering sky.
Their art seem'd nature—such the skill to sweep
The wave of these born playmates of the deep.

VIII.
And who the first that, springing on the strand,
Leap'd like a nereid from her shell to land,
With dark but brilliant skin, and dewy eye
Shining with love, and hope, and constancy?
Neuh—the fond, the faithful, the adored—
Her heart on Torquil's like a torrent pour'd;
And smiled, and wept, and near, and nearer clasp'd,
As if to be assured 'twas him she grasp'd;
Shudder'd to see his yet warm wound, and then,
To find it trivial, smiled and wept again.
She was a warrior's daughter, and could bear
Such sights, and feel, and mourn, but not despair
Her lover liv'd,—nor foes nor fears could blight
That full-blown moment in its all delight:
Joy trickled in her tears, joy fill'd the sob
That rock'd her heart till almost heard to throb,
And paradise was breathing in the sigh
Of nature's child in nature's ecstasy.

IX.
The sterners spirits who beheld that meeting,
Were not unmoved: who are, when hearts are greeting?
Even Christian gazed upon the maid and boy
With tearless eye, but yet a gloomy joy
Mix'd with those bitter thoughts the soul arrays,
In hopeless visions of our better days,
When all's gone—to the rainbow's latest ray,
"And but for me!" he said, and turn'd away
Then gazed upon the pair, as in his den
A lion looks upon his cubs again;
And then relapsed into his sullen guise,  
As heedless of his further destinies.

But brief their time for good or evil thought;  
The billows round the promontory brought  
The splash of hostile oars.—Alas! who made  
That sound a dread? All round them seem'd array'd  
Against them, save the bride of Toobonai:  
She, as she caught the first glimpse o'er the bay  
Of the arm'd boats, which hurried to complete  
The remnant's ruin with their flying feet,  
Beck'n'd the natives round her to their prows,  
BLark'd their guests, and launch'd their light  
Canoes,  
in one placed Christian and his comrades twain;  
But she and Torquil must not part again.  
She fix'd him in her own.—Away! away!  
They clear the breakers, dart along the bay,  
And towards a group of islets, such as bear  
The sea-bird's nest and seal's surf-hollow'd lair,  
They skim the blue tops of the billows; fast  
They flew, and fast their fierce pursuers chased.  
They gain upon them—now they lose again,—  
Again make way and menace o'er the main;  
And now the two canoes in chase divide,  
And follow different courses o'er the tide,  
To haffle the pursuit.—Away! away!  
As life is on each paddle's flight to-day,  
And more than life or lives to Neuha: Love  
Freights the frail bark and urges to the cove—  
And now the refuge and the foe are nigh—  
Yet, yet a moment!—Fly, thou light ark, fly!

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CANTO IV.

I.

White as a white sail on a dusky sea,  
When half the horizon's clouded and half free.  
Fluttering between the dun wave and the sky  
Is hope's last gleam in man's extremity.  
Her anchor parts, but still her snowy sail  
Attracts our eye amid the rudest gale;  
Though every wave she climbs divides us more,  
The heart still follows from the loneliest shore.

II.

Not distant from the isle of Toobonai,  
A black rock rear's its bosom o'er the spray,  
The haunt of birds, a desert to mankind,  
Where the rough seal repose from the wind,  
And sleeps unwieldy in his cavern dun,  
Or gambols with huge frolic in the sun:  
There shrilly to the passing one is heard  
The startled echo of the ocean bird,  
Who rears on its bare breast her callow brood,  
The feather'd fishers of the solitude.  
A narrow segment of the yellow sand  
On one side forms the outline of a strand  
Here, the young turtle, crawling from his shell  
Steals to the deep wherein his parents dwell;  
Chipp'd by the beam, a nursing of the day,  
But hatch'd for ocean by the fostering ray;  
The rest was one bleak precipice, as e'er  
Save mariners a shelter and despair;

A spot to make the saved regret the deck  
Which late went down, and envy the lost wreck.  
Such was the stern asylum Neuha chose  
To shield her lover from his following foes;  
But all its secret was not told; she knew  
In this a treasure hidden from the view.

III.

Ere the canoes divided, near the spot,  
The men that man'd what held her Torquil's sail  
But her command removed, to strengthen more  
The skiff which wafted Christian from the shore.  
This he would have opposed; but with a smile  
She pointed calmly to the craggy isle,  
And bade him "speed and prosper." She would take  
The rest upon herself for Torquil's sake.  
They parted with this added aid; afar  
The proa darted like a shooting star,  
And gain'd on the pursuers, who now steer'd  
Right on the rock which she and Torquil near'd.  
They pull'd; her arm, though delicate, was free  
And firm as ever grappled with the sea,  
And yielded scarce to Torquil's manly strength  
The prow now almost lay within its length  
Of the crag's steep, inexorable face,  
With nought but soundless waters for its base;  
Within a hundred boats' length was the foe,  
And now what refuge but their frail canoes?  
This Torquil ask'd with half upbraiding eye,  
Which said—"Has Neuha brought me here to die!  
Is this a place of safety, or a grave,  
And you huge rock the tombstone of the wave?"

IV.

They rested on their paddles, and uprose  
Neuha, and pointing to the approaching foes,  
Cried, "Torquil, follow me, and fearless follow!"  
Then plunged at once into the ocean's hollow.  
There was no time to pause—the foes were near—  
Chains in his eyes, and menace in his ear;  
With vigor they pull'd on, and as they came,  
Hail'd him to yield, and by his forfeit name.  
Headlong he leapt—to him the swimmer's skill  
Was native, and now all his hope from ill;  
But how, or where? He dived, and rose no more;  
The boat's crew look'd as amazed o'er sea and shore.  
There was no landing on that precipice,  
Steep, harsh, and slippery as a berg of ice.  
They watch'd awhile to see him float again,  
But not a trace rebubbled from the main:  
The wave roll'd on, no ripple on its face,  
Since their first plunge recall'd a single trace;  
The little whirl which eddied, and slight foam,  
That whiten'd o'er what seem'd their latest home,  
White as a sepulchre above the pair  
Who left no marble (mournful as an heir)  
The quiet proa wavering o'er the tide  
Was all that told of Torquil and his bride;  
And but for this alone the whole might seem  
The vanish'd phantom of a seaman's dream.  
They paused and search'd in vain, then pull'd away  
Even superstition now forbade their stay.  
Some said he had not plung'd into the wave,  
But vanish'd like a corpse-light from a grave;  
Others, that something supernatural  
Glared in his figure, more than mortal tall;  
While all agreed that in his check and eye  
Their was a dead hue of eternity.
THE ISLAND.

Still as their oars receded from the crag,
Round every weed a moment would they lag,
Expectant of some token of their prey;
But no—he had melted from them like the spray.

V.

And where was he, the pilgrim of the deep,
Following the nereid? Had they ceased to weep
For ever? or, received in coral caves,
Wrung life and pity from the softening waves?
Did they with ocean's hidden sovereigns dwell,
And sound with mermen the fantastic shell?
Did Neuha with the mermaids comb her hair,
Flowing o'er ocean as it stream'd in air?
Or had they perish'd, and in silence slept
Beneath the gulf wherein they boldly leapt?

VI.

Youth Neuha plunged into the deep, and he
Follow'd: her track beneath her native sea
Was as a native's of the element,
So smoothly, bravely, brilliantly she went,
Leaving a streak of light behind her heel,
Which struck and flashed like an amphibious steel.
Closely, and scarcely less expert to trace
The depths where divers hold their pearl in chase.

Toorquill, the nursling of the northern seas,
Pursued her liquid steps with heart and ease.
Deep—deeper for an instant Neuha led
The way—then upward soar'd—and as she spread
Her arms, and flung the foam from off her locks,
Laugh'd, and the sound was answer'd by the rocks.
They had gain'd a central realm of earth again,
But look'd for tree, and field, and sky, in vain.
Around she pointed to a spacious cave,
Whose only portal was the keyless wave,°
(A hollow archway by the sun unseen,
Save through the billows' glassy veil of green,
In some transparent ocean holiday,
When all the sunny people are at play,) Wiped with her hair the brine from Toorquill's eyes, And could her hands with joy that surprise;
Led him to where the rock appear'd to jut,
And form a something like a Triton's hut;
For all was darkness for a space, till day
Through clefts above let in a sober'd ray;
As in some old cathedral's glimmering aisle
The dusty monuments from light recoil,
Thus sadly in their refuge submarine
The vault drew half her shadow from the scene.

VII.

Forth from her bosom the young savage drew
A pine torch, strongly girded with gnatoo;
A plaited-leaf o'er all, the more to keep
Its latent sparkle from the sapping deep.
This mantle kept it dry; then from a nook
Of the same plaited-leaf a flint she took,
A few shrunk wither'd twigs, and from the blade
Of Toorquill's knife struck fire, and thus array'd
The grot with torchlight. Wide it was and high,
And show'd a self-born Gothic canopy;
The arch upright by nature's architect,
The architect some earthquake might erect:

The buttress from some mountain's bosom hurled,
When the Poles crash'd, and water was the world;
Or harden'd from some earth-aboding fire,
While yet the globe rook'd from its funeral pyre;
The fretted pinnacle, the aisle, the nave,*
Were there, all scoop'd by Darkness from her cave
There, with a little tinge of fantasy
Fantastic faces mop'd and mow'd on high,
And then a mitre and a shrine would fix
The eye upon its seeming crucifix:
Thus Nature play'd with the stalactites,
And built herself a chapel of the seas.

VIII.

And Neuha took her Torquill by the hand,
And waved along the vault her kindled brand
And led him into each recess, and show'd
The secret places of their new abode.
Nor these alone, for all had been prepared
Before, to soothe the lover's lot she share'd:
The mat for rest; for dress the fresh gnatoo,
And sandal-clad to fence against his own
For food the cocoa-nut, the yam, the bread
Born of the fruit; for board the plantain spread
With his broad leaf, or turtle-shell he bore
A banquet in the flesh it cover'd o'er;
The gourd with water recent from the rill,
The ripe banana from the mellow hill;
A pine torch-PILE to keep undying light,
And she herself, as beautiful as night,
To fling her shadowy spirit o'er the scene
And make their subterranean world serene.
She had foreseen, since first the stranger's sail
Drew to their isle, that force or flight might fail,
And form'd a refuge of the rocky den
For Toorquill's safety from his countrymen.
Each dawn had wafted there her light can.;
Laden with all the golden fruits that grew;
Each eve had seen her gliding through the hour
With all could cheer or deck their sparry bower,
And now she spread her little store with smiles,
The happiest daughter of the loving isles.

IX.

She, as he gazed with grateful wonder, press'd
Her shelter'd love to her impassion'd breast;
And suited to her soft caresses, told
An olden tale of love,—for love is old,
Old as eternity, but not outworn
With each new being born or to be born:°
How a young chief, a thousand moons ago,
Diving for turtle in the depths below,
Had risen, in tracking fast his ocean prey.
Into the cave which round and o'er them lay,
How in some desperate feud of after-time,
He shed'd there a daughter of the dwell;
A foe beloved, and offspring of a foe,
Saved by his tribe but for a captive's wo;
How, when the storm of war was still'd, he led
His island clan to where the waters spread

* Of this cave (which is no fiction) the original will be found in the ninth chapter of "Mariner's Account of the Tonga Islands." I have taken the nominal liberty to suggest to Tooboodi, the last island where any distinct account is left of Christian and his comrades.

° This may seem too minute for the general outline (in Mariner's Account) from which it is taken. But few men have travelled without seeing something of the kind—we know, that is. Without adhering to Elison, in Sturge Purb's last journal, (if my memory do not err, for there are eight years since I read the book,) he mentions having met with a rock or mountain so exactly resembling a Gothic cathedral, that only a minute inspection could convince him that it was a work of nature.

° The reader will recollect the epigrams of the Greek antiquity, or its transition into most of the modern languages.

"Wether than art, thy master see,
He was or is, or is to be"
Their deep green shadow o'er the rocky door,
Then dived—it seemed as if to rise no more:
His wondering mates, amazed within their bark,
Or deem'd him mad, or prey to the blue shark;
Row'd down in sorrow the sea-girded rock,
Then paused upon their paddles from the shock;
When, fresh and springing from the deep, they saw
A goddess rise—so deem'd they in their awe;
And their companion, glorious by her side,
Proud and exulting in his mermaid pride;
And how, when undeceived, the pair they bore
With sounding conchs and joyous shouts to shore;
If we they had gladly lived and calmly died,—
And why not also Terquill and his bride?
Not mine to tell the rapturous caress
Which follow'd wildly in that wild recess.
This tale; enough that all within that cave
Was love, though buried strong as in the grave
Where Abelard, through twenty years of death,
Whose Eloïsa's form was lower'd beneath
Their nuptial vault, his arms outstretch'd, and press'd
The kindling ashes to his kindled breast.*

The waves without sang round their couch, their roar
As much unheeded as if life were o'er;
Within, their hearts made all their harmony,
Love's broken murmur and more broken sigh.

X.

And they, the cause and sharers of the shock
Which left them exiles of the hollow rock,
Where were they? O'er the sea for life they plied,
To seek from Heaven the shelter men denied.
Another course had been their choice—but where?
The wave which bore them still their foes would bear;
Who disappointed of their former chase,

In search of Christian now renew'd their race.
Eager with anger, their strong arms made way
Like vultures baffled of their previous prey.
They gain'd upon them, all whose safety lay
In some bleak crag or deeply-hidden bay:
No further chance or choice remain'd; and right
For the first further rock which met their sight
They steer'd, to take their latest view of land,
And yield as victims, or die sword in hand;
Dismiss'd the natives and their shallop, who
Would still have battled for that scanty crew;
But Christian bade them seek their shore again,
Nor add a sacrifice which we in vain;
For what were simple bow and savage spear
Against the arms that must be wielded here?

XI.

They landed on a wild but narrow scene,
Where few but Nature's footsteps—yet had been;
Prepared their arms, and with that gloomy eye,
Stern and sus'tain'd of man's extremity,
When hope is gone, nor glory's self remains
To cheer resistance against death or chains,—
They stood, the three, as the three hundred stood
Who dyed Thermopylae with holy blood.
But, ah! how different! 'tis the cressst makes all,
Degrades or hallows courage in its fall.
O'er them no fame, eternal and intense,
Blazed through the clouds of death and beckon'd hence;

No grateful country, smiling through her tears.
Begun the praises of a thousand years;
No nation's eyes weep on their tomb be bent.
No heroes envy them their monument;
However boldly their warm blood was spilt,
Their life was shame, their epitaph was guilt.
And this they knew and felt, at least the one,
The leader of the band he had undone.
Who, born perchance for better things, had set
His life upon a cast which linger'd yet:
But now the die was to be thrown, and all
The chances were in favor of his fall;
And such a fall! But still he faced the shock,
Obdurate as a portion of the rock
Whereon he stood, and fix'd his level'd gun,
Dark as a sullen cloud before the sun.

XII.

The boat drew nigh, well arm'd, and firm the crew
To act whatever duty bade them do;
Careless of danger, as the onward wind
Is of the leaves it strews, nor looks behind.
And yet perhaps they rather wish'd to go
Against a nation's than a native foe.
And felt that this poor victim of self-will,
Briton no more, had once been Britain's still.
They hail'd him to surrender—no reply:
Their arms were poised, and glitter'd in the sky.
They hail'd again—no answer; yet once more
They offer'd quarter louder than before.
The echoes only, from the rock's rebound,
Took their last farewell of the dying sound.
Then flash'd the flint, and blazed the volleying flame
And the smoke rose between them and their aim.
While the rock rattled with the bullets' knell,
Which peal'd in vain, and flatten'd as they fell:
Then flew the only answer to be given
By those who had lost all hope in earth or heaven.
After the first fierce peal, as they pull'd higher,
They heard the voice of Christian shout, "Now fire!
And ere the word upon the echo died,
Two fell; the rest assall'd the rock's rough side,
And, furious at the madness of their foes,
Disdain'd all further efforts, save to close
But steep the creag, and all without a path,
Each step opposed a bastion to their wrath
While, placed 'mid cliffs the least accessible
Which Christian's eyes were train'd to mark full well,
The three maintain'd a strife which must not yield,
In spots where eagles might have chosen to build.
Their every shot told; while the assailant fell,
Dash'd on the shingles like the limpet shell;
But still enough survived, and mounted still,
Scattering their numbers here and there, until
Surrounded and commanded, though not nigh
Enough for seizure, near enough to die,
The desperate trio held aloof their fate
But by a thread, like sharks who have gorged the bulk;
Yet to the very last they battled well,
And not a groan from their foes echo fell.
Christian died last—twice wounded; and once more
Mercy was offer'd when they saw his gore;
Too late for life, but not too late to die,
With, though a hostile hand, to close his eye.
A limb was broken, and he droop'd along
The crag, as doth a falcon rest of young.
The sound revived him, or appear'd to wake
Some passion which a weakly gesture spake.

* The tradition is attached to the story of Eloïsa, that when her body was lowered into the grave of Abelard, (who had been buried twenty years) he pressed his arms to receive her.
Ho ban'd to the foremost, who drew nigh,
But, as they neard, he rear'd his weapon high—
His last ball had been aim'd, but from his breast
He tore the topmost button from his vest,*
Down the tube dash'd it, levell'd, fired, and smiled
As his foe fell; then, like a serpent, coil'd
His wounded, weary form, to where the steep
Look'd desperate as himself along the deep;
Cast one glance back, and clenched his hand, and shook
His last rage 'gainst the earth which he forsook;
Then plunged: the rock below received like glass
His body crush'd into one gory mass,
With scarce a shred to tell of human form,
Or fragment for the sea-bird or the worm;
A fair-hair'd scalp, besmeard with blood and weeds,
Yet reck'd, the remnant of himself and deeds,
Some splinters of his weapons, (to the last,
As long as hand could hold, he held them fast.)
Yet glitter'd, but at distance—hair'd away
To rust beneath the dew and dashing spray;
The rest was nothing—save a life mispent,
And soul—but who shall answer where it went?
'Tis ours to bear, not judge the dead; and they
Who doom to hell, themselves are on the way,
Unless these bullies or eternal pains
Are pardon'd their bad hearts for their worse brains.

XIII.
The deed was over! All were gone or ta'en,
The fugitive, the captive, or the slain.
Chain'd on the deck, where once, a gallant crew,
They stood with honor, were the wretched few
Survivors of the skirmish on the isle;
But the last rock left no surviving spoil.
Cold these lay where they fell, and wertering,
While o'er them flapp'd the sea-bird's dewy wing,
Now wheeling nearer from the neighboring surge,
And screaming high their harsh and hungry dirge:
But calm and careless heav'd the wave below,
Eternal with unsympathetic flow;
Far o'er its face the dolphins sported on,
And sprung the flying fish against the sun,*

Till its dried wing relapsed from its brief height.
To gather moisture for another flight.

XIV.
'Twas morn; and Neuha, who by dawn of day
Swam smoothly forth to catch the rising ray,
And watch if aught approach'd the amphibious lab
Where lay her lover, saw a sail in air:
It flapp'd, it fill'd, and to the growing gale
Bent its broad arch: her breath began to fail
With fluttering fear, her heart beat thick and high,
While yet a doubt sprang where its course might lie.
But no! it came not; fast and far away
The shadow lessen'd as it clear'd the bay.
She gazed and flung the sea-foam from her eyes,
To watch as for a rainbow in the skies.
On the horizon verged the distant deck,
Diminish'd, dwindled to a very speck—
Then vanish'd. All was ocean, all was joy!
Down plunged she through the cave to rouse her boy
Told all she had seen, and all she hoped, and all
That happy love could augur or recall;
Sprung forth again, with Torquill following free
His bounding nereid over the broad sea;
Swam round the rock, to where a shallow cleft
Hid the canoe that Neuha there had left
Drifting along the tide, without an oar,
That eve the strangers chased them from the shore
But when these vanish'd, she pursued her prow,
Regain'd, and urged to where they found it now,
Nor ever did more love and joy embank,
Than now was wafted in that slender ark.

XV.
Again their own shore rises on the view,
No more polluted with a hostile hue;
No sullen ship lay bristling o'er the foam,
A floating dungeon:—all was hope and home!
A thousand prosas darted o'er the bay,
With sounding shells, and heralded their way;
The chiefs came down, around the people pour'd,
And welcome Torquill as a son restored;
The women throng'd, embracing and embraced
By Neuha, asking where they had been chased,
And how escaped? The tale was told; and thus
One acclamation rent the sky again;
And from that hour a new tradition gave
Their sanctuary the name of "Neuha's Cave."
A hundred fires, far flickering from the height,
Blazed o'er the general revel of the night,
The feast in honor of the guest, return'd
To peace and pleasure, perilously earn'd:
A night succeeded by such happy days
As only the yet infant world displays.
APPENDIX TO THE ISLAND.

EXTRACT FROM THE VOYAGE OF CAPTAIN BLIGH.

On the 27th of December it blew a severe storm of wind from the eastward, in the course of which we suffered greatly. One sea broke away the spar and spars out of the starboard main-chains; another broke into the ship and stowe all the boats. Several casks of beer that had been lashed on deck broke loose, and were washed overboard; and it was not without great risk, and difficulty, that we were able to secure the boats from being washed away entirely. A great quantity of our bread was also damaged and rendered useless, for the sea had stowe in our stern, and filled the cabin with water.

On the 29th, we took in the necessary spares, and having finished our business, sailed on the 10th.

I now divided the people into three watches, and gave the charge of the third watch to Mr. Fletcher Christian, one of the mates. I have always considered this a desirable regulation, and I am persuaded that an unbroken rest will not only contribute much towards the health of the ship's company, but enables them more readily to exert themselves in cases of sudden emergency.

As I wished to proceed to Otaheite without stopping, I reduced the allowance of bread to two-thirds, and caused the water for drinking to be filtered through drip-stones, bought at Teneriffe for that purpose. I now acquainted the ship's company of the object of the voyage, and gave assurances of certain promotion to every one whose endeavors should merit it.

On Tuesday the 26th of February, being in south latitude 29 degrees, 33 minutes, and 44 degrees 44 minutes west longitude, we bent new sails, and made other necessary preparations for encountering the weather that was to be expected in a high latitude. Our distance from the coast of Brazil was about one hundred leagues.

On the forenoon of Sunday the 2d of March, after seeing that every person was clean, divine service was performed, according to my usual custom on this day. I gave to Mr. Fletcher Christian, whom I had before directed to take charge of the third watch, a written order to act as lieutenant.

The change of temperature soon began to be sensibly felt, and that the people might not suffer from their own negligence, I supplied them with thick clothing, as better suited to the climate. A great number of whales of an immense size, with two spout-holes on the back of the head, were seen on the 11th.

On a complaint made to me by the master, I found a great number of the seamen, with two dozen of lashes, for insubordination and mutinous behaviour, which was the first time that there was any occasion for punishment on board.

We were off Cape St. Diego, the eastern part of the Terra del Fuego, and the wind being unfavorable, I thought more advisable to go round to the westward of Staten-land than to attempt passing through Straits le Maire. We passed New Year's Harbor and Cape St. John, and on Monday the 31st were in latitude 60 degrees 1 minute south. But the wind became variable, and we had bad weather. Storms, attended with great sea, prevailed until the 12th of April. The ship began to leak, and required pumping every hour, which was no more than we had expected. We had to shift the lower yards of spars and high sea. The decks also became so leaky, that it was necessary to allot the great cabin, of which I made little use except in fine weather, to those people who had not berths to hang their clothes in. Hence we were obliged to pump hourly in our passage from Cape Horn. The sails and rigging also required repair, and, on examining the provisions, a considerable quantity was found damaged.

Having remained thirty-eight days in this place, and my people having received all the advantage that could be derived from refreshments of every kind that could be met with, we sailed on the 1st of July.

A gale of wind blew on the 20th, with a high sea: it increased after noon with such violence, that the ship was driven almost forcible under before we could get the sails cleared up. The lower yards were lowered, and the topgallant-masts got down upon deck, which relieved her much. We lay to all night, and in the morning bore away under a reefed foresail. The sea was still running high, in the afternoon it became very unsafe to stand on; we therefore lay to all night, without any accident, excepting that a man at the steerage was thrown over the wheel and much bruised. Towards noon the violence of the storm abated, and we again bore away under the reefed foresail.

In a few days we passed the island of St. Paul, where there is good fresh water, as I was informed by a Dutch captain, and also a hot spring, which boils fish as completely as if done by a fire. Approaching to Van Diemen's land, we had much bad weather, with snow and hail; but nothing was seen to indicate our vicinity on the 13th of August, ex
APPENDIX TO THE ISLAND.

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such...day by five of the natives; but the men were not taken until nearly three weeks afterwards. Leaving the place where they were, in a different quarter of the island of Otaheite, I went thither in the cutter, thinking there would be no great difficulty in securing them with the assistance of the natives. However, the adventure of securing them was not so easy as it was supposed to be. We found a house near a house in which they were, they came out without their fire-arms, and delivered themselves up. Some of the chiefs had formerly seized and carried off these natives; but they were prevailed on by fair promises of returning peaceably to the ship, to release them. But finding an opportunity again to get possession of their arms, they set the natives at defiance.

The object of the voyage being now completed, all the bread-fruit plants, to the number of one thousand and fifteen, were got on board on Tuesday the 81st of March. Besides these, we had collected many other plants, some of them bearing the finest fruits in the world; and valuable, from affording brilliant dyes, and for various properties besides.

At sunset of the 4th of April, we made sail from Otaheite, bidding farewell to an island where a great many tosses, and of the most delightful kind, were seen. Some of the chiefs were present, and of these, I was much pleased with the utmost affection and regard, and which seemed to increase in proportion to our stay. That we were not insensible to their kindness, the succeeding circumstance may, perhaps, be justly supposed.

On Tuesday evening, before we took our departure, a number of natives were brought to me, and I was entertained with a simple and touching address, which included wishes that I might return to Otaheite and stay with them as long as I should live. It was a surprise to my hearers, who were not acquainted with the language. I understood them, however, and after returning many expressions of regard and esteem, ended with a request that my native friends would be allowed to accompany me on my voyage.

A few days after reaching the Island of Huaheine, I made for the Island of Otaheite, and arrived at the south-west point of it on the 20th of April. I found it very lovely, and the people who live there are exceedingly kind.

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carried on a brisk trade for yams: we also got plain-
tains and bread-fruit. But the yams were in great
abundance, and very fine and large. One of them
weighed above forty-five pounds. Sailing canoes
were to be seen continually, containing more than nine
passengers. Such a number of them gradually ar-
rived from different islands, that it was impossible to
get any thing done, the multitude became so
great that we could hardly have obtained the auth-
ority to command the whole. I therefore ordered a
waterning party, then employed, to come on board,
and sailed on Sunday the 26th of April.

We kept near the island of Kotoo all the after-
noon, and on the morning of Monday. We had
some chance that

we might come off to the ship, but in this we were disappoint-
ed. The wind being northerly, we steered to the
westward in the evening, to pass south of Tufoa;
and gave directions for this course to be continued
during the night. The master had the first watch,
the gunner the middle watch, and Mr. Christian
the morning watch. This was the turn of duty for
the

Hallet to the voyage had advanced in a course of
uninterrupted prosperity, and had been attended
with circumstances equally pleasing and satisfac-
tory. But a very different scene was now to be dis-
cerned. We had been in the midst of the turmoil
which was for some time to render all our past labor productive only of misery
and distress; and it had been concerted with so
much secrecy and circumspection, that no one cir-


On the night of Monday, the watch was set as I
had described. Just before sunrise on Tuesday
morning, while I was yet asleep, Mr. Christian,
with the master-at-arms, gunner's mate, and
Thomas Burkitt, seaman, came into my cabin, and
seizing me, tied my hands with a cord behind my
back, threatening me with instant death if I spoke
or made the least noise. I nevertheless called out
as loud as I could a hope of assistance; but the
officers not of our party were already secured by
sentinels at their doors. At my own cabin door
were three men, besides the four within: all except
Christian had muskets and bayonets; he had only
a cutlass. I was dragged out of bed, and forced on
deck in my shirt, sufferin great pain in the mean-
time from the tightness with which my hands were
tied. I was demanding the reason of the violence,
the only reply was along out of my tongue. The master, the gunner, surgeon, master's
mate, and Nelson the gardener, were kept confined
below, and the fore-hatchway was guarded by sen-
tinels. Mr. Samuel, though a helpless person, the
clerk, were allowed to come on deck, where they

We veered the main-mast, and the carpenter was ordered into the boat. He
was permitted, though not without opposition to take his tool-chest.

Mr. Samuel secured my journals and commission, with some important ship papers, and we got into the boat as quickly as possible. He
attempted to save the time-keeper, and a box with my surveys, drawings, and remarks for fifteen years past, which were very numerous, when he was hur-
tied away with—"Damn your eyes, you are well off
to get what you have."

Much alteration took place among the mutinous
crew during the transaction of this whole affair.
Some swore, "I'll damn Bligh, and if he gets any thing with him,"
meaning me; and when the carpenter's chest was
being carried away, "Damn my eyes, he will have a ves-

The master had by this time sent, requesting that
he might come on deck, which was permitted; but
he, too, was soon ordered back again to his cabin. Mr.

Certain individuals were called on to get into the
cast and were hurled over the ship's side; whence

I concluded that along with them I was to be set
adrift. Another effort to bring about a change pro-
duced nothing but menaces of having my brains
blown out.

The boatswain and those seamen who were to be
put into the boat were allowed to collect twine, can-
vases, lines, sails, cordage, an eight-and-twenty-gallon
eask of water; and Mr. Samuel got one hundred
pounds of provisions for them, and fifty dollars of
letters of credit for the purchase of rum and wine; also a quadrant and compass, but he
was prohibited, on pain of death, to touch any
map or astronomical book, and any instrument, or
any of my surveys and drawings.

The mutineers having that, which was very dear to
me, they next called on deck, and forced over the ship's
side into the boat, while I was kept apart from ev-
very one aboat the mizen-mast. Christian, armed
with a bayonet, held the cord fastening my hands,
and the guard around me stood with their pieces
cocked; but on my daring the ungrateful wretch
to fire, they uncocked them. Isaac Martin, one of
them, I saw had an inclination to assist me; and

This seemed a great restraint on them, which was inter-
pared, we explained each other's sentiments by
looks. But this was observed, and he was removed. He
then got into the boat, attempting to leave the
ship; however, he was compelled to return. Some
officers were now called on, and contrary to the

It appeared to me that Christian was some time in

The officers and men being in the boat, they only
waited for me, of which the master-at-arms inform
ed Christian who then said, "Come, Captain Bligh.
your officers are now in the boat, and you must go
with them; if you refuse, in case of resistance, you will instantly be put to death;" and
without further ceremony I was forced over the side
by a tribe of armed ruffians, where they untied my
hands. Being in the boat, we were veered astern
for some time; and a rope of our were thrown to us,
also the four cutlasses. The armorer and carpenter
then called out to me to remember that they had no
hand in the transaction. After having been kept in
in the water, and had so little room for those who
were in her. As for Christian, he seemed as if medi-
tating destruction on himself and every one else.
I asked for arms, but the mutineers laughed at me,
and said I was well acquainted with the people
among whom I was going: four cutlasses, however,
were thrown into the boat after we were veered
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then called out to me to remember that they had no
hand in the transaction. After having been kept in

quartermasters, the sail maker, two cooks, my clerk, the butcher, and a boy. There remained on board Fletcher Christian, the master's mate; Peter Haywood, Edward Young, George Stewart, midshipmen; the master-at-arms, gunner's mate, boatswain's mate, gardener, armorer, carpenter's mate, carpenter's crew, and fourteen seamen, being altogether the most able men of the ship's company.

Having little or no wind, we rowed pretty fast towards the island of Tofoa, which bore northeast about ten leagues distant. The ship while in sight steered west-northwest; but this I considered only as a feint, for when we were sent away, "Huzza for Otaheite!" was frequently heard among the mutineers.

Christian, the chief of them, was of a respectable family in the north of England. This was the third voyage he had made with me. Notwithstanding the roughness with which I was treated, the remembrance of past kindnesses produced some remorse in him. While they were forcing me out of the ship, I asked him whether this was a proper return for the many instances he had experienced of my friendship? He appeared disturbed at the question, and answered with much emotion, "That—Captain Bligh—that is the thing—I am in hell—I am in hell!" His abilities to take charge of the third watch, as I had so divided the ship's company, were fully equal to the task.

Haywood was also of a respectable family in the north of England, and a young man of abilities, as well as Christian. These two had been objects of my particular regard and attention, and I had taken great pains to instruct them, having entertained hopes that, as professional men, they would have become a credit to their country. Young was well recommended, and Stewart of creditable parents in the Orkneys, at which place, on the return of the Resolution from the South Seas in 1780, we received a great number of seamen, that in consideration of these alone I should gladly have taken him with me. But he had always borne a good character.

When I had time to reflect, an inward satisfaction prevented the depression of my spirits. Yet, a few hours before, my situation had been peculiarly flattering; I had a ship in the most perfect order, stored with every necessary, both for health and service; the object of the voyage was attained, and two-thirds of it now completed. The remaining part had every prospect of success.

It will naturally be asked, what could be the cause of such a revolt? In answer, I can only conjecture that the mutineers had flattered themselves with the hope of a happier life among the Otaheitians than they could possibly enjoy in England, which, joined to some female connexions, most probably occasioned the whole transaction.

The women of Otaheite are handsome, mild, and cheerful in manners and conversation, possessed of great sensibility, and have sufficient delicacy to make them be admired and beloved. The chiefs were so much attached to our people, that they rather encouraged their stay among them than otherwise, and even made them promises of large possessions. Under these and many other concomitant circumstances, it ought hardly to be the subject of surprise that a set of sailors, most of them void of connexions, should be led away, where they had the power of fixing themselves in the midst of plenty, in one of the finest islands in the world, where there was no necessity to labor, and where the allurements of dissipation are beyond any conception that can be formed of it. The utmost, however, that a commander could have expected was desertions, such as have already happened more or less in the South Seas, and not an act of open mutiny.

But the secrecy of this mutiny surpasses belief. Thirteen of the party who were now with me had always lived forward among the seamen, yet neither they, nor the messmates of Christian, Stewart, Haywood, and Young, had ever observed any circumstance to excite suspicion of what was plotting; and it is not wonderful if I fell a sacrifice to it, my mind being entirely free from suspicion. Perhaps, had mariners been on board, a sentinel at my cabin door might have prevented it; for I constantly slept with the door open, that the officer of the watch might have access to me on all occasions. If the mutiny had been occasioned by any grievances, either real or imaginary, I must have discovered symptoms of discontent, which would have put me on my guard; but it was far otherwise. With Christian, in particular, I was on the most friendly terms; that very day he was engaged to have dined with me; and the preceding night he excused himself from supping with me on pretense of indisposition, for which I felt concerned, having no suspicion of his honor or integrity.
MANFRED:

A DRAMATIC POEM.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MANFRED.
CHAMOIS HUNTER.
ABBOT OF ST. MAURICE.
MANUEL.
HERMAN.

WITCH OF THE ALPS,
ABIMANES.
NEMESIS.
The Destinies.
SPIRITS, &c.

The Scene of the Drama is among the higher Alps—partly in the Castle of Manfred, and partly in the Mountains.

ACT I.
SCENE I.

Manfred alone.—Scene, a Gothic Gallery.—Time, Midnight.

Man. The lamp must be replenish'd, but even then it will not burn so long as I must watch:
My slumbers—if I slumber—are not sleep,
But a continuance of enduring thought,
Which then I can resist not: in my heart
There is a vigil and these eyes but close
To look within: and yet I live, and bear
The aspect and the form of breathing men.
But grief should be the instructor of the wise;
Sorrow is knowledge: they who know the most,
Must mourn the deepest o'er the fatal truth,
The Tree of Knowledge is not that of life.
Philosophy and science, and the springs

Of wonder, and the wisdom of the world,
I have essay'd, and in my mind there is
A power to make these subject to itself—
But they avail not: I have done men good,
And I have met with good even among men—
But this avail'd not: I have had my foes,
And none have baffled, many fallen before me—
But this avail'd not: Good or evil, life,
Powers, passions, all I see in other beings,
Have been to me as rain unto the sands
Since that all-nameless hour. I have no dread,
And feel the curse to have no natural fear,
Nor fluttering throb, that beats with hopes or wishes
Or lurking love of something on the earth.—

Now to my task.—Mysterious Agency!
Ye spirits of the unbounded Universe!
Whom I have sought in darkness and in light—
Ye, who do compass earth about, and dwell
In subtler essence—ye, to whom the tops
Of mountains inaccessible are haunts,
And earth's and ocean's caves familiar things—
I call upon ye by the written charm
Which gives me power upon you—Rise! appear!

[A pause]
They come not yet.—Now by the voice of him
Who is the first among you—by this sign,
Which makes you tremble—by the claims of him
Who is undying.—Rise! appear!—Appear!

[A pause]
If it be so.—Spirits of earth and air,
Ye shall not thus elude me: by a power,
Deeper than all yet urged, a tyrant-spell,
Which had its birthplace in a star condemn'd,
The burning wreck of a demolish'd world,
A wandering hell in the eternal space;
By the strong curse which is upon my soul,
The thought which is within me and around me,
I do compel ye to my will.—Appear!

[A star is seen at the darker end of the gallery: it is stationary; and a voice is heard singing.
**MANFRED.**

**FIRST SPIRIT.**

Mortal! to thy bidding bow’d,
From my mansion in the cloud,
Which the breath of twilight builds,
And the summer’s sunset gilds
With the azure and vermillion,
Which is mix’d for my pavilion;
Though thy quest may be forbidden,
On a star-beam I have ridden;
To thine adjuration bow’d,
Mortal—be thy wish avow’d.

**Voice of the SECOND SPIRIT.**

Mount Blanc is the monarch of mountains;
They crown’d him long ago
On a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds,
With a diadem of snow.
Around his waist are forests braced,
The Avalanche in his hand;
Be it ever so thundering ball
Must pause for my command.
The Glacier’s cold and restless mass
Moves onward day by day;
But I am he who bids it pass,
Or with its ice delay.
I am the spirit of the place,
Could the mountain bow
And quiver to his cavern’d base—
And what with me wouldst Thou?

**Voice of the THIRD SPIRIT.**

In the blue depth of the waters,
Where the wave hath no strife,
Where the wind is a stranger,
And the sea-snake hath life,
Where the mermaid is decked
Her green hair with shells;
Like the storm on the surface
Came the sound of thy spells;
O’er my calm Hall of Coral
The deep echo roll’d—
To the Spirit of Ocean
Thy wishes unfold!

**FOURTH SPIRIT.**

Where the slumbering earthquake
Lies pillow’d on fire,
And the lakes of bitumen
Rise boilingly higher;
Where the roots of the Andes
Strike deep in the earth,
As their summits to heaven
Shoot soaringly forth;
I have quitted my birthplace,
Thy bidding to bide—
Thy spell hath subdued me,
Thy will be my guide!

**FIFTH SPIRIT.**

I am the Rider of the wind,
The Stirrer of the storm;
The hurricane I left behind
Is yet with lightning warm;
To speed to thee, o’er shore and sea
I swept upon the blast;
The fleet I met sail’d well, and yet
Twill sink ere night be past.

**SIXTH SPIRIT.**

My dwelling is the shadow of the night,
Why doth thy magic torture me with light?

**SEVENTH SPIRIT.**

The star which rules thy destiny
Was ruled, ere earth began, by me:
It was a world as fresh and fair
As e’er revolved round sun in air,
Its course was free and regular,
Space bosom’d not a lovelier star.
The hour arrived—and it became
A wandering mass of shapeless flame,
A pathless comet, and a curse,
The menace of the universe;
Still rolling on with innate force,
Without a sphere, without a course!
A bright deformity on high,
The monster of the upper sky!
And thou! beneath its influence born—
Thou worm! whom I obey and scorn—
Forced by a power, (which is not thine),
And lent thee but to make thee mine,
For this brief moment to descend,
Where these weak spirits round thee bend
And parley with a thing like thee—
What wouldst thou, Child of Clay! with me?

**The Seven Spirits.**

Earth, ocean, air, night, mountains, winds, thy star,
Are at thy beck and bidding, Child of Clay!
Before thee at thy quest their spirits are—
What wouldst thou with us, son of mortals—say?

**Man.** Forgetfulness—
**First Spirit.** Of what—of whom—and why:
**Man.** Of that which is within me; read it there—
**Ye know it, and I cannot utter it.**

**Spirit.** We can but give thee that which we possess:
Ask of us subjects, sovereignty, the power
O’er earth, the whole, or portion, or a sign
Which shall control the elements, whereof
We are the dominators, each and all,
These shall be thine.

**Man.** Oblivion, self-oblivion—
Can ye not wring from out the hidden realms
Ye offer so profusely what I ask?
**Spirit.** It is not in our essence, in our skill;
But—thou mayst die.

**Man.** Will death bestow it on me?
**Spirit.** We are immortal, and do not forget;
We are eternal; and to us the past
Is, as the future, present. Art thou answer’d?

**Man.** Ye quock me—but the power which brought
ye here
Hath made you mine. Slaves, scoff not at my will!
The mind, the Spirit, the Promethean spark,
The lightning of my being, is as bright,
Pervading, and far-darting as your own,
And shall not yield to yours, though coop’d in clay
Answer, or I will teach ye what I am.
**Spirit.** We answer as we answer’d; our reply
Is even in thine own words.

**Man.** Why say ye so?
**Spirit.** If, as thou say’st, thine essence be as cura
We have replied in telling thee, the thing
Mortals call death nought to do with us. 
Man. I then have call’d ye from your realms in vain.
Ye cannot, or ye will not, aid me.
Spir. Say;
What we possess we offer; it is thine:
Bethink ere thou dismiss us, ask again—
Kingdom, and sway, and strength, and length of days—
Man. Accursed! what have I to do with days?
They are to long already.—Hence—begone!
Spir. Yet father! being here, our will would do
thee service;
Bethink thee, is there then no other gift
Which we can make not worthless in-thine eyes?
Man. No, none: yet stay—one moment, ere we part—
I would behold ye face to face. I hear
Your voices, sweet and melancholy sounds,
As music on the waters; and I see
The steady aspect of a clear large star;
But nothing more. Approach me as ye are,
Or one, or all, in your accustomed forms.
Spir. We have no forms beyond the elements
Of which we are the mind and principle:
But choose a form—in that we will appear.
Man. I have no choice; there is no form on earth.
Hideous or beautiful to me. Let him,
Who is most powerful of ye, take such aspect
As unto him may seem most fitting—Come!
Seventh Spirit. (Appearing in the shape of a beautiful female figure.) Behold!
Man. Oh God! if it be true, and thou
Art not a madness and a mockery.
I yet will be most happy. I will claspe thee,
And we again will be—[The figure vanishes.
My heart is crush’d!]  
[Manfred falls senseless.
A voice is heard in the Incantation which follows.)
When the moon is on the wave,
And the glow-worm in the grass,
And the meteor on the grave,
And the wisp on the morass;
When the falling stars are shooting,
And the answer’d owls are hooting,
And the silent leaves are still
In the shadow of the hill,
Shall my soul be upon thine,
With a power and with a sign.

Though thy slumber may be deep,
Yet thy spirit shall not sleep;
There are shades which will not vanish,
There are thoughts thou canst not banish;
By a power to thee unknown,
Thou canst never be alone;
Thou art wrapt as with a shroud,
Thou art gather’d in a cloud;
And for ever shalt thou dwell
In the spirit of this spell.

Though thou seest me not pass by,
Thou shalt feel me with thine eye
As a thing that, though unseen,
Must be near thee, and hath been
And when in that secret dread
Thou hast turn’d around thy head,
Thou shalt marvel I am not
As thy shadow on the spot,
And the power which thou dost feel
Shall be what thou must confess.

And a magic voice and verse
Hath baptized thee with a curse,
And a spirit of the air
Hath begirt thee with a snare;
In the wind there is a voice
Shall forbid thee to rejoice;
And to thee shall Night dony
All the quiet of her sky;
And the day shall have a sun,
Which shall make thee wish it done.

From thy false tears I did distil
An essence which hath strength to kill;
From thy own heart I then did wring
The black blood in its blackest spring:
From thy own smile I snatch’d the snake,
For there it coil’d as in a brake;
From thy own lip I drew the charm
Which gave all these their chiefest harm:
In proving every poison known,
I found the strongest was thine own.

By thy cold breast and serpent smile,
By thy unfathom’d gulfs of guile,
By that most seeming virtuous eye,
By thy shut soul’s hypocrisy;
By the perfection of thine art
Which pass’d for human thine own heart;
By thy delight in others’ pain,
And by thy brotherhood of Cain,
I call upon thee! and compel
Thyself to be thy proper Hell!

And on thy head I pour the vial
Which doth devote thee to this trial,
Nor to slumber, nor to die,
Shall be in thy destiny;
Though thy death shall still seem near
To thy wish, out as a fear;
Lo! the spell now works around thee,
And the clankless chain hath bound thee;
O’er thy heart and brain together
Hath the word been pass’d—now wither!

SCENE II.

The Mountain of the Jungfrau.—Time, Morning—
Manfred alone upon the Cliffs.

Man. The spirits I have raised abandon me—
The spells which I have studied baffled me—
The remedy I reck’d of tortured me;
I lean no more on superhuman aid,
It hath no power upon the past, and for
The future, till the past be gulf’d in darkness,
It is not of my search.—My mother Earth!
And thou fresh breaking Day, and you, ye Moun-
tains,
Why are ye beautiful? I cannot love ye.
And thou, the bright eye of the universe,
That openest over all, and unto all
Art a delight—thou shin'st not on my heart,
And you, ye crags, upon whose extreme edge
I stand, and on the torrent's brink beneath
Behold the tall pines dwindled as to shrubs
In distance of distance; when a leap,
A stir, a motion, even a breath, would bring
My breast upon its rocky bosom's bed
To rest for ever—wherefore do I pause?
I feel the impulse—yet I do not plunge;
I see the peril—yet do not recede;
And my brain reels—and yet my foot is firm
There is a power upon me which withholds,
And makes it my fatality to live;
If it be life to wear within myself
This barrenness of spirit, and to be
My own soul's sepulchre, for I have ceased
To justify my deeds unto myself—
The last infirmity of evil.
Ay, thou wing'd and cloud-eleving minister,
[An eagle passes.
Whose happy flight is highest into heaven,
Well may'st thou swoop so near me—I should be
Thy prey, and gorge thine eaglets; thou art gone
Where the eye cannot follow thee; but thine
Yet pierces downward, onward, or above,
With a pervading vision.—Beautiful!
How beautiful is all this visible world!
How glorious in its action and itself!
But we, who name ourselves its sovereigns, we,
Half dust, half deity, alike unfit
To sink or soar, with our mix'd essence make
A conflict of its elements, and breathe
The breath of degradation and of pride,
Contending with low wants and lofty will,
Till our mortality predominates,
And men are—what they name not to themselves,
And trust not to each other. Hark! the note,
[The Shepherd's pipe in the distance is heard.
The mutual music of the mountain reed—
For here the patriarchal days are not
A pastoral fable—pipes in the liberal air,
Mix'd with the sweet bells of the samturing herd;
My soul would drink those echoes.—Oh, that I were
The viewless spirit of a lovely sound,
A living voice, a breathing harmony,
A bedbless enjoyment—born and dying
With the best tone which made me!—
*Enter from below a CHAMOIS HUNTER.

Chamois Hunter.
Even so
This way the chamois leapt: her nimble feet
Have baffled me; my gains to-day will scarce
Repay my breakneck travail.—What is here?
Who seems not of my trade, and yet hath reach'd
A height which none even of our mountaineers
Save our best hunters, may attain; his garb
Is goodly, his mien manly, and his air
Proud as a freeborn peasant's, at this distance—
I will approach him nearer.

M sn. (not perceiving the other.) To be thus—
Gray-haired d with anguish, like these blasted pines,
Wrecks of a single winter, barkless, branchless,
A mangled trunk upon a cursed root,
Which but supplies a feeling to decay—
And to be thus, eternally but thus,
Having been otherwise! Now furrow'd o'er,
With wrinkles, plough'd by moments, not by years
And hours—all tortured into ages—hours
Which I outlive!—ye topping crags of ice!
Ye avalanches, whom a breath draws down
In mountainsous o'erwhelming, come and crush me.
I hear ye momentarily, beneath,
Crash with a frequent conflict; but ye pass,
And only fall on things that still would live;
On the young flourishing forest, or the hut
And hamlet of the harmless villager.

C. Hun. The mist begins to rise from up the valley;
I'll warn him to descend, or he may chance
To lose at once his way and life together.

Man. The mists boil up around the glaciers; clouds
Rise curling fast beneath me, white and sulphury
Like foam from the roused ocean of deep Hell,
Whose every wave breaks on a living shore,
Heap'd with the damn'd like pebbles.—I am giddy.
Ch. Hun. I must approach him cautiously; if near
A sudden step will startle him, and he
Seems tottering already.

Man. Mountains have fallen,
Leaving a gap in the clouds, and with the shock
Rocking their Alpine brethren; filling up
The ripe green valleys with destruction's splinters.
Damming the rivers with a sudden dash,
Which crush'd the waters into mist, and made
Their fountains find another channel—thus,
Thus, in its old age, did Mount Rosenberg.
Whence I stood I know not beneath it?

C. Hun. Friend! have a care,
Your next step may be fatal—for the love
Of Him who made you, stand not on that brink!

Man (not hearing him.) Such would have been
for me a fitting tomb;
My bones had then been quiet in their depth;
They had not then been strewn upon the rocks
For the wind's pastime—as thus—thus they shall
be—
In this one plunge.—Farewell, ye opening heavens
Look not upon me thus reproachfully—
Ye were not meant for me—Earth ' take these atoms!
[As MANFRED is in act to spring from the cliff,
the CHAMOIS HUNTER seizes and retains him
with a sudden grasp.

C. Hun. Hold, madman!—though aweary of thy
life,
Stain not our pure vales with thy guilty blood—
Away with me—I will not quit my hold.

Man. I am most sick at heart—nay, grasp me
not—
I am all feebleness—the mountains whirl
Spinning around me—I grow blind—What art thou?

C. Hun. I'll answer that anon.—Away with me—
The clouds grow thicker—there—now lean on me—
Place your foot here—here, take this staff, and cling
A moment to that shrub—now give me your hand,
And hold fast by my girde—softly—well—
The Chalet will be gained within an hour—
Come on, we'll quickly find a surer footing,
And something like a pathway, which the torrent
Hath wash'd since winter.—Come, 'tis bravely
done—
You should have been a hunter.—Follow me.
[As they descend the rocks with difficulty, the
some closes.
ACT II.

SCENE I.

A Cottage among the Bernese Alps.

Manfred and the Chamois Hunter.

C. Hun. No, no—yet pause—thou must not yet go forth:
Thy mind and body are alike unfit.
To trust each other, for some hours, at least;
When thou art better, I will be thy guide—
But whither?

Man. It imports not: I do know
My route full well, and need no further guidance.

C. Hun. Thy garb and gait bespeak thee of high lineage—
One of the many chiefs, whose castled crags
Look o'er the lower valleys—which of these
May call thee lord? I only know their portals;
My way of life leads me but rarely down
To bask by the huge hearts of those old halls,
Carousing with the vassals; but the paths,
Which step from out our mountains to their doors,
Know from childhood—which of these is thine?

Man. No matter.

C. Hun. Well, sir, pardon me the question,
And be of better cheer. Come, taste my wine:
'Tis of an ancient vintage; many a day
'Thas thaw'd my veins among our glaciers, now
Let it do thus for thine—Come, pledge me fairly.

Man. Away, away! there's blood upon the brim!
Will it then never—never sink in the earth?

C. Hun. What dost thou mean? thy senses wander
to thee.:

Man. I say 'tis blood—my blood! the pure warm stream
Which ran in the veins of my fathers, and in ours,
When we were in our youth, and had one heart,
And loved each other as we should not love,
And this was shed: but still it rises up,
Coloring the clouds, that shut me out from heaven,
Where thou art not—and I shall never be.

C. Hun. Man of strange words, and some half-maddening sin,
Which makes thee people vanity, whate'er
Thy dread and sufferance be, there's comfort yet—
The aid of holy men, and heavenly patience—

Man. Patience and patience! Hence—that word
was made
For brutes of burden, not for birds of prey;
Preach it to mortals of a dust like thine,—
I am not of thine order.

C. Hun. Thanks to heaven!
I would not be of thine for the free fame
Of William Tell; but whatso'er thine ill,
It must be borne, and these wild starts are useless.

Man. Do I not bear it?—Look on me—I live.

C. Hun. This is convulsion, and no healthful life.

Man. I tell thee, man! I have lived many years,
Many long years, but they are nothing now
To those which I must number: ages—ages—
Space and eternity—and consciousness,
With the fierce thirst of death—and still unlaked!

C. Hun. Why, on thy brow the seal of middle age
Hath scarce been set; I am thine elder far.

Man. Think'st thou existence doth depend on time?

It doth; but actions are our epochs: mine
Have made my days and nights imperishable
Endless, and all alike, as sands on the shore,
Innumerable atoms; and one desert,
Barren and cold, on which the wild waves break,
But nothing rests, save carcasses and wrecks,
Rocks, and the salt surf-weeds of bitterness.

C. Hun. Alas! he's mad—but yet I must not leave him.

Man. I would I were—for then the things I see
Would be but a distemper'd dream.

C. Hun. What is it
That thou dost see, or think thou look'st upon?

Man. Myself, and thee—a peasant of the Alps—
Thy humble virtues, hospitable home,
And spirit patient, pious, proud, and free;
Thy self-respect, grated on innocent thoughts;
Thy days of health, and nights of sleep; thy toils,
By danger dignified, yet guiltless; hopes
Of cheerful old age and a quiet grave,
With cross and garland over its green turf,
And thy grandchildren's love for epitaph;
This do I see—and then I look within—
It matters not—my soul was scorched already!

C. Hun. And wouldst thou then exchange thy lot for mine?

Man. No, friend! I would not wrong thee nor exchange
My lot with living being: I can bear—
However wretchedly, 'tis still to bear—
In life what others could not brook to dream,
But perish in their slumber.

C. Hun. And with this—
This cautious feeling for another's pain,
Canst thou be black with evil?—say not so.
Can one of gentle thoughts have wreak'd revenge
Upon his enemies?

Man. Oh! no, no, no!
My injuries came down on those who loved me—
On those whom I best loved: I never quell'd
An enemy, save in my just defence—
But my embrace was fatal.

C. Hun. Heaven give thee rest—
And penitence restore thee to thyself;
My prayers shall be for thee.

Man. I need them not.
But can endure thy pity. I depart—
'Tis time—farewell!—here's gold and thanks for thee—

No words—It is thy due.—Follow me not—
I know my path—the mountain perils pass'd:—
And once again, I charge thee, follow not!

SCENE II.

A lower Valley in the Alps.—A Cataract.

Enter Manfred.

It is noon—the sunbow's rays still arch
The torrent with the many hues of heaven,
And roll the sheeted silver's waving column
O'er the crag's headlong perpendicular,
And fling its lines of foaming light along,
And to and fro, like the pale courser's tail,
The Giant steed, to be bestrode by Death,
As told in the Apocalypse. No eyes
But mine now drink this sight of loveliness
I should be sole in this sweet solitude,
And with the Spirit of the place divide
The homage of these waters—I will call her.

MANFRED takes some of the water into the
palm of his hand, and flings it in the air,
muttering the adoration. After a pause, the
WITCH OF THE ALPS rises beneath the arch
of the sunbeam of the torrent.

Beautiful Spirit! with thy hair of light,
And dazzling eyes of glory, in whose form
The charms of earth's least-mortal daughters grow
To an unearthly stature, in an essence
Of purer elements; while the hues of youth,—
Carnation'd like a sleeping infant's cheek,
Rock'd by the beating of her mother's heart,
Or the rose tints, which summer's twilight leaves
Upon the lofty glacier's virgin snow,
The blush of earth embracing with her heaven—
Tinge thy celestial aspect, and make tame
The beauties of the sunbow which bends e'er thee.
Beautiful Spirit! in thy calm clear brow,
Wherein is glass'd serenity of soul,
Which of itself shows immortality,
I read that thou wilt pardon to a Son
Of Earth, whom the abstruser powers permit
At times to commune with them—if that he
Avail him of his spells—to call thee thus,
And gaze on thee a moment.

Witch. Son of Earth! I know thee, and the powers which give thee power;
I know thee for a man of many thoughts,
And deeds of good and ill, extreme in both,
Fatal and fated in thy sufferings.
I have expected this—what wouldst thou with me?
Man. To look upon thy beauty—nothing further.
The face of the earth hath madden'd me, and I
Take refuge in her mysteries, and pierce
To the abodes of those who govern her—
But they can nothing aid me. I have sought
From them what they could not bestow, and now
I search no further.

Witch. What could be the quest
Which is not in the power of the most powerful,
The rulers of the invisible?
Man. A boon;—
But why should I repeat it? 'twere in vain.

Witch. I know not that; let thy lips utter it.

Man. Well, though it torture me, 'tis but the same;
My pang shall find a voice. From my youth upwards
My spirit walk'd not with the souls of men,
Nor look'd upon the earth with human eyes;
The thirst of their ambition was not mine,
The aim of their existence was not mine;
My joys, my griefs, my passions, and my powers,
Made me a stranger; though I wore the form,
I had no sympathy with breathing flesh,
Nor midst the creatures of clay that girded me
Was there but one who—but of her anon.
I said with men, and with the thoughts of men,
I held but slight communion; but instead,
My joy was in the Wilderness, to breathe
The difficult air of the iced mountain's top,
Where the birds dare not build, nor insect's wing
Plit o'er the herbless granite; or to plunge
Into the torrent, and to roll along
On the swift whirl of the new breaking wave
Of river-stream, or ocean, in their flow.
In these my early strength exulted; or

To follow through the night the moving noon,
The stars and their development; or catch
The dazzling lightnings till my eyes grew dim;
Or to look, listing, on the scatter'd leaves,
While Autumn winds were at their evening song
These were my pastimes, and to be alone;
For if the beings, of whom I was one,—
Hating to be so,—cross'd me in my path,
I felt myself degraded back to them,
And was all clay again. And then I dived,
In my lone wanderings, to the caves of death,
Searching its cause in its effect; and drew
From with'er'd bones, and skulls, and heap'd up dust
Conclusions most forbidden. Then I pass'd
The nights of years in sciences untaught,
Save in the old time; and with time and toil,
And terrible ordeal, and such penance
As in itself hath power upon the air,
And spirits that do compass air and earth,
Space, and the peopled infinite, I made
Mine eyes familiar with Eternity,
Such as, before me, did the Magi, and
He who from out their fountain dwellings rais'd
Eros and Anteros* at Gadara,
As I do thee;—and with my knowledge grew
The thirst of knowledge, and the power anon joy
Of this most bright intelligence, until——

Witch. Proceed.

Man. Oh! I but thus prolong'd my words
Boasting these idle attributes, becuse
As I approach the core of my heart's grief—
But to my task. I have not named to thee
Father or mother, mistress, friend, or being,
With whom I wore the chain of human ties:
If I had such, they seem'd not such to me—
Yet there was one——

Witch. Spare not thyself—proceed.

Man. She was like me in lineaments—her eyes,
Her hair, her features, all, to the very tone
Even of her voice, they said were like to mine;
But soft'en'd all, and temper'd into beauty;
She had the same lone thoughts and wanderings.
The quest of hidden knowledge, and a mind
To comprehend the universe: nor these
Alone, but with them gentler powers than mine,
Pity, and smiles, and tears—which I had not,
And tenderness—but that I had for her;
Humility—and that I never had.
Her faults were mine—her virtues were her own—
I lov'd her, and destroy'd her!

Witch. With thy hand?

Man. Not with my hand, but heart—which breaks
her heart—
It gaz'd on mine, and with'er'd. I have shed
Blood, but not here—and yet her blood was shed—
I saw—and could not stanch it.

Witch. And for this—
A being of the race thou dost despise,
The order which thine own would rise above,
Mingling with us and ours, thou dost forego
The gifts of our great knowledge, and shrink'st back
To recreant mortality—Away!

Man. Laughter of Air! I tell thee, since that
hour——
But words are breath—look on me in my sleep,
Or watch my watchings—Come and sit by me.
My solitude is solitude no more,
But peopled with the Furies;—I have grasped
My teeth in darkness till returning morn,
Then cursed myself till sunset;—I have pray'd
For madness as a blessing—'tis demned me.
I have affronted death—but in the war
Of elements the waters shrunk from me,
And fatal things pass'd harmless—the cold hand
Of an all-pitiless demon held me back,
Back by a single hair, which would not break.
In phantasy, imagination, all
The alluence of my soul—which one day was
A Crossus in creation—I plunged deep,
But, like an ebbing wave, it dash'd me back
Into the gulf of my unfathom'd thought.
I plumped amidst mankind—Forgetfulness
I sought in all, save where 'tis to be found,
And that I have to learn—my sciences,
My long pursued and superhuman art,
Is mortal here—I dwell in my despair—
And live—and live forever.

Witch. It may be
That I can aid thee.

Man. To do this thy power
Must wake the dead, or lay me low with them.
Do so—in any shape—in any hour—
With any torture—so it be the last.
Witch. That is not in my province; but if thou
Wilt swear obedience to my will, and do
My bidding, it may help thee to thy wishes.

Man. I will not swear—Obey! and whom? the
Whose presence I command, and be the slave
Of those who served me—Never!

Witch. Is this all?
Hast thou no gentler answer?—Yet bethink thee,
And pause ere thou rejectest.

Man. I have said it.

Witch. Enough!—I may retire then—say!

Man. Retire!

(The Witch disappears.)

Man. (alone.) We are the fools of time and terror:
Days
Steal on us and steal from us; yet we live,
Loathing our life, and dreading still to die.
In all the days of this detested yoke—
This vital weight upon the struggling heart,
Which sinks with sorrow, or beats quick with pain,
Or joy that ends in agony or faintness—
In all the days of past and future, for
In life there is no present, we can number
How few—how less than few—wherein the soul
Forbears to pant for death, and yet draws back
As from a stream in winter, though the chill
Be but a moment's. I have one resource
Still in my science—I can call the dead,
And ask them what it is we dread to be:
The sternest answer can but be the Grave,
And that is nothing—if they answer not—
The buried Prophet answer'd to the Hag
Of Endor; and the Spartan Monarch drew
From the Byzantine maid's unsleeping spirit
An answer and his destiny—he slew
That which he loved, unknowing what he slew,
And died unpard'n'd—though he call'd in aid
The Phryxian Jove, and in Phigalia roused
The Arcadian Evocators to compel
The indignant shadow to depose her wrath,
Or fix her term of vengeance—she replied
In words of dubious import, but fulfilled. 3
If I had never lived, that which I love
Had still been living; had I never loved,
That which I love would still be beautiful—
Happy and giving happiness. What is she?
What is she now?—a sufferer for my sins—
A thing I dare not think upon—or nothing.
Within few hours I shall not call in vain—
Yet in this hour I dread the thing I dare:
Until this hour I never shrunk to gaze
On spirit, good or evil—now I tremble,
And feel a strange cold thaw upon my heart,
But I can act even what I most abhor,
And champion human fears.—the night approaches.

Exit

SCENE III.

The Summit of the Jungfrau Mountain

Enter First Destiny.
The moon is rising broad, and round, and bright,
And here on snows, where never human foot
Of common mortal trod, we nightly tread,
And leave no traces; o'er the savage sea,
The glassy ocean of the mountain ice,
We skim its rugged breakers, which put on
The aspect of a tumbling tempest's foam,
Frozen in a moment—a dead whirlpool's image;
And this most steep fantastic pinnacle,
The fretwork of some earthquake—where the clouds
Pulse to repose themselves in passing by—
Is sacred to our revels, or our vigilis;
Here do I wait my sisters, on our way
To the Hall of Arimanes, for to-night
Is our great festival—'tis strange they come not.

A Voice without, singing.

The Captive Usurper,
Hurl'd down from the throne,
Lay buried in torpor,
Forgotten and lone;

I broke through his slumber,
I shiver'd his chain,
I leagued him with number;

He's Tyrant again!
With the blood of a million he'll answer my mace,
With a nation's destruction—his flight and despair.

Second Voice, without.
The ship sail'd on, the ship sail'd fast,
But I left not a sail, and I left not a mast;
There is not a plank of the hull or the deck,
And there is not a wretch to lament o'er his wreck
Save one, whom I held, as he swam, by the hair,
And he was a subject well worthy my care;
A traitor on land, and a pirate at sea—

But I saved him to wreak further havoc for me.

First Destiny, answering.
The city lies sleeping;
The morn, to deplore it,
May dawn on it weeping;
Sullenly, slowly,
The black plague flew o'er it,—
Thousands lie lowly;
Tens of thousands shall perish—
The living shall fly from
The sick they should cherish;
But nothing can vanquish
The touch that they die from
Sorrow and anguish.
And evil and dread,  
Envelop a nation—  
The best are the dead,  
Who see not the sight  
Of their own desolation—  
This work of a night—  
This wreck of a realm—this deed of my doing—  
For ages I've done, and shall still be renewing!

Enter the Second and Third Destinies.  
The Three.  
Our hands contain the hearts of men,  
Our footsteps are their graves;  
We only give to take again  
The spirits of our slaves!

First Des. Welcome!—Where’s Nemesis?  
Second Des.  
At some great work;  
But what I know not, for my hands were full.  
Third Des. Behold she cometh.

Enter Nemesis.  
First Des.  
Say, where hast thou been?  
My sisters and thyself are slow to-night.  
Nem. I was detain’d repairing shattered thrones  
Marrying fools, restoring dynasties,  
Avenging men upon their enemies,  
And making them repent their own revenge;  
Goading the wise to madness; from the dull  
Shaping out oracles to rule the world  
Affresh, for they were waxing out of date,  
And mortals dared to ponder for themselves,  
To weigh kings in the balance, and to speak  
Of freedom, the forbidden fruit.—Away!  
We have outstay’d the hour—mount we our clouds?  

[Exeunt.

Scene IV.

The Hall of Arimanes.—Arimanes on his Throne, a  
Globe of Fire, surrounded by the Spirits.

Hymn of the Spirits.  
Hail to our Master!—Prince of Earth and Air!  
Who walks the clouds and waters—in his hand  
The sceptre of the elements—which tear  
Themselves to chaos at his high command!  
He breatheth—and a tempest shakes the sea;  
He speaketh—and the clouds reply in thunder;  
He gazeth—from his glance the sunbeams flee;  
He moveth—earthquakes rend the world asunder.  
Beneath his footsteps the volcanoes rise;  
His shadow is the Pestilence; his path  
The comets herald through the cracking skies;  
And planets turn to ashes at his wrath.  
To him War offers daily sacrifice;  
To him Death pays his tribute; Life is his,  
With all its infinitude of agonies—  
And his the spirit of whatever is!

Enter the Destinies and Nemesis.  
First Des. Glory to Arimanes! on the earth  
His power increaseth—both my sisters did  
His bidding, nor did I neglect my duty!  
Second Des. Glory to Arimanes! we who bow  
The necks of men, bow down before his throne!  
Third Des. Glory to Arimanes! we await  
His nod!  
Nem. Sovereign of Sovereigns! we are thine,

And all that liveth, more or less, is ours,  
And most things wholly so; still to increase  
Our power, increasing thine, demands our care  
And we are vigilant—thy late commands  
Have been fulfill’d to the utmost.

Enter Manfred.  
A Spirit. What is here  
A mortal!—Thou most rash and fatal wretch,  
Bow down and worship!  
Second Spirit. I do know the man—  
A Magician of great power and fearful skill!  
Third Spirit. Bow down and worship, slave!  
What, know’st thou not  
Thy and our Sovereign?—Tremble, and obey  
All the Spirits. Prostrate thyself, and thy con- 
demned clay,  
Child of the Earth! or dread the worst.  
Man. I know it;  
And yet, see I kneel not.  
Fourth Spirit. Twill be taught thee.  
Man. 'Tis taught already;—many a night on the earth,  
On the bare ground, have I bow’d my face,  
And strew’d my head with ashes; I have known  
The fulness of humiliation, for  
I sunk before my vain despair, and knelt  
To my own desolation.  
Fifth Spirit. Dost thou dare  
Refuse to Arimanes on his throne  
What the whole earth accords, beholding not  
The terror of his Glory—CrOuch! I say.  
Man. Bid him bow down to that which is above  
him,  
The overruling Infinite—the Maker  
Who made him not for worship—let him kneel,  
And we will kneel together.  
The Spirits.  
Crush the worm!  
Tear him in pieces!—  
First Des. "Hence! Avant!*—he’s mine.  
Prince of the Powers invisible! This man  
Is of no common order, as his port  
And presence here denote; his sufferings  
Have been of an immortal nature, like  
Our own; his knowledge, and his powers, and will  
As far as is compatible with clay,  
Which cloaks the ethereal essence, have been such  
As clay hath seldomborne; his aspirations  
Have been beyond the dwellers of the earth,  
And they have only taught him what we know—  
That knowledge is not happiness, and science  
But an exchange of ignorance for that  
Which is another kind of ignorance.  
This is not all—the passions, attributes  
Of earth, and heaven, from which no power, nor  
being,  
Nor breath from the worm upwards is exempt;  
Have pierced his heart; and in their consequence  
Made him a thing, which I, who pity not,  
Yet pardon those who pity. He is mine,  
And thine, it may be—be it so, or not  
No other Spirit in this region hath  
A soul like his—or power upon his soul.  
Nem. What doth he here then?  
First Des. Let him answer that.  
Man. Ye know what I have known; and without  
power  
I could not be among ye: but there are—
BYRON'S WORKS.

Powers deeper still beyond—I come in quest
Of such, to answer unto what I seek.

Nem. What would'st thou?

Man. Thou canst not reply to me.

Call up the dead—my question is for them.

Nem. Great Arimanthes, doth thy will avouch
The wishes of this mortal?

Ari. Yea.

Nem. Whom would'st thou

Uncharnel?

Man. One without a tomb—call up

Astarte.

NEMESIS.

Shadow! or Spirit!
Whatever thou art,
Which still doth inherit
The whole or a part
Of the form of thy birth,
Of the mould of thy clay,
Which return'd to the earth,
Reappear to the day!
Bear what thou borest,
The heart and the form,
And the aspect thou wast,
Rediscover from the worm.
Appear!—Appear!—Appear!
Who sent thee there requires thee here!

[The Phantom of Astarte rises and stands in the midst.

Man. Can this be death? there's bloom upon her cheek;

But now I see it is no living hue,
But a strange hectic—like the unnatural red
Which Autumn plants upon the perish'd leaf.
It is the same! Oh, God! that I should dread
To look upon the same—Astarte!—No,
I cannot speak to her—but bid her speak—
Forgive me or condemn me.

NEMESIS.

By the power which hath broken
The grave which enthrall'd thee,
Speak to him who hath spoken,
Or those who have call'd thee!

Man. She is silent,
And in that silence I am more than answer'd.

Nem. My power extends no further. Prince of

air!

It rests with thee alone—command her voice.

Ari. Spirit—obey this sceptre!

Nem. Silent still!
She is not of our order, but belongs
To the other powers. Mortal! thy quest is vain,
And we are baffled also.

Man. Hear me, hear me—

Astarte! my beloved! speak to me:
I have so much endured—so much endure—
Look on me! the grave hath not changed thee more
Than I am changed for thee. Thou lovedst me
Too much, as I loved thee; we were not made
To torture thus each other, though it were
The deadliest sin to love as we have loved.
Say that thou loath'st me—not that I do bear
This punishment for both—that thou wilt be
One of the blessed—and that I shall die;
For hitherto all hateful things conspire
To bind me in existence—in a life

Which makes me shrink from immortality—
A future like the past. I cannot rest.
I know not what I ask, nor what I seek:
I feel but what thou art—and what I am;
And I would hear yet once more before I perish
The voice which was my music—Speak to me!
For I have call'd on thee in the still night,
Startled the slumbering birds from the hush'd
boughs,
And woke the mountain wolves, and made the caves
Acquainted with thy vainly echoed name,
Which answer'd me—many things answer'd me—
Spirits and men—but thou wert silent all.
Yet speak to me! I have outwatch'd the stars,
And gazed o'er heaven in vain in search of thee.
Speak to me! I have wander'd o'er the earth,
And never found thy likeness—Speak to me!
Look on the fiends around—they feel for me:
I fear them not, and feel for thee alone—
Speak to me! though it be in wrath;—but say—
I reek not what—but let me hear thee once—

This once—once more!—

Phantom of Astarte. Manfred!

Man. Say, say on—
I live but in the sound—it is thy voice!

Phan. Manfred! To-morrow ends thine earthly
ills.

Farewell!

Man. Yet one word more—am I forgiven?

Phan. Farewell!—

Man. Say, shall we meet again?

Phan. Farewell!

Man. One word for mercy! Say, thou lovest me.

Phan. Manfred!

[The Spirit of Astarte disappears.

Nem. She's gone, and will not be recall'd;
Her words will be fulfill'd. Return to the earth.

A Spirit. He is convulsed—This is to be a mortal,
And seek the things beyond mortality.

Another Spirit. Yet, see, he mastereth himself,
and makes

His torture tributary to his will.
Had he been one of us, he would have made
An awful spirit

Nem. Hast thou further question
Of our great sovereign, or his worshippers?

Man. None.

Nem. Then for a time farewell.

Man. We meet then! Where? On the earth—
Even as thou wilt: and for the grace accorded
I now depart a debtor. Fare ye well!

[Exit MANFRED

(Scene closes.)

ACT III.

SCENE I.

A Hall in the Castle of Manfred.

MANFRED and HERMAN.

Man. What is the hour?

Her. It wants but one till sunset
And promises a lovely twilight.
I may have been, or am, both rest between
Heaven and myself,—I shall not choose a mortal
To be my mediator. Have I sinned
Against your ordinances? prove and punish!
Abbot. My son! I did not speak of punish
But penitence and pardon,—with thyself
The choice of such remains—and for the last,
Our institutions and our strong belief
Have given me power to smooth the path from sin
To higher hope and better thoughts; the first
I leave to heaven:—"Vengeance is mine alone,"
So saith the Lord, and with all humbleness
His servant echoes back the awful word.

Man. Old man! there is no power in holy men,
Nor charm in prayer—nor purifying form
Of penitence—nor outward look—nor fast
Nor agony—nor, greater than all these,
The innate tortures of that deep despair,
Which is remorse without the fear of hell
But all in all sufficient to itself
Would make a hell of heaven—can exercise
From out the unbounded spirit, the quick sense
Of its own sins, wrongs, sufferance, and revenge
Upon itself; there is no future pang
Can deal that justice on the self condemn'd
He deals on his own soul.

Abbot. All this is well,
For this will pass away, and be succeeded
By an auspicious hope, which shall look up
With calm assurance to that blessed place
Which all who seek may win, whatever be
Their earthly errors, so they be atoned:
And the commencement of atonement is
The sense of its necessity.—Say on—
And all our church can teach thee shall be taught;
And all we can absolve thee shall be pardon'd.

Man. When Rome's sixth emperor was near his
last,
The victim of a self-inflicted wound,
To shun the tortures of a public death
From senates once his slaves, a certain soldier,
With show of royal pity, would have stanch'd
The gushing throat with his officious robe;
The dying Roman thrust him back and said
Some empire still in his expiring glance,
"It is too late—is this fidelity?"

Abbot. And what of this?
Man. "It is too late!"

Abbot. It never can be so,
To reconcile thyself with thy own soul,
And thy own soul with heaven. Hast thou no hope:
'Tis strange—even those who do despair above,
Yet shape themselves some phantasy on earth,
To which frail twig they cling like drowning men
Man. Ay—father! I have had those earthly visions
And noble aspirations in my youth,
To make my own the mind of other men,
The enlightener of nations; and to rise
I knew not whither—it might be to fall;
But fall, even as the mountain-cataract,
Which having leapt from its more dazzling height.
Even in the foaming strength of its abyss,
(Which casts up misty columns that become
Clouds raining from the reassembled skies,) Lies low but mighty still. But this is past,
My thoughts mistook themselves.

Abbot. And wherefore so?

Man. I could not tame my nature down; for he
Must serve who fain would sway—and sooth—and sue—
And watch all time—and pry into all place—
And be a living lie—who would become
A mighty thing among the mean, and such
The mass are; I disdain'd to mingle with
A herd, though to be leader—and of wolves.
The lion is alone, and so am I.

Abbott. And why not live and act with other men?

Man. Because my nature was averse from life;
And yet not cruel; for I would not make,
But find a desolation—like the wind,
The red-hot breath of the most lone Simoom,
Which dwells but in the desert, and sweeps o'er
The barren sands which bear no shrubs to blast,
And reveals o'er their wild and arid waves,
And seeketh not, so that it is not sought,
But being met is deadly; such hath been
The course of my existence; but there came
Things in my path which are no more.

Abbott. Alas! I 'gin to fear that thou art past all aid
From me and from my calling; yet so young,
I still would—

Man. Look on me! there is an order
Of mortals on the earth, who do become
Old in their youth, and die ere middle age,
Without the violence of warlike death;
Some perishing of pleasure—some of study—
Some worn with toil—some of mere weariness—
Some of disease—and some of insanity—
And some of wither'd, or of broken hearts.
For this last is a malady which slays
More than are number'd in the lists of Fate,
Taking all shapes, and bearing many names.
Look upon me! for even of all these things
Have I partaken; and of all these things
One were enough; then wonder not that I
Am what I am, but that I ever was,
Or having been, that I am still on earth.

Abbott. Yet, hear me still—

Man. Old man! I do respect
Thine order, and revere thy years; I deem
Thy purpose pious, but it is in vain:
Think me not curtail; I would spare thyself,
Far more than me, in shunning at this time
All further colloquy—and so—farewell.

Exit MANFRED.

Abbott. This should have been a noble creature: he
Hath all the energy which would have made
A goodly frame of glorious elements,
Had they been wisely mingled; as it is,
It is an awful chaos—light and darkness—
And mind and dust—and passions and pure thoughts.
Mix'd, and contending without end or order,
All dormant or destructive: he will perish,
And yet he must not; I will try once more,
For such are worth redemption; and my duty
Is to dare all things for a righteous end,
I'll follow him—but cautiously, though surely.

Exit Abbott.

SCENE II.

Another Chamber.

MANFRED and HERMAN.

Her. My lord, you bade me wait on you at sunset:
the sinks behind the mountain.

Man. Doth it so?

I will look on him

[MANFRED advances to the Window of the Hall.

Glorious Orb! the ido.

Of early nature, and the vigorous race
Of undisposed mankind, the giant sons
Of the embrace of angels, with a sex
More beautiful than they, which did draw down
The erring spirits who can ne'er return,—

Most glorious orb! that wea'g a worship, ere
The mystery of thy making was reveal'd!

Thou earliest minister of the Almighty,
Which gladden'd, on their mountain tops, the hearts
Of the Chaldean shepherds, till they pour'd
Themselves in orisons! Thou material God!
And representative of the Unknown—

Who chose thee for his shadow! Thou chief star.
Centre of many stars! which mak'at our earth
Endurable, and temperest the hues
And hearts of all who walk within thy rays!

Sire of the seasons! Monarch of the climes,
And those who dwell in them! for near or far,
Our inborn spirits have a tint of thee,
Even as our outward aspects;—thou dost rise,
And shine, and set in glory. Fare thee well!
I ne'er shall see thee more. As my first glance
Of love and wonder was for thee, now take
My latest look: thou wilt not beam on one
To whom the gifts of life and warmth have been
Of a more fatal nature. He is gone:

I follow.

[Exit MANFRED.

SCENE III.

The Mountains.—The Castle of Manfred at some distance.—A Terrace before a Tower.—Time, Twilight.

HERMAN, MANUEL, and other Dependants of MANFRED.

Her. 'Tis strange enough; night after night, for years,
He hath pursued long vigils in this tower,
Without a witness. I have been within it,—
So have we all been oftentimes, but from it,
Or its contents, it were impossible
To draw conclusions absolute, of aught
His studies tend to. To be sure, there is
One chamber where none enter: I would give
The fee of what I have to come these three years
To ponder upon its mysteries.

Manuel. 'Twere dangerous;
Content thyself with what thou know'st already.
Her. Ah! Manuel! thou art elderly and wise,
And couldst say much; thou hast dwelt within the castle—
How many years is't?

Manuel. Ere Count Manfred's birth, I served his father, whom he ought resembles.
Her. There be more sons in like predicament.
But wherein do they differ?

Manuel. Of features or of form, but mind and habits;
Count Sigismund was proud,—but gay and free,—
A warrior and a reveller; he dwelt not
With books and solitude, nor made the night
A gloomy vigil, but a festal time,
Merrier than day; he did not walk the rocks
The trees which grew along the broken arches
Waved dark in the blue midnight, and the star
Shone through the rents of ruin; from afar
The watch-dog bay'd beyond the Tiber; and
More near from o'er the Cæsars' palaces came
The owl's long cry, and, interruptedly,
Of distant sentinels the fitful song
Begun and died upon the gentle wind.
Some cypress trees beyond the time-worn breach
Appear'd to skirt the horizon, yet they stood
Within a bowshot—Where the Cæsars dwelt,
And dwell the timeless birds of night, amidst
A grove which springs through level'd battlements
And twines its roots with the imperial hearths.
Ivy usurps the laurel's place of growth;—
But the gladiators' bloody Circus stands,
A noble wreck in ruinous perfection!
While Cæsars' chambers, and the Augustan halls,
Grovel on earth in indistinct decay.—
And thou didst shine, thou rolling moon, upon
All this, and cast a wide and tender light,
Which soften'd down the hoar austerity
Of rugg'd desolation, and fill'd up,
As 'twere anew, the gaps of centuries,
Leaving that beautiful which still was so,
And making that which was not, till the place
Became religion, and the heart ran o'er
With silent worship of the great of old!—
The dead, but sceptered sovereigns, who still rule
Our spirits from their urns.—
'Twas such a night:
'Tis strange that I recall it at this time:
But I have found our thoughts take wildest flight
Even at the moment when they should array
Themselves in pensive order.

Enter the Abbot.

Abb. Where is your master?

Her. Yonder in the tower.

Abb. I must speak with him.

Kansel. 'Tis impossible; He is most private, and must not be thus Intruded on.

Abb. Upon myself I take
The forfeit of my fault, if fault there be—
But I must see him.

Her. Thou hast seen him once
This ne already.

Abb. Herman! I command thee,
Knock, and apprise & c Count of my approach.

Her. We dare not
Abb. Then it seems I must be herald
Of my own purpose.

Man. Reverend father, stop—
I pray you pause.

Abb. Why so?

Man. But step this way,
And I will tell you further. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.

Interior of the Tower.

MANFRED alone.

Man. The stars are forth, the moon above the tops
Of the snow-shining mountains.—Beautiful! I linger yet with Nature, for the night
Hath been to me a more familiar face
Than that of man; and in her starry shade
Of dim and solitary loveliness, I learn'd the language of another world.
I do remember me, that in my youth,
When I was wandering—upon such a night
I stood within the Coliseum's wall,
Midst the chief relics of almighty Rome;
BYRON'S WORKS.

His sight may shock thine old limbs into palsy.
I say to thee—Retire!
Abbott. And I reply—
Never—till I have battled with this fiend—
What doth he here?—
Man. Why—ay—what doth he here?—
I did not send for him,—he is unbidden.
Abbott. Ah! lost mortal! what with guests like these
Hast thou to do? I tremble for thy sake;
Why doth he gaze on thee, and thou on him?
Ah! he unveils his aspect; on his brow
The thunder-scars are graven; from his eye
Glares forth the immortality of hell—
Avaunt!—
Man. Pronounce—what is thy mission?
Spirit. Come!—
Abbott. What art thou, unknown being? I answer—
—speak!—
Spirit. The genius of this mortal.—Come! 'tis time.
Man. I am prepared for all things, but deny
The power which summons me. Who sent thee here?
Spirit. Thou 'lt know anon—Come! come!—
Man. I have commanded things of an essence greater far than thine,
And striven with thy masters. Get thee hence!
Spirit. Mortal! thine hour is come—Away!—I say.
Man. I knew, and know my hour is come, but not
to render up my soul to such as thee:
Away! I'll die as I have lived—alone.
Spirit. Then I must summon up my brethren.—
Rise!—[Other spirits rise up.]
Abbott. Avaunt! ye evil ones!—Avaunt! I say,—
Ye have no power where pious hath power,
And I do charge ye in the name—
Spirit. Old man!
We know ourselves, our mission, and thine order;
Waste not thy holy words on idle uses,
it were in vain; this man is forfeited.
Once more I summon him—Away! away!
Man. I do defy ye,—though I feel my soul
Is ebbing from me, yet I do defy ye;
Nor will I hence, while I have earthly breath
To breathe my scorn upon ye—earthly strength
to wrestle, though with spirits: what ye take
Shall be ta'en limb by limb.
Spirit. Reluctant mortal!
Is this the Magian who would so perversely
The world invisible, and make himself
Almost our equal?—Can it be that thou
Art it as in love with life? the very life
Which made thee wretched!

*Man. Thou false fiend, thou fiend!
My life is in its last hour,—that I know,
Nor would redeem a moment of that hour;
I do not combat against death, but thee
And thy surrounding angels: my past power
Was purchased by no compact with thy crew,
But by superior science—penance—daring—
And length of watching—strength of mind—and skill!
In knowledge of our fathers—when the earth
Saw men and spirits walking side by side,
And gave ye no supremacy: I stand
Upon my strength—I do defy—deny—
Spurn back, and scorn ye!—
Spirit. But thy many crimes
Have made thee—
Man. What are they to such as thee?
Must crimes be punish'd but by other crimes,
And greater criminals?—Back to thy hell!
Thou hast no power upon me, that I feel;
Thou never shalt possess me, that I know:
What I have done is done; I bear within
A torture which could nothing gain from thine:
The mind which is immortal makes itself
Requital for its good or evil thoughts—
Is its own origin of ill and end—
And its own place and time—its innate sense,
When stripp'd of this mortality, derives
No color from the fleeting things without;
But is absorb'd in sufferance or in joy,
Born from the knowledge of his own desert,
Thou didst not tempt me, and thou couldst not tempt me;
I have not been thy dupe, nor am thy prey—
But was my own destroyer, and will be
My own hereafter.—Back, ye baffled fiends!
The hand of death is on me—but not yours!

[The Demons disappear.]
Abbott. Alas! how pale thou art—thy lips are white—
And thy breast heaves—and thy gasping throat
The accents rattle: Give thy prayers to heaven—
Pray—albeit but in thought,—but die not thus.
Man. 'Tis over—my dull eyes can fix thee not,
But all things swim around me, and the earth
Heaves as it were beneath me. Fare thee well—
Give me thy hand.
Abbott. Cold—cold—even to the heart—
But yet one prayer—alas! how fares it with thee?
Man. Old man! 'tis not so difficult to die.

[Manfred expires.]
Abbott. Ho's gone—his soul hath ta'en its last flight—
Whither? I dread to think—but he is gone.
NOTES TO MANFRED.

1. the sun's rays still arch
The torrent with the many hues of heaven.
Page 224, lines 102 and 103.
This iris is formed by the rays of the sun over the
very part of the Alpine torrents; it is exactly like
a rainbow, come down to pay a visit, and so close
that you may walk into it—this effect lasts till noon.

2. He who from out their fountain dwellings raised
Eros and Anteros, at Gadara.
Page 225, lines 86 and 87.
The philosopher Iambicus. The story of the
raising of Eros and Anteros may be found in his
life by Eunapius. It is well told.

3. she replied
In words of dubious import, but fulfilled.
Page 226, lines 63 and 64.
The story of Pausanias, king of Sparta, (who
commanded the Greeks at the battle of Platea, and
afterwards perished for an attempt to betray the
Lacedemonians,) and Cleonice is told in Plutarch's
Life of Cinam; and in the Lacedaemonians
the Sophist, in his description of Greece.

THE DEFORMED TRANSFORMED;
A DRAMA.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This production is founded partly on the story of
a novel called "The Three Brothers," published
many years ago, from which M. G. Lewis's "Wood
Demon" was also taken, and partly on the "Faust"
of the great Goethe. The present publication con-
tains the two first Parts only, and the opening
chorus of the third. The rest may, perhaps, appear
hereafter

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

Men.—STRANGER, afterwards Cæsar.
ARNOLD.
BOURBON.
PHILIBERT.
CELLINI.

Women.—BERTHA.
OLIMPIA.

Spirits, Soldiers, Citizens of Rome, Priests,
Peasants, &c.

PART I.

SCENE I.

A Forest.

Enter ARNOLD and his mother BERTHA.

Bert. Out, hunchback!

Arn. I was born so, mother

Bert. Out

Thou incubus! Thou nightmare! Of seven sons
The sole abortion!

Arn. Would that I had been so,
And never seen the light!

Bert. I would so too!

But as thou hast—hence, hence—and do thy best!
That back of thine may bear its burden; 'tis
More high, if not so broad as that of others.
Arn. It bears its burden;—but, my heart! Will it
Sustain that which you lay upon it, mother?
I love, or, at the least, I loved you: nothing
Save you, in nature, can love aught like me,
You nursed me—do not kill me!

Bert. You—I nursed thee.
BYRON’S WORKS.

Because thou wast my first-born, and I knew not
If there would be another unlike thee,
That monstrous sport of nature. But get hence, And gather wood!

Arn. I will; but when I bring it,
Speak to me kindly. Though my brothers are
So beautiful and lusty, and as free
As the free chase they follow, do not spurn me:
Our milk has been the same.

Bert. As is the hedgehog’s
Which sucks at midnight from the wholesome dam
Of the young bull, until the milkmaid find
The nipple next day sore andudder dry.
Call not thy brethren! Call me not
Mother; for if I brought thee forth, it was
As foolish hens at times hatch vipers, by
Sitting upon strange eggs. Out, urchin, out.

[Exit BERtha.]

Arn. (solus.) Oh mother!—She’s gone, and I
must do
Her bidding;—wearily but willingly
I would fulfil it, could I only hope
A kind word in return. What shall I do?
[ARNOLD begins to cut wood: in doing this he
swoons one of his hands.

My labor for the day is over now.
Accursed be this blood that flows so fast;
For double curses will be my need now
At home.—What home? I have no home, no kin,
No kind—not made like other creatures, or
To share their sports or pleasures. Must I bleed too
Like them? Oh that each drop which falls to earth
Would rise a snake to sting them, as they have stung me!
Or that the devil, to whom they liken me,
Would aid his likeness! If I must partake
His form, why not his power? Is it because
I have not his will too? For one kind word
From her who bore me would still reconcile me
Even to this hateful aspect. Let me wash
The wound.

[ARNOLD goes to a spring, and stoops to wash
his hand: he starts back.

They are right; and Nature’s mirror shows me
What she hath made me. I will not look on it
Again, and scarce dare think on’t. Hideous wretch
That I am! The very waters mock me with
My horrid shadow—like a demon placed
Deep in the fountain to scare back the cattle
From drinking therein.

[He pauses.

And shall I live on,
A burden to the earth, myself, and shame
Un: what brought me into life? Thou blood,
Which flowest so freely from a scratch, let me
Try if thou wilt not in a fuller stream
Four forth my woes for ever with thyself
On earth, to which I will restore at once
This hateful compound of her atoms, and
Resolve back to her elements, and take
The shape of any reptile save myself,
And make a world for myriads of new worms!
This knife! now let me prove if this will sever
This wither’d slip of nature’s nightsnade—my
Vile form—from the creation, as it hath
The green bough from the forest.

[ARNOLD places the knife in the ground, with
the point upwards.

Now ‘tis set,
And I can fall upon it. Yet one glance

On the fair day, which sees no foul thing like
Myself, and the sweet sun, which warn’d me, but
In vain. The birds—how joyously they sing!
So let them, for I would not be lamented:
But let their merriest notes be Arnold’s knell;
The fallen leaves my monument; the murmur
Of the near fountain my sole elegy:
Now, knife, stand firmly, as I sin would fall!

[As he rushes to throw himself upon the knife,
his eye is suddenly caught by the fountain
which seems in motion.

The fountain moves without a wind: but shall
The ripple of a spring change my resolve?
No. Yet it moves again! The waters stir,
Not as with air, but by some subterrane
And rocking power of the internal world.
What’s here? A mist! No more?

[A cloud comes from the fountain. He stands
gazing upon it: it is dispelled, and a tall black
man comes towards him.

Arn. What would you? Speak
Spirit or man?

Stran. As man is both, why not
Say both in one?

Your form is man’s, and yet
You may be devil.

Stran. So many men are that
Which is so called or thought, that you may add me
To which you please, without much wrong to either.
But come: you wish to kill yourself;—pursue
Your purpose.

Arn. You have interrupted me.

Stran. What is that resolution which can e’er
Be interrupted? If I be the devil
You deem, a single moment would have made you
Mine, and for ever, by your suicide;
And yet my coming saves you.

Arn. I said not
You were the demon, but that your approach
Was like one.

Stran. Unless you keep company
With him (and you seem scarce used to such high
Society) you can’t tell how he approaches:
And for his aspect, look upon the fountain,
And then on me, and judge which of us twain
Look likest what the boors believe to be
Their cloven-footed terror.

Arn. Do you—dare you
To taunt me with my born deformity?

Stran. Were I to taunt a buffalo with this
Cloven foot of thine, or the swift dromedary
With thy sublime of humps, the animals
Would revel in the compliment. And yet
Both beings are more swift, more strong, more mighty
In action and endurance than thyself,
And all the fierce and fair of the same kind
With thee. Thy form is natural; ’twas only
Nature’s mistaken largess to bestow
The gifts which are of others upon man.

Arn. Give me the strength then of the buffalo’s
foot,
When he spurns high the dust, beholding his
Near enemy; or let me have the long
And patient swiftness of the desert-ship,
The helmsless dromedary;—and I’ll bear
Thy bendish sarcasm with a saintly patience.

Stran. I will.

Arn. (with surprise.) Thou canst?
Stran. Perhaps. Would you aught else?
Arn. Thou mockest me.
Stran. Not I. Why should I mock
What all are mocking? That's poor sport, methinks,
To talk to thee in human language (for
Thou canst not yet speak mine) the forester
Hunts not the wretched coney, but the boar,
Or wolf, or lion, leaving paistry game
To pettyburghers, who leave once a year
Their walls, to fill their household caldrons with
Such scullion prey. The meanest gibe at thee,—
Now I can mock the mightiest.
Arn. Then waste not
Thy time on me: I seek thee not.
Stran. Your thoughts
Are not far from me. Do not send me back:
I am not easily recall'd to do
Good service.
Arn. What wilt thou do for me?
Stran. Change
Shapes with you, if you will, since yours so irks you,
Or form you to your wish in any shape.
Arn. Oh! then you are indeed the demon, for
Nought else would cunningly wear mine.
Stran. I'll show thee
The brightest which the world e'er bore, and give thee
Thy choice.
Arn. On what condition?
Stran. There's a question!
An hour ago you would have given your soul
To look like other men, and now you pause
To wear the form of heroes.
Arn. No; I will not.
I must not compromise my soul.
Stran. What soul,
Worth naming so, would dwell in such a carcass?
Arn. 'Tis an aspiring one, what'er the tenement
In which it is misled. But name your compact:
Must it be sign'd in blood?
Stran. Not in your own.
Arn. Whose blood then?
Stran. We will talk of that hereafter.
But I'll be moderate with you, for I see
Great things within you. You shall have no bond
But your own will, no contract save your deeds.
Are you content?
Arn. I take thee at thy word.
Stran. Now then!—
[The Stranger approaches the fountain, and
turns to ArnolD.
A little of your blood.
Arn. For what?
Stran. To mingle with the magic of the waters,
And make the charm effective.
Arn. (holding out his wounded arm.) Take it all.
Stran. Not now. A few drops will suffice for this.
[The Stranger takes some of Arnold's blood in
his hand, and casts it into the fountain.
Stran. Shadows of beauty!
Shadows of power
Rise to your duty—
This 's the hour!
Walk lovely and pliant
From the depth of this fountain,
As the cloud-shapen giant
Bestrides the Hartz mountain.

Come as ye were,
That our eyes may behold
The model in air
Of the form I will mould,
Bright as the Iris
When ether is spann'd;—
Such his desire is,
[Pointing to Arnold
Such my command!
Demons heroic—
Demons who wore
The form of the stoic
Or sophist of yore—
Or the shape of each victor,
From Macedon's bay
To each high Roman's picture,
Who breath'd to destroy.
Shadows of beauty!
Shadows of power!
Up to your duty—
This is the hour!
[Various Phantoms arise from the wat'r, and
pass in succession before the Stranger and
Arnold.
Arn. What do I see?
Stran. The black-eyed Roman, with
The eagle's beak between those eyes which ne'er
Beheld a conqueror, or look'd along
The land he made not Rome's, while Rome became
His, and all theirs who heir'd his very name.
Arn. The phantasm's bald; my quest is beauty
Could I
Inherit but his fame with his defects!
Stran. His brow was girt with laurels more than
hairs.
You see his aspect—choose it, or reject.
I can but promise you his form; his fame
Must be long sought and fought for.
Arn. I will fight too,
But not as a mock Caesar. Let him pass;
His aspect may be fair, but suits me not.
Stran. Then you are far more difficult to please
Than Cato's sister, or than Brutus' mother,
Or Cleopatra at sixteen—an age
When love is not less in the eye than heart.
But be it so! Shadow, pass on!
[The phantom of Julius Caesar disappears.
Arn. And can it
Be, that the man who shook the earth 's gone,
And left no footstep?
Stran. There you err. His substance
Left graves enough, and woes enough, and fame
More than enough to track his memory;
But for his shadow, 'tis no more than yours
Except a little longer and less crooked
I the sun. Behold another!
[A second phantom passes.
Arn. Who is he?
Stran. He was the fairest and the bravest of
Athenians. Look upon him well.
Arn. He is
More lovely than the last. How beautiful!
Stran. Such was the curled son of Clinias
wouldst thou
Invest thee with his form?
Arn. Would that I had
Been born with it! But since I may choose further,
I will look further.
[The shade of Alcibiades disappears.
Stran. Lo! behold again!
Arn. What! that low, swarthy, short-nosed, round-eyed satyr,  
With the wide nostrils and Silenus' aspect,  
The splay feet and low stature! I had better  
Remain that which I am.

Stran. And yet he was  
The earth's perfection of all mental beauty,  
And personization of all virtue.  
But you reject him?

Arn. If his form could bring me  
That which redeem'd it—no.

Stran. I have no power  
To promise that; but you may try and find it  
Easier in such a form, or in your own.

Arn. No. I was not born for philosophy,  
Though I have that about me which has need on't.  
Let him fleet on.

Stran. Be air, thou hemlock-drinker!  
[The shadow of Socrates disappears: another rises.

Arn. What's here? whose broad brow and whose  
curly beard
And manly aspect look like Hercules,  
Save that his jugund eye hath more of Bacchus  
Than the sad purger of the infernal world,  
Leaning dejected on his club of conquest,  
As if he knew the worthlessness of those  
For whom he had fought.

Stran. It was the man who lost  
The ancient world for love.

Arn. I cannot blame him,  
Since I have risk'd my soul because I find not  
That which he exchang'd the earth for.

Stran. Since so far  
You seem congenial, will you wear his features?

Arn. No. As you leave me choice, I am difficult,  
If but to see the heroes I should ne'er  
Have seen else on this side of the dim shore  
Whence they float back before us.

Stran. Hence, triumvir!  
Thy Cleopatra's waiting.  
[The shade of Antony disappears: another rises.

Arn. Who is this?  
Who truly looketh like a demigod,  
Blooming and bright, with golden hair, and stature,  
If not more high than mortal, yet immortal  
In all that nameless bearing of his limbs,  
Which he wears as the sun his rays—a something  
Which shines from him, and yet is but the flashing  
Emanation of a thing more glorious still.

Was he e'er human only?

Stran. Let the earth speak,  
If there be atoms of him left, or even  
Of the more solid gold that form'd his urn.

Arn. Who was this glory of mankind?

Stran. The shame  
Of Greece in peace, her thunderbolt in war—  
Demetrius the Macedonian, and  
Taker of cities.

Arn. Yet one shadow more.  
[addressing the shadow.] Get thee to  
Lavinia's lap.  
[The shade of Demetrius Polioecetes vanishes: another rises.

I'll fit you still,  
Fear not, my hunchback. If the shadows of  
That which existed please not your nice taste,  
I'll animate the ideal marble, till  
Your soul be reconciled to her new garment.

Arn. Content! I will fix here.  
[The shade of Polioecetes vanishes.

Stran. I will commend  
Your choice. The godlike son of the sex-goddess  
The unshorn boy of Peleus, with his locks  
As beautiful and clear as the amber waves  
Of rich Pactolus, roll'd o'er sands of gold,  
Soften'd by intervening crystal, and  
Rippled like flowing waters by the wind,  
All vow'd to Sperrchis as they were—behold them  
And him—as he stood by Polixana,  
With sanction'd and with softer'd love, before  
The altar, gazing on his Trojan bride,  
With some remorse within for Hector slain  
And Priam weeping, mingled with deep passion  
For the sweet downcast virgin, whose young hand  
Trembled in his who slew her brother. So  
He stood! the temple! Look upon him as  
Greece look'd her last upon her best, the instant  
Ere Paris' arrow flew.

Arn. I gaze upon him  
As if I were his soul, whose form shall soon  
Envelop mine.  
[The shade of Demetrius Polioecetes vanishes.

Stran. You have done well. The greatest  
Deformony should only barter with  
The extreme beauty, if the proverb's true  
Of mortals, that extremes meet.

Arn. Come! Be quick  
I am impatient.

Stran. As a youthful beauty  
Before her glass. You both see what is not,  
But dream it is what must be.

Arn. Must I wait?

Stran. No; that were a pity. But a word or two  
His stature is twelve cubits: would you so far  
Outstep these times, and be a Titan? Or  
[The shade of Demetrius Polioecetes vanishes.

(To talk canonically) wax a son  
Of Anak?

Arn. Why not?

Stran. Glorious ambition!  
I love thee most in darts! A mortal of  
Philistine stature would have gladly parchd  
His own Goliath down to a slight David;  
But thou, my manikin, wouldst wear a show  
Rather than hero. Thou shalt be indulged,  
If such be thy desire; and yet, by being  
A little less removed from present men  
In figure, thou canst sway them more; for all  
Would rise against thee now, as if to hunt  
A new-found mammoth; and their cursed engines,  
Their culverins, and so forth, would find way  
Through our friend's armor there, with greater ease  
Than the adulterer's arrow through his heel,  
Which Thetis had forgotten to baptize  
In Styx.

Arn. Then let it be as thou deem'st best.  
Stran. Thou shalt be beauteous as the thing thou  
seest,  
And strong as what it was, and—

Arn. I ask not  
For valor, since deformity is daring  
It is its essence to o'ertake mankind  
By heart and soul, and make itself the equal—  
Ay, the superior of the rest. There is  
A spar in its halt movements, to become  
All that the others cannot, in such things  
As still are free to both, to compensate  
For stepdame Nature's avarice at first.  
They woo with fearless deeds the smiles of fortune.  
And oft, like Timour, the lame Tartar, win them.
Stran. Well spoken! And thou doubtless wilt remain
Fare'd as thou art. I may dismiss the mould
Of shadow, which must turn to flesh, to incase
This daring soul, which could achieve no less
Without it?

Arm. Had no power presented me
The possibility of change, I would
Have done the best which spirit may to make
Its way, with all deformity's dull, deadly,
Discouraging weight upon me, like a mountain,
In feeling, on my heart as on my shoulders—
An hateful and unsightly molehill to
The eyes of happier man. I would have look'd
On beauty in that sex which is the type
Of all we know or dream of beautiful
Beyond the wold they brighten, with a sigh—
Not of love, but of despair; nor sought to win,
Though to a heart all love, what could not love me
In turn, because of this vile crooked clog,
Which makes me lonely. Nay, I could have borne
It all, had not my mother spurn'd me from her.
The she-bear licks her Cubs into a sort
Of shape—my dam beheld my shape was hopeless.
Had she exposed me, like the Spartan, ere
I knew the passionate part of life, I had
Been a clod of the valley,—happier nothing
Than what I am. But even thus, the lowest,
Ugliest, and meanest of mankind, what courage
And perseverance could have done, perchance
Had made me something—as it has made heroes
Of the same mould as mine. You lately saw me
Master of my own life, and quick to quit it;
And he who is so is the master of
Whatever dreads to die.

Stran. Decide between
What you have been, or will be.

Arm. I have done so.
You have open'd brighter prospects to my eyes,
And sweeter to my heart. As I am now,
I might be fear'd, admired, respected, loved
Of all save those next to me, of whom I
Would be beloved. As thou showest me
A choice of forms, I take the one I view.

Haste! Haste!

Stran. And what shall I wear?

Arm. Surely he
Who can command all forms will choose the highest,
Something initerior even to that which was
Pelides now before us. Perhaps his
Who slew him, that of Paris: or—still higher—
The poet's god, clothed in such limbs as are
Themselves a poetry.

Stran. Less will content me;
For I, too, love a change.

Arm. Your aspect is
Dusky, but not uncomely.

Stran. If I chose,
I might be whiter; but I have a penchant
For black—it is so honest, and besides
Can neither blush with shame nor pale with fear;
But I have worn it long enough of late,
And now I'll take your figure.

Arm. Mine.

Stran. Yes. You
Shall change with Thetis' son, and I with Bertha,
Your mother's offspring. People have their tastes;
You have yours—I mine.

Arm. Despatch! despatch!

Stran. Even so

[The Stranger takes some earth and moulds a
along the turf, and then addresses the phan-
tom of Achilles.]

Beautiful shadow
Of Thetis's boy!

Who sleeps in the meadow
Whose grass grows 'er Troy
From the red earth, like Adam,*

Thy likeness I shape,
As the being who made him,
Whose actions I ape.

Thou clay, be all glowing,
'Till the rose in his cheek
Be as fair as, when blowing,
It wears its first streak!

Ye violets, I scatter,
Now turn into eyes!

And thou sunshiny water,
Of blood take the guise!

Let these hyacinth boughs
Be his long flowing hair,
And wave o'er his brows,
As thou wastest in air!

Let his heart be this marble
I tear from the rock!

But his voice as the warble
Of birds on yon oak!

Let his flesh be the purest
Of mould, in which grew
The lily-root surest,
And drank the best dew!

Let his limbs be the lightest
Which clay can compound,
And his aspect the brightest
On earth to be found!

Elements, near me,
Be mingled and stirr'd,
Know me, and hear me,
And leap to my word!

Sunbeams, awaken
This earth's animation!
'Tis done! He hath taken
His stand in creation!

[Arnold falls senseless; his soul passes into
the shape of Achilles, which rises from the
ground; while the phantom has disappeared,
part by part, as the figure was formed from the
earth.

Arm. (in his new form.) I love, and I shall be
beloved! Oh life!

At last I feel thee! Glorious spirit!

Stran. Stop!

What shall become of your abandon'd garment,
Your hump, and lump, and clod of ugliness,
Which late you wore, or were?

Arm. Who cares? Let wolves
And vultures take it, if they will.

Stran. And if
They do, and are not scared by it, you'll say
It must be peace-time, and no better fare
Abroad i' the fields.

Arm. Let us but leave it there;
No matter what becomes on't.

Stran. That's ungracious.

If not ungrateful. Whatso' er it be,
It hath sustain'd your soul full many a day.

* Adam means red earth from which the first man was formed.
Arn. Ay, as the dunghill may conceal a gem
Which is now set in gold, as jewels should be.
Stran. But if I give another form, it must be
By fair exchange, not robbery. For they
Who make men without women's aid have long
Had patents for the same, and do not love
Your interlopers. The devil may take men,
Not make them,—though he reap the benefit
Of the original workmanship:—and therefore
Some one must be found to assume the shape
You have quitted.
Arn. Who would do so?
Stran. That I know not,
And therefore I must.
Arn. You!
Stran. I said it ere
You inhabited your present dome of beauty.
Arn. True. I forgot all things in the new joy
Of this immortal change.
Stran. In a few moments
I will be as you were, and you shall see
Yourself for ever by you, as your shadow.
Arn. I would be spared this.
Stran. But it cannot be.
What! shrink already, being what you are,
From seeing what you were?
Arn. Do as thou wilt.
Stran. (to the late form of Arnold, extended on the earth.)
Clay! not dead, but soulless!
Though no man would choose thee,
An immortal no less
Deigns not to refuse thee.
Clay thou art; and unto spirit
All clay is of equal merit.
Fire! without which nought can live;
Fire! but in which nought can live,
Save the fabled salamander,
Or immortal souls, which wander,
Praying what doth not forgive,
Howling for a drop of water,
Burning in a queenless lot:
Fire! the only element
Where nor fish, beast, bird, nor worm,
Save the worm which dieth not,
Can preserve a moment's form,
But must with thyself be blent;
Fire! man's safeguard and his slaugther:
Fire! Creation's first-born daughter,
And Destruction's threaten'd son
When heaven with the world hath done
Fire! assist me to renew
Life in what lies in my view
Stiff and cold!
His resurrection rests with me and you!
One little, marvly spark of flame—
And he again shall seem the same;
But I his spirit's place shall hold!
[An ignis-fatua flies through the wood, and rests on the brow of the body. The Stranger disappears: the body rises.
Arn. (in his new form.) Oh! horrible!
Stran. (in Arnold's late shape.) What! trem
blost thou?
Arn. I merely shudder. Where is fled the shape
Thou lately worst?
Stran. To the world of shadows.
But let us thread the present. Whither wilt thou?
as many attributes; but as I wear
A human shape, will take a human name.

Arn. More humau than the shape (though it was
mine once)

trust.

Stran. Then call me Caesar.

Arn. Whv, that name

belongs to empires, and has been borne

by the world's lords.

Stran. And therefore fittest for

the devil in disguise—since so do you deem me,

unless you call me pope instead.

Arn. Well, then,

Caesar thou shalt be. For myself, my name
shall be plain Arnold still.

Ces. We'll add a title—

"Count Arnold;" it hath no ungracious sound,

and will look well upon a billet-doux.

Arn. Or in an order for a battle-field.

Ces. (sings.) To horse! to horse! my coal-black
steed

Paws the ground and snuffs the air!

There's not a goal of Arab's breed

More knows whom he must bear;

On the hill he will not tire,

Swifter as it waxes higher;

In the marsh he will not slacken,

On the plain be overtaken;

In the wave he will not sink,

Nor pause at the brook's side to drink;

In the race he will not pant,

In the combat he'll not faint;

On the stones he will not stumble,

Time nor toil shall make him humble;

In the still he will not stiffen,

But be winged as a griffin,

Only flying with his feet;

And will not such a voyage be sweet?

Merrily! merrily! never unsound,

Shall our bonny black horses skim over the
ground!

From the Alps to the Caucasus, ride we, or fly!

For we'll leave them behind in the glance of an eye.

[They mount their horses, and disappear.

SCENE II.

A Camp before the Walls of Rome.

ARNOLD and CAESAR.

Ces. You are well enter'd now.

Arn. Ay, but my path

has been o'er carcasses: mine eyes are full
Of blood.

Ces. Then wipe them, and see clearly. Why!

Thou art a conqueror; the chosen knight

And free companion of the gallant Bourbon,

Late constable of France: and now to be

Lord of the city which hath been earth's lord

Under its emperors, and—changing sex,

Not sceptre an hermaphrodite of empire—

Lady of the old world.

Arn. How old? What! are there

Two worlds?

Ces. To you you'll find these are such shortly.

By its rich harvests, new disease, and gold;
From one-half of the world named a whole new one

Because you know no better than the dull

And dubious notice of your eyes and ears.

Arn. I'll trust them.

Ces. Do! They will deceive you sweetly

And that is better than the bitter truth.

Arn. Dog!

Ces. Man!

Arn. Devil!

Ces. Your obedient humble servant

Arn. Say master rather. Thou hast lure me on.

Through scenes of blood and lust, till I am here.

Ces. And where wouldst thou be?

Arn. Oh, at peace—in peace.

Ces. And where is that which is so? From the stars

To the winding worm, all life is motion; and

In life commotion is the extreme point

Of life. The planet wheels till it becomes

A comet, and destroying as it sweeps

The stars, goes out. The poor worm winds its way,

Living upon the death of other things,

But still, like them, must live and die, the subject
Of something which has made it live and die.

You must obey what all obey, the rule

Of fix'd necessity: against her edict

Rebellion prospers not.

Arn. And when it prospers—

Ces. 'Tis no rebellion.

Arn. Will it prosper now?

Ces. The Bourbon hath given orders for the

assault,

And by the dawn there will be work.

Arn. Alas!

And shall the city yield? I see the giant

Abode of the true God, and his true saint,

Saint Peter, rear its dome and cross into

The sky whence Christ ascended from the cross,

Which his blood made a badge of glory and

Of joy, (as once of torture unto him,

God and God's Son, man's sole and only refuge.)

Ces. 'Tis there, and shall be.

Arn. What?

Ces. The crucifix

Above, and many altar shrines below.

Also some culverins upon the walls,

And harquebusses, and what not; besides

The men who are to kindle them to death

Of other men.

Arn. And those scarce mortal arches,

Pile above pile of everlasting wall,

The theatre where emperors and their subjects

(Those subjects Romans) stood at gaze upon

The battles of the monarchs of the wild

And wood, the lion and his tusk rebel

Of the then untamed desert, brought to joust

In the arena, (as right well they might,

When they had left no human foe unconquer'd;)

Made even the forest pay its tribute of

Life to their amphitheatre, as well

As Dacia men to die the eternal death

For a sole instant's pastime, and "Pass on,

To a new gladiator!"—Must it fall?

Ces. The city, or the amphitheatre?

The church, or one, or all? for you confound

Both them and me.

Arn. To-morrow sounds the assault

With the first cock-crow.

Ces. Which, if it end with
The evening’s first nightingale, will be
Something new in the annals of great sieges;
For men must have their prey after long toil.
Arn. The sun goes down as calmly, and perhaps
More beautifully than he did on Rome.
On the day Remus leapt her wall.
Cas. I saw him.
Arn. You!
Cas. Yes, sir. You forget I am or was
Spirit, till I took up with your cast shape
And a worse name. I’m Cæsar and a hunchback
Now! Well! the first of Caesars was a bald-head,
And loved his laurels better as a wig
(‘So history says’) than as a glory. Thus
The world runs on, but we’ll be merry still.
I saw your Romulus (simple as I am)
Slay his own twin, quick born of the same womb,
Because he leapt a ditch, (twas then no wall,
Whate’er it now be;) and Rome’s earliest cement
Was brother’s blood; and if its native blood
Be spilt till the choked Tiber be as red
As e’er ‘twas yellow, it will never wear
The deep hue of the ocean and the earth,
Which the great robber sons of fratricide
Have made their never-ceasing scene of slaughter
For ages.
Arn. But what have these done, their far
Remote descendants, who have lived in peace,
The peace of heaven, and in her sunshine of
Piety?
Cas. And what had they done, whom the old
Romans o’erswept?—Hark!
Arn. They are soldiers singing
A reckless roundelay, upon the eve
Of many deaths, it may be of their own.
Cas. And why should they not sing as well as
swans?
They are black ones, to be sure.
Arn. So, you are learn’d,
I see, too?
Arn. In my grammar, certes. I
Was educated for a monk of all times,
And once I was well versed in the forgotten
Etruscan letters, and—were I so minded—
Could make their hieroglyphics plainer than
Your alphabet.
Arn. And wherefore do you not?
Cas. It answers better to resolve the alphabet
Back into hieroglyphics. Like your statesman,
And prophet, pontiff, doctor, alchymist,
Philosopher, and what not, they have built
More Babals, without new disperation, than
The stammering young ones of the flood’s dull oze,
Who fail’d and fled each other. Why? why, marry,
Because no man could understand his neighbor.
They are wiser now, and will not separate
For nonsense. Nay, it is their brotherhood,
Their Shibboleth, their Koran, Talmud, their
Cabala; their best brick-work, wherewithal
They build more—
Arn. (interrupting him.) Oh, thou everlasting
sneerer!
Be silent! How the soldier’s rough strain seems
Soft’ned by distance to a hymn-like cadence!—
Listen!
Cas. Yes, I have heard the angel sing.
Arn. And demons howl.
Cas. And man to. Let us listen!
love all music.

Song of the Soldiers within.
The black bands came over
The Alps and their snow;
With Bourbon, the rover,
They passed the broad Po.
We have beaten all foemen,
We have captured a king,
We have turn’d back on no men,
And so let us sing!
Here’s the Bourbon for ever!
Though pennyless all,
We’ll have one more endeavor
At yonder old wall.
With the Bourbon we’ll gather
At day-dawn before
The gates, and together
Or break or climb o’er
The wall; on the ladder
As mounts each firm foot,
Our shouts shall grow gladder,
And death only be mute.
With the Bourbon we’ll mount o’er
The walls of old Rome,
And who then shall count o’er
The spoils of each dome?
Up! up with the lily!
And down with the keys!
In old Rome, the seven-hilly,
We’ll revel at ease.
Her streets shall be gory,
Her Tiber all red,
And her temples so hoary
Shall clang with our tread.
Oh, the Bourbon! the Bourbon!
The Bourbon for aye!
Of our song bear the burden;
And fire, fire away!
With Spain for the vanguard,
Our varied host comes;
And next to the Spaniard
Beat Germany’s drums;
And Italy’s lances
Are couch’d at their mother;
But our leader from France is,
Who warr’d with his brother.
Oh, the Bourbon! the Bourbon!
Sans country or home,
We’ll follow the Bourbon,
To plunder old Rome.

Cas. An indifferent song
For those within the walls, methinks, to hear.
Arn. Yes, if they keep to their chorus. But he
comes
The general with his chiefs and men of trust.
A goodly rebel!

Enter the Constable Bourbon, “cum suis,” &c., &c.
Phil. How now, noble prince,
You are not cheerful?
Bourb. Why should I be so?
Phil. Upon the eve of conquest, such as ours,
Most men would be so.
Bourb. If I were secure!
Phil. Doubt not our soldiers. Were the walls o’
amadamant,
They’d crack them. Hunger is a sharp artillery.
Bourb. That they will falter is my least of fears.
THE DEFORMED TRANSFORMED.

That they will be repulsed, with Bourbon for Their chief, and all their kindled appetites To marshal them on—were those hoary walls Mountains, and those who guard them like the gods Of the old world, I would trust my Titans;— But not—

Phil. They are but men who war with mortals. Bourb. True; but those walls have girded in great ages, And sent forth mighty spirits. The past earth And present phantom of imperious Rome Is peopled with those warriors; and methinks They flit along the eternal city's rampart, And stretch their glorious, gory, shadowy hands, And beckon me away! Phil. So let them! Wilt thou Turn back from shadowy menaces of shadows? Bourb. They do not menace me. I have faced Methinks, a sylla's menace; but they clasp And raise, and wring their dim and deathlike hands And with their thin aspen faces and fixed eyes Fascinate mine. Look there!

Phil. I look upon A lofty battlement. Bourb. And there! Phil. Not even A guard in sight; they wisely keep below, Sheltered by the gray parapet from some Stray bullet of our lanquenet's, who might Practice in the cool twilight.

Bourb. You are blind. Phil. If seeing nothing more than may be seen Be so. Bourb. A thousand years have mannd 't he walls With all their heroes,—the last Cato stands And tears his bowels, rather than to survive The liberty of that I would enslave. And the first Caesar with his triumphs flits From battlement to battlement. Phil. Then conquer The walls for which he conquer'd; and be greater! Bourb. True; so I will or perish. Phil. You can not. In such an enterprise to die is rather The dawn of an eternal day, than death. [Count ARNOLD and CAESAR advance.]

Cas. And the mere men—do they too sweetly beneath The noon of this same ever-scorching glory? Bourb. Ah! Welcome the bitter himmack! and his master, The beauty of our host, and brave as beauteous, And generous as lovely. We shall find Work for you both ere morning. Cas. You will find, So please your highness, no less for yourself. Bourb. And if I do, there will not be a laborer More forward, hunchback! Cas. You may well say so, For you have seen that back—as general, Placed in the rear in action—but your foes Have never seen it. Bourb. That's a fair retort, For I provoked it—but the Bourbon's breast Has been, and ever shall be, far advanced In danger's face as yours, were you the devil. Cas. And if I were, I might have saved myself The soil cf coming here.

Phil. Why so?

Cas. One half Of your brave bands of their own bold accord Will go to him, the other half be sent, More swiftly, not less surely. Bourb. Arnold, your slight crook'd friend's as snake-like in his words As his deeds. Cas. Your highness much mistakes me. The first snake was a flatterer—I am none; And for my deeds, I only sing when stung. Bourb. You are brave, and that's enough for me And quick In speech as sharp in action—and that's more. I am not alone a soldier, but the soldiers' Comrade. Cas. They are but bad company, your highness, And worse even for their friends than foes, as being More permanent acquaintance.

Phil. How now, fellow! Thou warest insolent, beyond the privilege Of a buffoon. Cas. You mean I speak the truth. I'll lie—it is as easy: then you'll praise me For calling you a hero. Bourb. Philibert! Let him alone; he's brave, and ever has Been first, with that swart face and mountain shoulder, In field or storm, and patient in starvation: And for his tongue, the camp is full of license, And the sharp stinging of a lively rogue Is, to my mind, far preferable to The gross, dull, heavy, gloomy execration Of a mere famish'd, sullen, grumbling slave, Whom nothing can convince save a full meal, And wine, and sleep, and a few maravedies, With which he deems himself rich.

Cas. It would be well. If the earth's princes ask'd no more. Bourb. Be silent! Cas. Ay, but not idle. Work yourself with words. You have but few to speak. Phil. What means the audacious prater? Cas. To prate, like other prophets. Bourb. Philibert! Why will you vex him? Have we not enough To think on? Arnold! I will lead the attack To-morrow.

Arn. I have heard as much, my lord. Bourb. And you will follow? Arn. Since I must not. Bourb. 'Tis necessary for the further daring Of our too needy army, that their chief Plant the first foot upon the foremost ladder's first step. Cas. Upon its topmost, let us hope: So shall he have his full deserts. Bourb. The world's Great capital perchance is ours to-morrow. Through every change the seven-hill'd city hath Retain'd her sway o'er nations, and the Caesars But yielded to the Alarics, the Alarics Unto the pontiffs. Roman, Goth, or priest, Still the world's masters! Civilized, barbarian, Or saintly, still the walls of Romulus Have been the circus of an empire. Well! 'Twas their turn—now 'tis ours; and let us hope That we will fight as well, and rule much better.
Before the Walls of Rome.—The Assault: the army in motion, with ladders to scale the walls; Bourb., with a white scarf over his armor, foremost.

PART II.

SCENE I.

Chorus of Spirits in the air.

1.
'Tis the morn, but dim and dark.
Whither flies the silent lark?
Whither shrinks the clouded sun?
Is the day indeed begun?
Nature's eye is melancholy
O'er the city high and holy:
But without there is a dim
Should arouse the saints within,
And revive the heroic ashes
Round which yellow Tiber dashes:
Oh ye-seven hills! awaken,
Ere your very base be shaken!

2.
Hearken to the steady stamp
Mars is in their every tramp!
Not a step is out of tune,
As the tides obey the moon!
On they march, though to self-slaughter
Regular as rolling water,
Whose high, waving o'ersweep the border
Of huge mole, but keep their order,
Breaking only rank by rank,
Hearken to the armor's clank!
Look down o'er each frizzly warrior,
How he glares upon the barrier:
Look on each step of each ladder,
As the stripes that streak an adder.

3.
Look upon the bristling wall,
Mann'd without an interval!
Round and round, and tier on tier,
Cannon's black mouth, shining spear,
Lit match, bell-mouth'd musquetoon
Gaping to be murderous soon;
All the warlike gear of old,
Mix'd with what we now behold,
In this strife 'twixt old and new,
Gather like a locust's crew.
Shade of Remus! 'tis a time
Awful as thy brother's crime!
Christians war against Christ's shrine;
Must its lot be like thine?

4.
Near—and near—and nearer still,
As the earthquake saps the hill,
First with trembling, hollow motion,
Like a scarce-waken'd ocean,
Then with stronger shock and louder,
Till the rocks are crushed to powder,—
Onward sweeps the rolling host!
Heroes of the immortal boast!
Mighty chiefs! eternal shadows!
First flowers of the bloody meadows
Which encompass Rome, the mother
Of a people without brother!
Will you sleep when nations' quarrels
Plough the root up of your laurels?
Ye who wept o'er Carthage burning,
WEEP NOT—STRIKE! for Rome is mourning.

* Scipio, the second Africanus, is said to have repaired a verse of Horace
and weeps over the burning of Carthage. He had been saved from
annihilation.
5. Onward sweeps the varied nations
Famine long hath dealt their ratios.
To the wall with hate and hunger;
Numerous as wolves, and stronger,
On they sweep. Oh! glorious city,
Must thou be a theme for pity?
Fight, like your first sire, each Roman,
Alaric was a gentle foeman,
Match’d with Bourbon’s black banditti!
Rouse thee, thou eternal city;
Rouse thee! Rather give the torch
With thy own hand to thy porch,
Then behold such hosts pollute
Your worst dwelling with their foot.

6. Ah! behold your bleeding spectre!
Ilion’s children find no Hector;
Priam’s offspring loved their brother;
Rome’s great sire forgot his mother,
When he slew his gallant twin,
With inexpiable sin.
See the giant shadow stride
O’er the ramparts high and wide!
When the first o’erleapt thy wall,
Its foundation mourn’d thy fall.
Now, though towering like a Babel,
Who to stop his steps are able?
Stalking o’er thy highest dome,
Remus claims his vengeance, Rome!

7. Now they reach thee in their anger;
Fire and smoke and hellish clangor
Are around thee, thou world’s wonder,
Death is in thy walls and under.
Now the meeting steel first clashes,
Downward then the ladder crashes,
With its iron load all gleaming,
Lying at its foot blaspheming!
Up again! for every warrior
Slain, another climbs the barrier,
Thicker grows the strife: thy ditches
Europe’s mingling gore enriches.
Rome! although thy wall — ay perish,
Such manure thy fields whi cherish,
Making gay the harvest-home;
But thy hearths, alas! oh, Rome!—
Yet be Rome amid thine anguish,
Fight as thou wast wont to vanquish!

8. Yet once more, ye old Penates
Let not your quench’d hearth’s be Atè’s!
Yet again, ye shade—ay heroes,
Yield not to these stranger Neros!
Though the son who slew his mother
Shed Rome’s blood, he was your brother:
‘Twas the Roman e’er’d the Roman,—
Brammian was a baffled foeman.
Yet again, ye saints and martyrs,
Rise! for yours are holier charters!
Mighty gods of temples falling,
Yet in ruin still appalling!
Mightieth founders of those altars,
True and Christian,—strike the assaulters!
Tiber! Tiber! let thy torrent
Show even nature’s self a torrent.

Let each breathing heart dilated
Turn, as doth the lion baited!
Rome be crash’d to one wide tomb,
But be still the Roman’s Home!
[Bourbon, Arnold, Caesar, and others, arise
at the foot of the wall. Arnold is about to plant his ladder.

Bourb. Hold, Arnold! I am first.
Arn. Not so, my lord
Bourb. Hold, sir, I charge you! Follow! I am proud
Of such a follower, but will brook no leader.
[Bourbon plants his ladder and begins to mount
Now, boys! On! On!
[A shot strikes him and BOURBON falls.

Caes. And off!

Arn. Eternal powers!
The host will be appall’d,—but vengeance! venge-
cease!
Bourb. ’Tis nothing—lead me your hand.
[Bourbon takes Arnold by the hand and rises,
but as he puts his foot on the step, falls again.
Arnold! I am sped.
Conceal my fall—all will go well—conceal it!
Fling my cloak o’er what will be dust anon,
Let not the soldiers see it.
Arn. You must be
Removed; the aid of—

Bourb. No, my gallant boy,
Death is upon me. But what is one life?
The Bourbon’s spirit shall command them still.
Keep them yet ignorant that I am but clay,
Till they are conquerors—then do as you may.

Caes. Would not your highness choose to kiss the cross?
We have no priest here, but the hilt of sword
May serve instead—it did the same for Bayard.
Bourb. Thou bitter slave! to name him at this time?
But I deserve it.
Arn. (to Caesar.) Villain, hold you peace!
Caes. What, when a Christian dies? Shall I not offer
A Christian “Vade in pace”?

Arn. Silence! Oh!
Those eyes are glazing which o’erlook’d the world,
And saw no equal.

Bourb. Arnold, should’st thou see
France—But hark! hark! the assault grows warmer—Oh!
For but an hour, a minute more of life
To die within the wall! Hence, Arnold, hence!
You lose time—they will conquer Rome without thee
Arn. And without thee!

Bourb. Not so; I’ll lead them still
In spirit. Cover up my dust, and breathe not
That I have ceased to breathe. Away! and be
Victorious!
Arn. But I must not leave thee thus.

Bourb. You must—farewell—Up! up! the world
is winning.
[Bourbon dies

Caes. (to Arnold.) Come, Count, to business.
Arn. True. I’ll weep hereafter.

[Arnold covers BOURBON’s body with a mantle.

And mounts the ladder, crying
The Bourbon! Bourbon! Oh, boys! Rome is ours
Caes. Good-night, lord constable! thouwert aman
[Caesar follows Arnold; they reach the battle
ment; Arnold and Caesar are struck down
BYRON'S WORKS.

Cas. A precious Somerset! Is your countship injured?

Arn. No. [Remounts the ladder.]

Cas. A rare bloodhound, when his own is heated! And 'tis no boy's play. Now he strikes them down!

Arn. [A man falls.]

Cas. The first bird of the covey! he has fallen

On the outside of the nest. Why, how now, fellow?

Wounded Man. A drop of water!

Cas. Blood's the only liquid

Nearer than Tiber.

Wounded Man. I have died for Rome. [Dies.]

Cas. And so did Bourbon, in another sense.

Oh these immortal men! and their great motives!

But I must after my young charge. He is

By this time I! the forum! Charge! charge!

[Cæsar mounts the ladder; the scene closes.

SCENE II.

The city.—Combats between the Besiegers and

Besieged in the streets. Inhabitants flying in

confusion.

Enter Cæsar.

Cas. I cannot find my hero; he is mix'd

With the heroic crowd that now pursue

The fugitives, or battle with the desperate.

What have we here? A cardinal or two

That do not seem in love with martyrdom.

How the old red-shanks scampers! Could they doff

Their hose as they have doff'd their hats, 'twould be

A blessing, as a mark the less for plunder.

But let them fly; the crimson kennels now

Will not much stain their stockings, since the mine

Is of the self-same purple hue.

Enter a party fighting—Arnold at the head of the

Besiegers.

He comes.

Hand in hand with the mild twins—Gore and glory.

Holloa! hold, Count!

Arn. Away! they must not rally.

Cas. I tell thee, be not rash; a golden bridge

Is for a flying enemy. I gave thee

A form of beauty, and an

Exemption from some maladies of body,

But not of mind, which is not mine to give.

But though I gave the form of Thetis' son,

I dipt thee not in Styx; and 'gainst a foe

I would not warrant thy chivalric heart

More than Pelides' heel; why then, be cautious,

And know thyself a mortal still.

Arn. And who

With aught of soul would combat if he were

Inulnerable? That were pretty sport.

Think'st thou I beat for hares when lions roar?

[Arnold rushes into the combat.

Cas. A precious sample of humanity!

Well, his blood's up; and if a little's shed,

Twill serve to curb his fever.

[Arnold engages with a Roman who retires

Towards a portico.

Arn. Yield thee, slave!

Rom. That's soon said.

Arn. My word is known.

Rom. So shall I my leeds.

[They re-engage. Cæsar comes forward.

Cas. Why, Arnold! hold thine own; thou hast

in hand

A famous artisan, a cunning sculptor:

Also a dealer in the sword and dagger.

Not so, my musqueter; 'twas he who slew

The Bourbon from the wall.

Arn. Ay, did he so?

Then he hath carved his monument.

Rom. I yet

May live to carve your better's.

Cas. Well said, my man of marble. Benvenuto

Thou hast some practice in both ways; and he

Who slays Cellini will have work'd as hard

As e'er thou didst upon Carrara's blocks.

[Arnold disarms and wounds Cellini, but

slightly; the latter draws a pistol, and fires;

then retires, and disappears through the portico.

Cas. How fastest thou? Thou hast a taste, me-thinks,

Of red Bellona's banquet.

Arn. (staggers.) 'Tis a scratch.

Lend me thy scarf. He shall not 'scape me thus.

Cas. Where is it?

Arn. In the shoulder, not the sword arm—

And that's enough. I am thirsty; would I had

A helm of water!

Cas. That's a liquid now

In requisition, but by no means easiest

To come at.

Arn. And my thirst increases;—but

I'll find a way to quench it.

Cas. Or be quench'd

Thyself?

Arn. The chance is even; we will throw

The dice thereon. But I lose time in prating;

Pritate be quick. [Cæsar binds on the scarf.

Cas. And what dost thou so idly?

Why dost not strike?

Cas. Your old philosophers

Beheld mankind, as mere spectators of

The Olympic games. When I behold a prize

Worth wresting for, I may be found a Milo.

Arn. Ay, against an oak.

Cas. A forest, when it suits me.

I combat with a mass or not at all.

Meantime, pursue thy sport as I do mine;

Which is just now to gaze, since all these laborers

Will reap my harvest gratis.

Arn. Thou art still

A friend!

Cas. And thou—a man.

Arn. Why, such I fain would show me.

Cas. True—as men are

Arn. And what is that?

Cas. Thou feelest and thou seest.

[Exit Arnold, joining in the combat which still

continues between detached parties. The scene

closes.

SCENE III.

St. Peter's.—The Interior of the Church.—The

Pope at the Altar.—Priests, &c., crowding in con-

fusion, and Citizens flying for refuge, pursued by

Soldiery.
Enter CASAR.

A Spanish Soldier. Down with them, comrades! seize upon those lamps! Or, bald-pated shaving to the chin! His rosary of gold! Lutheran Soldier. Revenge! revenge! Plunder hereafter, but for vengeance now— Yonder stands Anti-Christ! Cas. (interposing.) How now, schismatic! What wouldst thou? Lutheran Sol. In the holy name of Christ, Destroy proud Anti-Christ. I am a Christian. Cas. Yes, a disciple that would make the founder Of your belief renounce it, could he see Such proselytes. Best stint thyself to plunder. Lutheran Sol. I say he is the devil. Cas. Hush! keep that secret, lest he should recognize you for his own. Lutheran Sol. Why should you save him? I repeat he is the devil, or the devil's vicar upon earth. Cas. And that's the reason; would you make a quarrel With your best friends? You had far better be quiet; His hour is not yet come. Lutheran Sol. That shall be seen! The Lutheran Soldier rushes forward; a shot strikes him from one of the Pope's Guards, and he falls at the foot of the Altar. Cas. (to the Lutheran.) I told you so. Lutheran Sol. And will you not avenge me? Cas. Not I! You know that "Vengeance is the Lord's." You see he loves no interlopers. Lutheran Sol. (dying.) Oh! Had I but slain him, I had gone on high, Crown'd with eternal glory! Heaven, forgive My feebleness of arm that reach'd him not, And take thy servant to thy mercy. "Tis A glorious triumph still; proud Babylon's No more; the Harlot of the Seven Hills Hath changed her scarlet raiment for sackcloth And ashes! [The Lutheran dies. Cas. Yes, thine own amid the rest. Well done, old Babel! [The Guards defend themselves desperately, while the Pontiff escapes, by a private passage, to the Vatican and the Castle of St. Angelo. Cas. Ha! right nobly battled! Now, priest! now, soldier! the two great professions, Together by the ears and hearts! I have not seen A more comic pantomime since Titus Took Jewry. But the Romans had the best then; Now they must take their turn. Soldiers. He hath escaped! Fl-l-l! Another Sol. They have barr'd the narrow passage up. And it is droll'd with dead even to the door. Cas. I am glad he hath escaped; he may thank me for't In part. I would not have his bulls abolish'd— Twere worth one half our empire: his indulgences Demand some in return; no, no, he must not Fall; and besides, his now escape may furnish A future miracle, in future proof Of his infallibility. [To the Spanish Soldier. Well, cut-throats! What do you pause for? If you make not haste, There will not be a link of pious gold left And you too, Catholicks! Would ye return From such a pilgrimage without a relic? The very Lutherans have more true devotion See how they strip the shrines! Soldiers. By holy Peter He speaks the truth; the heretics will bear The best away. Cas. And that were shame! Go to. Assist in their conversion. [The Soldiers disperse; many quit the Church, others enter. Cas. They are gone, and others come; so flows the wave on wave Of what these creatures call eternity, Deeming themselves the breakers of the ocean, While they are but its bubbles, ignorant That foam is their foundation. So another! Enter Olimpia, flying from the pursuit.—She springs upon the Altar. Sol. She's mine. Another Sol. (opposing the former.) You lie, I track'd her first; and, were she The Pope's niece, I'll not yield her. (They fight. 3d Sol. (advancing towards Olimpia.) You may settle Your claims; I'll make mine good. Olimp. Infernal slave! You touch me not alive. 3d Sol. Alive or dead! Olimp. (embracing a massive crucifix.) Respect your God! 3d Sol. Yes, when he shines in gold. Girl, you but grasp your dowry. [As he advances, Olimpia, with a strong and sudden effort, casts down the crucifix; it strikes the Soldier, who falls. 3d Sol. Oh, great God! Olimp. Ah! now you recognize him. 3d Sol. My brain's crush'd Comrades, help, ho! All's darkness! (He dies. Other Soldiers, (coming up.) Slay her, although she had a thousand lives: She hath kill'd our comrade. Olimp. Welcome such a death! You have no life to give, which the worst slave Would take. Great God! through thy redeeming Son. And thy Son's Mother, now receive me as I would approach thee, worthy her, and him, And thee! [Enter Arnold. Arn. What do I see? Accursed jackals! Forbear! Cas. (aside and laughing.) Ha! ha! here's equa- ty! The dogs Have as much right as he. But to the issue! Soldiers. Count, she hath slain our comrade. Arn. With what weapon? Sol. The cross, beneath which he is crush'd; behold him Lie there, more like a worm than man; she cast it upon his head. Arn. Even so; there is a woman Worthy a brave man's liking. Were ye such, Ye would have honor'd her. But get ye hence, And thank your meanness, other God you have none For your existence. Had you touch'd a hair
Of thosedishavell'd locks, I would have thinnd'd
Your ranks more than the enemy. Away!
Ye jackals! gnaw the bones the lion leaves,
But not even these till he permits.

[Arnold. (murmuring.)] The lion
Might conquer for himself then.

Arn. (cuts him down.) Mutineer!
Rebel in hell—you shall obey on earth!

[The Soldiers assault ARNOLD.]
Arn. Come on! I'm glad on't! I will show you,
Slaves,
How you should be commanded, and who led you
First o'er the wall you were so shy to scale,
Until I waved my banners from its height,
As you are bold within it.

[Arnold moves down the foremost; the rest
throw down their arms.]
Then learn to grant it. Have I taught you
who
Led you o'er Rome's eternal battalions?
Soldiers. We saw it, and we know it; yet forgive
A moment's error in the heat of conquest—
The conquest which you led to.
Arn. Get you hence!
Hence to your quarters! you will find them fix'd
In the Colonna palace.
Olimp. (aside.) In my father's
House!
Arn. (to the Soldiers.) Leave your arms; ye have no further need
Of such: the city's render'd. And mark well
You keep your hands clean, or I'll find a stream,
As red as Tiber now runs, for your baptism.
Soldiers. (deposing their arms and departing.) We obey!
Arn. (to Olimpia.) Lady, you are safe.
Olimp. I should be so,
Had a knife even; but it matters not—
Death hath a thousand gates; and on the marble,
Even at the altar foot, whence I look down
Upon destruction, shall my head be dash'd,
Ere thou ascend it. God forgive thee, man! Arn.
I wish to merit his forgiveness, and
Thine own, although I have not injured thee.
Olimp. No! thou hast only sack'd my native
land,—
No injury!—and made my father's house
A den of thieves! No injury!—this temple—
Slippery with Roman and with holy gore.
No injury! And now thou would'st preserve me,
To he—but that shall never be!

[She raises her eyes to Heaven, folds her robe
round her, and prepares to dash herself down
on the side of the Altar opposite to that where
Arnold stands.]

Arn. Hold! hold!

I swear.
Olimp. Spare thine already forfeit soul
A perjury for which even hell would hate thee.
I know thee.
Arn. No, thou know'st me not; I am not
Of these men, though—
Olimp. I judge thee by thy mates;
It is for God to judge thee as thou art.
I see thee purple with the blood of Rome;
Take mine, 'tis all thou o'er shalt have of me!
And here, upon the marble of this temple,
Where the baptismal font baptized me God's
I offer him a blood less holy
But not less pure (pure as it left me then,
A redeem'd infant) than the holy water
The saints have sanctified!

[Olimpia waves her hand to Arnold with dis
dain, and dashes herself on the pavement from
the Altar.]
Arn. Eternal God! I feel thee now! Help! help! She's gone.
Ces. (approaches.) I am here.
Arn. Thou! but oh, save her!
Ces. (assisting him to raise Olimpia.) She hath
done it well!
The leap was serious.
Arn. Oh! she is lifeless!
Ces. If She be so, I have nought to do with that:
The resurrection is beyond me.
Arn. Slave!
Ces. Ay, slave or master, 'tis all one: methinks
Good words, however, are as well at times.
Arn. Words!—Canst thou aid her?
Ces. I will try. A sprinkling
Of that same holy water may be useful.

[He brings some in his helmet from the font.]
Arn. 'Tis mix'd with blood,
Ces. There is no cleaner now
In Rome.
Arn. How pale! how beautiful! how lifeless!
Alive or dead, thou essence of all beauty,
I love but thee!
Ces. Even so Achilles loved
Penthésilea: with his form it seems
You have his heart, and yet it was no soft one.
Arn. She breathes! But no, 'twas nothing, or the last
Faint flutter life disputes with death.
Ces. She breathes.
Arn. Thou say'st it? Then 'tis truth.
Ces. You do me right—
The devil speaks truth much oftener than he's
deem'd:
He hath an ignorant audience.
Arn. (without attending to him.) Yes! her heart
beats.
Ces. A sage reflection,
But somewhat late i' the day. Where shall we deal
her?
I say she lives.
Arn. And will she live?
Ces. As much.
As dust can.
Arn. Then she is dead!
Ces. Bah! bah. You are so
And do not know it. She will come to life—
Such as you think so, such as you now are;
But we must work by human means.
Arn. We will.
Convey her into the Colonna palace,
Where I have pitch'd my banner.
Ces. Come, then! raise her up
Arn. Softly!
Ces. As softly as they bear the dead,
Perhaps because they cannot feel the jolting.
Arn. But doth she live indeed?
Ces. Nay, never fear
But, if you use it for, blame not me.

Arn. Let her but live!

Ces. The spirit of her life
Is yet within her breast, and may revive.
Count! Count! I am your servant in all things,
And this is a new office — 'tis not oft
I am employ'd in such, but you perceive
How stanch a friend is what you call a fiend.
On earth you have often only fiends for friends;
Now I desert not mine. Soft! bear her hence,
The beautiful half-clay, and nearly spirit!
I am almost enamour'd of her, as
Of old the angels of her earliest sex.

Arn. Thou!

Ces. I! But fear not. I'll not be your rival.

Arn. Rival!

Ces. I could be one right formidable;
But since I slew the seven husbands of
Tobias' future bride, (and after all)
'Twas suck'd out by some incense,) I have laid
Aside intrigue: 'tis rarely worth the trouble
Of gaining, or — what is more difficult —
Getting rid of your prize again: for there's
The rub! at least to mortals.

Arn. Softly, peace! softly! methinks her lips move, her eyes open!

Ces. Like stars, no doubt; for that's a metaphor
For Lucifer and Venus.

Arn. To the palace
Colonna, as I told you!

Ces. Oh! I know

My way through Rome.

Arn. Now onward, onward! Gently.

[Exeunt, bearing Olimpia.—The scene closes.

PART III.

SCENE I.

A Castle in the Apennines, surrounded by a wild but
smiling country.—Chorus of Peasants singing before the Gates.

CHORUS.

1. The wars are over,
The spring is come;
The bride and her lover
Have sought their home:
They are happy, we rejoice;
Let their hearts have an echo in every voice!

2. The spring is come; the violet's gone,
The first-born child of the early sun:
With us she is but a winter's flower,
The snow on the hills cannot blast her bower,
And she lifts up her dewy eye of blue
To the youngest sky of the self-same hue.

CHORUS.

But the wars are over,
The spring is come;
The bride and her lover
Have sought their home:
They are happy, and we rejoice;
Let their hearts have an echo from every voice.

[Exeunt the Peasantry, singing;
HEAVEN AND EARTH;

A MYSTERY,

FOUNDED ON THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE IN GENESIS, CHAP. VI.

"And it came to pass . . . . . . that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose."

And woman waiting for her demon lover."—Coleridge.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Angels.—Samiás. Azæziel. Raphael the Archangel.

Men.—Noah and his Sons. Irad. Japhet.

Women.—Anah. Ahólibaham.

Chorus of Spirits of the Earth.—Chorus of Mortals.

PART I.

SCENE I.

A woody and mountainous district near Mount Ararat.—Time, Midnight.

Enter Anah and Ahólibaham.

Anah. Our father sleeps: it is the hour when they Who love us are accustom’d to descend Through the deep clouds o’er rocky Ararat: How my heart beats!

Aho. Let us proceed upon Our invocation.

Anah. But the stars are hidden. I tremble.

Aho. So do I, but not with fear Of aught save their delay.

Anah. My sister, though I love Azæziel more than—oh, too much! What was I going to say? my heart grows impious. Aho. And where is the impiety of loving Celestial natures? Anah. But, Ahólibaham, I love our God less since his angel loved me. This cannot be of good; and though I know not That I do wrong, I feel a thousand fears Which are not ominous of right.

Aho. Then wed thee Unto some son of clay, and toil and spin! There’s Japhet loves thee well, hath loved thee long Marry, and bring forth dust!

Anah. I should have loved Azæziel not less were he mortal; yet I am glad he is not. I can not outlive him, And when I think that his immortal wings Will one day hover o’er the sepulchre Of the poor child of clay which so adored him, As he adores the Highest, death becomes Less terrible; but yet I pity him: His grief will be of ages, or at least Mine would be such for him, were I the seraph. And he the perishable.

Aho. Rather say, That he will single forth some other daughter Of Earth, and love her as he once loved Anah.

Anah. And if it should be so, and she loved him Better thus than that he should weep for me.

Aho. If I thought thus of Samias’s love, All seraph as he is, I’d spurn him from me. But to our invocation! ‘Tis the hour.

Anah. Seraph! From thy sphere! Whatever star contain thy glory; In the eternal depths of heaven.
Albeit thou watchest with "the seven"*  
Though through space infinite and hoary  
Before thy bright worlds worlds be driven,  
Yet hear!  
Oh! think of her who holds thee dear!  
And though she nothing is to thee,  
Yet think that thou art all to her.  
Thou canst not tell,—and never be  
Such pangs decreed to aught save me,—  
The bitterness of tears.  
Eternity is in thy years,  
Unborn, undying beauty in thine eyes;  
With me thou canst not sympathize,  
Except in love, and there thou must  
Acknowledge that more loving dust  
Ne'er wept beneath the skies.  
Thou walk'st thy many worlds, thou see'st  
The face of him who made thee great,  
As he hath made me of the least  
Of those cast out from Eden's gate:  
Yet, Seraph dear!  
Oh hear!  
For thou hast loved me, and I would not die  
Until I know what I must die in knowing,  
That thou foget'st in thine eternity  
Her whose heart death could not keep from o'er-flowing  
For thee, immortal essence as thou art!  
Great is their love who love in sin and fear;  
And such, I feel, are waging in my heart  
A war unworthy: to an Adamite  
Forgive, my Seraph! that such thoughts appear,  
For sorrow is our element;  
Delight  
An Eden kept afar from sight,  
Though sometimes with our visions blent.  
The hour is near  
Which tells me we are not abandon'd quite.—  
Appear! Appear!  
Seraph!  
My own Azazel! be but here,  
And leave the stars to their own light.  
Aho.  
Samiasa!  
Where'so'er  
I hearlest in the upper air—  
Or warring with the spirits who may dare  
Dispute with him  
Who made all empires, empire; or recalling  
Some wandering star, which shoots through the abyss  
Whose tenants dying, while their world is falling,  
Share the dim destiny of clay in this;  
Or joining with the interior cherubim,  
Thou deignest to partake their hymn—  
Samiasa!  
I call thee, I await thee, and I love thee.  
Many may worship thee, that will I not.  
If that thy spirit down to mine may move thee,  
Descend and share my lot!  
Though I be form'd of clay,  
And thou of beams  
More bright than those of day  
On Eden's streams,  
Thine immortality can not repay  
With love more warm than mine  
My love. There is a ray

* The archangels said to be seven in number.

In me, which, though forbidden yet to shine,  
I feel was lighted at thy God's and thine.  
It may be hidden long: death and decay  
Our mother Eve bequeath'd us—but my heart  
Defies it: though this life must pass away,  
Is that a cause for thee and me to part?  
Thou art immortal—so am I: I feel—  
I feel my immortality o'er sweep  
All pains, all tears, all time, all fears, and peal,  
Like the eternal thunders of the deep,  
Into my ears this truth—"thou livest for ever!"  
But if it be in joy  
I know not, nor would know;  
That secret rests with the Almighty giver  
Who folds in clouds the fonts of bliss and wo  
But thee and me he never can destroy;  
Change as he may, but not o'erwhelm; we are  
Of as eternal essence and must war  
With him if he will war with us: with thee  
I can share all things, even immortal sorrow;  
For thou hast ventured to share life with me,  
And shall I shrink from thine eternity?  
No! though the serpent's sting should pierce me through,  
And thou thyself wert like the serpent coil  
Around me still! and I will smile  
And curse thee not; but hold  
Thee in as warm a fold  
As—but descend; and prove  
A mortal's love  
For an immortal. If the skies contain  
More joy than thou canst give and take, remain!  
Anah. Sister! sister! I view them winging  
Their bright way through the parted night.  
Aho. The clouds from off their pinions flanging,  
As though they bore to-morrow's light.  
Anah. But if our father see the sight!  
Aho. He would but deem it was the moon  
Rising unto some sorcerer's tune  
An hour too soon.  
Anah. They come! he comes!—Azazel!  
Aho.  
Haste  
To meet them! Oh! for wings to bear  
My spirit, while they hover there,  
To Samiasa's breast!  
Anah. Lo! they have kindled all the west,  
Like a returning sunset;—lo!  
On Ararat's late secret crest  
A mild and many-color'd bow,  
The remnant of their flashing path,  
Now shines! and now, behold! it hath  
Return'd to night, as rippling foam,  
Which the leviathan hath lash'd  
From his unfathomable home,  
When sporting on the face of the calm deep,  
Subsides soon after he again hath dash'd  
Down, down, to where the ocean's fountains sleep.  
Aho. They have touch'd earth! Samiasa!  
Anah.  
SCENE II.  

Enter Irad and Japhet.  
Irad. Despond not; wherefore wilt thou wander thus  
To add thy silence to the silent night,  
And lift thy tearful eye unto the stars?  
They cannot aid thee.
BYRON'S WORKS.

Japh. But they soothe me—now perhaps she looks upon them as I look. Methinks a being that is beautiful Becometh more so as it looks on beauty, the eternal beauty of undying things. Oh, Anah!

Irad. But she loves thee not.

Japh. Alas! Irad. And proud Ahobilamah spurns me also. Japh. I feel for thee too.

Irad. Let her keep her pride, mine hath enabled me to bear her scorn: it may be, time too will avenge it.

Japh. Canst thou find joy in such a thought?

Irad. Nor joy nor sorrow, I loved her well; I would have loved her better, I had love been met with love: as 'tis, I leave her To brighter destinies, if so she deems them.

Japh. What destinies?

Irad. I have some cause to think she loves another.

Japh. Anah!

Irad. No; her sister.

Japh. What other?

Irad. That I know not; but her air, If not her words, tells me she loves another.

Japh. Ay, but not Anah: she but loves her God. Irad. Whate'er she loveth, so she loves thee not, what can it profit thee?

Japh. True, nothing; but I love.

Irad. And so did I.

Japh. And now thou lovest not, or think'st thou lovest not, art thou happier?

Irad. Yes.

Japh. I pity thee.

Irad. Me! why?

Japh. For being happy, deprived of that which makes my misery.

Irad. I take thy taunt as part of thy distemper, and would not feel as thou dost for more shakels Than all our father's herds would bring if weigh'd against the metal of the sons of Cain—The yellow dust they try to barter with us, as if such useless and discolor'd trash, The refuse of the earth, could be received for milk, and wool, and flesh, and fruits, and all our flocks and wilderness afford. Go, Japhet, sigh to the stars as wolves howl to the moon—

I must back to my rest.

Japh. And so would I.

Irad. Thou wilt not to our tents then?

Japh. No, Irad; I will to the cavern, whose mouth they open from the internal world To let the inner spirits of the earth forth when they walk its surface.

Irad. Wherefore so?

Japh. What wouldst thou there?

Irad. Sooth further my sad spirit with gloom as sad: it is a hopeless spot, and I am hopeless.

Japh. But 'tis dangerous; strange sounds and sights have peopled it with terrors. I must go with thee.

Irad. No; believe me I feel no evil thought, and fear no evil.

Irad. But evil things will be thy foe the more as not being of them: turn thy steps aside, or let mine be with thine.

Japh. No, neither, Irad: I must proceed alone.

Irad. Then peace be with thee!

Japh. (soleus.) Peace! I have sought it where it should be found, in love—with love, too, which perhaps deserved it, and, in its stead, a heaviness of heart—A weakness of the spirit—listless days, and nights inexorable to sweet sleep—Have come upon me. Peace! what peace? the calm of desolation, and the stillness of the untroudden forest, only broken by the sweeping tempest through its groaning boughs; such is the sullen or the fitful state of my mind overworn. The earth's grown wicked and many signs and portents have proclaimed a change at hand, and an overwhelming doom to perishable beings. Oh, my Anah! When the dreadful hour denounces shall open wide the fountains of the deep, how mightest thou have lain within this bosom, folded from the elements; this bosom, which in vain hath beat for thee, and then will beat more vainly, While thing—Oh, God! at least remit to her Thy wrath! for she is pure amid the failing as a star in the clouds, which cannot quench, although they obscure it for an hour. My Anah! how would I have adored thee, but thou wouldest not; and still would I redeem thee—see thee live when ocean is earth's grave, and, unopposed by rock or shallow, the leviathan, lord of the shoreless sea and watery world, shall wonder at His boundlessness of realm.

[Exit Japhet.]

Enter Noah and Shem.

Noah. Where is thy brother Japhet?

Shem. He went forth according to his wont, to meet with Irad, he said; but, as I fear, to bend his steps towards anah's tents, round which he loves nightly, like a dove round and round its pillaged nest; or else he walks the wild up to the cavern which opens to the heart of Ararat. Noah. What doth he there? it is an evil spot upon an earth all evil; for things worse than those on wicked men resort there: he still loves this daughter of a fated race, although he could not wed her if she loved him, and that she doth not. Oh, the unhappy hearts of men! that one of my blood, knowing well the destiny and evil of these days, and that the hour approacheth, should indulge in such forbidden yearnings! lead the way; he must be sought for!

Shem. Go not forward, father; I will seek Japhet.

Noah. Do not fear for me: all evil things are powerless on the man selected by Jehovah—let us go.

Shem. To the tents of the father of the sisters?

No. No; to the cavern of the Caucasus.

[Exeunt Noah and Shem.]
Japh. By the approaching denoue! by the earth Which will be strangled by the ocean! by The deep which will lay open all her fountains! The heaven which will convert her clouds to seas, And the Omnipotent who makes and crushes! Thou unknown, terrible, and indistinct, Yet Awful Thing of Shadows, speak to me! Why dost thou laugh that horrid laugh?

Japh. For earth and all her children.

Spirit. Ha! Ha! Ha! [Spirit vanishes]

Japh. How the fiend mocks the tortures of a wofl The coming desolation of an orb, On which the sun shall rise and warm no life! How the earth sleeps! and all that in it is Sleep too upon the very eve of death!

Japh. The coming desolation of an orb, On which the sun shall rise and warm no life! How the earth sleeps! and all that in it is Sleep too upon the very eve of death!

Why should they wake to meet it? What is here, Which look like death in life, and speak like things Born ere this dying world? They come like clouds.

[Various Spirits pass from the cavern.]

Spirit. Rejoice!

The abhor'd race Which could not keep in Eden their high place; But listen'd to the voice Of knowledge without power, Are nigh the hour Of death!

Not slow, not single, not by sword, nor sorrow, Nor years, nor heart-break, nor time's sapping motion, Shall they drop off. Behold their last to-morrow!

Earth shall be ocean! And no breath, Save of the winds, be on the unbounded wave! Angels shall tire their wings, but find no spot; Not even a rock from out the liquid grave Shall lift its point to save.

Or show the place where strong despair hath died After long looking o'er the ocean wide For the expected ebb which cometh not All shall be void,

Destroy'd!

Another element shall be the lord Of life, and the abhor'd
Children of dust be quench'd; and of each hue Of earth nought left but the unbroken blue; And of the variegated mountain Shall nought remain Unchanged, nor of the level plain; Cedar and pine shall lift their tops in vain:

All merged within the universal fountain, Man, earth, and fire, shall die, And sea and sky Look vast and lifeless in the eternal eye

Upon the foam Who shall erect a home?

Japh. (coming forward.) My sires! Earth's seed shall not expire! Only the evil shall be put away From day.

Avaunt! ye exulting demons of the waste! Who howl your hideous joy When God destroys whom you dare not destroy, Hence! haste!

Back to your inner caves! Until the waves Shall search you in your secret place,

And drive your sullen race.
Forth, to be roll'd upon the tossing winds
In restless wretchedness along all space;
Spirit.

Sohn of the saved!
When thou and thine have brav'd
The wide and warring element;
When the great barrier of the deep is rent,
Shall thou and thine be good or happy!—No!—
Thy new world and new race shall be of wo—
Less goodly in their aspect, in their years
Less than the glorious giants, who
Yet walk the world in pride,
The sons of Heaven by many a mortal bride.
Thine shall be nothing of the past, save tears.
And art thou not ashamed
Thus to survive,
And eat, and drink, and live?
With a base heart so far subdued and tamed,
As even to hear this wide destruction named,
Without such grief and courage, as should rather
Bid thee await the world-dissolving wave,
Than seek a shelter with thy favor'd father,
And build thy city o'er the drown'd earth's grave?
Who would outlive their kind,
Except the base and blind?
Mine
Hateth thine,
As of a different order in the sphere,
But not our own.
There is not one who hath not left a throne
Wax'd in heaven to dwell in darkness here,
Rather than see his mates endure alone.
Go, wretch! and give
A life like thine to other wretches—live!
And when the annihilating waters roar
Above what they have done,
Envy the giant patriarchs then no more,
And scorn thy sire as the surviving one!
Thyself for being his son!

Chorus of Spirits issuing from the cave.*
Rejoice!
No more the human voice
Shall vex our joys in middle air
With prayer;
No more
Shall they adore;
And we, who ne'er for ages have adored
The prayer-exacting Lord,
To whom the omission of a sacrifice
Is vice;
We, we shall view the deep's salt sources pour'd,
Until one element shall do the work
Of all in chaos; until they,
The creatures proud of their poor clay,
Shall perish, and their bleached bones shall lurk
In caves, in dens, in clefts of mountains, where,
The deep shall follow to their latest hair;
Where even the brutes, in their despair,
Shall cease to prey on man and on each other,
And the striped tiger shall lie down to die
Beside the lamb, as though he were his brother;
Till all things shall be as they were,
Silent and uncreated, save the sky:
While a brief truce
Is made with Death, who shall forbear
The little remnant of the past creation,
To generate new nations for his use;
This remnant, floating o'er the undulation
Of the subsiding deluge, from its slime,
When the hot sun hath baked the reeking soil
Into a world, shall give again to time
New beings—years—diseases—sorrow—crime—
With all companionship of hate and toil,
Until
Japh. (interrupting them.) The eternal will
Shall deign to expound this dream
Of good and evil; and redeem
Unto himself all times, all things;
And, gather'd under his almighty wings
Abolish hell!
And to the expiated Earth
Restore the beauty of her birth,
Her Eden in an endless paradise,
Where man no more can fall as once he fell,
And even the very demons shall do well!

Spirits. And when shall take effect this wondrous spell?

Japh. When the Redeemer cometh; first in pain,
And the in glory.

Spirits. Meantime, still struggle in the mortal frame,
Till earth wax hoary;
War with yourselves, and hell, and heaven, in vain,
Until the clouds look gory
With the blood reeking from each battle plain;
New times, new climes, new arts, new men; but still
The same old tears, old crimes, and oldest ill,
Shall be among your race in different forms;
But the same moral storms
Shall oversweep the future, as the waves
In a few hours the glorious giant's graves.*

Chorus of Spirits.
Brethren, rejoice!
Mortal, farewell!
Hark! hark! already we can hear the voice
Of growing ocean's gloomy swell;
The winds, too, plume their piercing wings
The clouds have nearly fill'd their springs;
The fountains of the great deep shall be broken,
And heaven set wide her windows; while mankind
View, unacknowledged, each tremendous token—
Still, as they were, from the beginning, blind,
We hear the sound they cannot hear,
The mustering thunders of the threatening sphere;
Yet a few hours their coming is delay'd;
Their flashing banners, folded still on high
Yet undis played,
Save to the Spirit's all-pervading eye.
How! how! oh Earth!
Thy death is nearer than thy recent birth;
Tremble, ye mountains! soon to shrink below
The ocean's overflow;
The wave shall break upon your cliffs; and shells,
The little shells, of ocean's least things be
Deposited where now the eagle's offspring dwells—
How shall he shrivek o'er the remorseless sea!
And call his nestlings up with fruitless yell,
Unanswer'd, save by the encroaching swell;—
While man shall long in vain for his broad wings,
The wings which could not save:—
Where could he rest them, while the whole space
brings
Nought to his eye beyond the deep, his grave?

* "And there were giants in the earth in those days, and also: mighty men, which were of old men of renown."—Genesis.
Brethren, rejoice!
And loudly lift each superhuman voice—
All die,
Save the slight remnant of Seth's seed—
The seed of Seth.
Exempt for future sorrow's sake from death
But of the sons of Cain
None shall remain;
And all his worldly daughters
Must lie beneath the desolating waters;
Or, floating upward, with their long hair laid
Along the wave, the cruel heaven upbraids,
Which would not spare
Beings even in death so fair.
I: is dazed.
All die!
And to the universal human cry
The universal silence shall succeed!
Fly, brethren, fly!
But still rejoice!
We fall!
They fall!
So perish all
These petty foes of Heaven who shrink from hell!
[The Spirits disappear, soaring upwards.
Japh. (solus.) God hath proclaim'd the destiny of earth;
My father's ark of safety hath announced it;
The very demons shriek it from their caves;
The scroll of Enoch prophesied it long
In silent books, which, in their silence, say
More to the mind than thunder to the ear:
And yet men listen'd not, nor listen; but
Walk darkling to their doom; which, though so nigh,
Shakes them no more in their dim disbelief,
Than their last cries shall shake the Almighty purpose,
Or deaf obedient ocean, which fulfils it.
No sign yet hangs its banner in the air;
The clouds are few, and of their wonted texture;
The sun will rise upon the earth's last day
As on the fourth day of creation, when
God said unto him, "Shine!" and he broke forth
Into the dawn, which lighted not the yet
Uniform'd forefather of mankind—but roused
Before the human orison of the earlier
Made and far sweeter voices of the birds,
Which in the open firmament of heaven
Have wings like angels, and like them salute
Heaven first each day before the Adamites:
Their matima now draw nigh—the east is kindling—and
And they will sing! and day will break! Both near,
So near the awful close! For these must drop
Their out worn pinions on the deep; and day,
After the bright course of a few brief morrows,—
Ay, day will rise; but upon what?—a chaos,
Which was ere day; and which renew'd, makes time
Nothing! for, without life, what are the hours?
No more to dust than is eternity
Unto Jehovah, who created both.
Without him, even eternity would be
A void: without man, time, as made for man,
Dies with man, and is swallowed in that deep
Which has no fountain; as his race will be
Devour'd by that which drowns his infant world.—
What have we here? Shapes of both earth and air?
No—all of heaven, they are so beautiful.
I cannot trace their features; but their forms,
How lovely they move along the side
Of the gray mountain, scattering its mist!
And after the swart savage spirits, whose
Infernal immortality pour'd forth
Their impious hymn of triumph, they shall be
Welcome as Eden. It may be they come
To tell me the reprobate of our young world,
For which I have so often pray'd—They come!
Anah! oh, God! and with her—

Enter Samiasa, Azariel, Anah, and Aholibamah.

Anah. Japhet!
Sam. Lo!
A son of Adam:
Aza. What doth the earthborn here,
While all his race are slumbering?
Japh. Angel! what
Dost thou on earth when thou should'st be on high?
Aza. Know'st thou not, or forget'st thou, that a part
Of our great function is to guard thine earth!
Japh. But all good angels have forsaken earth.
Which is condemn'd; nay even the evil fly
The approaching chaos. Anah! Anah! my
In vain, and long, and still to be beloved.
Why walk'st thou with this spirit, in those hours
When no good spirit longer lights below?
Anah. Japhet, I cannot answer thee: yet, yet
Forgive me—
Japh. May the Heaven, which soon no more
Will pardon, do so! for thou art greatly tempted.
Aho. Back to thy tents, insulting son of Noah!
We know thee not.
Japh. The hour may come when thou
May'st know me better; and thy sister know
Me still the same which I have ever been.
Sam. Son of the patriarch, who hath ever been
Upright before his God, what'er thy gifts,
And what words seem of sorrow, mix'd with wrath,
How have Azariel, or myself, brought on thee
Wrong?
Japh. Wrong! the greatest of all wrongs; but thou
Say'st well, though she be dust, I did not, could not,
Deserve her. Farewell, Anah! I have said
That word so often! but now say it, ne'er
To be repeated. Angel! or what'er
Thou art, or must be soon, hast thou the power
To save this beautiful—these beautiful
Children of Cain?
Aza. From what?
Japh. And is it so,
That ye too know not? Angels! angels! ye
Have shared man's sin, and, it may be, now must
Partake his punishment; or at the least
My sorrow.
Sam. Sorrow! I ne'er thought till now
To hear an Adamite speak riddles to me.
Japh. And hath not the Most High expounded
them?
Then ye are lost, as they are lost.
Aho. So be it!
If they love as they are loved, they will not shrink
More to be mortal, than I would to dare
An immortality of agonies
With Samiasa!
Anah. Sister! sister! speak not
Their courage, strength, and length, of days —
Japh. They are number'd
Aho. Be it so! but while ye their hours endure.
I glory in my brethren and our fathers.
Japh. My sire and race but glory in their God,
Anah! and thou?

Anah. Whate'er our God decrees
The God of Seth as Cain, I must obey,
And will endeavor patiently to obey.
But could I dare to pray in this dread hour
Of universal vengeance, (if such should be,) It would not be to live, alone exempt
Of all my house. My sister! oh, my sister!
What were the world, or other worlds, or all
The brightest future, without the sweet past—
Thy love—my father's—all the life, and all
The things which sprang up with me, like the stars
Making my dim existence radiant with
Soft lights which were not mine? Aholibamah.
Oh! if there should be mercy—seek it, find it;
I abhor death, because that thou must die.
Aho. What! hath this dreamer, with his father's
ark,
The bugbear he hath built to scare the world,
Shaken my sister? Are we not the loved
Of seraphs? and if we were not, must we
Cling to a son of Noah for our lives?
Rather than thus—But the enthusiastic dreams
The worst of dreams, the phantasies engender'd
By hopeless love and heated vigil. Who
Shall shake these solid mountains, this firm earth,
And bid those clouds and waters take a shape
Distinct from that which we and all our sires
Have seen them wear on their eternal way?
Who shall do this?
Japh. He whose one word produced them.
Aho. Who heard that word?
Japh. The universe, which leap'd
To life before it. Ah! smilest thou still in scorn?
Turn to thy seraphs; if they attest it not,
They are none.
Sam. Aholibamah, own thy God!
Aho. I have ever hail'd our Maker, Samiass,
As thine, and mine: a God of love, not sorrow.
Japh. Alas! what else is love but sorrow? Even
He who made earth in love had soon to grieve
Above its first and best inhabitants.
Aho. Tis said so.
Japh. It is even so.

Enter Noah and Shem.

Noah. Japheth! What
Dost thou here with these children of the wicked?
Dread'st thou not to partake their coming doom.
Japh. Father, it cannot be a sin to seek
To save an earthborn being; and behold,
These are not of the sinful, since they have
The fellowship of angels.

Noah. These are they, then,
Who leave the throne of God, to take them wives
From out the race of Cain; the sons of heaven,
Who seek earth's daughters for their beauty?
Aho. Patriarch!
Thou hast said it.

Noah. Wo, wo, wo to such communion!
Has not God made a barrier between earth
And heaven, and limited each, kind to kind?
Sam. Was not man made in high Jehovah's
image?

Thus.

Aha. Farest thou, my Anah?

Yes, for thee:
I would resign the greater remnant of
This little life of mine, before one hour
Of thine eternity should know a pang.

Japh. It is for him, then! for the seraph thou
Hast left me! That is nothing, if thou hast not
Left thy God too, for unions like to these,
Between a mortal and an immortal, cannot
Be happy or be hallow'd. We are sent
Upon the earth to toil and die: and they
Are made to minister on high unto
The Highest: But if he can save thee, soon
The hour will come in which celestial aid
Alone can do so.

Anah. Ah! he speaks of death.

Sam. Of death to us! and those who are with us!
But that the man seems full of sorrow, I—
Could smile.

Japh. I grieve not for myself, nor fear;
I am safe, not for my own deserts, but those
Of a well-doing sire, who hath been found
Righteous enough to save his children. Would
His power was greater of redemption! or
That by exchanging my own life for hers,
Who could alone have made me happy she,
The last and loveliest of Cain's race, could share
The ark which shall receive a remnant of
The seed of Seth!

Aho. And dost thou think that we
With Cain's, the eldest born of Adam's, blood
Warm in our veins,—strong Cain! who was begotten
In paradise,—would mingle with Seth's children?
Seth, the last offspring of old Adam's dotage?
No, not to save all earth, were earth in peril!
Our race hath always dwelt apart from thine
From the beginning, and shall do so ever.

Japh. I did not speak to thee, Aholibamah!
Too much of the forefather whom thou vaunted
Has come down in that haughty blood which springs
From him who shed the first, and that a brother's!
But thou, my Anah! let me call thee mine,
Albeit thou art not: 'tis a word I cannot
Part with, although I must from thee. My Anah!
Thou who dost rather make me dream that Abel
Had left a daughter, whose pure pious race
Survived in thee, so much unlike thou art
The rest of the stern Cainites, save in beauty,
For all of them are fairest in their favor—

Aho. (interrupting him.) And wouldst thou have
her like our father's foe
In mind, in soul? If I partook thy thought,
And dream'd that ought of Abel was in her—
Get thee hence, son of Noah; thou makest strife.

Japh. Offspring of Cain, thy father did so!

Aho. But he slew not Seth; and what hast thou to do
With other deeds between his God and him?

Japh. Thou speakest well: his God hath judged
him, and
I had rather name his deed, but that thyself
Didst seem to glory in him, nor to shrink
From what he had done.

Aho. He was our father's father:
The eldest born of man, the strongest, bravest,
And most enduring —Shall I blush for him
From whom we had our being? Look upon
Our race; behold their stature and their beauty,
HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Did God not love what he had made? And what
Do we but imitate and emulate
His love unto created love?

Noah. I am
But man, and was not made to judge mankind,
Far less the sons of God; but as our God
Has design'd to commune with me, and reveal
His judgments, I reply, that the descent
Of seraphs from their everlasting seat
Unto a perishable and perishing,
Even on the very eve of perishing, world,
Cannot be good.

Azaz. What! though it were to save?
Noah. Not ye in all your glory can redeem
What he who made you glorious hath condemn'd.
Were your immortal mission safety, 'twould
Be general, not for two, though beautiful;
And beautiful they are, but not the less
corrupt'd.

Japh. Oh father! say it not.
Noah. Son! son!
If that thou wouldst avoid their doom, forget
That they exist; they soon shall cease to be,
While thou shalt be the sire of a new world,
And better.

Japh. Let me die with this, and them!
Noah. Thou shouldst for such a thought, but shalt
not; he
Who can redeem thee.

Sam. And why him and thee,
More than what he, thy son, prefers to both?
Noah. Ask him who made thee greater than my
self
And mine, but not less subject to his own
Almightiness. And lo! his mildest and
Least to be tempted messenger appears!

Enter Raphael, the Archangel.

Raph. Spirits!
Whose seat is near the throne,
What do ye here?
Is thus a seraph's duty to be shown,
Now that the hour is near
When earth must be alone?
Return!
Adore and burn
In glorious homage with the elected "seven
Your place is heaven.

Sam. Raphael!
The first and fairest of the sons of God,
How long hath this been law,
That earth by angels must be left untried
Earth! which oft saw
Jehovah's footsteps not disdain her sod
The world he loved, had made
For love; and oft have obey'd
His frequent mission with delighted pinions,
Adoring him in his least works display'd;
Watching this youngest star of his dominions;
And, as the latest birth of his great word,
Eager to keep it worthy of our Lord.
Why is thy brow severe?
And whenfore speak'st thou of destruction near?
Raph. Had Samia and Azaziel been
In their true place, with the angelic choir,
Written in fire
They would have seen
Jehovah's late decree,
And not inquired 'heir Maker's breath of me:

But ignorance must ever be
A part of sin;
And even the spirits' knowledge shall grow less:
As they wax proud within;
For Blindness is the first-born of Excess.
When all good angels left the world, ye stayed,
Stung with strange passions, and debased
By mortal feelings for a mortal maid;
But ye are pardon'd thus far, and replaced
With your pure equals. Hence! away! away!
Or stay,
And lose eternity by that delay!

Azaz. And thou! if earth be thus forbidden
In the decree
To us until this moment hidden,
Dost thou not err as we
In being here?

Raph. I came to call ye back to your fit sphere.
In the great name and at the word of God.
Dear, dearest in themselves, and scarce less dear
That which I came to do: till now we trod
Together the eternal space; together
Let us still walk the stars. True, earth must die
Her race; return'd into her womb, must wither,
And much which she inherits; but oh! why
Cannot this earth be made, or be destroy'd,
Without involving ever some vast void
In the immortal ranks? immortal still
In their immeasurable forfeiture.
Our brother Satan fell; his burning will
Rather than long worship dared endure
But ye who still are pure!
Seraph! less mighty than that mightiest one,
Think how he was undone!
And think if tempting man can compensate
For heaven desired too late!
Long have I warr'd,
Long must I war
With him who deem'd it hard
To be created, and to acknowledge him
Who midst the cherubim
Made him as suns to a dependent star,
Leaving the archangels at his right hand dira.
I loved him—beautiful he was: oh heaven,
Sav'd his who made, what beauty and what power
Was ever like to Satan's! Would the hour
In which he fell could ever be forgiven!
The wish is impious: but, oh ye!
Yet undestroy'd, be warn'd! Eternity
With him, or with his God, is in your choice
He hath not tempted you; he cannot tempt
The angels, from his further snares exempt:
But man hath listen'd to his voice,
And ye to woman's—beautiful she is,
The serpent's voice less subtle than her kiss.
The snake but vanquish'd dust; but she will draw
A second host from heaven, to break heaven's law
Yet, yet, oh fly!
Ye cannot die;
But they
Shall pass away,
While ye shall fill with shrieks the upper sky;
For perishable clay,
Wose memory in your immortality
Shall long outlast the sun which gave them day
Think how your essence differeth from theirs
In all but suffering! why partake
The agony to which they must be heirs—
Born to be plough'd with years, and sown with curses.
And reap'd by Death, lord of the human soil?  
Even had their days been left to toll their path  
Through time to dust, unshortened by God's wrath,  
Still they are Evil's prey and Sorrow's spoil.  

Aho.  
Let them fly!  
I hear the voice which says that all must die  
Sooner than our white-bearded patriarchs died;  
And that on high  
An ocean is prepared,  
While from below  
The deep shall rise to meet heaven's overflow.  
Few shall be spared,  
It seems; and of that few, the race of Cain  
Must lift their eyes to Adam's God in vain.  

Sister! since it is so,  
And the eternal Lord  
In vain would be implored  
For the remission of one hour of wo,  
Let us resign even what we have adored,  
And meet the wave, as we would meet the sword,  
If not unmoved, yet undismay'd.  
And wailing loss for us than those who shall  
Survive in mortal or immortal thrall,  
And, when the fatal waters are alloy'd,  
Weep for the myriads who can weep no more.  
Fly, seraphs! to your own eternal shore,  
Where winds nor waves nor waters rear.  

Our portion is to die,  
And yours to live for ever:  
But which is best, a dead eternity,  
Or living, is but known to the great Giver.  
Obey him, as we shall obey;  
I would not keep this life of mine in clay  
An hour beyond his will,  
Nor see ye lose a portion of his grace,  
For all the mercy which Seth's race  
Find still.  
Fly!  
And as your pinions bear ye back to heaven,  
Think that my love still mounts with thee on high,  
Samissa!  
And if I look up with a tearless eye,  
'Tis that an angel's bride disdains to weep.—  
Farewell! Now rise, inexorable deep!  
Anah.  
And must we die?  
And must I lose thee too,  
Azzaziel?  
Oh, my heart! my heart!  
Thy prophecies were true!  
And yet thouwert so happy too!  
The bow, though not unlook'd for, falls as new;  
But yet depart!  
Ah! why?  
Yet let me not retain thee—fly!  
My pangs can be but brief; but thine would be  
Eternal, if repulsed from heaven for me.  
Too much already hast thou deign'd  
To one of Adam's race!  
Our doom is sorrow; not to us alone,  
But to the spirits who have not disdain'd  
To love us, cometh anguish with disgrace.  
The first who taught us knowledge hath been hurl'd  
From his own archangelic throne  
Into some unknown world:  
And thou, Azzaziel! No—  
Thou shalt not suffer we  
For me.  
Away! nor weep!  
Thou canst not weep; but yet  
May'st suffer more not weeping: then forget  

Her, whom the surges or the all-strangling deep  
Can bring no pang like this.  Fly! fly!  
Being gone, 'twill be less difficult to die.  
Japh.  
Oh say not so!  
Father! and thou, archangel, thou!  
Surely celestial mercy lurks below  
That pure severe serenity of brow!  
Let them not meet this sea without a shore,  
Save in our ark, or let me be no more!  
Noah.  
Peace, child of passion, peace!  
If not within thy heart, yet with thy tongue  
Do God no wrong!  
Live as he wills—it die, when he ords,  
A righteous death, unlike the seed of Cain's.  
Cease, or be sorrowful in silence; cease  
To weary Heaven's ear with thy selfish plaint:  
Would'st thou have God commit a sin for thee?  
Such would it be,  
To alter his intent  
For a mere mortal sorrow.  Be a man!  
And bear what Adam's race must bear, and can.  
Japh.  
Ay, father! but when they are gone,  
And we are all alone,  
Floating upon the azure desert, and  
The depth beneath us hides our own dear land,  
And dearer, silent friends and brethren, all  
Buried in its immeasurable breast,  
Who, who, our tears, our shrieks, shall then command?  
Can we in desolation's peace have rest?  
Oh God! be thou a God, and spare  
Yet while 'tis time!  
Renew not Adam's fall:  
Mankind were then but twain,  
But they are numerous now as are the waves  
And the tremendous rain,  
Whose drops shall be less thick than would their graves,  
Were graves permitted to the seed of Cain.  
Noah.  
Silence, vain boy! each word of thine's a crime.  
Angel! forgive this stripling's fond despair.  
Raph.  
Seraphs! these mortals speak in passion:  
Ye!  
Who are, or should be, passionless and pure,  
May now return with me.  
Sam.  
It may not be;  
We have chosen, and will endure.  
Raph.  
Say'st thou?  
Az.  
He hath said it, and I say, Amen  
Raph.  
Again!  
Then from this hour,  
Shorn as ye are of all celestial power,  
And aliens from your God.  
Farewell!  
Japh.  
Alas! where shall they dwell?  
Hark, hark! Deep sounds, and deeper still,  
Are howling from the mountain's bosom:  
There's not a breath of wind upon the hill,  
Yet quivers every leaf, and drops each blossom:  
Earth groans as if beneath a heavy load.  
Noah.  
Hark, hark! the sea-birds cry!  
In clouds they overspread the lurid sky,  
And hover round the mountain, where before  
Never a white wing, wetted by the wave,  
Yet dared to soar,  
Even when the waters wax'd too fierce to brave.  
Soon it shall be their only shore,  
And then, no more!
Japh. The sun! the sun!
He riseth, but his better light is gone;
And a black circle, bound
His gloriing disk around,
Proclaims earth's last of summer days hath shone!
The clouds return into the hues of night,
Save where their brazen-color'd edges streak
The verge where brighter morns were wont to break.
Noah. And lo! you flash of light,
The distant thunder's harbing'er, appears!
It cometh! hence, away!
Leave to the elements their evil prey!
Hence to where our all-hallow'd ark uppears
Its safe and rockless sides.
Japh. Oh, father, stay!
Leave not my Anah to the swallowing tides!
Noah. Must we not leave all life to such? Be-
gone!
Japh. Not I.
Noah. Then die
With them!
How darest thou look on that prophetic sky,
And seek to save what all things now condemn,
In overwhelming unison
With just Jehovah's wrath!
Japh. Can rage and justice join in the same path?
Noah. Blasphemer! darest thou murmur even now?
Raph. Patriarch, be still a father! smooth thy brow:
Thy son, despite his folly, shall not sink;
He knows not what he says, yet shall not drink
With sob the salt foam of the swelling waters;
But be, when passion pasheth, as good as thou,
Nor perish like heaven's children with man's daughters.
Aho. The tempest cometh; heaven and earth unite
For the annihilation of all life.
Unequal is the strife
Between our strength and the Eternal Might!
Sam. But ours is with thee; we will bear ye far
To some untrodden star,
Where thou and Anah shalt partake our lot;
And if thou dost not weep for thy lost earth,
Our forfeit heaven shall also be forgot.
Anah. Oh! my dear father's tents, my place of birth,
And mountains, land, and woods! when ye are not,
Who shall dry up my tears?
Aza. Thy spirit-lord.
Fear not; though we are shut from heaven,
Yet much is ours, whence we cannot be driven.
Raph. Rebel! thy words are wicked, as thy deeds
Shall henceforth be but weak: the flaming sword,
Which chased the first-born out of Paradise,
Stil flashes in the angelic hands.
Aza. It cannot slay us: threaten dust with death,
And talk of weapons unto that which bleeds.
What are thy swords in our immortal eyes?
Raph. The moment cometh to approve thy strength;
And learn at length
How vain to war with what thy God commands:
Thy former force was in thy faith.

Enter Mortals, flying for refuge

Chorus of Mortals.
The heavens and earth are mingling—God! oh God! What have we done? Yet spare! Hark! even the forest beasts howl forth their pray'r. The dragon crawls from out his den, To herd, in terror, innocent with men: And the birds scream 'their agony through air. Yet, yet, Jehovah! yet with' draw thy rod Of wrath, and pity thine own world's despair! Hear not man only but all nature plead!
Raph. Farewell, thou earth! ye wretched sons of clay I cannot, must not, aid you. 'Tis decreed!
[Exit Raphael.
Japh. Some clouds sweep on as vultures for their prey, While others fix'd as rocks, await the word At which their wrathful vials shall be pour'd No sooner shall robe the firmament, Nor spangled stars be glorious: Death hath risen: In the sun's place a pale and ghastly glare Hath wound itself around the dying air. Aza. Come, Anah! quit this chaos-founded prison, To which the elements again repair,
To turn it into what it was: beneath The shelter of these wings thou shalt be safe.
As was the eagle's nestling once within Its mother's.—Let the coming chaos chafe With all its elements! Heed not their din! A brighter world than this, where thou shalt breathe Ethereal life, will we explore:
These darken'd clouds are not the only skies.
[Azael and Samias fly off and disappear with Anah and Aholibamah.
Japh. They are gone! They have disappear'd amid the roar Of the forsaken world; and never more, Whether they live, or die with all earth's life Now near its last, can aught restore Anah unto these eyes.

Chorus of Mortals.
Oh son of Noah! mercy on thy kind! What! wilt thou leave us all—all behind? While safe amid the elemental strife, Thou sitt'st within thy guarded ark? A mother, (offering her infant to Japhet.) Oh let this child embark! I brought him forth in wo, But thought it joy To see him to my bosom clinging so. Why was he born? What hath he done— My unwean'd son— To move Jehovah's wrath or scorn? What is there in this milk of mine, that death Should stir all heaven and earth up to destroy My boy, And roll the waters o'er his placid breath? Save him, thou seed of Seth! Or cursed be—with him who made Thee and thy race, for which we are betray'd!
Japh. Peace! 'tis no hour for curses, but for prayer!

Chorus of Mortals.
For prayer!!!
And where
Shall prayer ascend,
When the swoln clouds unto the mountains bend
And burst,
And gushing oceans every barrier rend,
Until the very deserts know no thirst?
Accurst
Be he who made thee and thy sire!
We deem our curses vain; we must expire:
But as we know the worst,
Why should our hymn be raised, our knees be bent
Before the implacable Omnipotent,
Since we must fall the same?
If he hath made earth, let it be his shame,
To make a world for torture.—Lo! they come,
The loathsome waters, in their rage!
And with their roar make wholesome nature dumb!
The forest's trees, (coeval with the hour
When Paradise upsprung,
Ere Eve gave Adam knowledge for her dower,
Or Adam his first hymn of slavery sung,)
So massy, vast, yet green in their old age,
Are ovetopt,
Their summer blossoms by the surges lopt,
Which rise, and rise, and rise.
Vainly we look up to the lowering skies—
They meet the seas,
And shut our God from our beseeching eyes
Fly, son of Noah, fly! and take thine ease,
In thine allotted ocean-tent;
And view, all floating o'er the element,
The corpses of the world of thy young days:
Then to Jehovah raise
Thy song of praise!
A Mortal. Blessed are the dead
Who die in the Lord!
And though the waters be o'er earth outspread,
Yet, as his word,
Be the decree adored!
He gave me life—he taketh but
The breath which is his own:
And though these eyes should be for ever shut,
Not longer this weak voice before his throne
Be heard in supplicating tone,
Still blessed be the Lord

For what is past,
For that which is:
For all are his,
From first to last—
Time—space—eternity—life—death—
The vast known and immeasurable unknown;
He made, and can unmake;
And shall I, for a little gasp of breath
Blaspheme and groan?
No; let me die, as I have lived, in faith,
Nor quiver, though the universe may quake.

Chorus of Mortals.
Where shall we fly?
Not to the mountains high;
For now their torrents rush, with double roar,
To meet the ocean, which, advancing still,
Already grasps each drowning hill,
Nor leaves an unsearch'd cave.

Enter a Woman.
Woman. Oh, save me, save me!
Our valley is no more:
My father and my father's tent,
My brethren and my brethren's herds,
The pleasant trees that o'er our noonday bent
And sent forth evening songs from sweetest birds
The little rivulet which freshen'd all
Our pastures green,
No more are to be seen.
When to the mountain cliff I climb'd this morn,
I turn'd to bless the spot,
And not a leaf appear'd about to fall;—
And now they are not!—
Why was I born?
Japh. To die! in youth to die;
And happier in that doom,
Than to behold the universal tomb,
Which I
Am thus condemn'd to weep above in vain.
Why, when all perish, why must I remain?
The waters rise; Men fly in every direction,
many are overtaken by the waves; the Chorus
of Mortals disperses in search of safety up the
mountains; Japhet remains upon a rock, while
the Ark floats towards him in the distance.
CAIN;
A MYSTERY.

TO
SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.
THIS MYSTERY OF CAIN IS INSCRIBED,
BY HIS OBLIGED FRIEND, AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

The following scenes are entitled "a Mystery," in conformity with the ancient title annexed to dramas upon similar subjects, which were styled "Mysteries, or Moralties." The author has by no means taken the same liberties with his subject which were common formerly, as may be seen by any reader curious enough to refer to those very profane productions, whether in English, French, Italian, or Spanish. The author has endeavored to preserve the language adapted to his characters; and where it is (and this is but rarely) taken from actual Scripture, he has made as little alteration, even of words, as the rhythm would permit. The reader will recollect that the book of Genesis does not state that Eve was tempted by a demon, but by "the Serpent;" and that only because he was "the most subtle of all the beasts of the field." Whatever interpretation the Rabbins and the Fathers may have put upon this, I must take the words as I find them, and reply with Bishop Watson upon similar occasions, when the Fathers were quoted to him, as Moderator in the schools of Cambridge, "Behold the Book!"—holding up the Scripture. It is to be recollected that my present subject has nothing to do with the New Testament, to which no reference can be here made without anachronism. With the poems upon similar topics I have not been recently familiar. Since I was twenty I have never read Milton; but I had read him so frequently before, that this may make little difference. Gesner's "Death of Abel" I have never read since I was eight years of age, at Aberdeen.

The general impression of my recollection is delightful; but of the contents I remember only that Cain's wife was called Mahala, and Abel's Thirza: in the following pages I have called them "Adah" and "Zillah," the earliest female names which occur in Genesis; they were those of Lamech's wives; those of Cain and Abel are not called by their names. Whether, then, a coincidence of subject may have caused the same in expression, I know nothing, and care as little.

The reader will please to bear in mind (what few choose to recollect) that there is no allusion to a future state in any of the books of Moses, nor indeed in the Old Testament. For a reason for this extraordinary omission he may consult "Warburton's Divine Legation;" whether satisfactory or not, no better has yet been assigned. I have therefore supposed it new to Cain, without, I hope, any perversion of Holy Writ.

With regard to the language of Lucifer, it was difficult for me to make him talk like a clergyman upon the same subjects; but I have done what I could to restrain him within the bounds of spiritual politeness.

If he disclaims having tempted Eve in the shape of the Serpent, it is only because the book of Genesis has not the most distant allusion to any thing of the kind, but merely to the Serpent in his serpentine capacity.

Note.—The reader will perceive that the author
BYRON'S WORKS.

Adam. Son Cain, my first-born, wherefore art thou silent?
Cain. Why should I speak?
Adam. To pray.
Cain. Have ye not pray'd?
Adam. We have, most fervently.
Cain. And loudly: I have heard you.
Adam. So will God, I trust.
Abel. Amen!
Adam. But thou, my eldest-born, art silent still.
Cain. 'Tis better I should be so.
Adam.' Wherefore so?
Cain. I have nought to ask.
Adam. Nor aught to thank for?
Cain. No.
Adam. Dost thou not live?
Cain. Must I not die?
Eve. Alas! the fruit of our forbidden tree begins to fall.
Adam. And we must gather it again.
Oh, God! why didst thou plant the tree of knowledge?
Cain. And wherefore plucked ye not the tree of life?
Ye must have then defied him.
Adam. Oh! my son blaspheme not: these are serpent's words.
Cain. Why not?
The snake spoke truth: it was the tree of knowledge.
It was the tree of life: knowledge is good,
And life is good; and how can both be evil?
Eve. My boy! thou speakest as I spoke in sin,
Before thy birth: let me not see renew'd
My misery in thine. I have repented.
Let me not see my offspring fall into
The snares beyond the walls of Paradise,
Which e'en in Paradise destroy'd his parents.
Content thee with what is. Had we been so,
Then now hadst been contented.—Oh, my son,
Adam. Our orisons completed, let us hence,
Each to his task of toil—not heavy, though
Needful: the earth is young, and yields us kindly
Her fruits with little labor.
Eve. Cain, my son, behold thy father cheerful and resigned,
And do as he doth.
[Exeunt Adam and Eve Zillah. Wilt thou not, my brother?
Abel. Why wilt thou wear this gloom upon thy brow,
Which can avail thee nothing, save to rouse
The Eternal anger?
Adam. My beloved Cain,
Wilt thou frown even on me?
Cain. No, Adam; no:
I fain would be alone a little while.
Abel, I'm sick at heart; but it will pass:
Precede me, brother—I will follow shortly.
And you, too, sisters, tarry not behind,
Your gentleness must not be harshly met:
I'll follow you anon.
Adam. If not, I will return to seek you here.
Abel. The peace of God be on your spirit, brother!
Cain. (solus.) This is life!—Teil! and wherefore should I toil?—because
My father could not keep his place in Eden. What had I done in this? — I was unborn, I sought not to be born; nor love the state To which that birth has brought me. Why did he Yield to the serpent and the woman? or, Yielding, why suffer? What was there in this? The tree was planted, and why not for him? If not, why place him near it, where it grew The fairest in the centre? They have but One answer to all questions, “twas his will, And he is good.” How know I that? Because He is all-powerful, must all-good, too, follow? I judge but by the fruits—and they are bitter— Which I must feed on for a fault not mine. Whom have we here? — A shape like to the angels, Yet of a sterner and a sadder aspect Of spiritual essence: why do I quake? Why should I fear him more than other spirits, Whom I see daily wave their fiery swords Before the gates round which I linger oft, In twilight’s hour, to catch a glimpse of those Gardens which are my just inheritance, Ere the night closes o’er inhibited walls And the immoral trees which overtop The cherubim-defended battlements? If I shrink from these, the fire-arm’d angels, Why should I quail from him who now approaches? Yet he seems mightier far than they, nor less Beautiful, and yet not all as beautiful As he hath been, and might be: sorrow seems Half of his immortality. And is it So? and can aught grieve save humanity? He cometh. Enter Lucifer.

Lucifer. Mortal! Cain. Spirit, who art thou? Lucifer. Master of spirits. Cain. And being so, canst thou Leave them, and walk with dust? Lucifer. I know the thoughts Of dust, and feel for it, and with you. Cain. You know my thoughts? Lucifer. They are the thoughts of all Worthy of thought: — ’tis thy immortal part Which speaks within you. Cain. What immortal part? This has not been reveal’d: the tree of life Was withheld from us by my father’s folly, While that of knowledge, by my mother’s haste, Was pluck’d too soon; and all the fruit is death! Lucifer. They have deceived thee; thou shalt live, Cain. I live, But live to die: and, living, see no thing To make death hateful, save an inmate clanging, A loathsome and yet all invincible Instinct of life, which I abhor, as I Despise myself, yet cannot overcome— And so I live. Would I had never lived! Lucifer. Thou livest, and must live for ever: think not The earth, which is thine outward cov’ring, is Existence— it will cease, and thou wilt be No less than thou art now Cain. No less and why No more? Lucifer. It may be thou shalt be as we. Cain. And ye? Lucifer. Are everlasting.

Cain. Are ye happy? Lucifer. We are mighty. Cain. Are ye happy? Lucifer. No; art thou? Cain. How should I be so? Look on me! Lucifer. Poor clay! And thou pretendest to be wretched! Thou! Cain. I am:— and thou, with all thy might, what art thou? Lucifer. One who aspired to be what made thee, and Would not have made thee what thou art. Cain. Ah! Thou look’st almost a god; and— Lucifer. I am none, And having fail’d to be one, would be nought Save what I am. He conquer’d; let him reign! Cain. Who? Lucifer. Thy sire’s Maker, and the earth’s. Cain. And heaven, And all that in them is. So I have heard His seraphs sing; and so my father saith. Lucifer. They say— what they must sing an. say, on pain Of being that which I am—and thou art— Of spirits and of men. Cain. And what is that? Lucifer. Souls who dare use their immortality—Souls who dare look the Omnipotent tyrant in His everlasting face, and tell him, that His evil is not good! If he has made, As he saith— which I know not, nor believe— But, if he made us— he cannot unmaké: We are immortal! — nay, he’d have us so, That he may torture: — let him! He is great, But, in his greatness, is no happier than We in our conflict! Goodness would not make Evil; and what else hath he made? But let him Sit on his vast and solitary throne, CREATING WORLDS, to make eternity Less burdonsome to his immense existence And unparticipated solitude! Let him crowd orb on orb: he is alone Indefinite, indissoluble tyrant! Could he but crush himself, ‘twere the best boon He ever granted: but let him reign on, And multiply himself in misery! Spirits and men, at least we sympathize: And, suffering in concert, make our pangs, Innumerable, more endurable, By the unbounded sympathy of all— With all! but He! so wretched in his height, So restless in his wretchedness, must still Create, and re-create— Cain. Thou speak’st to me of things which joy Have swum In visions through my thought: I never could Reconcile what I saw with what I heard. My father and my mother talk to me Of serpents, and of fruits and trees: I see The gates of what they call their Paradise Guarded by fiery-sworded cherubim, Which shut them out, and me: I feel the weight Of daily toil, and constant thought; I look Around a world where I seem nothing, with Thoughts which arise within me, as if they Could master all things:— but I thought alone This misery was mine. — My father is Tamed down; my mother has forgot the mind.
Whose made her thirst for knowledge at the risk
Of an eternal curse; my brother is
A watching shepherd boy, who offers up
The firstlings of the flock to him who bids
The earth yield nothing to us without sweat.

My sister Zillah sings an earlier hymn,
'Than the birds' matins; and my Adah, my
Own and beloved, she too understands not
The mind which overwhelms me: never till
Now met I aught to sympathize with me,
"I'm well—! I rather would consort with spirits.

Lucifer. And hadst thou not been fit by thine
own soul.
For such companionship, I would not now
Have stood before thee as I am: a serpent
Had been enough to charm ye, as before.

Cain. Ah! didst thou tempt my mother?

Lucifer. I tempt none,
Save with the truth: was not the tree, the tree
Of knowledge? and was not the tree of life
Still fruitful? Did I bid her pluck them not?
Did I plant things prohibited within
The reach of beings innocent, and curious
By their own innocence? I would have made ye
Gods; and even He who thrust ye forth, so thrust ye
Because 'ye should not eat the fruits of life,
And become gods, as we.' Were those his words?

Cain. They were, as I have heard from those who
heard them,
In thunder.

Lucifer. Then who was the demon? He
Who would not let ye live, or he who would
Have made ye live for ever in the joy
And power of knowledge?

Cain. Would they had snatch'd both
The fruits, or neither!

Lucifer. One is yours already;
The other may be still.

Cain. How so?

Lucifer. By being
Yourselves, in your resistance. Nothing can
Quench the mind, if the mind will be itself
And centre of surrounding things—'tis made
to sway.

Cain. But didst thou tempt my parents?

Lucifer. I?

Cain. Poor clay! what should I tempt them for, or how?

Lucifer. They say the serpent was a spirit.

Lucifer. What faith that? It is not written so on high;
The proud One will not so far falsify,
Though man's vast fears and little vanity
Would make him cast upon the spiritual nature
His own low failing. The snake was the snake—
No more; and yet not less than those he tempted,
In nature being earth also—more in wisdom,
Since he could overcome them, and foreknew
The knowledge fatal to their narrow joys.
Think'st thou I'd take the shape of things that die?

Cain. But the thing had a demon?

Lucifer. He but wok one
In those he spake to with his fork tongue.
I tell thee that the serpent was no more
Than a mere serpent: ask the cherubim
Who guard the tempting tree. When thousand ages
Have rol'd o'er your dead ashes, and your seed's,
The seed of the then world may thus array
Their earliest fault in fable, and attribute
To me a shape I scorn, as I scorn all

That bows to him, who made things but to bend
Before his will, sole eternity;
But we, who see the truth, must speak it. Thy
Counsel parents listen'd to a creeping thing,
And fell. For what should spirits tempt them? What
Was there to envy in the narrow bounds
Of Paradise, that spirits who pervade
Space—but I speak to thee of what thou know'st
Not, with all thy tree of knowledge.

Cain. But thou canst not
Speak aught of knowledge which I would not know.
And do not thirst to know, and bear a mind
To know.

Lucifer. And heart to look on?

Cain. Be it proved.

Lucifer. Dar'st thou to look on Death?

Cain. He has not ye.

Lucifer. But must be undergone.

Cain. My father
Says he is something dreadful, and my mother
Weeps when he is named; and Abel lifts his eyes
To heaven, and Zillah casts her to the earth,
And sighs a prayer; and Adah looks on me,
And speaks not.

Lucifer. And thou?

Cain. Thoughts unspeakable.

Crowd in my breast to burning, when I hear
Of this Almighty Death, who is, it seems
Inevitable. Could I wrestle with him?
I wrestled with the lion, when a boy
In play, till he ran roaring from my gripe.

Lucifer. It has no shape; but will absorb all
Things
That bear the form of earth-born being.

Cain. Ah!

thought it was a being: who could do
Such evil things to beings save a being?

Lucifer. Ask the Destroyer.

Cain. Who?

Lucifer. The Maker—call him

Which name thou wilt: he makes but to destroy.

Cain. I knew not that, yet thought it, since I
Heard
Of death: although I know not what it is,
Yet it seems horrible. I have look'd out
In the vast desolate night in search of him;
And when I saw gigantic shadows in
The umbrage of the walls of Eden, checker'd
By the far-flashing of the cherub's swords,
I watch'd for what I thought his coming; for
With fear rose longing in my heart to know
What 'twas which shook us all—but nothing came.
And then I turn'd my weary eyes from off
Our native and forbidden Paradise,
Up to the lights above us, in the azure,
Which are so beautiful: shall they, too, die.

Lucifer. Perhaps—but long onlire both thou
And thee.

Cain. I'm glad of that; I would not have them die.
They are so lovely. What is death? I fear,
I feel, it is a dreadful thing; but what,
I cannot compass; 'tis denounced against us,
Both them who sin'nd and sin'nd not, as an ill—

What ill?

Lucifer. To be resolved into the earth

Cain. But shall I know it?

Lucifer. As I know not death
I cannot answer.
Cain. Were I quiet earth,
That were no evil: would I ne'er had been
Aught else but dust!
Lucifer. That is a grov'ling wish,
Less than thy father's, for he wish'd to know.
Cain. But not to live, or wherefore pluck'd he not
The life-tree?
Lucifer. He was hinder'd.
Cain. Deadly error!
Not to snatch first that fruit—but ere he pluck'd
The knowledge, he was ignorant of death.
Alas! I scarcely now know what it is,
And yet I fear it—fear I know not what!
Lucifer. And I, who know all things, fear nothing; so
What is true knowledge.
Cain. Wilt thou teach me all?
Lucifer 'Ay,' upon one condition.
Cain. Name it.
Lucifer. Thou dost fall down and worship me—thy Lord.
Cain. Thou art not the Lord my father worships.
Lucifer. No.
Cain. His equal?
Lucifer. No; I have nought in common with
him!
Nor would: I would be aught above—beneath—
Aught save a sharer or a servant of
his power. I dwell apart: but I am great;—
Many there are who worship me, and more
Who shall—be thou among the first.
Cain. I never
As yet have bow'd unto my father's God,
Although my brother Abel oft implores
That I would join with him in sacrifice:—
Why should I bow to thee?
Lucifer. Hast thou ne'er bow'd
To him?
Cain. Have I not said it!—need I say it?
Could not thy mighty knowledge teach thee that?
Lucifer. He who bows not to him has bow'd to me:
Cain. But I will bend to neither.
Lucifer. Ne'er the less
Thou art my worshipper; not worshipping
Him makes thee mine the same.
Cain. And what is that?
Lucifer. Thou'lt know here—and hereafter.
Cain. Let me but
Be taught the mystery of my being.
Lucifer. Follow
Where I will lead thee.
Cain. But I must retire
To till the earth—for I had promised—
Lucifer. 'What!
Cain. To cloot some first-fruits,
Lucifer. Why?
Cain. To offer up
With Abel on an altar.
Lucifer. Saidst thou not
Hath ne'er had bent to him who made thee?
Cain. Yes—
But Abel's earnest prayer wrought upon me;
The offering is more his than mine—and Adah—
Lucifer. Why dost thou hesitate?
Cain. She is my sister,
Born on the same day, of the same womb; and
She wrung from me, with tears, this promise; and
Rather than see her weep, I would methinks,
Bear all—and worship aught.
Lucifer. Then follow me.
Cain. I will.
Enter Adah.
Adah. My brother, I have come for thee;
it is our hour of rest and joy—and we
Have less without thee. Thou hast labor'd not
This morn; but I have done thy task: the fruits
Are ripe and glowing as the light wh. a ripens;
Come away.
Cain. See'st thou not?
Adah. I see an angel;
We have seen many: will he share our hour
Of rest—he is welcome.
Cain. But he is not like
The angels we have seen.
Adah. Are there, then, others?
But he is welcome, as they were: they deign'd
To be our guests—will he?
Cain. (to Lucifer.) Wilt thou?
Lucifer. I ask
Thee to be mine.
Cain. I must away with him.
Adah. And leave us?
Cain. Ay!
Adah. And me?
Cain. Beloved Adah.
Adah. Let me go with thee?
Lucifer. No, she must not.
Adah. Who
Art thou that steppeth between heart and heart?
Cain. He is a god.
Adah. How know'st thou?
Cain. He speaks like
A god.
Adah. So did the serpent, and it lied.
Lucifer. Thou earnest, Adah!—was not the tree
that
Of knowledge?
Adah. Ay—to our eternal sorrow.
Lucifer. And yet that grief was knowledge—so he
lied not:
And if he did betray you, 'twas with truth;
And truth in its own essence cannot be
But good.
Adah. But all we know of it has gather'd
Evil on ill: expulsion from our home,
And dread, and toil, and sweat, and heaviness:
Remorse of that which was—and hope of that
Which cometh not. Cain! walk not with this spirit
Bear with what we have borne, and love me—
Love thee.
Lucifer. More than thy mother, and thy sire?
Adah. I do. Is that a sin, too?
Lucifer. No, not yet.
It one day will be in your children.
Adah. What!
Must not my daughter love her brother Enoch?
Lucifer. Not as thou lovest Cain.
Adah. Oh, my God
Shall they not love and bring forth things that love,
Out of their love? have they not drawn their milk
Out of this bosom? was not he, their father,
Born of the same sole womb, in the same hour
With me? did we not love each other? and
In multiplying our being multiply
Things which will love each other as we love
Them? And as I love thee, my Cain! go not
Forth with this spirit; he is not of ours.
BYRON'S WORKS.

Lucifer. The sin I speak of is not of my making; And cannot be a sin in you—whate'er It seem in those who will replace ye in Mortality.

Adah. What is the sin which is not Sin in itself? Can circumstance make sin Or virtue—if it doth, we are the slaves Of—

Lucifer. Higher things than ye are slaves; and higher Than them or ye would be so, did they not Prefer an independence of torture To the smooth agonies of adulation In hymns and harpings, anp self-seeking prayers T. that which is omnipotent because It is omnipotent, and not from love, But terror and self-hope.

Adah. Omnipotence Must be all goodness.

Lucifer. Was it so in Eden?

Adah. Fiend! tempt me not with beauty; thou art fairer Than was the serpent, and as false. Lucifer. As true.

Ask Eve, your mother: bears she not the knowledge Of good and evil?

Adah. Oh, my mother! thou Hast p'uck'd a fruit more fatal to thine offspring Than a to thyself; thou at the least hast past Thy youth in Paradise, in innocent And happy intercourse with happy spirits; But we, thy children, ignorant of Eden, Are girt about by demons, who assume The words of God, and tempt us with our own Dissatisfied and curious thoughts—as thou Wert work'd on by the snake, in thy most flush'd And heedless, harmless wantonness of bliss. I cannot answer this immortal thing Which stands before me; I cannot abhor him; I look upon him with a pleasing fear, And yet I fly not from him; in his eye There is a fastening attraction which Fixes my fluttering eyes on his; my heart Beats quick; he awes me, and yet draws me near, Nearer and nearer.—Cain—Cain—save me from him! Cain. What dreads my Adah? This is no ill spirit.

Adah. He is not God—nor God's: I have beheld The cherubs and the seraphs: he looks not Like them.

Cain. But there are spirits loftier still— The archangels. Lucifer. And still loftier than the archangels. Adah. Ay—but not blessed. Lucifer. If the blessedness Consists in slavery—no.

Adah. I have heard it said, I he seraphs love most—cherubim know most— And this should be a cherub—since he loves not. Lucifer. And if the higher knowledge quenches love, What must he be you cannot love when known? Since the all-knowing cherubim love least, The seraphs' love can be but ignorance: That they are not compatible, the doom Of thy fond parents, for their daring, prove. Choose betwixt love and knowledge—since there is No other choice: your sire hath chosen already: Whis worship is but fear.

Adah. Oh, Cain! choose love.

Cain. For thee, my Adah, I choose not—it was Born with me—but I love nought else. Adah. Our parents. Cain. Did they love us when they snatch'd from the tree That which hath driven us all from Paradise?

Adah. We were not born then—and if we had been, Should we not love them and our children, Cain? Cain. My little Enoch! and his lisping sister. Could I but deem them happy, I would half Forget—but it can never be forgotten Through thrice a thousand generations! never Shall men love the remembrance of the man Who sow'd the seed of evil and mankind In the same hour! They pluck'd the tree of science And sin—and, not content with their own sorrow, Begot me—thee—and all the few that are, And all the unnumber'd and innumerable Multitudes, millions, myriads, which may be, To inherit agonies accumulated By ages!—and J must be sure of such things. Thy beauty and thy love—my love and joy, The rapturous moment and the placid hour, All we love in our children and each other, But lead them and ourselves through many years Of sin and pain—or few, but still of sorrow, Interecheek'd with an instant of brief pleasure, To Death—the unknown! Methinks the tree of knowledge Hath not fulfill'd its promise—if they sin'd, At least they ought to have known all things that are Of knowledge—and the mystery of death. What do they know?—that they are miserable. What need of snakes and fruits to teach us that? Adah. I am not wretched, Cain, and if thou Wert happy—

Cain. Be thou happy then alone— I will have nought to do with happiness, Which humbles me and mine.

Adah. Alone I could not, Nor would be happy; but with those around us, I think I could be so, despite of death, Which, as I know it not, I dread not, though It seems an awful shadow—if I may Judge from what I have heard. Lucifer. And thou couldst not

Alone, thou say'st be happy?

Adah. Alone! Oh, my God! Who could be happy and alone, or good? To me my solitude seems sin, unless When I think how soon I shall see my brother, His brother, and our children, and our parents. Lucifer. Yet thy God is alone, and is he hap Lonely and good?

Adah. He is not so; he hath The angels and the mortals to make happy, And thus becomes so in diffusing joy? What else can joy be but the spreading joy? Lucifer. Ask of your sire, the exile fresh From Eden; Of his first-born son; ask your own heart; It is not tranquil.

Adah. Alas! no! and you— Are you of heaven?

Lucifer. If I am not, inquire The cause of this all-spreadting happiness (Which you proclaim) of the all-great and good
We breathe not by a mortal measurement—
But that's a mystery. Cain, come on with me
Adah. Will he return?
Lucifer. Ay, woman! he alone
Of mortals from that place (the first and last
Who shall return, save One)—shall come back to
thee
To make that silent and expectant world
As populous as this: at present there
Are few inhabitants.
Adah. Where dwellest thou?
Lucifer. Throughout all space. Where should I
dwell? Where are
Thy God or Gods—there am I: all things are
Divided with me; life and death—and time—
Eternity—and heaven and earth—and that
Which is not heaven nor earth, but peopled with
Those who once peopled or shall people both—
These are my realms! So that I do divide
H's, and possess a kingdom which is not
H's. If I were not that which I have said,
Could I stand here? His angels are within
Your vision.
Adah. So they were when the fair serpent
Spoke with our mother first.
Lucifer. Cain! thou hast heard.
If thou dost long for knowledge, I can satiate
That thirst; nor ask thee to partake of fruits
Which shall deprive thee of a single good
The conqueror has left thee. Follow me.
Cain. Spirit, I have said it.

[Exeunt Lucifer and Cain
Adah (follows, exclaiming) Cain! my brother
Cain!

ACT II.

SCENE I.

The Abyss of Space.

Cain. I tread on air, and sink not; yet I feel
To sink.
Lucifer. Have faith in me, and thou shalt be
Borne on the air, of which I am the prince.
Cain. Can I do so without impiety?
Lucifer. Believe—and sink not! doubt—and
perish! thus
Would run the edict of the other God,
Who names me demon to his angels; they
Echo the sound to miserable things,
Which, knowing nought beyond their shallowsenses.
Worship the word which strikes their ear, and deemed
Evil or good what is proclaimed to them
In their abasement. I will have none such:
Worship or worship not, thou shalt behold
The worlds beyond thy little world, nor be
Amenced, for doubts beyond thy little life,
With torture of my doomings. There will come
An hour, when, tossed upon some water-drops,
A man shall say to a man, "Believe in me,
And walk the waters;" and the man shall walk
The billows and be safe. I will not say,
Believe in me, as a conditional creed
To save thee; but fly with me o'er the gulf
Of space an equal flight, and I will show
What thou dar'st not deny, the history
Of past, and present, and of future worlds.

Cain. Oh, god, or demon, or what'ere thou art,
Is yon our earth?

Lucifer. Dost thou not recognise
The dust which form'd your father ?

Cain. Can it be ?
You small blue circle, swinging in far ether,
With an inferior circle near it still,
Which looks like that which lit our earthly night?
Is this our Paradise? Where are its walls,
And they who guard them?

Lucifer. Point me out the site
Of Paradise.

Cain. How should I? As we move
Like sunbeams onward, it grows small and smaller,
And as it waxes little, and then less,
Gathers a halo round it, like the light
Which shone the roundest of the stars when I
Beheld them from the skirts of Paradise:
Methinks they both, as we recede from them,
Appear to join the innumerable stars
Which are around us; and, as we move on,
Intense their myriads.

Lucifer. And if there should be
Worlds greater than thine own, inhabited
By greater things, and they themselves far more
In number than the dust of thy dull earth,
Though multiplied to animated atoms,
All living, and all doom'd to death, and wretched,
What wouldst thou think?

Cain. I should be proud of thought
Which knew such things.

Lucifer. But if that high thought were
Link'd to a servile mass of matter, and,
Knowing such things, aspiring to such things,
And science still beyond them, were chain'd down
To the most gross and petty paltry wants,
All foul and flesome, and the very best
Of thine enjoyments a sweet degradation,
A most energizing and filthy cheat,
To lure thee on to the renewal
Of fresh souls and bodies, all foredoom'd to be
As frail, and few so happy——

Cain. Spirit! I
Know nought of death, save as a dreadful thing
Of which I have heard my parents speak, as of
A hideous heritage I owe to them
No less than life; a heritage not happy,
If I may judge till now. But, spirit! if
It be as thou hast said, (and I within
Feel the prophetic torture of its truth,) Here let me die: for to give birth to those
Who can but suffer many years, and die,
Methinks is merely propagating death,
And multiplying murder.

Lucifer. Thou canst not
All die — there is what must survive.

Cain. The Other
Spake not of this unto my father, when
He shut him forth from Paradise, with death
Written upon his forehead. But at least
Let what is mortal of me perish, that
I may be in the rest as angels are.

Lucifer. I am angelic: wouldst thou be as I am?

Cain. I know not what thou art: I see thy power,
And see thou show'st me things beyond my power,
Beyond all power of my born faculties,
Although inferior still to my desires

And my conceptions.

Lucifer. What are they, which doth
So humbly in their pride, as to sojourn
With worms in clay?

Cain. And what art thou who dwellest
So haughtily in spirit, and castst range
Nature and immortality — and yet
Seem'st sorrowful?

Lucifer. I seem that, which I am;
And therefore do I ask of thee, if thou
Wouldst be immortal?

Cain. Thou hast said, I must be
Im mortal in despite of me. I knew not
This until lately — but since it must be,
Let me, or happy or unhappy, learn
To anticipate my immortality.

Lucifer. Thou didst before I came upon thee.

Cain. How?

Lucifer. By suffering.

Cain. And must torture be immortal?

Lucifer. We and thy sons will try. But now
behold;

Is it not glorious?

Cain. Oh, thou beautiful
And unimaginable ether! and
Ye multiplying masses of increased
And still increasing lights! what are ye? what
Is this blue wilderness of interminable
Air, where ye roll along, as I have seen
The leaves along the limpid streams of Eder?
Is your course measured for ye? Or do ye
Sweep on in your unbounded revelry
Through an aerial universe of endless
Expansion, at which my soul aches to think,
Intoxicated with eternity?
Oh God! Oh Gods! or whatsoe'er ye are!
How beautiful ye are! how beautiful
Your works, or accidents, or whatsoe'er
They may be! Let me die, as atoms die,
(If that they die,) or know ye in your might
And knowledge! My thoughts are not in this hour
Unworthy what I see, though my dust is;
Spirit! let me expire, or see them nearer.

Lucifer. Art thou not nearer? look back to thine
earth!

Cain. Where is it? I see nothing save a mass
Of most innumerable lights.

Lucifer. Look there!

Cain. I cannot see it.

Lucifer. Yet it sparkles still.

Cain. That, yonder!

Lucifer. Yea.

Cain. And wilt thou tell me so?

Why I have seen the fire-flies and fire-worms
Sprinkle the dusky groves and the green banks
In the dim twilight, brighter than your world
Which bears them.

Lucifer. Thou hast seen both worms and worlds,
Each bright and sparkling — what dost think of
them?

Cain. That they are beautiful in their own sphere,
And that the night, which makes both beautiful,
The little shining fire-fly in its flight,
And the immortal star in its great course,
Must both be guided.

Lucifer. But by whom or what?

Cain. Show me.

Lucifer. Dar'st thou behold?

Cain. How know I what
Lucifer. On, then, with me. Wouldst thou behold things mortal or immortal? Cain. Why, what are things? Lucifer. Both partly: but what doth Sit next thy heart? Cain. The things I see. Lucifer. But what Safe nearest it? Cain. The things I have not seen, Nor ever shall—the mysteries of death. Lucifer. What, if I show to thee things which have died, As I have shown thee much which cannot die? Cain. Do so. Lucifer. Away, then! on our mighty wings. Cain. Oh! how we cleave the blue! The stars fade from us! The earth! where is my earth? let me look on it, For I was made of it. Lucifer. 'Tis now beyond thee, Long's in the universe, thou in it: Yet seem not that thou canst escape it; thou Shalt soon return to earth, and all its dust; 'Tis part of thy eternity, and mine. Cain. Where dost thou lead me? Lucifer. To what was before thee! The phantasm of the world; of which thy world Is but the wretch. Cain. What! is it not then new? Lucifer. No more than life is; and that was ere thou Or I were, or the things which seem to us Greater than either: many things will have No end; and some, which would pretend to have Had no beginning, have had one as mean As thou: and mightier things have been extinct To make way for much meaner than we can Surmise; for moments only and the space Have been and must be all unchangeable. But changes make not death, except to clay; But thou art clay—and canst but comprehend That which was clay, and such thou shalt behold. Cain. Clay. spirit! What thou wilt, I can survey. Lucifer. Away, then! Cain. But the lights fade from me fast, And some till now grew larger as we approach'd, And were the look of worlds. Lucifer. And such they are. Cain. And Edens in them? Lucifer. It may be. Cain. And men? Lucifer. Yea, or things higher. Cain. Ay! and serpents too? Lucifer. Wouldst thou have men without them? must no reptiles Breathe save the erect ones? Cain. How the lights recede! Where fly we? Lucifer. To the world of phantoms, which A e beings past, and shadows still to come. Cain. But it grows dark, and dark—the stars are gone! Lucifer. And yet thou seeest. Cain. 'Tis a fearful light! No sun, no moon, no lights innumerables; The very blue of the empyrean night Fades to a tawdry twilight, yet I see

Huge dusky masses; but unlike the worlds We were approaching, which, begirt with light, Sec'nd full of life even when their atmosphere Of light gave way, and shew'd them taking shapes Unequal, of deep valleys and vast mountains; And some emitting sparks, and some displaying Enormous liquid plains, and some begirt With luminous belts, and floating moons, which too Like them the features of fair earth.—instead, All here seems dark and dreadful. Lucifer. But distinct. Thou seek'st to behold death and dead things? Cain. I seek it not; but as I know there are Such, and that my sire's sin makes him and me. And all that we inherit, liable To such, I would behold at once, what I Must one day see perforce. Lucifer. Behold! Cain. 'Tis darkness. Lucifer. And so it shall be ever; but we will Unfold its gates! Cain. Enormous vapors roll Apart—what's this? Lucifer. Enter! Cain. Can I return? Lucifer. Return! be sure: how else should death be peopled? Its present realm is thin to what it will be, Through thee and thine. Cain. The clouds still open wide And wider, and make widening circles round us Lucifer. Advance! Cain. And thou? Lucifer. Fear not! without me thou Couldst not have gone beyond thy world. On! on! [They disappear through the clouds

SCENE II.

Hades.

Enter Lucifer and Cain.

Cain. How silent and how vast are these dim worlds! For they seem more than one, and yet more peopled Than the huge brilliant luminous orbs which swung So thickly in the upper air, that I Had deem'd them rather the bright populace Of some all unimaginable heaven Than things to be inhabited themselves, But that on drawing near them I beheld Their swelling into palpable immensity Of matter, which seem'd made for life to dwell on, Rather than life itself. But here, all is So shadowy and so full of twilight, that It speaks of a day past. Lucifer. It is the realm Of death.—Wouldst have it present? Cain. Till I know That which it really is, I cannot answer. But if it be as I have heard my father Deal'd out in his long homilies, 'tis a thing— Oh God! I dare not think on't! Cursed be He who invented life that leads to death! Or the dull mass of life, that being life Could not retain, but needs must forfeit it— Even for the innocent! Lucifer. Dost thou curse thy father?
Cain. Cursed me not me in giving me my birth? Cursed he not me before my birth, in daring To pluck the fruit forbidden? Lucifer. Thou say'st well. The curse is mutual 'twixt thy sire and thee— But for thy sons and brother? Cain. Let them share it With me, their sire and brother! What else is Bequeath'd to me? I leave them my inheritance. Oh ye interminable gloomy realms Of swimming shadows and enormous shapes, Some fully shown, some indistinct, and all Mighty and melancholy—what are ye? 'Tis ye, or have ye lived? Lucifer. Somewhat of both. Cain. Then what is death? Lucifer. What? hath not he who made ye Said 'tis another life? Cain. Till now he hath Said nothing, save that all shall die. Lucifer. Perhaps He one day will. unfold that further secret. Cain. Happy the day! Lucifer. Yes, happy! when unfolded Through agonies unspeakable, and clogg'd With agonies eternal, to innumerable Yet unborn myriads of unconscious atoms, All to be animz'd for this only! Cain. What are these mighty phantoms which I see Floating about me?—they wear not the form Of the intelligences I have seen Round our regretted and unenter'd Eden, Nor wear the form of man as I have view'd it In Adam's and in Abel's, and in mine, Nor in my sister-bride's, nor in my children's: And yet they have an aspect, which, though not Of men nor angels, looks like something, which, If not the last, rose higher than the first, Haughty and high, and beautiful, and full Of seeming strength, but of inexplicable Shape, for I never saw such. They bear not The wing of seraph, nor the face of man, Nor form of mightiest brute, nor sought that is Not breathing; mighty yet and beautiful As the most beautiful and mighty which Live, and yet so unlike them, that I scarce Can call them living. Lucifer. Yet they lived. Cain. Where? Lucifer. Where Thou livest. Cain. When? Lucifer. On what thou callest earth They did inhabit. Cain. Adam is the first. Lucifer. Of thine, I grant thee—but too mean to be The last of these. Cain. And what are they? Lucifer. That which Thou shalt be. Cain. But what were they? Lucifer. Living high, Intelligent, good, great, and glorious things, As much superior unto all thy sire, Adam, could ere have been in Eden, as The sixty-thousandth generation shall be In its dull damp degeneracy, to Thee and thy son;—and how weak they are, judge By thy own flesh. Cain. Ah me! and did they perish? Lucifer. Yes, from their earth, as thou wilt fade from thine. Cain. But was mine theirs? Lucifer. It was. Cain. But not as now, It is too little and too lowly to Sustain such creatures. Lucifer. True, it was more glorious Cain. And wherefore did it fall? Lucifer. Ask him who fails Cain. But how? Lucifer. By a most crushing and inexorable Destruction and disorder of the elements, Which struck a world to chaos, as a chaos Subsiding has struck out a world: such things, Though rare in time, are frequent in eternity. Pass on, and gaze upon the past. Cain. 'Tis awful! Lucifer. And true. Behold these phantoms! they were once Material as thou art. Cain. And must I be Like them? Lucifer. Let he who made thee answer that. I show thee what thy predecessors are, And what they were thou feelest, in degree Inferior as thy petty feelings and Thy pettier portion of the immortal part Of high intelligence and earthly strength. What ye in common have with what they had Is life, and what ye shall have—death; the rest Of your poor attributes is such as suits Reptiles engender'd out of the subsiding Slime of a mighty universe, crush'd into A scarcely-yet shaped planet, peopled with Things whose enjoyment was to be in blindness— A Paradise of Ignorance, from which Knowledge was barr'd as poison. But behold What these superior beings are or were; Or, if it irk thee, turn thee back and till The earth, thy task—I'll waft thee there in safety. Cain. No: I'll stay here. Lucifer. How long? Cain. For ever! since I must one day return here from the earth, I rather would remain; I am sick of all That dust has shown me—let me dwell in shadows. Lucifer. It cannot be: thou now holdest as A vision that which is reality. To make thyself fit for this dwelling, thou Must pass through what the things thou see'st have pass'd. The gate of death. Cain. By what gate have we enter'd Even now? Lucifer. By mine! but, plighted to return, My spirit buoy'd thee up to breathe in regions Where all is breathless save thyself. Gaze on; But do not think to dwell here till thine hour Is come. Cain. And these, too; can they ne'er repose To earth again? Lucifer. Their earth is gone for ever— So changed by its convulsion, they would not Be conscious to a single present spot Of its new scarcely harden'd surface—'twas— Oh, what a beautiful world it was!
CAIN.

And is.

it is not with the earth, though I must till it,
I feel at war, but that I may not profit
By what it bears of beautiful untoiling,
Nor gratify my thousand swelling thoughts
With knowledge, nor allay my thousand fears
Of death and life.

Lucifer. What thy world is, thou seest,
But cannot comprehend the shadow of
That which it was.

CAIN. And those enormous creatures,
Phantoms inferior in intelligence
(At least so seeming) to the things we have pass'd,
Resembling somewhat the wild inhabitants
Of the deep woods of earth, the hugest which
Roar nightly in the forest, but tenfold
In magnitude and terror: taller than
The cherub-guarded walls of Eden, with
Eyes flashing like the fiery swords which fence them,
And tusked wall things like the trees strip'd of
Their bark and branches—what were they?

Lucifer. That which
The Mammoth in thy world;—but these lie
By myriads underneath its surface.

CAIN. But
None on it?

Lucifer. No; for thy frail race to war
With them would render the curse on it useless—
'Twould be destroy'd so early.

CAIN. But why war?

Lucifer. You have forgotten the denunciation
Which drove your race from Eden—war with all
things,
And death to all things, and disease to most things,
And pangs, and bitterness; those were the fruits
Of the forbidden tree.

CAIN. But animals—

Lucifer. Your Maker told ye, they were made for
you,
As you for him.—You would not have their doom
Superior to your own? Had Adam not
Fallen, all had stood.

CAIN. Alas! the hopeless wretches!
They too must share my sire's fate, like his sons;
Like them, too, without having shared the apple;
Like them, too, without the so dear-bought knowledge!

It was a lying tree—for we know nothing.

At least it promised knowledge at the price
Of death—but knowledge still: but what knows man?

Lucifer. It may be death leads to the highest knowledge;

And bethreaded with the sole thing certain,
At least leads to the sweetest science; therefore
The tree was true, though deadly.

CAIN. These dim realms! I see them, but I know them not.

Lucifer. Because

Thy hour is yet afar, and matter cannot
Comprehend spirit wholly—but 'tis something
To know there are such realms

CAIN. We knew already

That there was death.

Lucifer. But not what was beyond it.

CAIN. Nor know I now.

Lucifer. Thou knowest that there is
A state, and many'states beyond thine own—
And this thou knowest not this morn.
Byron's Works.

Cain. And wherefore didst thou
Lead me here only to inform me this?
Lucifer. Was not thy quest for knowledge?
Cain. Yes: as being
The road to happiness.
Lucifer. If truth be so,
Thou hast it.
Cain. Then my father's God did well
When he prohibited the fatal tree.
Lucifer. But had done better in not planting it
But ignorance of evil doth not save
From evil; it must still roll on the same
A part of all things.
Cain. Not of all things. No:
I'll not believe it—for I thirst for good.
Lucifer. And who and what doth not? Who
covets evil
For its own bitter sake?—None—nothing! 'tis
The leaven of all life, and lifelessness.
Cain. Within those glorious orbs which we behold,
Distant and dazzling, and innumerable,
 Ere we came down into this phantom realm,
I'll cannot come: they are too beautiful.
Lucifer. Thou hast seen them from afar.
Cain. And what of that?
Distance can but diminish glory—they
When nearer must be more ineffable.
Lucifer. Approach the things of earth most
beautiful,
And judge their beauty near.
Cain. I have done this—
the loveliest thing I know is loveliest nearest.
Lucifer. Then there must be delusion—what is
That
Which being nearest to thine eyes is still
More beautiful than beauteous things remote?
Cain. My sister Adah.—All the stars of heaven,
The deep blue noon of night, lit by an orb
Which looks a spirit, or a spirit's world—
The hues of twilight—the sun's gorgeous coming—
His setting indescribable, which fills
My eyes with pleasant tears, as I behold
Him sink, and feel my heart float softly with him
Along that western paradise of clouds—
The forest shade—the green bough—the bird's
voice—
The vesper bird's, which seems to sing of love,
And mingleth with the song of cherubim,
As the day closes over Eden's walls:—
All these are nothing, to my eyes and heart,
Like Adah's face: I turn from earth and heaven
To gaze on it.
Lucifer. 'Tis frail as fair mortality,
In the first dawn and bloom of young creation,
And earliest embraces of earth's parents,
Can make its offspring; still it is delusion.
Cain. You think so, being not her brother.
Lucifer. Mortal!
My brotherhood's with those who have no children.
Cain. Then thou canst have no fellowship with us.
Lucifer. It may be that thine own shall be for me.
But if thou dost possess a beautiful
Being beyond all beauty in thine eyes,
Why art thou wretched?
Cain. Why do I exist?
Why art thou wretched? why are all things so?
Ev'n he who made us must be, as the maker
Of things unhappy! To produce destruction
Can surely never be the task of joy,
And yet my sire says he's omnipotent,
Then why is evil—he being good? I ask'd
This question of my father: and he said,
Because this evil only was the path
To good. Strange good, that must arise from out
Its deadly opposite. I lately saw
A lamb stung by a reptile: the poor suckling
Lay foaming on the earth, beneath the vain
And piteous bleeding of its restless dam;
My father pluck'd some herbs, and laid them to
The wound; and by degrees the helpless wretch
Resumed its careless life, and rose to drain
The mother's milk, who o'er it tremulous
Stood licking its reviving limbs with joy.
Behold, my son! said Adam, how from evil
Springs good!
Lucifer. What didst thou answer?
Cain. Nothing; for
He is my father: but I thought, that 'twere
A better portion for the animal
Never to have been stung at all, than to
Purchase renewal of its little life.
With agonies unutterable, though
Dispell'd by antidotes.
Lucifer. But as thou saidst
Of all beloved things thou lovest her
Who shared thy mother's milk, and giveth her
Unto thy children—
Cain. Most assuredly:
What should I be without her?
Lucifer. What am I?
Cain. Dost though love nothing?
Lucifer. What does thy God love?
Cain. All things, my father says: but I confess
I see it not in their allotment here.
Lucifer. And, therefore, thou canst not see if I
love
Or no, except some vast and general purpose,
To which particular things must melt like snows.
Cain. Snows! what are they?
Lucifer. Be happier in not knowing
What thy remoter offspring must encounter;
But bask beneath the clime which knows no winter!
Cain. But dost thou not love something like
thyself?
Lucifer. And dost thou love thyself?
Cain. Yes, but love more
What makes my feelings more endurable,
And is more than myself, because I love it.
Lucifer. Thou lovest it, because 'tis beautiful,
As was the apple in thy mother's eye;
And when it ceases to be so, thy love
Will cease, like any other appetite.
Cain. Cease to be beautiful? how can that be?
Lucifer. With time.
Cain. But time has past, and
hitherto
Even Adam and my mother both are fair:
Not fair like Adah and the seraphim—
But very fair.
Lucifer. All that must pass away
In them and her.
Cain. I'm sorry for it; but
Cannot conceive my love for her the less.
And when her beauty disappears, methinks
He who creates all beauty will lose more
Than me in seeing perish such a work.
Lucifer. I pity thee who lovest what must perish
Cain. And I thee who lov'st nothing.
Lucifer. And thy brother—
For what?
Lucifer. To reign.
Cain. Did ye not all me th
Ye are both eternal?
Lucifer. Yea!
Cain. And what I have seen,
You blue immensity, is boundless?
Lucifer. Ay.
Cain. And cannot ye both reign then?—is ther
Not Enough?—why should ye differ?
Lucifer. We both reign.
Cain. But one of you makes evil.
Lucifer. Which?
Cain. Thou! for
If thou canst do man good, why dost thou not?
Lucifer. And why not who he made? I made ye
not.
Ye are his creatures, and not mine.
Cain. Then leave us
His creatures, as thou say'st we are, or show me
Thy dwelling, or his dwelling.
Lucifer. I could show thee
Both; but the time will come thou shalt see one
Of them for evermore.
Cain. And why not now?
Lucifer. Thy human mind hath scarcely grasp to
gather
The little I have shown thee into calm
And clear thought; and thou wouldst go on aspiring
To the great double Mysteries! the two Principles
And gaze upon them on their secret throne!
Dust! limit thy ambition; for to see
Either of these, would be for thee to perish!
Cain. And let me perish, so I see them!
Lucifer. There
The son of her who snatch'd the apple spake!
But thou wouldst only perish, and not see them
That sight is for the other state.
Cain. Of death?
Lucifer. That is the prelude.
Cain. Then I dread it less,
Now that I know it leads to something definite.
Lucifer. And now I will convey thee to thy world,
Where thou shalt multiply the race of Adam,
Eat, drink, toil, tremble, laugh, weep, sleep, and die.
Cain. And to what end have I beheld these things
Which thou hast shown me?
Lucifer. Didst thou not require
Knowledge? And have I not, in what I show'd,
Taught thee to know thyself?
Cain. Alas! I seem
Nothing.
Lucifer. And this should be the human sum
Of knowledge, to know mortal nature's nothingness
Bequeath that science to thy children, and
'Twill spare them many tortures.
Cain. Haughty spirit!
Thou spakest it proudly; but thyself, though proud,
Hast a superior.
Lucifer. No! By heaven, which He
Holds, and the abyss, and the immensity
Of worlds and life, which I hold with him—No!
I have a victor—true; but no superior.
Homage he has from all—but none from me;
I battle it against him, as I battled
In highest heaven. Through all eternity
And the unfathomable gulfs of Hades,
And the interminable realms of space.

Blits he not near thy heart?.
Cain. Why should he not?
Lucifer. Thy father loves him well—so does thy
God.
Cain. And so do I.
Lucifer. 'Tis well and meekly done.
Cain. Mockly!
Lucifer. He is the second born of flesh,
And his mother's favorite.
Cain. Let him keep
Her favor, since the serpent was the first
To win it:
Lucifer. And his father's.
Cain. What is that
To me? should I not love that which all love?
Lucifer. And the Jehovah—the indulgent Lord
And bounteous planter of b'ard Paradise—
He, too, looks smilingly on Abel.
Cain. I
Ne'er saw him, and I know not if he smiles.
Lucifer. But you have seen his angels.
Cain. Rarely.
Lucifer. But
Sufficiently to see they love your brother:
His sacrifices are acceptable.
Cain. So be they! wherefore speak to me of this?
Lucifer. Because thou hast thought of this ere
now.
Cain. And if
have thought, why recall a thought that—(he
pauses as agitated)—Spirit!
Here we are in thy world; speak not of mine.
Thou hast shown me wonders; thou hast shown me
those
Mighty Pre-Adamites who walk'd the earth
Of which ours is the wreck; thou hast pointed out
Myriads of starry worlds, of which our own
Is the dim and remote companion, in
Infinity of life: thou hast shown me shadows
Of that existence with the dreaded name
Which my sire brought us—Death; thou hast
shown me much—
But not all: show me where Jehovah dwells,
In his especial Paradise—or thine
Where is it?
Lucifer. Here, and o'er all space.
Cain. But ye
Have some allotted dwelling—as all things;
Clay has its earth, and other worlds their tenants;
All temporary breathing creatures their
Peculiar element; and things which have
Long ceased to breathe our breath, have theirs,
thou say'st;
And the Jehovah and thyself have thine—
Ye do not dwell together?
Lucifer. No, we reign
Together; but our dwellings are asunder.
Cain. Would there were only one of ye! perchance
An unity of purpose might make union
In elements which seem now jarr'd in storms.
How came ye, being spirits, wise and infinite,
To separate? Are ye not as brethren in
Your essence, and your nature, and your glory?
Lucifer. Art thou not Abel's brother?
Cain. We are brethren,
And so we shall remain; but were it not so,
Is spirit like to flesh? can it fall out?
Infinity with Immortality—
Jarring and turning space to misery—
And the infinity of endless ages,
All, all, will I dispute! And world by world,
And star by star, and universe by universe
Shall tremble in the balance, till the great
Conflict shall cease, if ever it shall cease,
Which it ne'er shall, till he or I be quenched! And what can quench our immortality,
Or mutual and irrevocable hate?
He as a conqueror will call the conquer'd
Evil; but what will be the good he gives?
Were I the Victor, his works would be deem'd
The only evil ones. And you, ye new
And scarce-born mortals, what have been his gifts?
To you already in your little world?

Cain. But few; and some of those but bitter.

Lucifer. Back
With me, then, to thine earth, and try the rest
Of his celestial boons to ye and yours,
Evil and good are things in their own essence,
And not made good or evil by the giver;
But if he gives you good—so call him; if
Evil springs from him, do not name it mine,
Till ye know better its true font: and judge
Not by words, though of spirits, but the fruits
Of your existence, such as it must be.

One good gift has the fatal apple given—
Your reason:—let it not be overweary'd
By tyrannous threats to force you into faith
'Gainst all external sense and inward feeling:
Think and endure,—and form an inner world
In your own bosom—where the outward fails;
So shall you nearer be the spiritual
Nature, and war triumphant with your own.

[They disappear.

ACT III.

SCENE I.

The Earth, near Eden, as in Act I.

Enter Cain and Adah.

Adah. Hush! tread softly, Cain.

Cain. I will! but wherefore?

Adah. Our little Enoch sleeps upon your bed
Of leaves beneath the cypress.

Cain. Cypress! 'tis
A gloomy tree, which looks as if it mourn'd.
O'er what it shadows; wherefore didst thou choose it
For our child's canopy?

Adah. Because it's branches
Shut out the sun like night, and therefore seem'd
Fitting to shadow slumber.

Cain. Ay, the last—
And longest; but no matter—lead me to him.

[They go up to the child.

How lovely he appears! his little cheeks,
In their pure incarnation, vying with
The rose leaves strewn beneath them. A la.

And his lips, too, how beautifully parted! No; you shall not

Kiss him, at least not now: he will awake soon—
His hour of mid-day rest is nearly over;
But it were pity to disturb him till
I'm closed.

Cain. You have said well: I will contain

My heart till then. He smiles, and sleeps—Sleep on.
And smile, thou little, young inheritor
Of a world scarce less young: sleep on, and smile!
Thine are the hours and days when both are cheering
And innocent! thou hast not pluck'd the fruit—
Thou know'st not thou art naked! Must the time
Come thou shalt be a merced for sins unknown,
Which were not thine nor mine? But now sleep on
His cheeks are reddening into deeper smiles,
And shining lids are trembling o'er his long
Lashes, dark as the eypress which waves o'er them
Half open, from beneath them the clear blue
Laughs out, although in slumber. He must dream—
Of what? of Paradise!—Ay! dream of it,
My disinherit'd boy! 'Tis but a dream,
For never more thyself, thy sons, nor fathers
Shall walk in that forbidden place of joy!

Adah. Dear Cain! Nay, do not whisper o'er our son
Such melancholy yearnings o'er the past:
Why wilt thou always mourn for Paradise?
Can we not make another?

Cain. Where?

Adah. Here, or
Wherever thou wilt: where'er thou art, I feel not
The want of this so much regretted Eden.
Have I not thee, our boy, our sire, and brother
And Zillah—our sweet sister, and our Eve,
To whom we owe so much besides our birth?

Cain. Yes—death, too, is among the debts we owe her.

Adah. Cain! that proud spirit, who withdrew thee hence,
Hath sadden'd thine still deeper. I had hoped
The promised wonders which thou hast beheld,
Visions, thou say'st, of past and present worlds,
Would have composed thy mind into the calm
Of a contented knowledge; but I see
Thy guide hath done thee evil: still I thank him,
And can forgive him all, that he so soon
Hath given thee back to us.

Cain. So soon! Adah.

'Tis scarcely
Two hours since ye departed: two long hours
To me, but only hours upon the sun.

Cain. And yet I have approach'd that sun, and seen
Worlds which he once shone on, and never more
Shall light; and worlds he never lit: methought
Years had roll'd o'er my absence.

Adah. Hardly hours.

Cain. The mind then hath capacity of time,
And measures it by that which it beholds,
Pleasing or painful; little or almighty.
I had beheld the immemorial works
Of endless beings; skirt'd extinguish'd worlds:
And, gazing on eternity, methought
I had borrow'd more by a few drops of ages
From its immensity; but now I feel
My littleness again. Well said the spirit,
That I was nothing!

Adah. Wherefore said he so?

Jehovah said not that.

Cain. No: he contents him
With making us the nothing which we are;
And after flattering dust with glimpses of
Eden and Immortality, resolves
It back to dust again—for what?

Adah. Thou know'st—
Even for our parents' error.

Cain. What is that to us? they sinn'd, then let them die?

Adah. Thou hast not spoken well, nor is that thy own, but of the spirit who was with thee. Would I could die for them, so they might live!

Cain. Why, so say I—provided that one victim might satiate the insatiable of life, and that our little rosy sleeper there might never taste of death nor human sorrow, nor hand it down to those who spring from him.

Adah. How know we that some such atonement one day may not redeem our race?

Cain. By sacrificing the harmless for the guilty? what atonement were there? why, we are innocent: what have we done that we must be victims for a deed Before our birth, or need have victims to Atone for this mysterious, nameless sin—If he be such a sin to seek for knowledge?

Adah. Alas! thou sinnest now, my Cain: thy words sound impious in mine ears.

Cain. Then leave me! Adah. Never, though thy God left thee.

Cain. Say, what have we here? Adah. Two altars, which our brother Abel made during thine absence, whereupon to offer a sacrifice to God on thy return. Cain. And how knew he that I would be so ready With the burnt offerings, which he daily brings With a meek brow, whose base humility slows more of fear than worship, as a brieve To the Creator?

Adah. Surely, 'tis well done.

Cain. One altar may suffice: I have no offering. Adah. The fruts of the earth, the early, beautiful blossom and bud, and bloom of flowers, and fruits; these are a goodly offering to the Lord, given with a gentle and a contrite spirit.

Cain. I have told'd, and till'd, and sweaten in the sun, according to the curse:—must I do more? For what should I be gentle? for a war With all the elements ere they will yield the bread we eat? For what must I be grateful? for being dust, and grovelling in the dust, till I return to dust? if I am nothing—For nothing shall I be an hypocrite, and seem well pleased with pain? For what should I be contrite? for my father's sin, already expiated with what we all have undergone, and to be more than expiated by the ages professed, upon our seed? Little dreams our young blooming sleeper, there, the germs of an eternal misery. To myriads is within him! better 'twere I snatch'd him in his sleep, and dash'd him 'gainst the rocks, than let him live to—

Adah. Oh, my God! touch not the child—my child! thy child! Oh Cain! Cain. Fear not! for all the stars, and all the power Which sway's among them, I would not secost you infant with ruder greeting than a father's kiss.

Adah. Then, why so awfully in thine speech?

Cain. Twere better that he ceased to live, than give life to so much of sorrow as he must endure, and, harder still, bequeath: but since that saying jars you, let us only say—

Twere better that he never had been born.

Adah. Oh, do not say so! Where were then the joys, the mothers joys of watching, nourishing, and loving him? Soft! he awakes. Sweet Enoch! [She goes to the child]

Oh Cain! look on him; see how full of life, of strength, of bloom, of beauty, and of joy, how like to me, how like to thee, when gentle, for then we are all alike; is not so, Cain? Mother, and sire, and son, our features are reflected in each other; as they are in the clear waters, when they are gentle, and when thou art gentle. Love us, then, my Cain! And love thyself for our sakes, for we love thee. Look! how he laughs and stretches out his arms, and opens wide his blue eyes upon thine, to hail his father; while his little form flutters as wing'd with joy. Talk not of pain; the childless cherubs well might envy thee. The pleasures of a parent! Bless him, Cain! As yet he hath no words to thank thee, but his heart will, and thine own too.

Cain. Bless thee, boy.

Adah. If that a mortal blessing may avail thee, to save thee from the serpent's curse!

Cain. It shall.

Surely a father's blessing may avert a reptile's subtlety.

Cain. Of that I doubt; but bless him ne'er the less.

Adah. Our brother Abel.

Enter Abel.

Abel. Welcome, Cain! My brother, the peace of God be on thee!

Cain. Abel, hail! Abel. Our sister tells me that thou hast been wandering in high communion with a spirit, far beyond our wonted range. Was he of those we have seen and spoken with, like to our father?

Cain. No.

Abel. Why then commune with him? he may be a foe to the Most High.

Cain. And friend to man.

Has the Most High been so—if so you term him?

Abel. Term him! your words are strange, to-day my brother. My sister Adah, leave us for awhile—We mean to sacrifice.

Adah. Farewell, my Cain; but first embrace thy son. May his soft spirit, and Abel's pious ministry, recall thee to peace and holiness!

[Exit Adah with her child]

Abel. Where hast thou been?

Cain. I know not.

Abel. Nor what thou hast seen?

Cain. The dead.

The immortal, the unbounded, the omnipotent, the overpowering mysteries of space—The innumerable worlds that were and are.
A whirlwind of such overwhelming things,
Suns, moons, and earths, upon their loud-voiced spheres
Singing in thunder round me, as have made me
Unfit for mortal converse: leave me, Abel.
Abel. Thine eyes are flashing with unnatural light.

Thy check is flush'd with an unnatural hue—
Thy words are fraught with an unnatural sound—
What may this mean?

Cain. It means—I pray thee, leave me.
Abel. Not till we have praved'nd and sacrificed together.
Cain. Abel, I pray thee, sacrifice alone—
Jehovah loves thee well.
Abel. Both well, I hope.
Cain. But thee the better: I care not for that,
Thou art fitter for his worship than I am:
Revere him, then—but let it be alone—
At least, without me.

Abel.—Brother, I should ill
Esteem the name of our great father's son,
If as my elder I revered thee not,
And in the worship of our God call'd not
On thee to join me, and precede me in
Our priesthood—tis thy place.

But I have ne'er
Asserted it.
Abel. The more my grief; I pray thee
To do so now: thy soul seems laboring in
Some strong delusion; it will calm thee.

Cain. No;
Nothing can calm me more. Cain! say I? Never
Knew I what calm was in the soul, although
I have seen the elements still'd: My Abel, leave me!
Or let me leave thee to thy pious purpose.

Abel. Neither; we must perform our task together.

Spurn me not.
Cain. If it must be so—well, then,
What shall I do?
Abel. Choose one of those two altars.
Cain. Choose for me: they to me are so much turf
And stone.
Abel. Choose thou!
Cain. I have chosen.
Abel. Tis the highest,
And suits thee, as the elder. Now prepare
Thine offerings.
Cain. Where are thine?
Abel. Behold them here—
The firstlings of the flock, and fat thereof—
A shepherd's humble offering.
Cain. I have no flocks;
I am a tiller of the ground, and must
Yield what it yieldeth to my toil—its fruit:
[He gathereth fruits.
[They dress their altars, and kindle a flame upon them.

Abel. My brother, as the elder, offer first
Thy prayer and thanksgiving with sacrifice.
Cain. No—I am new to this; lead thou the way,
And I will follow—as I may.
Abel. (kneeling.) Oh God!
Who made us, and who breathed the breath of life
Within our nostrils, who hath blessed us,
And spared, despite our father's sin, to make
His children all lost, as they might have been,
Had not thy justice been so temper'd with

The mercy which is thy delight, as to
Accord a pardon like a Paradise,
Compared with our great erimes—Solo Lord of light
Of good, and glory, and eternity;
Without whom all were evil, and with whom
Nothing can err, except to some good end
Of thine omnipotent benevolence—
Inscrutable, but still to be fulfilled.

Accept from out thy humble first of shepherd's
First of the first-born flock—a sacrifice,
In itself nothing—as what offering can be
Aught unto thee?—but yet accept it for
The thanksgiving of him who spreads it in
The face of thy high heaven, bowing his own
Even to the dust, of which he is, in honor
Of thee, and of thy name, for evermore.

Cain, (standing erect during this speech.) Spirit:
what'er or whose'er thou art,
Omnipotent, it may be—and, if good,
Show'd in the exemption of thy deeds from evil;
Jehovah upon earth! and God in heaven!
And it may be with other names, because
Thine attributes seem many, as thy works—
If thou must be propitiated with prayers,
Take them! If thou must be induced with altars,
And soften'd with a sacrifice, receive them!
Two beings here erect them unto thee.
If thou lovest blood, the shepherd's shrine, which
smokes
On my right hand, hath shed it for thy service
In the first of his flock, whose limbs now reel
In sanguine incense to thy skies;
Or if the sweet and blooming fruits of earth,
And milder seasons, which the unstart'd turf
I spread them on now offers in the face
Of the broad sun which ripen'd them, may seem
Good to thee, inasmuch as they have not
Suffer'd in limb or life, and rather form
A sample of thy works, than supplication
To look on ours! If a shrine without victim,
And altar without gore, may win thy favor,
Look on it! and for him who dresseth it,
He is as much as thou mad'st him; and seeks nothing
Which must be won by kneeling: if he's evil,
Strike him! thou art omnipotent, and may'st—
For what can he oppose? If he be good,
Strike him, or spare him, as thou wilt! since all
Rests upon thee; and good and evil seem
To have no power themselves, save in thy will;
And whether that be good or ill I know not,
Not being omnipotent, nor fit to judge
Omnipotence, but merely to endure
Its mandate, which thus far I have endured.

[The fire upon the altar of Abel kindles into a
column of the brightest flame, and ascends to heaven; while a whirlwind throws down the
altar of Cain, and scatters the fruits abroad
upon the earth.

Abel, (kneeling.) Oh, brother, pray! Jehovah's
wrath with thee.

Cain. Why so?
Abel. Thy fruits are scatter'd on the earth.
Cain. From earth they came, to earth let them
return.
Their seed will bear fresh fruit there ere the summer
Thy burnt flesh-off'ring prosper better, see
How Heav'n lifts up the flames, when thick with blood!
Abel. Think not upon my offering's acceptance.
Cain. Thy murderer.

Abel. Then may God forgive him. Cain, Comfort poor Zillah:—she has but one brother Now. [ABEL dies.

Cain. And I none:—Who makes me brotherless? His eyes are open! then he is not dead! Death is like sleep: and sleep shuts down our lids. His lips, too, are apart; why then he breathes; And yet I feel it not.—His heart! his heart!— Let me see, doth it beat? methinks—No!—no! This is a vision, else I am become The native of another and worse world. The earth swims round me:—what is this? 'tis wet [Puts his hand to his brow, and then looks at it And yet there are no dews! 'Tis blood—my blood— My brother’s and my own; and shed by me! Then what have I further to do with life Since I have taken life from my own flesh? But he cannot be dead!—Is silence death? No; he will wake: then let me watch by him. Life cannot be so slight, as to be quenched Thus quickly!—he hath spoken to me since— What shall I say to him?—My brother!—No: He will not answer to that name; for brethren Smite not each other. Yet—yet—speak to me. Oh! for a word more of that gentle voice, That I may hear to hear my own again!

Enter Zillah.

Zillah. I heard a heavy sound: what can it be? 'Tis Cain; and watching by my husband. What Dost thou there, brother? Doth he sleep? Oh heav’n! What means this paleness, and yon stream?—No: no! It is not blood; for who would shed his blood? Abel! what’s this?—who hath done this? He moves not; He breathes not: and his hands drop down from mine. With stony lifelessness: Ah! cruel Cain; Why can’t thou not in time to save him from This violence? Whatever hath assail’d him, Thou wert the stronger, and shouldst have stepp’d in Between him and aggression! Father!—Eve!— Adah!—come hither! Death is in the world! [Exit ZILLAH, calling on her Parents, &c Cain, (solely.) And who hath brought him there?— I—who abhor The name of Death so deeply, that the saught Impoison’d all my life, before I knew His aspect—I have led him here, and giv’n My brother to his cold and still embrace, As if he would not have asserted his Inexorable claim without my aid. I am awake at last—a dreary dream Had maddened me;—but he shall never awake! [Enter Adam, Eve, Adah, and Zillah.

Adam. A voice of wo from Zillah brings me here, — What do I see?—'Tis true!—My son!—my son! Woman, behold the serpent’s work, and thine! [To Eve

Eve. Oh! speak not of it now: the serpent’s fangs Are in my heart. My best beloved, Abel! Jehovah! this is punishment beyond A mother’s sin, to take him from me.
Adam. Who.
Or what hath done this deed?—speak, Cain, since thou
Wert present; was it some more hostile angel,
Who walks not with Jehovah? or some wild
Brute of the forest?
Eve. Ah! a livid light
Breaks through, as from a thunder-cloud! yon brand,
Masey and bloody! snatch'd from off the altar,
And black with smoke, and red with—
Adam. Speak, my son!—Speak, and assure us, wretched as we are,
That we are not more miserable still.
Adah. Speak, Cain! and say it was not thou!
Eve. It was.
I see it now—he hangs his guilty head,
And covers his ferocious eye with hands
Incarnadine.
Adah. Mother, thou dost him wrong—
Cain! clear thee from this horrible accusal,
Which grief wrings from our parent.
Eve. Hear, Jehovah! May the eternal serpent's curse be on him!
For he was fitter for his breed than ours.
May all his days be desolate! May—
Adah. Hold! Curse him not, mother, for he is thy son—
Curse him not, mother, for he is my brother,
And my betrath'd.
Eve. He hath left thee no brother—
Zillah no husband—me no son!—for thus
I curse him from my sight for evermore!
All bonds I break between us, as he broke
That of his nature, in yon—Oh death! death!
Why didst thou not take me, who first incur'd thee?
Why dost thou not so now?
Adam. Eve! let not this,
Thy natural grief, lead to impiety!
A heavy doom was long forespoken to us;
And now that it begins, let it be borne
In such sort as may show our God, that we
Are faithful servants to his holy will.
Eve, (pointing to Cain.) His will!! the will of
yon incarnate spirit
Of death, whom I have brought upon the earth
To strew it with the dead. May all the curses
Of life be on him! and his agenies
Drive him forth o'er the wilderness, like us
From Eden, till his children do by him
As he did by his brother! May the swords
And wings of fiery cherubim pursue him
By day and night—snakes spring up in his path—
Earth's fruits be ashes in his mouth—the leaves
On which he lays his head to sleep be strew'd
With scorpions! May his dreams be of his victim!
His waking a continual dread of death!
May the clear rivers turn to blood as he
Stoops down to stain them with his raging lip!
May every element shun or change to him!
May he live in the pangs which others die with!
And death itself wax something worse than death
To hire who first acquainted him with man!
Hence, fraticide! henceforth that word is Cain.
Through all the coming myriads of mankind,
Who is all abhor thee, though thouwert their sire!
May the gr.-ss wither from thy feet! the woods
Deny thee shelter! earth a home! the dust
A grave! the sun his light! and heaven her God!
[Exeunt Eve.

Adam. Cain! get thee forth: we dwell no more
together!
Depart! and leave the dead to me—I am
Henceforth alone—we never must meet more.
Adah. Oh, part not with him thus, my father: do not
Add thy deep curse to Eve's upon his head!
Adam. I curse him not: his spirit be his curse.
Come, Zillah! Zillah.
I must watch my husband's corse.
Adam. We will return again, when he is gone
Who hath provided for us this dread office.
Come, Zillah! Zillah.
Yet one kiss on yon pale clay,
And those lips once so warm—my heart! my heart
[Exeunt Adam and Zillah weeping
Adah. Cain! thou hast heard, we must go forth.
I am ready,
So shall our children be. I will bear Enoch,
And you his sister. Ere the sun declines
Let us depart, nor walk the wilderness
Under the cloud of night.—Nay, speak to me,
To me—thine own.
Cain. Leave me!
Adah. Why, all have left thee
Cain. And wherefore lingerest thou? Dost thou
not fear
To dwell with one who hath done this?
Adah. I fear
Nothing except to leave thee, much as I
Shrink from the deed which leaves thee brotherless
I must not speak of this—it is between thee
And the great God.
A Voice from within exclaims, Cain! Cain!
Adah. Hear'st thou that voice? The Voice within. Cain! Cain!
Adah. It soundeth like an angel's tone
Enter the Angel of the Lord.
Angel. Where is thy brother Abel?
Cain. Am I then
My brother's keeper?
Angel. Cain! what hast thou done?
The voice of thy slain brother's blood cries out,
Even from the ground, unto the Lord!—Now art thou
Cursed from the earth, which open'd late her mouth
To drink thy brother's blood from thy rash hand.
Henceforth, when thou shalt till the ground, it shall not
Yield thee her strength: a fugitive shalt thou
Be from this day, and vagabond on earth!
Adah. This punishment is more than he can bear.
Behold, thou drivest him from the face of earth,
And from the face of God shall he be hid.
A fugitive and vagabond on earth,
'Twill come to pass, that whomso findeth him
Shall slay him.
Cain. Would they could! but who are they
Shall slay me? where are those on the lone earth
As yet unpeopled?
Angel. Thou hast slain thy brother,
And who shall warrant thee against thy son?
Adah. Angel of Light! be merciful, nor say
That this poor aching breast now nourisheth
A murderer in my boy, and of his father,
Angel. Then he would but be what his father is
Did not the milk of Eve give nutriment?
To him thou now see'st so bosom'd with blood?
Cain. (interrupting her.)

No! No more of threats: we have had too many of them.
Go to our children; I will follow thee.

Adah. I will not leave thee lonely with the dead.
Let us depart together.

Cain. Oh! thou dead
And everlasting witness! whose unsinking
Blood darkens earth and heaven! what thou now art
I know not! but if thou see'st what I am,
I think thou wilt forgive him, whom his God
Can no'ER forgive, nor his own soul.—Farewell!
I must not, dare not touch what I have made thee.
I, who sprung from the same womb with thee, drain'd
The same breast, clasp'd thee often to my own
In fondness brotherly and boyish, I
Can never meet thee more, nor even dare
To do that for thee, which thou should'st have done
For me—compose thy limbs into their grave—
The first grave yet dug for mortality,
But who hath dug that grave? Oh, earth! Oh, earth!
For all the fruits thou hast render'd to me,
Give thee back this.—Now for the wilderness.

[ADAH stoops down and kisses the body of Abel.

Adah. A dreary, and an early doom, my brother
Has been thy lot! Of all who mourn for thee,
I alone must weep. My office is
Henceforth to dry up tears, and not to shed them;
But yet of all who mourn, none mourn like me.
Not only for thyself, but him who slew thee.
Now, Cain! I will divide thy burden with thee.

Cain. Eastward from Eden will we take our way;
Tis the most desolate, and suits my steps.

Adah. Lead! thou shalt be my guide, and may
our God
Be thine! Now let us carry forth our children.

Cain. And he who lieth there was childless. I
Have dried the fountain of a gentle race,
Which might have graced his recent marriage coucct
And might have temper'd this stern blood of mine
Uniting with our children Abel's offspring!
O Abel!

Adah. Peace be with him.

Cain. But with me—

* The "four rivers" which flowed round Eden, and consequently the only race with which Cain was acquainted upon the earth.
MARINO FALIERO, DOGE OF VENICE;  
AN HISTORICAL TRAGEDY.

"Dacs incipit turbida Adriam."—Horace.

PREFACE.

The conspiracy of the Doge Marino Faliero is one of the most remarkable events in the annals of the singular government, city, and people of modern history. It occurred in the year 1355. Every thing about Venice is, or was, extraordinary—her aspect is like a dream, and her history is like a romance. The story of the Doge is to be found in all her Chronicles, and particularly detailed in the "Lives of the Doges," by Marin Sanuto, which is given in the Appendix. It is simply and clearly related, and is perhaps more dramatic in itself than any scenes which can be founded upon the subject.

Marino Faliero appears to have been a man of talents and of courage. I find him commander-in-chief of the land forces at the siege of Zara, where he beat the king of Hungary and his army of 80,000 men, killing 8000 men, and keeping the besieged at the same time in check; an exploit of which I know none similar in history except that of Caesar at Alesia, and of Prince Eugene at Belgrade. He was afterwards commander of the fleet in the same war. He took Capo d'Istria. He was ambassador at Genoa and Rome, at which last he received the news of his election to the dukedom; his absence being a proof that he sought it by no intrigue, since he was apprized of his predecessor's death and his own succession at the same moment. But he appears to have been of an ungovernable temper. A story is told by Sanuto, of his having, many years before, when podesta and captain at Treviso, box'd the ears of the bishop, who was somewhat tardy in bringing the Host. For this, honest Sanuto "saddles him with a judgment," as Thwackum did Square; but he does not tell us whether he was punished or rebuked by the Senate for this outrage at the time of its commission. He seems, indeed, to have been afterwards at peace with the church, for we find him ambassador at Rome, and invested with the fief of Val di Marino, in the march of Treviso, and with the title of Count, by Lorenzo Count-Bishop of Ceneda. For these facts my authorities are Sanuto, Vetter Sandi, Andrea Navagero, and the account of the siege of Zara, first published by the indefatigable Abate Morelli, in his "Monumenti Veneziani di varia Letteratura," printed in 1796, all of which I have looked over in the original language. The moderns, Dary, Sismondi, and Lauquier, nearly agree with the ancient chroniclers. Siamondi attributes the conspiracy to his jealousy; but I find this no where asserted by the national historians. Vetter Sandi, indeed, says, that "Altri scissero che . . . . . della golosa suspizien di esso Doge siasi fatto (Michel Steno) staccar con violenza," &c. &c.; but this appears to have been by no means the general opinion, nor is it alluded to by Sanuto or by Navagero, and Sandi himself adds, a moment after, that "per altre Veneziane memorie trapisiri, che non il solo desiderio di vendetta lo dispose alla congiura ma anche la innata abituale ambizion sua, per cui anel ava a farsi principe indipendente."

The first motive appears to have been excited by the gross affront of the words written by Michel Steno on the ducal chair, and by the light and inadequate sentence of the Forty on the offender, who was one of their "tre Capi." The attentions of Steno himself appear to have been directed towards one of her damsels, and not to the "Dogressa" herself, against whose fame not the slightest insinuation appears, while she is praised for her beauty, and remarked for her youth. Neither do I find it asserted (unless the hint of Sandi be an assertion) that the Doge was actuated by jealousy of his wife; but rather by respect for her, and for his own honor, warranted by his past services and present dignity.

I know not that the historical facts are alluded to in English, unless by Dr. Moore in his View of Italy. His account is false and flippant, full of stale jests about old men and young wives, and wondering at so great an effect from so slight a cause. How so acute and severe an observer of mankind as the author of Zelo could wonder at this is inconceivable. He knew that a basin of water split
on Mrs. Masham's gown deprived the duke of Marlborough of his command, and led to the inglorious peace of Utrecht—that Louis XIV. was plunged into the most desolating wars because his minister was nettled at his finding fault with a window, and wished to give him another occupation—that Helen of Troy—that Lucretia expelled the Tarquins from Rome—and that Cava brought the Moors to Spain—that an insulted husband led the Gauls to Clusium, and thence to Rome—that a single verse of Frederick II. of Prussia on the Abbe de Bernis, and a jest on Madame de Pompadour, led to the battle of Rossbach—that the eloquence of Dearborn with Mac Murchad conducted the English to the slavery of Ireland—that a personal pique between Maria Antoinette and the duke of Orleans precipitated the first expulsion of the Bourbons—and, not to multiply instances, that Commodus, Domitian, and Caligula fell victims not to their public tyranny, but to private vengeance—and that an order to make Cromwell disembark from the ship in which he would have sailed to America destroyed both king and commonwealth. After these instances, on the least reflection, it is indeed extraordinary in Dr. Moore to seem surprised that a man used to command, who had served and swayed in the most important offices, should fiercely resent, in a fierce age, an unpunished affront, the grossest that can be offered to a man, be he prince or peasant. The age of Faliero is little to the purpose, unless to favor it.

"The young man's wrath is like a flame on fire,
But like red hot steel is the old man's ire."

"Young men soon grow and soon forget affronts,
Old age is slow at both.
"

Laugier's reflections are more philosophical:—

"Tale fu il fine ignominioso di un uomo, che la sua..."

My sui talenti per lungo tempo esercitati ne' maggiore impieghi, la sua capacità sperimentata ne' governi e nelle ambasciate, gli avevano acquisito la stima e la fiducia di cittadini, ed avevano uniti i suffragi per collocarlo alla testa della repubblica. Innalzato ad un grado che terminava gloriosamente la sua vita, il risentimento di un'ingiuria leggiera insinuò nel suo cuore tal veleno che bastò a corrompere le antiche sue qualità, e a condurlo al termine dei sceletteri; serio esempio, che prova non esservi età, in cui la prudenza unisce sia sicura, e che nell'uomo restano sempre possensioni capaci a dissanararlo, quando non inviti sopra se stesso."—Lawgier, Italian translation, vol. iv. page 80, 31.

Where did Dr. Moore find that Marino Faliero begged his life? I have searched the chronicles, and find nothing of the kind; it is true that he avowed all. He was conducted to the place of torture, but there is no mention made of any application for mercy on his part; and the very circumstance of their having taken him to the rack seems to argue anything but his having shown a want of firmness, which would doubtless have been also mentioned by those minute historians who by no means favor him: such, indeed, would be contrary to his character as a soldier, to the age in which he lived, and at which he died, as is to the truth of history. I know no justification at any distance of time for calumniating an historical character; surely truth belongs to the dead, and to the unfortunate, and they who have died upon a scaffold, have generally had faults enough of their own, without attributing to them that which the very incurring of the perils which conducted them to their violent death renders, of all others, the most improbable. The black veil which is painted over the place of Marino Faliero amongst the doges, and the Giants' Staircase where he was crowned, and disgraced, and decapitated, struck forcibly upon my imagination, as did his fiery character and strange story. I went in 1819, in search of his tomb more than once to the church San Giovanni e San Paolo, and as I was standing before the monument of another family, a priest came up to me and said, "I can show you finer monuments than that." I told him that I was in search of that of the Faliero family, and particularly of the Doge Marino's. "Oh," said he, "I will show it you;" and conducting me to the outside, pointed out a sarcophagus in the wall with an illegible inscription. He said that it had been in a convent adjoining, but was removed after the French came, and placed in its present situation; that he had seen the tomb opened at its removal; there were still some bones remaining, but no positive vestige of the decapitation. The equestrian statue of which I have made mention in the third act as before that church is not, however, of a Faliero, but of some other now obsolete warrior, although of a later date. There were two other Doges of this family prior to Marino: Ordelafro, who fell in battle at Zara in 1117, (where his descendant afterwards conquered the Huns,) and Vital Faliero, who reigned in 1082. The family, originally from Fano, was of the most illustrious in blood and wealth in the city of once the most wealthy and still the most ancient families in Europe. The length I have gone into on this subject will show the interest I have taken in it. Whether I have succeeded or not in the tragedy, I have at least transferred into our language an historical fact worthy of commemoration.

It is now four years that I have meditated this work, and, before I had sufficiently examined the records, I was rather disposed to have made it turn on a jealousy in Faliero. But perceiving no found ation for this in historical truth, and aware that jealousy is an exhausted passion in the drama, I have given it a more historical form. I was, besides, well advised by the late Matthew Lewis on that point, in talking with him of my intention, at Venice, in 1817. "If you make him jealous," said he, "recollect that you have to contend with established writers, to say nothing of Shakspeare, and an exhausted subject;—stick to the old fiery Doge's natural character, which will bear you out, if properly drawn; and make your plot as regular as you can."—Sir William Drummond gave me nearly the same counsel. How far I have followed these instructions, or whether they have availed me, is for me to decide. I have had no view to the stage; in its present state it is, perhaps, not a very exalted object of ambition; besides I have been too much behind the scenes to have thought it so at any time. And I cannot conceive any man of irritable feeling putting himself at the mercy of an audience:— — the sneering reader, and the loul critic and the tart review, are scattered and distant.
calamities; but the trampling of an intelligent or of an ignorant audience on a production which, be it good or bad, has been a mental labor to the writer, is a palpable and immediate grievance, heightened by a man's doubt of their competency to judge, and his certainty of his own improprieness in selecting them judges. I was capable of writing a play which could be deemed stage worthy, success would give me no pleasure, and failure great pain. It is for this reason that even during the time of being one of the committee of one of the theaters, I never made the attempt, and never will.* But surely there is dramatic power somewhere, where Joanna Baillie, and Milman, and John Wilson exist. The "City of the Plague" and the "Fall of Jerusalem" are full of the best "matter" for tragedy that has been seen since Horace Walpole, except passages of Ethwold and De Montfort. It is the fashion to underrate Horace Walpole; firstly, because he was a nobleman, and secondly, because he was a gentleman; but to say nothing of the composition of his incomparable letters, and of the Castle of Otranto, he is the "Ultimus Romanorum," the author of the Mysterious Mother, a tragedy of the higher order, and not a puling love-play. He is the father of the first romance and of the last tragedy in our language, and surely worthy of a higher place than any living writer, be he who he may.

In speaking of the drama of Marino Faliero, I forgot to mention that, the desire of preserving, though still too remote, a nearer approach to unity than the irregularity, which is the reproach of the English theatrical compositions, permits, has induced me to represent the conspiracy as already formed, and the Doge according to it, whereas, in fact, it was of his own preparation and that of Israel Bertuccio. The other characters (except that of the duchess), incidents, and almost the time, which was wonderfully short for such a design in real life, are strictly historical, except that all the consultations took place in the palace. Had I followed this, the unity would have been better preserved; but I wished to produce the Doge in the full assembly of the conspirators, instead of monotonously placing him always in dialogue with the

same individuals. For the real facts, I refer to the extracts given in the Appendix in the Italian, with translation.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Men.—MARINO FALIERO, Doge of Venice.
Bertuccio Faliero, Nephew of the Doge.
LIONI, a Patrician and Senator.
Benintende, Chief of the Council of Ten.
Michel Steno, one of the three Capti of the Forty.
Israell Bertuccio, Chief of the Arsenal.
Philip Calendar, Dagolino, Bertian.

Conspirators: "Signore di Notte," one of the Officers belonging to the Republic.
First Citizen.
Second Citizen.
Third Citizen.
Vincenzo, Officers belonging to the Pietero, Ducal Palace.
Battista, Secretary of the Council of Ten.

Women.—Angiolina, Wife to the D, MARIANNA, her Friend.
Female Attendants, &c.

Scene Venice—in the year 1356.

ACT I.

SCENE I.

An Antechamber in the Ducal Palace.

PIETRO speaks, in entering, to BATTISTA.

Pio. Is not the messenger returned?

Bat. Not yet

I have sent frequently, as you commanded,

But still the Sigorine is deep in council,
And long debate on Steuno's accusation.

Pio. Too long—at least so thinks the Doge

How bears this

These moments of suspense?

Pio. With wringing patience

Placed at the ducal table—over

With all the apparel of the state; petitions,

Deshpitches, judgments, acts, reprievés, reports,

He sits as rapt in duty; but whene'er

He hears the jarring of a distant door,

Or aught that intimates a coming step,

Or murrum of a voice, his quick eye wanders,

And he will start up from his chair, then pauseth.

And seat himself again, and fix his gaze

Upon some edict; but I have observed

For the last hour he has not turn'd a leaf.
MARINO FALIERO, DOGE OF VENICE

Scene II.

The Ducal Chamber.

MARINO FALIERO, Doge; and his Nephew, Ber- Tuccio Faliero.

Ber. F. It cannot be but they will do you justice.
Doge. Ay, such as the Avogadori did, Who sent up my appeal unto the Forty To try him by his peers, his own tribunal.
Ber. F. His peers will scarce protect him; such an act Would bring contempt on all authority.
Doge. Know you not Venice? Know you not the Forty? But we shall see anon.
Ber. F. (addressing Vincenzo, then entering.) How now—what tidings?
Vinc. I am charged to tell his highness that the court Has pass'd its resolution, and that, soon As the due forms of judgment are gone through, The sentence will be sent up to the Doge; In the mean time the Forty doth salute The Prince of the Republic, and entreat His acceptance of their duty.
Doge. Yes— They are wondrous dutiful, and ever humble. Sentence is past, you say?
Vinc. It is, your highness: The president was sealing it, when I Was call'd in, that no moment might be lost In forwarding the intimation due Not only to the Chief of the Republic, But the complainant, both in cue united.
Ber. F. Are you aware, from a sight you have perceived, Of their decision?
Vinc. No, my lord! you know The secret custom of the courts in Venice.
Ber. F. True; but there still is something given to guess, Which a shrewd gleaner and quick eye would catch at; A whisper, or a murmur, or an air More or less solemn spread o'er the tribunal. The Forty are but men—most worthy men, And wise and just, and cautious—this I grant— And secret as the grave to which they doom The guilty; but with all this, in their aspects— At least in some, the juniors of the number— A searching eye, an eye like yours, Vincenzo, Would read the sentence ere it was pronounced Vin. my lord, I came away upon the moment, And had no leisure to take note of that Which pass'd among the judges, even in seeming. My station near the accused, too, Michel Steno, Made me—

Doge, (abruptly.) And how look'd he? deliver that.
Vinc. Calm, but not overcast, he stood resign'd To the decree, whate'er it were;—but lo! It comes, for the perusal of his highness.

Enter the Secretary of the Forty.

Sec. The high tribunal of the Forty sends Health and respect to the Doge Faliero, Chief Magistrate of Venice, and requests His highness to peruse and to approve The sentence past on Michel Steno, born Patrician, and arraigned upon the charge Contain'd, together with its penalty, Within the rescript which I now present.
Doge. Retire, and wait without.

[Exeunt Secretary and Vincenzo.]

Take this paper The misty letters vanish from my eyes: I cannot fix them.
Ber. F. Patience, my dear uncle: Why do you tremble thus?—nay, doubt not, all Will be as could be wish'd.
Doge. Say on.
Ber. F. (reading.) "Decreed In council, without one dissenting voice, That Michel Steno, by his own confession, Guilty on the last night of Carnival Of having graven on the ducal throne The following words——"
Doge. Would'st thou repeat them? Would'st thou repeat them—thou, a Faliero, Harp on the deep dishonor of our house, Dishonor'd in its chief—that chief the prince Of Venice, first of cities?—To the sentence.
Ber. F. Forgive me, my good lord; I will obey—(Reads.) "That Michel Steno be detain'd a month In close arrest."
Doge. Proceed.
Ber. F. My lord, 'tis finish'd.
Doge. How say you?—finish'd! Do I dream? 'tis false—
Give me the paper—(Snatches the paper and reads)— "'Tis decreed in council That Michel Steno"—Nephew, thine arm! Ber. F. Nay.
Doge. Cheer up, be calm; this transport is uncalled for. Let me seek some assistance.

Doge. Stop, sir—Sir not—
'Tis past.
Ber. F. I cannot but agree with you The sentence is too slight for the offence— It is not honorable in the Forty To affix so slight a penalty to that Which was a foul affront to you, and even To them, as being your subjects; but 'tis not Yet without remedy: you can appeal To them once more, or to the Avogadori, Who, seeing that true justice is withheld,
BYRON’S WORKS.

Will now take up the cause they once declined,
And do you right upon the bold delinquent.
Think you not thus, good uncle? why do you stand
So still? You heed me not—I pray you, hear me!
Doge, (dashing down the ducal bonnet, and offering
To trample upon it, exclaims, as he is
Witheld by his nephew,)
Oh! that the Saracens were in St. Mark’s!
Thus would I do him homage.
Ber. F. For the sake
Of Heaven and all its saints, my lord—
Doge. Away!
Oh, that the Genoese were in the port!
Oh, that the Huns whom I o’erthrew at Zara
Were ranged around the palace!
Ber. F. ‘Tis not well
Ex. Venice! Duke to say so.
Doge. Venice! Duke! Who now is Duke in Venice? let me see him,
That he may do me right.
Ber. F. If you forget
Your office, and its dignity and duty,
Remember that of man, and curb this passion.
The Duke of Venice—
Doge, (interrupting him,) There is no such thing—
It is a word—nay, worse—a worthless by-word:
The most despised, wrong’d, outraged, helpless
wretch,
Who begs his bread, if ‘tis refused by one,
May win it from another kinder heart;
But he, who is denied his right by those
Whose place it is to do no wrong, is poorer
Than the rejected beggar—he’s a slave—
And that am I, and thou, and all our house,
Even from this hour; the meanest artisan
Will point the finger, and the haughty noble
May spit upon us,—where is our redress?
Ber. F. The law, my prince—
Doge, (interrupting him,) You see what it has done—
I ask’d no remedy but from the law—
I sought no vengeance but redress by law—
I call’d no judges but those named by law—
As sovereign, I appeal’d unto my subjects,
The very subjects who had made me sovereign,
And gave me thus a double right to be so.
The rights of place and choice, of birth and service,
Honors and years, these scars, these hoary hairs,
The travel, toil, the perils, the fatigues,
The blood and sweat of almost eighty years,
Were weigh’d, ’tis the balance, ’gainst the foulest
stain,
The grossest insult, most contemptuous crime
Of a rank, rash patrician—and found wanting! And this is to be borne!
Ber. F. I say not that—
In case your fresh appeal should be rejected,
We will find other means to make all even.
Doge. Appeal again! art thou my brother’s son?
A scion of the house of Paliero?
The nephew of a Doge? and of that blood
Which hath already given three dukes to Venice?
But thou say’st well—we must be humble now.
Ber. F. My princely uncle! you are too much moved:
I grant it was a gross offence, and grossly
Left without fitting punishment: but still
This fury doth exceed the provocation,
Or any provocation; if we are wrong’d,
We will ask justice; if it be denied,
We’ll take it; but may do all this in calmness—
Deep Vengeance is the daughter of deep Silence
I have yet scarce a third part of your years,
I love our house, I honor you, its chief,
The guardian of my youth, and its instructor—
But though I understand your grief, and enter
In part of your disdain, it doth appall me
To see your anger, like our Adrian waves,
O’ersweep all bounds, and foam itself to air.
Doge. I tell thee—must I tell thee—what thy father
Would have required no words to comprehend?
Hast thou no feeling save the external sense
Of torture from the touch? hast thou no soul—
No pride—no passion—no deep sense of honor?
Ber. F. ’Tis the first time that honor has been doubted,
And were the last from any other skeptic.
Doge. You know the full offence of this born villain,
This creeping, coward, rank, acquitted felon,
Who threw his sting into a poisonous libel,
And on the honor of—Oh God!—my wife,
The nearest, dearest part of all men’s honor,
Left a base and mortal slur to pass from mouth to mouth
Of loose mechanics, with all coarse fool comments
And villainous jests, and blasphemies obscene,
While sneering nobles, in more polish’d guise,
Whisper’d the tale, and smiled upon the lie
Which made me look like them—a courteous wittou,
Patient—ay, proud, it may be, of dishonor.
Ber. F. But still it was a lie—you knew it false,
And so did all men.
Doge. Nephew, the high Roman
Said, ‘Caesar’s wife must not even be suspected.’
And put her from him—
Ber. F. True—but in those days—
Doge. What is it that a Roman would not suffer
That a Venetian prince must bear? Old Dandolo
Refused the diadem of all the Caesars,
And wore the ducal cap I trample on,
Because ‘tis now degraded.
Ber. F. ’Tis even so.
Doge. It is—it is:—I did not visit on
The innocent creature thus most vilely slander’d
Because she took an old man for her lord,
For that he had been long her father’s friend
And patron of her house, as if there were
No love in woman’s heart but lust of youth
And beardless faces:—I did not for this
Visit the villain’s infamy on her.
But craved my country’s justice on his head,
The justice due unto the humblest being
Who hath a wife whose faith is sweet to him,
Who hath a home whose hearth is dear to him,
Who hath a name whose honor’s all to him,
When these are tainted by the accursing breath
Of calumny and scorn.
Ber. F. And what redress
Did you expect as his fit punishment?
Doge. Death! was I not the sovereign of this state—
Insulted on his very throne, and made
A mockery to the men who should obey me?
Was I not injured as a husband? scorn’d
As a man? reviled, degraded, as a prince?
Was not offence like his a complication
Of insult and of treason?—and he lives!
MARINO FALIERO,  DOGE OF VENICE.

In all things to rely upon my duty
As doth become your near and faithful kinsman
And not less loyal citizen and subject.

[Exit Bertuccio Faliero]

Doge. (solus.) Adieu my worthy nephew.—Hol low bauble!

[Taking up the ducal cap]
Beset with all the thorns that line a crown,
Without investing the insulted brow
With the all-swaying majesty of kings;
Thou idle, gilded, and degraded toy.
Let me resume thee as I would a vizer. [Puts it on]
How my brain aches beneath thee! and my temples
Throb feverish under thy dishonest weight.
Could I not turn thee to a diadem?
Could I not shatter the Briarean sceptre
Which in this hundred-handed senate rules,
Making the people nothing, and the prince
A pageant? In my life I have achieved
Tasks not less difficult—achieved for them,
Who thus repay me—Can I not requite them?
Oh for one year! Oh! but for even a day
Of my full youth, while yet my body served
My soul as serves the generous steed his lord,
I would have dash'd among them, asking few
In aid to overthrow these swell'n patricians;
But now I must look round for other hands
To serve this hoary head;—but it shall plan
In such a sort as will not leave the task
Herculean, though as yet it is but a chaos
Of darkly brooding thoughts: my fancy is
In her first work, more nearly to the light
Holding the sleeping images of things
For the selection of the pausing judgment.—
The troops are few in—

Enter Vincenzo.

Vin. There is one without
Craves audience of your highness.

Doge. I'm unwell—
I can see no one, not even a patrician—
Let him refer his business to the council.

Vin. My lord, I will deliver your reply;
It cannot much import—he's a plebeian,
The master of a galley, I believe.

Doge. How! did you say the patron of a galley?
That is—I mean—a servant of the state:
Admit him, he may be on public service.

[Exit Vincenzo]

Doge, (solus.) This patron may be sounded; I
will try him.

I know the people to be discontented;
They have cause, since Sapienza's adverse day,
When Genoa conquer'd; they have further cause,
Since they are nothing in the state, and in
The city worse than nothing—mere machines,
To serve the nobles' most patrician pleasure.
The troops have long arrears of pay, oft promised
And murmured deeply—any hope of change
Will draw them forward: they shall pay themselves
With plunder:—but the priests—I doubt the priest-
hood
Will not be with us; they have hated me
Since that rash hour, when, madd'n'd with the dronc
I smote the tardy bishop at Treviso,
Quickening his holy march; yet, ne'ertheless,
They may be won, at least their chief at Rome,
By some well-timed concessions; but, above
All things, I must be speedy; at my hour
Of twilight little light of life remains.
Could I free Venice, and avenge my wrongs,  
I had lived too long, and willingly would sleep  
Next moment with my sires; and, wanting this,  
Better that sixty of my fourscore years  
Had been already where—how soon, I care not—  
The whole must be extinguish'd;—better that  
They ne'er had been, than drag me on to be  
The thing these arch-oppressors fain would make  
me.  
Let me consider,—of efficient troops  
There are three thousand posted at——  

\[ \text{Enter Vincenzo and Israel Bertuccio.} \]

\[ \text{Vin.} \]  
May it please  
Your highness, the same patron whom I spake of  
Is here to crave your patience.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Leave the chamber,  
\[ \text{Vincenzo.} \]  
Sir, you may advance—what would you?  
\[ \text{I. Ber. Redress.} \]  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Of whom?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Of God and of the Doge.  
\[ \text{Doge. Alas! my friend, you seek it of the twin} \]  
Of least respect and interest in Venice.  
You must address the council.  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Twere in vain;  
For he who injured me is one of them.  
\[ \text{Doge. There's blood upon thy face—how came it} \]  
there?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
'Tis mine, and not the first I've shed for Venice,  
But the first shed by a Venetian hand:  
A noble smote me.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Doth he live?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Not long—  
But for the hope I had and have, that you,  
My prince, yourself a soldier, will redress  
Him whom the laws of discipline and Venice  
Permit not to protect himself;—if not—  
I say no more.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
But something you would do—  
Is it not so?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
I am a man, my lord.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Why so is he who smote you.  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
He is call'd so:  
Nay, more, a noble one—at least, in Venice:  
But since he hath forgotten that I am one,  
And treats me like a brute, the brute may turn—  
'Tis said the worm will.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Say—his name and lineage?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Barbaro.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
What was the cause? or the pretext?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
I am the chief of the arsenal, employ'd  
At present in repairing certain galleys  
But roughly used by the Genoese last year.  
This morning comes the noble Barbaro  
Full of reproof, because our artisans  
Had left some frivolous order of his house,  
To execute the state's decree; I dared  
To justify the men—he raised his hand—  
Behold my blood! the first time it e'er flow'd  
Dishonorably.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Have you long time served?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
So long as to remember Zara's siege,  
And fight beneath the chief who beat the Huns  
there,  
Sometimes my general, now the Doge Falliero.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
How! are we comrades?—the state's ducal  
robes  

\[ \text{Sit newly on me, and you were appointed} \]  
Chief of the arsenal ere I came from Rome;  
So that I recognized you not. Who placed you?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
The late Doge keeping still my off  
command  
As patron of a galley: my new office  
Was given as a reward of certain scars,  
(\text{So was your predecessor pleased to say;} \)  
I little thought this bounty would conduct me  
To his successor as a helpless plaintiff;  
At least, in such a case.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Are you much hurt?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Irrecoverably in my self-esteem.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Speak out; fear nothing: being stung at  
heart,  
What would you do to be revenged on this man?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
That which I dare not name, and yet will  
do.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Then wherefore came you here?  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
I come for justice,  
Because my general is Doge, and will not  
See his old soldier trampled on. Had any,  
Save Falliero, fill'd the ducal throne,  
This blood had been wash'd out in other blood.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
You come to me for justice—unto me?  
The Doge of Venice, and I cannot give it;  
I cannot even obtain it—"Twas denied  
To me most solemnly an hour ago.  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
How says your highness?  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Steno is condemn'd  
To a month's confinement.  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
What! the same who dared  
To stain the ducal throne with those foul words,  
That have cried shame to every ear in Venice?  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Ay, doubtless they have echo'd o'er the  
arsenal,  
Keeping due time with every hammer's clink,  
As a good jest to jolly artisans;  
Or making chorus to the creaking oar,  
In the vile tone of every galley-slave,  
Who, as he sung the merry stave, exulted  
He was not a shamed dotard like the Doge.  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Is't possible? a month's imprisonment.  
No more for Steno?  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
You have heard the offence,  
And now you know his punishment; and then  
You ask redress of me! Go to the Forty,  
Who pass'd the sentence upon Michel Steno;  
They'll do much as Barbaro, no doubt.  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Ah! dared I speak my feelings!  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Give them breath.  
Mine have no further outrage to endure.  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Then, in a word, it rests but on your word  
To punish and avenge—I will not say  
My petty wrong, for what is a mere blow,  
However vile, to such a thing as I am?  
But the base insult done your state and person.  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
You overrate my power, which is a pageant.  
This cap is not the monarch's crown; these robes  
Might move compassion, like a beggar's rags;  
Nay, more, a beggar's are his own, and these  
But lent to the poor puppet, who must play  
Its part with all its empire in this errne.  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Wouldst thou be king?  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Yes—of a happy people  
\[ \text{I. Ber.} \]  
Wouldst thou be sovereign lord of  
Venice?  
\[ \text{Doge.} \]  
Ay,  
If that the people shared that sovereignty.
So that nor they nor I were further slaves
To this o'ergrown aristocratic Hydra,
The poisonous heads of whose envenom'd body
Have breathed a pestilence upon us all.

I. Ber. Yet, thou wast born and still hast lived
patrician.

Doge. In evil hour was I so born; my birth
Had made me Doge to be insulted: but
I lived and told a soldier and a servant
Of Venice and her people, not the senate;
Their good and my own honor were my gourdon.
I have fought and bled; commanded, ay, and con-
quered:
Have made and marr'd peace oft in embassies,
As it might chance to be our country's vantage;
Have traversed land and sea in constant duty,
Through almost sixty years, and still for Venice,
My fathers' and my birthplace, whose dear sires,
Rising at distance o'er the blue Lagoon,
It was reward enough for me to view
One more; but not for any knot of men,
Nor sect, nor faction, did I bleed or sweat!
But would you know why I have done all this?
Ask of the bleeding pelican why she
Hath ripp'd her bosom? Had the bird a voice,
She'd tell thee 'twas for all her little ones.

I. Ber. And yet they made thee duke.

Doge. They made me so:
I sought it not, the flattering fritters met me
Returning from my Roman embassy,
And never having hitherto refused
Toil, charge, or duty for the state, I did not,
At these late years decline what was the highest
Of all in seeming, but of all most base
In what we have to do and to endure:
Bear witness for me thou, my injured subject,
When I can neither right myself nor thee.

I. Ber. You shall do both, if you possess the will,
And many thousands more not less oppress'd,
Who wait but for a signal—will you give it?
Doge. You speak in riddles.

I. Ber. Which shall soon be read
At peril of my life; if you disdain not
To lend a patient ear.

Doge. Say on.

I. Ber. Not thou,
Nor I alone, are injured and abused,
Contemned and trampled on; but the whole people
Grown with the strong conception of their wrongs.
The foreign soldiers in the senate's pay
Are discontented for their long arrears;
The native mariners, and civic troops,
Feel with their friends; for who is he among them
Whose brethren, parents, children, wives, or sisters,
Have not partook oppression, or pollution,
From the patricians? And the hopeless war
Against the Genoese, which is still maintain'd
With the plebian blood, and treasure wrung
From their hard earnings, has inflamed them further;
Even now—but, I forget that speaking thus,
Perhaps I pass the sentence of my death!

Doge. And suffering what thou hast done—fear'st
thou death?
Be silent then, and live on, to be beaten
By those for whom thou hast bled.

I. Ber. No, I will speak
at every hazard; and if Venice' Doge
Should turn delator, be the shame on him,
And woe too; for he will lose far more

Than I.

I. Doge. From me fear nothing; out with it!

I. Ber. Know, then, that there are met and sworn
in secret
A band of brethren, valiant hearts and true;
Men who have proved all fortunes, and have long
Grieved over that of Venice, and have right
To do so; having served her in all climes,
And having rescued her from foreign foes,
Would do the same from those within her walls.
They are not numerous, nor yet too few
For their great purpose; they have arms, and means.
And hearts, and hopes, and faith, and patient
courage.

Doge. For what then do they pause?

I. Ber. An hour to strike.

Doge. (aside,) Saint Mark's shall strike that hour!

I. Ber. I now have placed
My life, my honor, all my earthly hopes
Within thy power, but in the firm belief
That injuries like ours, sprung from one cause,
Will generate one vengeance: should it be so,
Le our chief now—our sovereign hereafter.

Doge. How many are ye?

I. Ber. I'll not answer that
Till I am answer'd.

Doge. How, sir! do you menace

I. Ber. No; I affirm. I have betray'd myself,
But there's no torture in the mystic wows
Which undermine your palace, nor in those
Not less appalling cells, the "leaden roofs,"
To force a single name from me of others.
The Pozzi and the Pioemi were in vain;
They might wring blood from me, but treachery never,
And I would pass the fearful "Bridge of Sigia,"
Joyous that mine must be the last that e'er
Would echo o'er the Stygian wave which flows
Between the murderers and the murder'd, washing
The prison and the palace walls: there are
Those who would live to think on't, and avenge me.

Doge. If such your power and purpose, why come
here
To sue for justice, being in the course
To do yourself due right?

I. Ber. Because the man,
Who claims protection from authority,
Showing his confidence and his submission
To that authority, can hardly be
Suspected of combining to destroy it.
Had I sate down too humbly with this blow,
A moody brow and mutter'd threats had made me
A mark'd man to the Forty's inquisition
But loud complaint, however angrily
It shapes its phrase, is little to be fear’d,
And less distracted. But, besides all this,
I had another reason.

Doge. What was that?

I. Ber. Some rumors that the Doge was greatly
moved
By the reference of the Avogadori
Of Michel Steno's sentence to the Forty
Had reached me. I had serv'd you, honor'd you
And felt that you were dangerously insulted,
Being of an order of such spirits, as
Require the tenfold both good and evil: 'twas
My wish to prove and urge you to redress.

Now you know all: and that I speak the truth,
My peril be the proof.

Doge. You have deeply ventured.
But all must do so who would greatly win:
That I'll answer you—your secret's safe.
I. Ber. And is this all?

Doge. Unless with all intrusted,
What would you have me answer?
I. Ber. I would have you
Trust him who leaves his life in trust with you.
Doge. But I must know your plan, your names, and numbers;
The list may then be doubled, and the former
Matured and strengthened.
I. Ber. We're enough already;
You are the sole ally we covet now.
Doge. But bring me to the knowledge of your
chiefs.
I. Ber. That shall be done upon your formal
pledge
To keep the faith that we will pledge to you.
Doge. When? where?
I. Ber. This night I'll bring to your apartments
Two of the principals; a great number
Were in our service.
Doge. Stay, I must think of this.
What if I were to trust myself among you,
And leave the palace?
I. Ber. You must come alone.
Doge. But with my nephew.
I. Ber. Not were he your son.
Doge. Wretched! darest thou name my son? He
died in arms
At Sapienza for this faithless state.
Oh! that he were alive, and I in ashes!
Or that he were alive ere I be ashes!
I. Ber. Not one of all those strangers whom thou
doubtest
But will regard thee with a filial feeling,
So that thou keep'st a father's faith with them.
Doge. The die is cast. Where is the place of
meeting?
I. Ber. At midnight I will be alone and mask'd
Where'er your highness please to direct me,
To wait your coming, and conduct you where
You shall receive our homage, and pronounce
Upon our project.
Doge. At what hour arises
The moon?
I. Ber. Late, but the atmosphere is thick and
dusky;
'Tis a sirocco.
Doge. At the midnight hour, then,
Near to the church where sleep my sires; the same,
Twin-named from the apostles John and Paul;
A gondola, with one oar only, will
Lurk in the narrow channel which glides by.
Be there.
I. Ber. I will not fail.
Doge. And now retire—
I. Ber. In full hope your highness will not falter
in your great purpose. Prince, I take my leave.

[Exit ISRAEL BEHUCCTO.

Doge, (salut.) At midnight, by the church Saints
John and Paul,
Where sleep my noble fathers, I repair—
To what? to hold a council in the dark
With common ruffians leagued to ruin states!
And will not my great sires leap from the vault,
Where lie two doges who preceded me,
And pluck me down among them? Would they could,
For I should rest in honor with the honor'd
Alas! I must not think of them, but those
Who have made me thus unworthy of a name
Noble and brave as aught of consular
On Roman marbles; but I will redeem it
Back to its antique lustre in our annals,
By sweet revenge on all that's base in Venice
And freedom to the rest, or leave it black
To all the growing calamities of time,
Which never spare the fame of him who falls,
But try the Caesar, or the Catiline,
By the true touchstone of desert—success.

ACT II.

SCENE I.

An Apartment in the Ducale Palace.

ANGIOLINA (wife of the DOGE) and MARIANNA.

Ang. What was the Doge's answer?
Mar. That he was
That moment summon'd to a conference:
But 'tis by this time ended. I perceived
Not long ago the senators embarking;
And the last gondola may now be seen
Gliding into the throng of barks which stud
The glittering waters.
Ang. Would he were return'd!
He has been much disquieted of late;
And Time, which has not tamed his fiery spirit,
Nor yet enfolds even his mortal frame,
Which seems to be more nourished by a soul
So quick and restless that it would consume
Less hardy clay—Time has but little power
On his resentments or his griefs. Unlike
To other spirits of his order, who,
In the first burst of passion, pour away
Their wrath or sorrow, all things wear in him
An aspect of eternity: his thoughts,
His feelings, passions, good or evil, all
Have nothing of old age; and his bold brow
Bears but the scars of mind, the thoughts of years
Not their deceptibility: and he of late
Has been more agitated than his wont.
Would he were come! for I alone have power
Upon his troubled spirit.

Mar. It is true,
His highness has of late been greatly moved
By the affront of Steho, and with cause;
But the offender doubtless even now
Is doom'd to expiate his rash insult with
Such chastisement as will enforce respect
To female virtue, and to noble blood.
Ang. "Twas a great insult; but I heed it not
For the rash scornier's falsehood in itself,
But for the effect, the deadly deep impression
Which it has made upon Faliero's soul,
The proud, the fiery, the austere—
To all save me! I tremble when I think
To what it may conduct.

Mar. Assuredly
The Doge cannot suspect you?

Ang. Suspect not:
Why Steno dared not: when he scrawl'd his ris
3rd telling by stealth in the moon's glimmering
light,
His own still conscience smote him for the act,
And every shadow on the walls frown'd shame
Upon his coward calumny.
Mar. 'Twere fit
He should be punish'd grievously.
Ang. He is so.
Mar. What! is the sentence pass'd? is he con-
demn'd?
Ang. I know not that, but he has been detected.
Mar. And deem you this enough for such foul
scorn?
Ang. I would not be a judge in my own cause,
Nor do I know what sense of punishment
May reach the soul of ribalds such as Steno;
But if 's his insults sink no deeper in
The minds of the inquisitors than they
Have ruffled mine, he will, for all acquittance,
Be left to his own shamelessness or shame.
Mar. Some sacrifice is due to slander'd virtue.
Ang. Why, what is virtue if it needs a victim?
Or if it must depend upon men's words?
The dying Roman said, 'twas but a name:
It was indeed no more, if human breath
Could make or mar it.
Mar. Yet full many a dame,
Stainless and faithful, would feel all the wrong
Of such a slander; and less rigid ladies,
Such as abound in Venice, would be loud
And all-inexorable in their cry:
For justice.
Ang. This but proves it is the name
And not the quality they prize: the first
Have found it a hard task to hold their honor,
If they require it to be blazon'd forth;
And those who have not kept it, seek its seeming
As they would look out for an ornament
Of which they feel the want, but not because
They think it so; they live in others' thoughts,
And would seem honest as they must seem fair.
Mar. You have strange thoughts for a patrician
dame.
Ang. And yet they were my father's; with his
name
The sole inheritance he left.
Mar. You want none.
Wife to a prince, the chief of the Republic.
Ang. I should have sought none though a
peasant's bride,
But feel not less the love and gratitude
Due to my father, who bestow'd my hand
Upon his early, tried, and trusted friend,
The Count Val di Marino, now our doge.
Mar. And with that hand did he bestow your
heart?
Ang He did so; or it had not been bestow'd.
Mar. Yet this strange disproportion in your
years,
And, let me add, disparity of tempers,
Might make the world doubt whether such an union
Could make you wisely, permanently happy.
Ang. The world will think with worldings; but my
heart
Has still been in my duties, which are many,
But never difficult.
Mar. And do you love him?
Ang. I love all noble qualities which merit
love, and I loved my father, who first taught me
To single out what we should love in others,
And to subdue all tendency to lend
The best and purest feelings of our nature
To baser passions. He bestow'd my hand
Upon Faliero: he had known him noble,
Brave, generous, rich in all the qualities
Of soldier, citizen, and friend; in all
Such have I found him as my father said.
His faults are those that dwell in the high bosoms
Of men who have commanded: too much pride,
And the deep passions fiercely foster'd by
The uses of patricians, and a life
Spent in the storms of state and war; and also
From the quick sense of honor, which becomes
A duty to a certain sign, a vice
When overstrain'd, and this I fear in him.
And then he has been rash from his youth upwards
Yet temper'd by redeeming nobleness
In such sort, that the wariest of republics
Has lavish'd all its chief employs upon him,
From his first fight to his last embassy,
From which on his return the dukedom met him.
Mar. But previous to this marriage, had your
heart
Ne'er beat for any of the noble youth,
Such as in years had been more meet to match
Beauty like yours? or since have you ne'er seen
One, who, if your fair hand were still to give,
Might now pretend to Loredano's daughter?
Ang. I answer'd your first question when I said
I married.
Mar. And the second?
Ang. Needs no answer.
Mar. I pray your pardon, if I have offended.
Ang. I feel no wrath, but some surprise: I knew
not
That wedded bosoms could permit themselves
To ponder upon what they now might choose, or
Aught save their past choice.
Mar. 'Tis their past choice
That far too often makes them deem they would
Now choose more wisely, could they cancel it.
Ang. It may be so. I knew not of such thoughts.
Mar. Here comes the Doge—shall I retire?
Ang. It may
Be better you should quit me; he seems rapt
In thought.—How pensively he takes his way!
[Exit MARIAFNA.

Enter the DOGE and PIETRO.

Doge. (musing.) There is a certain Philip Calen-
daro
Now in the arsenal, who holds command
Of eighty men, and has great influence
Besides on all the spirits of his comrades:
This man, I hear, is bold and popular,
Sudden and daring, and yet secret; 'twould
Be well that he were won: I needs must hope
That Israel Bertuccio has secured him,
But fain would be—
Pie. My lord, pray pardon me
For breaking in upon your meditation;
The Senator Bertuccio, your kinsman,
Charged me to follow and inquire your pleasure
To fix an hour when he may speak with you.
Doge. At sunset.—Stay a moment—let me see—
Say in the second hour of night. [Exit PIETRO.
Ang. My lord!
Doge. My dearest child, forgive me—why delay
So long approaching me?—I saw you not.
Ang. You were absorb'd in thought, and he who now
Has parted from you might have words of weight
To bear you from the senate.
Doge. From the senate?
Ang. I would not interrupt him in his duty
And theirs.
Doge. The senate’s duty! you mistake;
’Tis we who owe all service to the senate.
Ang. I thought the Duke had held command in
Venice.
Doge. He shall.—But let that pass.—We will be
ound.
How fares it with you? have you been abroad?
The day is overcast, but the calm wave
Favors the gondolier’s light skimming oar;
Or have you held a levee of your friends?
Or has your music made you solitary?
Say—is there aught that you would will within
The little sway now left the Duke? or aught
Of fitting splendor, or of honest pleasure,
Social or lonely, that would glad your heart,
To compensate for many a droll hour, wasted
On an old man oft moved with many cares?
Speak, and ’tis done.
Ang. You’re ever kind to me—
I have nothing to desire, or to request,
Except to see you oftener and calmer.
Doge. Calmer?
Ang. Ay, calmer, my good lord.—Ah, why
Do you still keep apart, and walk alone,
And let such strong emotions stamp your brow,
As not betraying their full import, yet
Disclose too much?
Doge. Disclose too much!—of what?
What is there to disclose?
Ang. A heart so ill
At ease.
Doge. ’Tis nothing, child.—But in the state
You know what daily cares oppress all those
Who govern this precarious commonwealth;
Now suffering from Genoese without,
And malcontents within—’tis this which makes me
More pensive and less tranquil than my wont.
Ang. Yet this existed long before, and never
Till in these late days did I see you thus.
Forgive me; there is something at your heart
More than the mere discharge of public duties,
Which long use and a talent like yours
Have rendered light, nay, a necessity,
To keep your mind from stagnating. ’Tis not
In hostile states, nor perils, thus to shake you;
You, who have stood all storms and never sunk,
And climb’d up to the pinnacle of power
And never fainted by the way, and stand
Upon it, and can look down steadily
Along the depth beneath, and ne’er feel dizzy.
Were Genoa’s galleys riding in the port,
Were civil fury raging in St. Mark’s,
You are not to be wrought on, but would fall,
As you have risen, with an unalter’d brow—
Your feelings now are of a different kind;
Something has stung your pride, not patriotism.
Doge. Pride! Angiolina? Alas! none is left me.
Ang. Yes—the same sin that overthrew the angels,
And of all sins more easily besets
Mortals the nearest to the angelic nature:
The vile are only vain; the great are proud.
Doge. I had the pride of honor, of your honor
Deep at my heart—But let us change the theme.
Ang. Ah no!—As I have ever shared your kind-
ness
In all things else, let me not be shut out
From your distress: were it of public import,
You know I never sought, would never seek
To win a word from you; but feeling now
Your grief is private, it belongs to me
To lighten or divide it. Since the day
When foolish Steno’s ribaldry detected
Unfix’d your quiet, you are greatly changed,
And I would soothe you back to what you were.
Doge. To what I was!—have you heard Steno’s
sentence?
Ang. No.
Doge. A month’s arrest.
Ang. Is it not enough?
Doge. Enough!—yes, for a drunken galley slave
Who, stung by stripes, may murmur at his master;
But not for a deliberate, false, cool villain,
Who stains a lady’s and a prince’s honor
Even on the throne of his authority.
Ang. There seems to me enough in the conviction
Of a patrician guilty of a falsehood:
All other punishment were light unto
His loss of honor.
Doge. Such men have no honor,
They have but their vile lives—and these are spared.
Ang. You would not have him die for this offence?
Doge. Not now.—being still alive, I’d have him
live
Long as he can; he has ceased to merit death;
The guilty saved hath damn’d his hundred judges.
And he is pure, for now his crime is theirs.
Ang. Oh! had this false and flippant libeller
Shed his young blood for his absurd lampoon,
Ne’re from that moment could this breast have
knows?
A joyless hour, or dreamless slumber more.
Doge. Does not the law of heaven say blood for
blood?
And he who taints kills more than he who sheds it;
Is it the pain of blows, or shame of blows,
That makes such deadly to the sense of man?
Do not the laws of man say blood for honor?
And, less than honor, for a little gold?
Say not the laws of nations blood for treason?
Is’t nothing to have fill’d these veins with poison
For their once healthful current? is it nothing
To have stain’d your name and mine—the, noblest
names?
Is’t nothing to have brought into contempt
A prince before his people? to have fail’d
In the respect accorded by mankind?
To youth in woman, and old age in man?
To virtue in your sex, and dignity
In ours?—but let them look to it who have saved
Ang. Heaven bids us to forgive our enemies.
Doge. Doth Heaven forgive her own? Is Satan
saved
From wrath eternal?
Ang. Do not speak thus wildly—
Heaven will alike forgive you and your foes.
Doge. Amen! May Heaven forgive them!
Ang. And will you?
Doge. Yes, when they are in heaven!
Ang. And not till then?
Doge. What matters my forgiveness? an old man’s.
Wor! out, scorn'd, spurn'd, abused; what matters then?
My pardon more than my resentment, both
Being weak and worthless? I have lived too long,—
But let us change the argument.—My child,
My injured wife, the child of Loredano,
The brave, the chivalrous, how little deem'd
Thy father, wedding thee unto his friend,
'That he was linking thee to shame?—Alas!
Shame without sin, for thou art faultless! Hadst thou
But had a different husband, any husband
In Venice save the Doge, this blight, this brand,
This blasphemy had never fallen upon thee.
So young, so beautiful, so good, so pure,
To suffer this, and yet be unavenged!
Ang. I am too well avenged, for you still love me,
And trust, and honor me; and all men know
That you are just, and I am true: what more
Could I require, or you command?
Doge. 'Tis well,
And may be better; but whate'er betide,
Be thou at least kind to my memory.
Ang. Why speak you thus?
Doge. It is no matter why:
But I would still, whatever others think,
Have your respect both now and in my grave.
Ang. Why should you doubt it? has it ever fail'd?
Doge. Come hither, child; I would a word with you.
Your father was my friend; unequal fortune
Made him my debtor for some courtesies
Which bind the good more firmly: when, oppress
With his last malady, he will'd our union,
It was not to repay me, long repaid
Before by his great loyalty in friendship;
His object was to place your orphan beauty
In honorable safety from the perils,
Which, in this scorpion nest of vice, assail
A lonely and undower'd maid. I did not
Think with him, but would not oppose the thought
Which soothed his death-bed.
Ang. I have not forgotten
The nobleness with which you bade me speak
If my young heart held any preference
Which would have made me happier; nor your offer
To make my dowry equal to the rank
Of ought in Venice, andforego all claim
My father's last injunction gave you.
Doge. Thus,
'Twas not a foolish dotard's vile caprice,
Nor the false edge of aged appetite,
Which made me covetous of girlish beauty,
And a young bride: for in my fiercest youth
I swayed such passions; nor was this my age
Infected with that leprosy of lust
Which taints the hoariest years of veteran men,
Making them ransack to the very last
The dregs of pleasure for their vanished joys;
Or buy in selfish marriage some young victim,
Too helpless to refuse a state that's honest,
Too feeling not to know herself a wretch.
Our wedlock was not of this sort; you had
Freedom from me to choose; and urged in answer
Your father's choice.
Ang. I did so; I would so do
In face of earth and heaven; for I have never
Repealed for my sake; sometimes for yours,
In pondering o'er your late disquietudes.

Doge. I knew my heart would never treat you harshly;
I knew my days could not disturb you long;
And then the daughter of my earliest friend,
His worthy daughter, free to choose again,
Wealthier and wiser, in the ripest bloom
Of womanhood, more skilful to select
By passing these probationary years,
Inheriting a prince's name and riches,
Secured, by the short penance of enduring
An old man for some summers, against all
That law's chicanes or envious kinsmen might
Have urged against her right; my best friend's child
Would choose more fitly in respect of years,
And not less truly in a faithful heart.
Ang. My lord, I look'd but to my father's wishes.
Hallow'd by his last words, and to my heart
For doing all its duties, and replying
With faith to him with whom I was affianced.
Ambitious hopes ne'er cross'd my dreams; and should
The hour you speak of come, it will be seen so.
Doge. I do believe you; and I know you true:
For love, romantic love, which in my youth
I knew to be illusion, and ne'er saw
Lasting, but often fatal, it had been
No lure for me, in my most passionate days,
And could not be so now, did such exist.
But such respect, and mildly paid regard
As a true feeling for your welfare, and
A free compliance with all honest wishes
A kindness to your virtues, watchfulness
Not shown, but shadowing o'er such little failings
As youth is apt in, so as not to check
Rashly, but win you from them ere you knew
You had been won, but thought the change you chose,
A pride not in your beauty, but your conduct,—
A trust in you—a patriarchal love,
And not a doting homage—friendship, faith—
Such estimation in your eyes as these
Might claim, I hoped for.
Ang. And have ever had.
Doge. I think so. For the difference in our years
You knew it, choosing me, and chose: I trusted
Not to my qualities, nor would have faith
In such, nor outward ornaments of nature,
Were I still in my five and twentieth spring;
I trusted to the blood of Loredano
Pure in your veins; I trusted to the soul
God gave you—to the truths your father taught you—
To your belief in heaven—to your mild virtues—
To your own faith and honor, for my own.
Ang. You have done well.—I thank you for that trust,
Which I have never for one moment ceased
To honor you the more for.
Doge. Where is honor,
Innate and precept-strengthen'd, 'tis the rock
Of faith consumm'd: where it is not—where
Light thoughts are lurking, or the vanities
Of worldly pleasure rankle in the heart,
Or sensual throbs convulse it, well I know
'Twere hopeless for humanity to dream
Of honesty in such infected blood.
Although 'twere wed to him it covets most:
An incarnation of the poet's god
In all his marble-chisell'd beauty, or
The demi-deity Alcides, in
His majesty of superhuman manhood,
Would not suffice to bind where virtue is not;
It is consistency which forms and proves it:
Vice cannot fix, and virtue cannot change.
The once full'rn woman must for ever full;
For vice must have variety, while virtue
Stands like the sun, and all which rolls around
Drinks life, and light, and glory from her aspect.
Ang. And seeing feeling thus this truth in
others,
I pray you pardon me;) but wherefore yield you
To the most fierce of fatal passions, and
Blow your great thoughts with restless hate
Of such a thing as Steno?
Doge. You mistake me
It is not Steno who could move me thus;
Had it been so, he should—but let that pass.
Ang. What is't you feel so deeply, then, even
now?
Doge. The violated majesty of Venice,
At once insulted in her lord and laws.
Ang. Alas! why will you thus consider it?
Doge. I have thought on't till—but let me lead
you back.
To what I urged: all these things being noted,
I wedded you; the world then did me justice
Upon the motive, and my conduct proved
They did me right, while yours was all to praise:
You had all freedom—all respect—all trust
From me and mine; and, born of those who made
Princes at home, and swept kings from their
thrones
On foreign shores, in all these things you appear'd
Worthy to be our first of native dames.
Ang. To what does this conduct?
Doge. To such much—that
A miscreant's angry breath may blast it all—
A villain, whom for his unbroided bearing,
Even in the midst of our great festival,
I caused to be conducted forth, and taught
How to demean himself in ducal chambers;
A wretch like this may leave upon the wall
The blighting venom of his sweltering heart,
And this shall spread itself in general poison;
And woman's innocence, man's honor, pass
Into a by-word; and the doubly felon
(Who first insulted virgin modesty
By a gross affront to your attendant damsel
Amidst the noblest of our dames in public)
Requite himself for his most just expulsion,
By blackening publicly his sovereign's consort,
And be absolved by his upright compeers.
Ang. But he has been condemn'd into captivity.
Doge. For such as him a dungeon were acquital;
And his brief term of mock-arrest will pass
Within a palace. But I've done with him;
The rest must be with you.
Ang. You back. With me, my lord?
Doge. You, Angiolina. Do not marvel; I
Have let this prey upon me till I feel
My life cannot be long; and fate would have you
Regard the injunctions you will find within
This scroll. (Giving her a paper) Fear not; they
are for your advantage:
Read them hereafter at the fitting hour.
Ang. My lord, in life, and after life, you shall
Be honor'd still by me: but may your days
Be many yet—and happier than the present!

This passion will give way, and you will be
Sensible, and what you should be—what you were.
Doge. I will be what I should be, or be nothing.
But never more—oh! never, never more.
O'er the few days or hours which yet await
The blighted old age of Faliero, shall
Sweet Quiet shed her sunset! Never more
Those summer shadows rising from the past
Of a not ill-spent nor inglorious life,
Mellowing the last hours as the night approaches,
Shall soothe me to my moment of long rest.
I had but little more to task, or hope,
Save the regards due to the blood and sweat,
And the soul's labor—among which I had toil'd
To make my country honor'd. As her servant—
Her servant, though her chief—I would have gone
Down to my fathers with a name serene
And pure as theirs; but this has been denied me—
Would I had died at Zara!

Ang. There you saved
The state; then live to save her still. A day,
Another day like that would be the best
Reproof to them, and sole revenge for you.
Doge. But one such day occurs within an age;
My life is little less than one, and 'tis
Enough for Fortune to have granted once,
That which scarce one most favor'd citizen
May win in many states and years. But why
Thus speak I? Venice has forgot that day—
Then why should I remember it?—Farewell,
Sweet Angiolina! I must to my cabinet;
There's much for me to do—and the hour hastens.
Ang. Remember what you were.
Doge. It were in vain!
Joy's recollection is no longer joy,
While Sorrow's memory is a sorrow still.
Ang. At least, what'er may urge, let me implore
That you will take some little pause of rest:
Your sleep for many nights has been so turbid
That it had been relief to have awakened you,
Had I not hoped that Nature would o'erpower
At length the thoughts which shook your slumber;
An hour of rest will give you to your toils
With fitter thoughts and freshen'd strength.
Doge. I cannot—
I must not, if I could; for never was
Such reason to be watchful: yet a few—
Yet a few days and dream-perturbed nights,
And I shall slumber well—but where?—no matter,
Adieu, my Angiolina.
Ang. Let me be
An instant—yet an instant your companion
I cannot bear to leave you thus.
Doge. Come then,
My gentle child—forgive me; thouwert made
For better uses than to share in mine,
Now darkling in their close toward the deep vale
Where Death sits robed in his all-sweeping
shadow.
When I am gone—it may be sooner than
Even these years warrant, for there is that stirring
Within—above—around, that in this city
Will make the cemeteries populous
As o'er they were by pestilence or war—
When I am nothing, let that which I was
Be still sometimes a name on thy sweet lips.
A shadow in thy fancy, of a thing
SCENE II.

A retired Spot near the Arsenal.

ISRAEL BERTUCCIO and PHILIP CALENDARIO.

Cal. How spied you, Israel, in your late complaint?

I. Ber. Why, well.

Cal. Is't possible! will he be punish'd?

I. Ber. Yes.

Cal. With what? a mullet or an arrest?

I. Ber. With death!—

Cal. Now you rave, or must intend revenge, such as I counsel'd you, with your own hand.

I. Ber. Yes; and for one sole draught of hate,

The great redress we meditate for Venice,
And change a life of hope for one of exile;
Leaving one scorpion crush'd, and thousands stinging
My friends, my family, my countrymen!
No, Calendario; these same drops of blood,
Shed shamefully, shall have the whole of his
For their requital—but not only his;
We will not strike for private wrongs alone:
Such are for selfish passions and rash men,
But are unworthy a tyrannicide.

Cal. You have more patience than I care to bestow.

Had I been present when you bore this insult,
I must have slain him, or expired myself
In the vain effort to repress my wrath.

I. Ber. Thank Heaven, you were not—all had else
been marr'd:
As 'tis, our cause looks prosperous still.

Cal. You saw
The Doge—what answer gave he?

I. Ber. That there was
No punishment for such as Barbaro.

Cal. I told you so before, and that 'twas idle
To think of justice from such hands.

I. Ber. At least,
It lul'd suspicion, showing confidence.
Had I been silent, not a stab but
Had kept me in his eye, as meditating
A silent, solitary, deep revenge.

Cal. But wherefore not address you to the Council?

The Doge is a mere puppet, who can scarce
Obtain right for himself. Why speak to him?

I. Ber. You shall know that hereafter.

Cal. Forego
Why not now?

I. Ber. Be patient but till midnight. Get your
musters,
And bid your friends prepare their companies:
Set all in readiness to strike the blow,
Perhaps in a few hours; we have long waited
For a fit time—that hour is on the dial,
It may be, of to-morrow's sun; delay
Beyond may breed us double danger. See
That all be punctual at our place of meeting,
And arm'd, excepting those of the Sixteen,
Who will remain among the troops to wait

The signal.

Cal. These brave words have breathed new life
Into my veins; I am sick of these protracted
And hesitating councils: day on day
Crawl'd on, and added but another link
To our long fetters, and some fresher wrong
Inflicted on our brethren or ourselves,
Helping to swell our tyrants' bloated strength
Let us but deal upon them, and I care not
For the result, which must be death or freedom!
I'm weary to the heart of finding neither.

I. Ber. We will be free in life or death! the grapple
Is chainless. Have you all the musters ready?
And are the sixteen companies completed
to sixty?

Cal. All save two, in which there are
Twenty-five wanting to make up the number.

I. Ber. No matter; we can do without. Whose are
they?

Cal. Bertram's and old Soranzo's, both of whom
Appear less forward in the cause than we are.

I. Ber. Your fiery nature makes you deem all those
Who are not restless, cold: but there exists
Oft in concentrated spirits not less daring
Than in more loud avengers. Do not doubt them.

Cal. I do not doubt the elder; but in Bertram
There is a hesitating softness, fatal
To enterprise like ours: I've seen that man
Weep like an infant o'er the misery
Of others, heedless of his own, though greater;
And in a recent quarrel I beheld him
Turn sick at sight of blood, although a villain's.

I. Ber. The truly brave are soft of heart and eyes,
And feel for what their duty bids them do.
I have known Bertram long; there doth not breathe
A soul more full of honor.

Cal. It may be so:
I apprehend less treachery than weakness;
Yet as he has no mistress, and no wife,
To work upon his milkiness of spirit,
He may go through the ordeal; it is well
He is an orphan, friendless save in us:
A woman or a child had made him less
Than other in resolve.

I. Ber. Such ties are not
For those who are call'd to the high destinies
Which purify corrupted commonwealths:
We must forget all feelings save the one—
We must resign all passions save our purpose—
We must behold no object save our country—
And only look on death as beautiful,
So that the sacrifice ascend to heaven
And draw down freedom on her evermore.

Cal. But if we fail—

I. Ber. They never fall who die
In a great cause: the block may soak their gore;
Their heads may sodden in the sun; their limbs
Be strung to city gates and castle walls—
But still their spirit walks abroad. Though years
Elapse, and others share as dark a doom,
They but augment the deep and sweeping thoughts
Which overpower all others, and conduct
The world at last to freedom: What were we,
If Brutus had not lived? He died in giving
Rome liberty, but left a deathless lesson—
A name which is a virtue, and a soul
Which multiplies itself thoughtout all time,
When wicked men wax mighty, and a state
Turns servile: he and his high friend were styled
BYRON'S WORKS.

'The last of Romans!' Let us be the first Of true Venetians, sprung from Roman sires.

Cal. Our fathers did not fly from Attila Into these isles, where palaces have sprung On banks redeem'd from the rude ocean's ooze, To own a thousand despot's in his place.

Better bow down before the Hun, and call A Tartar lord, than these swolu silkworms masters! The first at least was man, and used his sword
As sceptre: these unmanly creeping things Command our swords, and rule them with a word As with a spell.

I. Ber. It shall be broken soon. You say that all things are in readiness; To-day I have not been the usual round, And why thou knowest; but thy vigilance Will better have supplied my care: these orders In recent council to redouble now Our efforts to repair the galleys, have Lent a fair color to the introduction Of many of our cause into the arsenal, As new artificers for their equipment, Or fresh recruits obtain'd in haste to man The hoped-for fleet.—Are all supplied with arms?

Cal. All who were deem'd trustworthy: there are some Whom it were well to keep in ignorance Till it be time to strike, and then supply them: When in the heat and hurry of the hour They have no opportunity to pause, But needs must on with those who will surround them.

I. Ber. You have said well. Have you remark'd all such?

Cal. I've noted most; and caused the other chiefs To use like caution with their companies. As far as I have seen, we are enough To make the enterprise secure, if 'tis commenced to-morrow; but, till 'tis begun, Each hour is pregnant with a thousand perils.

I. Ber. Let the Sixteen meet at the wonted hour, Except Soranzo, Nicoletto Blondo, And Marco Giuda, who will keep their watch Within the arsenal, and hold all ready, Expectant of the signal we will fix on.

Cal. We will not fail.

I. Ber. Let all the rest be there; I have a stranger to present to them.

Cal. A stranger! doth he know the secret?

I. Ber. Yes.

Cal. And have you dared to peril your friends' lives On a rash confidence in one we know not?

I. Ber. I have risk'd no man's life except myself— Of that be certain: he is one who may Make our assurance doubly sure, according His aid; and if reluctant, he no less Is in our power: he comes alone with me, And cannot escape us; but he will not swerve.

Cal. I cannot judge of this until I know him: Is he one of our order?

I. Ber. Ay, in spirit, Although a child of greatness; he is one Who would become a throne, or overthrow one— One who has done great deeds, and seen great changes;

No tyrant, though bred up to tyranny; Valiant in war, and sage in council; noble In nature, although haughty; quick, though wary; Yet for all this, so full of certain passions, That if once stir'd and baffled, as he has been Upon the tenderest points, there is no Fury In Grecian story like to that which wrings His vitals with her burning hands, till he Grows capable of all things for revenge; And add too, that his mind is liberal,

He sees and feels the people are oppress'd, And shares their sufferings. Take him all in all, We have need of such, and such have need of us.

Cal. And what part would you have him take with us?

I. Ber. It may be, that of chief.

Cal. What; and resign Your own command as leader?

I. Ber. Even so. My object is to make your cause end well, And not to push myself to power. Experience, Some skill, and your own choice, had mark'd me out To act in trust as your commander, till Some worthier should appear: if I have found such As you yourselves shall own more worthy, think you That I would hesitate from selfishness, And, covetous of brief authority, Stake our deep interest on my single thoughts, Rather than yield to one above me in All leading qualities? No, Calendario, Know your friend better; but you all shall judge— Away! and let us meet at the fix'd hour.

Be vigilant, and all will yet go well.

Cal. Worthy Bertuccio, I have known you ever Trusty and brave, with head and heart to plan What I have still been prompt to execute For my own part, I seek no other chief; What the rest will decide I know not, but I am with you, as I have ever been, In all our undertakings. Now farewell, Until the hour of midnight sees us meet. [Exeunt]

ACT III.

SCENE I.

Scene, the Space between the Canal and the Church of San Giovanni e San Paolo. An equestrian Statue before it.—A Gondola lies in the Canal at some distance.

Enter the Doge alone, disguised.

Doge, (solus.) I am before the hour, the hour whose voice,
Pealing into the arch of night, might strike These palaces with ominous tottering,
And rock their marbles to the corner-stone,
Waking the sleepers from some hideous dream Of indistinct but awful augury
Of that which will befal them. Yes, proud city! Thou must be cleansed of the black blood which makes thee.

A lazaret-house of tyranny: the task Is forced upon me, I have sought it not; And therefore was I punish'd, seeing this Patrician-pestilence spread on and on, Until at length it smote me in my slumbers, And I am tainted, and must wash away The plague-spots in the healing wave. Tall fame
Where sleep my fathers, whose dim statues shadow
The floor which doth divide us from the dead,
Where all the pregnant hearts of our bold blood,
Moulder'd into a mite of ashes, hold
In one shrunken heap, what once made many heroes,
When what is now a handful shook the earth—
Fane of the tutelar saints who guard our house!
Vault where two doges rest—my sire's! who died
The one of toil, the other in the field,
With a long race of other lineal chiefs
And sages, whose great labors, wounds, and state
I have inherited,—let the graves gape,
Fill all thine aisles be peopled with the dead,
And pour from them thy portals to gaze on me!
I call them up, and them and thee to witness
What it hath been which put me to this task—
Their pure high blood, their blazon roll of glories,
Their mighty name dishonor'd all in me,
Not by me, but by the ungrateful nobles
We fought to make our equals, not our lords:—
And chiefly thou, Ordelaf the brave,
Who perish'd in the field, where I since conquer'd,
Battling at Zara, did the hecatombs
Of thine and Venice's foes, there offer'd up
By thy descendant, merit such acquittance?
Spirits! smile down upon me; for my cause
Is yours, in all life now can be of yours,
Your fame, your name, all mingled up in mine,
And in the future fortunes of our race!
Let me but prosper, and I make this city
Free and immortal, and our house's name
Worthy of what you were, now and hereafter!

Enter Israel Beruccio.

I. Ber. Who goes there?

Doge. A friend to Venice.
I. Ber. 'Tis he.

Welcome, my lord,—you are before the time.

Doge. I am ready to proceed to your assembly.
I. Ber. Have with you,—I am proud and pleased to see
Such confident alacrity. Your doubts
Since our last meeting, then, are all dispell'd?

Doge. Not so—but I have set my little left
Of life upon this cast: the die was thrown
When I first listen'd to your treason—Start not!
That is the word: I cannot shape my tongue
To syllable black deeds into smooth names,
Though I be wrought on to commit them. When
I heard you tempt your sovereign, and forborne
To have you dragg'd to prison, I became
Your guilest accomplice: now you may,
If it so please you, do as much by me.
I. Ber. Strange words, my lord, and most unmerited:
I am no spy, and neither are we traitors.

Doge. We see!—no matter—you have earn'd the right
To talk of us.—But to the point.—If this Attempt succeeds, and Venice, render'd free
And flourishing, when we are in our graves,
Conducts her generations to our tombs,
And makes her children with their little hands
Strew flowers o'er their deliverers' ashes then
The consequence will sanctify the deed,
And we shall be like the two Brutt in
The annals of hereafter; but if not,
If we should fail, employing bloody means
And secret plot, although to a good end,
Still we are traitors, honest Israel:—thou
No less than he who was thy sovereign
Six hours ago, and now thy brother rebel.

I. Ber. 'Tis not the moment to consider thus,
Else I could answer.—Let us to the meeting,
Or we may be observed in lingering here.

Doge. We are observed, and have been.
I. Ber. We observed
Let me discover—and this steel—

Doge. Put up.
Here are no human witnesses: look there—
What see you?
I. Ber. Only a tall warrior's statue
Bestriding a proud steed, in the dim light
Of the dull moon.

Doge. That warrior was the sire
Of my sire's fathers, and that statue was
Decreed to him by the twice rescued city:—
Think you that he looks down on us or no?
I. Ber. My lord, these are mere phantasties; there are
No eyes in marble.

Doge. But there are in Death.
I tell thee man, there is a spirit in
Such things that acts and sees, unseen, though felt.
And, if there be a spell to stir the dead,
'Tis in such deeds as we are now upon.
Deem'st thou the souls of such a race as mine
Can rest, when he, their last descendant chief,
Stands plotting on the brink of their pure graves
With stung plebeians?

I. Ber. It had been as well
To have ponder'd this before,—are you embark'd
In our great enterprise.—Do you repent?

Doge. No—but I feel, and shall do to the last
I cannot quench a glorious life at once,
Nor dwindle to the thing I now must be,
And take men's lives by stealth, without some pause:
Yet doubt me not; it is this very feeling,
And knowing what has wrung me to be thus,
Which is your best security. There's not
A roused mechanics in your busy plot
So wrong'd as I, so fall'n, so loudly call'd
To his redress: the very means I am forced
By these fell tyrants to adopt is such,
That I abhor them doubly for the deeds
Which I must do to pay them back for theirs.
I. Ber. Let us away—hark—the hour strikes
Doge. On—on
It is our knell, or that of Venice—On.
I. Ber. Say rather, 'tis her freedom's rising pezi
Of triumph—This way—we are near the place.

SCENE II.

The House where the Conspirators meet.

DAGOLINO, DOGR, BERTRAM, FEDELE TREVISANO,
CaLendaro, Antonio delle BenDe, &c., &c.

Cal. (entering.) Are all here?

Dag. All with you; except the three
On duty, and our leader Israel,
Who is expected momentarily.

Cal. Where's Bertram?
Ber. Here?

Cal. Have you not been able to complete
The number wanting in your company?
To be of your chief comrades? but no less
I own my natural weakness; I have not
Yet learn’d to think of indiscriminate murder
Without some sense of shuddering; and the sight
Of blood which spouts through hoary scalps is not
To me a thing of triumph, nor the death
Of men surprised a glory. Well—too well
I know that we must do such things on those
Whose acts have raised up such avengers; but
If there were some of these who could be saved
From out this sweeping fate, for our own sakes
And for our honor, to take off some stain
Of meanness, which else pollutes it wholly
I had been glad; and see no cause in this
For snore, nor for suspicion!

Dog.
Calm thee, Bertram; For we suspect thee not, and take good heart.
It is the cause, and not our will, which asks
Such actions from our hands: we’ll wash away
All stains in Freedom’s fountain!

Enter ISAIAH BERTUCCIO, and the DOGE, disguised.

Dog. Welcome, Israel.

Ber. Most welcome.—Brave Bertuccio, thou art late—

Who is this stranger?

Cal. It is time to name him,
Our comrades are even now prepared to greet him
In brotherhood, as I have made it known
That thou wouldst add a brother to our cause
Approved by thee, and thus approved by all,
Such is our trust in all thine actions. Now
Let him unfold himself.

I. Ber. Stranger, step forth!

Ber. No, what is it that thou say’st?

I. Ber. Let them advance and strike at their own bosoms,
Ungrateful suicides! for on our lives
Depend their own, their fortunes, and their hopes.

Dog. Strike!—If I dreaded death, a death more fearful
Than any your rash weapons can inflict.
I should not now be here:—Oh, noble Courage!
The eldest born of Fear, which makes you brave
Against this solitary hoary head!
See the bold chiefs, who would reform a state
And shake down senates, mad with wrath and dread
At sight of one patrician!—Butcher me,
You can; I care not. —Israel, are these men
The mighty hearts you spoke of? look upon them

Cal. Faith! he has shamed us, and deservedly.

Was this your trust in your true Chief Bertuccio,
To turn your swords against him and his guest?
Sheathe them, and hear him.

I. Ber. I disdain to speak.

They might and must have known a heart like mine
Incapable of treachery; and the power
They gave me to adopt all fitting means
To further their design was ne’er abused.
They might be certain that who’er was brought
By me into this council had been led
To take his choice—as brother, or as victim.

_Doge._ And which am I to be? your actions leave
Some cause to doubt the freedom of the choice.

_I. Ber._ My lord, we would have perished'd here together,
Had these rash men proceeded; but, behold,
They are ashamed of that mad moment's impulse,
And droop their heads; believe me, they are such
As I described them—Speak to them.

_Cal._ Ay, speak; we are all listening in wonder.

_I. Ber. (addressing the conspirators._ You are safe,
Nay, more, almost triumphant—listen, then,
And know my words for truth.

_Doge._ You see me here,
As one of you hast said, an old, unarm'd,
Defenceless man; and yesterday you saw me
Presiding in the hall of ducal state,
Apparent sovereign of our hundred isles,
Robed in official purple, dealing out
The edicts of a power which is not mine,
Nor yours, but of our masters—the patricians.
Why I was there you know or think you know;
Why I am here, he who hath been most wronged,
He who among you hath been most insulted,
Outraged and trodden on, until he doubt
If he be worm or no, may answer for me,
Asking of his own heart what brought him here?
You know my recent story, all men know it,
And judg'd of it far differently from those
Who sat in judgment to heap scorn on scorn.

But spare me the recital—it is here,
Here at my heart the outrage—but my words,
Already said in unavailing plains,
Would only show my feebleness the more,
And I come here to strengthen even the strong,
And urge them on to deeds, and not to war
With woman's weapons; but I need not urge you.
Our private wrongs have sprung from public vices
In this—I cannot call it commonwealth
Nor kingdom, which hath neither prince nor people,
But all the sins of the old Spartan state
Without its virtues—temperance and valor.
The lords of Lacedemon were true soldiers,
But ours are Sybarites, while we are Helots,
Of whom I am the lowest, most enslaved;
Although drift out to head a pageant, as
The Greeks of yore made drunk their slaves to form
A pastime for their children. You are met
To overthrow this monster of a state,
This mockery of a government, this spectre,
Which must be exorcised with blood, and then
We will renew the times of truth and justice,
Condensing in a fair free commonwealth
Not rash equality but equal rights,
Proportion'd like the columns to the temple,
Giving and taking strength reciprocal,
And making firm the whole with grace and beauty,
So that no part could be removed without
Infringement of the general symmetry.
In operating this great change, I claim
To be one of you—if you trust in me;
If not, strike home,—my life is compromised,
And I would rather fall by freemen's hands
Than live another day to act the tyrant,
As delegate of tyrants; such I am not,
And never have been—read it in our annals;
I can appeal to my past government
In many lands and cities; they can, tell you
If I were an oppressor, or a man
Feeling and thinking for my fellow men.
Happy had I been what the senate sought,
A thing of robes and trinkets, dizen'd out
To sit in state as for a sovereign's picture;
A popular scourge, a ready sentence-signer,
A stickler for the Senate and "the Forty,"
A skeptic of all measures which had not
The sanction of "the Ten," a council-fawner,
A tool, a fool, a puppet,—they had ne'er
Foster'd the wretch who stung me. What I suffer
Has reach'd me through my pity for the people;
That many know, and who know not yet
Will one day learn: meantime I do devote,
Whate'er the issue, my last days of life—
My present power such as it is, not that
Of Doge, but of a man who has been great
Before he was degraded to a Doge,
And still has individual means and mind;
I stake my fame (and I had fame)—my breath—
(The least of all, for its last hours are high)—
My heart—my hope—my soul—upon this cast!
Such as I am, I offer you to you
And to your chiefs—accept me or reject me
A prince who fain would be a citizen
Or nothing, and who has left his throne to be so
_Cal._ Long live Faliero!—Venice shall be free!
_Consp._ Long live Faliero!

_I. Ber._ Comrades! did I well?
Is not this man a host in such a cause?

_Doge._ This is no time for eulogies, nor place
For exultation. Am I one of you?

_Cal._ Ay, and the first among us, as thou hast been
Of Venice—be our general and chief.

_Doge._ Chief!—general!—I was general at Zara,
And chief in Rhodes and Cyprus, prince in Venice
I cannot stoop—that is, I am not fit
To lead a band of—patriots; when I lay
Aside the dignities which I have borne,
'Tis not to put on others, but to be
Mate to my fellows—but now to the point:
Israel has stated to me your whole plan—
'Tis bold, but feasible if I assist it,
And must be set in motion instantly.

_Cal._ Even when thou wilt—is it not so, my friends?
I have disposed all for a sudden blow;
When shall it be then?

_Doge._ At sunrise.

_Ber._ So soon?

_Doge._ So soon? so late?—each hour accumulates
Peril on peril, and the more so now
Since I have mingled with you; know you not
The Council, and "the Ten—" the spies, the eyes
Of the patricians dubious of their slaves,
And now more dubious of the prince they had made one?
I tell you you must strike, and suddenly,
Full to the Hydra's heart,—its heads will follow.

_Cal._ With all my soul and sword I yield assent.
Our companies are ready, sixty each,
And all now under arms by Israel's order;
Each at their different place of rendezvous,
And vigilant, expectant of some blow;
Let each repair for action to his post
And now, my lord, the signal?

_Doge._ When you hear
The great bell of St. Mark's, which may not be
Struck without special order of the Doge,
(To whom, without special privilege they leave their prince,) March on Saint Mark's!
I. Ber. And there—
Doge. By different routes.
Let your march be directed, every sixty
Entering a separate avenue, and still
Upon the way let your cry be of war
And of the Genoese fleet, by the first dawn
Discern'd before the port; form round the palace,
Within whose court will be drawn out in arms
My nephew and the clients of our house,
Many and martial; while the bell tolls on,
Shout ye, "Saint Mark!—the foe is on our waters!"
Cal. I see it now—but on, my noble lord.

Doge. All the patricians flocking to the Council,
(Which they dare not refuse, at the dread signal
Pealing from out their patron saint's proud tower,) Will then be gather'd in unto the harvest,
And we will reap them with the sword for sickle.
If some few should be tardy or absent them,
'Twill be but to be taken faint and single,
When the majority are put to rest.
Cal. Would that the hour were come! we will not
But kill.
B. Ber. Once more, sir, with your pardon, I
Would now repeat the question which I ask'd
Before Bertuccio added to our cause
This great ally who renders it more sure,
And therefore safer, and as such admits
Some dawn of mercy to a portion of
Our victims—must all perish in this slaughter?
Cal. All who encounter me and mine, be sure,
The mercy they have shown, I show.

Consp. All! all!
Is this a time to talk of pity? when
Have they e'er shown, or felt, or sign'd it?
I. Ber. Bertram,
This false compassion is a folly, and
Injustice to thy comrades and thy cause!
Dost thou not see, that if we single out
Some for escape, they live but to avenge
The fallen? and, how distinguish now the innocent
From out the guilty? all their acts are one—
A single emanation from one body,
Together knit for our oppression! 'Tis
Much that we let their children live; I doubt
If all of these even should be set apart.
The hunter may reserve some single cub
From out the tiger's litter, but who'er
Would seek to save the spotted sire or dam,
Unless to perish by their fangs? however,
I will abide by Doge Faliero's counsel:
Let him decide if any should be saved
Doge. Ask me not—tempt me not with such a
question—
Decide yourselves.
I. Ber. You know their private virtues
Far better than we can, to whom alone
Their public vices, and most foul oppression,
Have made them deadly; if there be among them
One who deserves to be repeal'd, pronounce
Doge. Dolfino's father was my friend, and Lando
Fought by my side, and Marc Cornaro shared
My Genoese embassy: I saved the life
Of Veniero—shall I save it twice?
Would that I could save them and Venice also!

All these men, or their fathers, were my friends
Till they became my subjects; then fell from me
As faithless leaves drop from the o'erblown flower,
And left me a lone blighted thorny stall,
Which, in its solitude, can shelter nothing;
So, as they let me wither, let them perish!

Cal. They cannot coexist with Venice' freedom
Doge. Ye, though you know and feel our mutua
mass
Of many wrongs, even ye are ignorant
What fatal poison to the springs of life,
To human ties, and all that's good and dear.
Lurks in the present institutes of Venice:
All these men were my friends: I loved them, they
Requested honorably my regards;
We served and fought; we smiled and wept in
concert;
We revell'd or we sorrow'd side by side;
We made alliances of blood and marriage;
We grew in years and honors fairly, till
Their own desire, not my ambition, made
Them choose me for their prince, and then farewell!
Farewell all social memory! all thoughts
In common! and sweet bonds which link old friends

When the survivors of long years and actions.
Which now belong to history, soothe the days
Which yet remain by treasuring each other,
And never meet, but each beholds the mirror
Of half a century on his brother's brow,
And sees a hundred beings, now in earth
Plit round them whispering of the days gone by,
And seeming not all dead, as long as two
Of the brave, joyous, reckless, glorious boys,
Which once were one and many, still reta
A breath to sigh for them, a tongue to speak
Of deeds that else were silent, save on m.nole.
Ome! Ome! and must I do this deed?
I. Ber. My lord, you are much moved: it is not
now
That such things must be dwelt upon.
Doge. Your patience
A moment—I recede not: mark with me
The gloomy vices of this government.
From the hour that made me Doge, the Doge they
made me—
Farewell the past! I died to all that had been,
Oh these they were my friends: no friends, no kindness,
No privacy of life—all were cut off:
They came not near me, such approach gave
wrang.
They could not love me, such was not the law;
They thwarted me, 'twas the state's policy;
They baffled me, 'twas a patrician's duty;
They wrong'd me, for such was to right the state;
They could not right me, that would give suspicion.
So that I was a slave to my own subjects;
So that I was a foe to my own friends;
Begirt with spies for guards—with robes for power—
With pomp for freedom—gauders for a council—
Inquisitors for friends—and hell for life!
I had one only fount of quiet left,
And that they poisoned! My pure household gods
Were shiver'd on my heart, and o'er their shrine
Sad grinning Ribaldry and sneering Scorn.
I. Ber. You have been deeply wrong'd, and now
shall be
Nobly avenged before another night.
Doge. I had borne all—it hurt me, but I bore it—
ill! this last running over of the cup
Of bitterness—until this last loud insult,
Not only unredress'd, but sanction'd; then,
And thus, I cast all further feelings from me—
The feelings which they crush'd for me, long, long
Before, even in their oath of false allegiance!
Even in that very hour and vow, they abjured
Their friend and made a sovereign, as boys make
Playthings, to do their pleasure and be broken!
I from that hour have seen but senators
In dark suspicious conflict with the Doge,
Bringing with him in mutual hate and fear;
They dreading he should snatch the tyranny
From out their grasp, and he abhorring tyrants.
To me, then, these men have no private life,
Nor claim to ties they have cut off from others,
As senators for arbitrary acts
Amenable, I look on them—as such
Lest them be dealt upon.
Cal. And now to action! Hence, brethern, to our posts, and may this be
The last night of mere words: I'd fain be doing!
Saint Mark's great bell at dawn shall find me wakeful!
I. Ber. Disperse then to your posts: be firm and vigilant;
Think on the wrongs we bear, the rights we claim.
This day and night shall be the last of peril!
Watch for the signal, and then march.
I go to join my band; let each be prompt to marshal
His separate charge: the Doge will now return
To the palace to prepare all for the blow,
We part to meet in freedom and in glory!
Cal. Doge, when I greet you next, my homage to you
Shall be the head of Steno on this sword!
Doge. No; let him be reserved unto the last,
Nor turn aside to strike at such a prey,
Till nobler game is quarr'd: his offence
Was a mere ebullition of the vice,
The general corruption generated
By the foul aristocracy; he could not—
He dared not in more honorable days
Have risk'd it! I have merged all private wrath
Against him in the thought of our great purpose.
A slave insults me—I require his punishment
From his proud master's hands; if he refuse it,
The offence grows his, and let him answer it.
Cal. Yet, as the immediate cause of the alliance
Which consecrates our undertaking more,
I owe him such deep gratitude, that fain
I would repay him as he merits; may I?
Doge. You would but lol the hand, and I the head;
You would but smite the scholar, I the master;
You would but punish Steno, I the senate.
I cannot pause on individual hate,
In the absorbing, sweeping, whole revenge,
Which, like the shrieking fire from heaven, must blast
Without distinction, as it fell of yore,
Where the Dead Sea hath quench'd two cities' ashes.
I. Ber. Away, then, to your posts! I but remain
A mement to accompany the Doge
To our late place of tryst, to see no spies
Have been upon the scout, and thence I hasten
To where my allotted band is under arms.
Cal. Farewell, then, until dawn!
I. Ber. Success go with you!
Consul. We will not fail!—away! My lord, farewell!
Bertuccio, and retire, headed by Philip
Calendario. The Doge and Israel Bertuccio remain.
I. Ber. We have them in the toil—it cannot fail!
Now thou'lt indeed a sovereign, and wilt make
A name immortal greater than the greatest:
Free citizens have struck at kings ere now;
Caesars have fallen, and even patrician hands
Have crush'd dictators, as the popular steel
Has reach'd patricians; but until this hour,
What prince has plotted for his people's freedom?
Or risk'd a life to liberate his subjects?
For ever, and for ever, they conspire
Against the people, to abuse their hands
To chains, but laid aside to carry weapons
Against the fellow nations, so that yoke
On yoke, and slavery and death may whet,
Not glut, the never-gorged Leviathan!
Now, my lord, to our enterprise; 'tis great,
And greater the reward; why stand you raft?
A moment back, and you were all impatient!
Doge. And it is then decided! must they die?
I. Ber. Who?
Doge. My own friends by blood and courtesy
And many deeds and days—the senators.
I. Ber. You pass'd their sentence, and it is a just
one.
Doge. Ay, so it seems; and so it is to you;
You are a patriot, a plebeian Gracchus—
The rebel's oracle, the people's tribune—
I blame you not, you act in your vocation;
They smote you, and oppress'd you, and despised you;
So they have me; but you ne'er spake with them;
You never broke their bread, nor shared their salt;
You never had their wine-cup at your lips;
You grew not up with them, nor laugh'd, nor wept;
Nor held a revel in their company;
Ne'er smiled to see them smile, nor claim'd their smile
In social interchange for yours, nor trusted
Nor wore them in your heart of hearts, as I have:
These hairs of mine are gray, and so are theirs,
The elders of the council: I remember
When all our locks were like the raven's wing,
As we went forth to take our prey around
The isles wrung from the false Mahometan;
And I can see them dabbled o'er with blood!
Each stab to them will seem my suicide.
I. Ber. Doge! Doge! this vacillation is unworthy
A child; if you are not in second childhood,
Call back your nerves to your own purpose, nor
Thus shame yourself and me. By heavens! I'd rather
Forego even now, or fall in our intent,
Than see the man I venerate subside
From high resolves into such shallow weakness!
You have seen blood in battle, shed it, both
Your own and that of others; can you shrink then
From a few drops from veins of hoary vampires.
Who but give back what they have drain'd from millions?
Doge. Bear with me! Step by step, and blow on blow
I will divide with you; think not I waver:
Ah! no; it is the certainty of all
Which I must do: but make me tremble thus.
But let these last and lingering thoughts have way
To which you only and the Night are conscious,
And both regardless; when the hour arrives

The conspirators salute the Doge and Israel.
"Tis mine to sound the knell, and strike the blow,
Which shall unpeople many palaces,
And hew the highest genealogic trees
Down to the earth, strew'd with their bleeding fruit,
And crush their blossoms into barrenness:
This will I—must I—have I sworn to do,
Nor aught can turn me from my destiny;
But still I quiver to behold what I
Must be, and think what I have been! Bear with me.

I. Ber. Re-man your breast; I feel no such
remorse,
I understand it not: why should I change?
You acted, and you act on your free will.

Doge. Ay, there it is—you feel not, nor do I,
Else I should stab thee on the spot, to save
A thousand lives, and, killing, do no murder;
You feel not—you go to this butcher-work
As if these high-born men were steers for shambles!
When all is over, you'll be free and merry,
And calmly wash those hands incarnadine;
But I, outgoing thee and all thy fellows
In this surpassing massacre, shall be,
Shall see and feel—oh God! oh God! 'tis true
And thou dost well to answer that it was
"My own free will and act," and yet you err,
For I will do this! Doubt not—fear I
Will be your most unmerciful accomplice!
And yet I act no more on my free will,
Nor my own feelings—both compel me back;
But there is hell within me and around,
And like the demon who believes and trembles
Must I abhor and do. Away! away!
Get thee unto thy fellows, I will he me
To gather the retainers of our house,
Doubt not, Saint Mark's great bell shall wake all
Venice,
Except her slaughter'd senate: ere the sun
Be broad upon the Adriatic there
Shall be a voice of weeping, which shall drown
The roar of waters in the cry of blood!
I am resolved—come on.

I. Ber. With all my soul!
Keep a firm rem in upon these bursts of passion;
Remember what these men have dealt to thee,
And that this sacrifice will be succeeded
By ages of prosperity and freedom
To this unshackled city: a true tyrant
Would have depopulated empires, nor
Have felt the strange compunction which hath wrung
you
To punish a few traitors to the people!
Trust me, such were a pity more misplaced
Than the late mercy of the state to Steno.

Doge. Man, thou hast struck upon the chord
which jars
All nature from my heart. Hence to our task!

[Exeunt.

ACT IV.

SCENE I.

'Anzzo of the Patrician Lion. Lioni laying aside the mask and cloak which the Venetian Nobles wore in public, attended by a Domestic.

Lioni. I will to rest, right weazy of this reve
The gayest we have held for many moons,
And yet, I know not why, it cheer'd me not;
There came a heaviness across my heart,
Which, in the lightest movement of the dance,
Though eye to eye, and hand in hand united
Even with the lady of my love, oppress'd me,
And through my spirit chill'd my blood, until
A damp like death rose o'er my brow; I strove
To laugh the thought away, but 'twould not be
Through all the music ringing in my ears
A knell was sounding as distinct and clear,
Though low and far, as e'er the Adrian wave
Rose o'er the city's murmur in the night,
Lashing against the outward Lido's bulwark:
So that I left the festival before
It reach'd its zenith, and will woo my pillow
For thoughts more tranquil, or forgetfulness.
Antonio, take my mask and cloak, and light
The lamp within my chamber.

Ant. Command you no refreshment?
Lioni. Nought, save sleep
Which will not be commanded. Let me hope it,

[Exit Antonio.

Though my breast feels too anxious; I will try
Whether the air will calm my spirits: 'ca
A goodly night; the cloudy wind which blew
From the Levant hath crept into its cave,
And the broad moon has brighter'd. What a
stillness!

[ Goes to an open lattice.

And what a contrast with the scene I left,
Where the tall torches gleam, and silver lamps
More pallid gleam along the tapestried walls,
Spread over the reluctant gloom which haunts
Those vast and dimly-latticed galleries.
A dazzling mass of artificial light,
Which show'd all things, but nothing as they were
There Age essaying to recall the past,
After long striving for the hues of youth
At the sad labor of the toilet, and
Full many a glance at the too faithful mirror,
Frankt forth in all the pride of ornament,
Forgot itself, and trusting to the falsehood
Of the ingrateful beams, which show, yet hide,
Believed itself forgotten, and was fool'd.
There Youth, which needed not, nor thought of such
Vain adjuncts, lavish'd its true bloom, and health,
And bridal beauty, in the unwholesome press
Of flash'd and crowded wassailers; and wasted
Its hours of rest in dreaming this was pleasure,
And so shall waste them till the sunrise streams
On sallow cheeks and sunken eyes which should not
Have worn this aspect yet for many a year.
The music, and the banquet, and the wine—
The garlands, the rose odors, and the flowers—
The sparkling eyes, and flashing ornaments—
The white arms and the raven hair—the braids
And bracelets; swanlike bosoms, and the necklace,
An India in itself, yet dazzling not
The eye like what it circled; the thin robes,
Floating like light clouds 'twixt our gaze and heaven;
The many-twinkling feet so small and sylphlike,
Suggesting the more secret symmetry
Of the fair forms which terminate so well—
All the delusion of the dazy scene.
MARINO FALIERO, DOGE OF VENICE.

Its false and true enchantments—art and nature,
Which swarm before my giddy eyes, that drank
The sight of beauty as the parch'd pilgrim's
On Arab sands the false mirage, which offers
A lucid lake to his eluded thirst,
Are gone.—Around me are the stars and waters—
Words mock'd in the ocean, goodlier sight
Than torches glare'd back by a gaudy glass;
And the great element, which is to space
What ocean is to earth, spreads its blue depths,
Soften'd with the first breathings of the spriug;
The high moon sails upon her beauteous way,
Serenely smoothing o'er the lofty walls
Of those tall piles and sea-girt palaces,
Whose porphyry pillars, and whose costly fronts,
Fraught with the orient spoil of many marbles,
Like altars ranged along the broad canal,
Seem each a trophy of some mighty deed
Rear'd up from out the waters, scarce less strangely
Than those more massy and mysterious giants
Of architecture, those Titanian fabrics,
Which point in Egypt's plains to times that have
No other record. All is gentie: nought
Stirs rudely; but, congenial with the night,
Whatever walks is gliding like a spirit.
The tinklings of some vigilant guitars
Of sleepless lovers to a wakeful mistress,
And cautious opening of the casement, showing
That he is not unheard; while her young hand,
Fair as the moonlight of which it seems a part,
So delicately, it trembles in
The act of opening the forbidden lattice,
To let in love through bashful means his heart
Thrive like his lyre-strings at the sight;—the dash
Phosphoric of the oar, or rapid twinkle
Of the far lights of skimming gondolas,
And the responsive voices of the choir
Of boatmen answering back with verse for verse;
Some dusky shadow chequer'd the Rialto;
Some glistening palace roof, or tapering spire,
Are all the sights and sounds which here pervade
The ocean-born and earth-commanding city—
How sweet and soothing is this hour of calm!
I thank thee, Night! for thou hast chased away
Those horrid bodesments which, amidst the throng,
I could not dissipate; and with the blessing
Of thy benign and quiet influence,—
Now will I to my couch, although to rest
Is alms: woun'g such a night as this—
[A knocking is heard from without.
Hark! what is that? or who at such a moment?

Enter ANTONIO.

ANT. My lord, a man without, on urgent business,
Implies to be admitted.

BER. Is he a stranger?

ANT. His face is muzzled in his cloak, but both
His voice and gestures seem'd familiar to me;
I craved his name, but this he seem'd reluctant
To trust, save to yourself; most earnestly
He sue's to be permitted to approach you.

LION. 'Tis a strange hour, and a suspicious
bearing!
And yet there is slight peril: 'tis not in
Their houses noblemen are struck at; still,
Although I know not that I have a foe.
In Venice 'twill be wise to use some caution.
Admit him, and retire; but call up quickly
Sons of thy followers, who may wait without.—

Who can this man be?

[Exit ANTONIO, and returns with BERTRAM muzzled.

BER. My good lord Lion,
I have no time to lose, nor thou—dismiss
This menial hence; I would be private with you.

LION. It seems the voice of Bertram—Go, Antony.

Now, stranger, what would you at such an hour?

BER. (discovering himself.) A born, my noble
patron; you have granted
Many to your poor client, Bertram; add
This one, and make him happy.

LION. Thou hast known me
From boyhood, ever ready to assist thee
In all fair objects of advancement, which
Beseen one of thy station; I would promise
Ere thy request was heard, but that the hour,
Thy bearing, and this strange and hurried mode
Of suing, gives me to suspect this visit
Hath some mysterious import—but say on—
What has occurred, some rash and sudden broil?
A cup too much, a scuffle, and a stab?
Mere things of every day; so that thou hast not
Split noble blood, I guarantee thy safety;
But then thou must withdraw, for angry friends
And relatives, in the first burst of vengeance,
Are things in Venice deadlier than the laws.

BER. My lord, I thank you; but—

LION. But what? You have not
Raised a rash hand against one of our order?
If so, withdraw and fly, and own it not;
I would not slay—but then I must not save thee!
He who has shed patrician blood—

BER. I come
to save patrician blood, and not to shed it!
And thereunto I must be speedy, for
Each minute lost may lose a life; since Time
Has changed his slow scythe for the two-edged
sword,
And is about to take, instead of sand,
The dust from sepulchres to fill his hour-glass!—
Go not thus forth to-morrow!

LION. Wherefore not?

BER. What means this menace?

LION. Do not seek its meaning.
But do as I implore thee;—stir not forth,
Whate'er be stirring; through the rear of crowds—
The cry of women, and the shrieks of babes—
The groans of men—the clash of arms—the sound
Of rolling drum, shrill trumpet, and hollow bell,
Peal in one wide alarum!—Go not forth
Until the tocsin's silent, nor even then
Till I return!

LION. Again, what does this mean?

BER. Again, I tell thee, ask not; but by all
Thou holdest dear on earth or heaven—by all
The souls of thy great fathers, and thy hope
To emulate them, and to leave behind
Descendants worthy both of them and thee—
By all thou hast of blest in hope or memory—
By all thou hast to fear here or hereafter—
By all the good deeds thou hast done to me,
Good I would now repay with greater good,
Remain within, trust to thy household gods,
And to my word for safety, if thou dost
As now I counsel—but if not, thou art lost!

LION. I am indeed already lost in wonder;
Surely thou ravest! what have I to dread?
BYRON'S WORKS.

Who are my foes? or if there be such, why
Art thou leagued with them?—thou! or if so leagued,
Why comest thou to tell me at this hour,
And not before?

Ber. I cannot answer this.
Wilt thou go forth in spite of this true warning?

Lioni. I was not born to shrink from idle threats,
The cause of which I know not: at the hour
Of council, be it soon or late, I shall not
Be found among the absent.

Ber. Say not so!

Once more, art thou determined to go forth?

Lioni. I am. Nor is thereught which shall
Impede me!

Ber. Then Heaven have mercy on thy soul!—

Lioni. Stay—there is more in this than my own
Safety
Which makes me call thee back: we must not part

thus.

Bertram, I have known thee long.

Ber. From childhood, signor,
You have been my protector; in the days
Of reckless infancy, when rank forgets,
Or, rather, is not yet taught to remember
Its cold prerogative, we play'd together;
Our sports, our smiles, our tears, were mingled oft;
My father was your father's client, I
His son's scarce less than foster-brother; years
Saw us together—happy, heart-full hours!
Oh God! the difference 'twixt those hours and this!

Lioni. Bertram, 'tis thou who hast forgotten them.

Ber. Nor now, nor ever; whatsoever betide,
I would have saved you: when'to manhood's growth
We sprung, and you, devoted to the state,
As suits your station, the more humble Bertram
Was left unto the labors of the humble,
Still you forsook me not: and if my fortunes
Have not been towering, 'twas no fault of him
Who ofttimes rescued and supported me
When struggling with the tides of circumstance
Which bear away the weaker: noble blood
Ne'er mantled in a nobler heart than thine
Has proved to me, the poor plebeian Bertram.
Would that thy fellow senators were like thee?

Lioni. Why, what hast thou to say against the
Senate?

Ber. Nothing.

Lioni. I know that there are angry spirits
And turbulent mutterers of stifled treason,
Who lurk in narrow places, and walk out
Muffled to whisper curses to the night;
Disbanded soldiers, discontented ruffians,
And desperate libertines who brawl in taverns;

Thou herdest not with such; 'tis true, of late
I have lost sight of thee, but thou wert wont
To lead a temperate life, and break thy bread
With honest mates, and bear a cheerful aspect.
What has come to thee? in thy hollow eye
And bloodshot cheek, and thine unquiet motions,
Sorrow and shame and conscience seem at war
To waste thee.

Ber. Rather shame and sorrow light
On the accursed tyranny which rides
The very air in Venice, and makes men
Madden as in the last hours of the plague
Which sweeps the soul deliriously from life!

Lioni. Some villains have been tampering with
Thee, Bertram:

This is not thy own language nor own thoughts;
Some wretch has made thee drunk with disaffection
But thou must not be lost; thy wretch good
And kind, and art not fit for such base acts
As vice and villany would put thee too:
Confess—confide in me—thou know'st my nature—
What is it thou and thine are bound to do,
Which should prevent thy friend, the only son
Of him who was a friend unto thy father,
So that our good-will is a heritage
We should bequeath to our posterity
Such as ourselves received it, or augmented;
I must, what is it thou must do, that I
Should deem thee dangerous, and keep the house
Like a sick girl?

Ber. Nay, question me no further.

Lioni. I must be gone.

Ber. Who talks of murder? what said I of murder?

'Tis false! I did not utter such a word.

Lioni. Thou didst not; but from out thy wolfish
eye,
So changed from what I knew it, there glares forth
The gladiator. If my life's thine object,
Take it—I am unarmed,—and then away!
I would not hold my breath on such a tenure
As the capricious mercy of such things
As thou and those who have set thee to thy task
work.

Ber. Sooner than spill thy blood, I peril mine;
Sooner than harm a hair of thine, I place
In jeopardy a thousand heads, and some
As noble, nay, even nobler than thine own.

Lioni. Ay, is it even so? Excuse me, Bertram;
I am not worthy to be singled out
From such exalted her-tombs—who are they
That are in danger, and that make the danger?

Ber. Venice, and all that she inherits, are
Divided like a house against itself,
And so will perish ere to-morrow's twilight!

Lioni. More mysteries, and awful ones! But
now,
Or thou, or I, or both, it may be, are
Upon the verge of ruin; speak once out,
And thou art safe and glorious; for 'tis more
Glorious to save than slay, and slay i' the dark

Fie, Bertram! that was not a craft for thee!
How would it look to see upon a spear
The head of him whose heart was open to thee,
Borne by thy hand before the shrieking people,
And such may be my doom; for here I swear,
What'ere the peril or the penalty
Of thy denunciation, I go forth,
Unless thou dost detail the cause, and show
The consequence of all which led thee here.

Ber. Is there no way to save thee? minutes fly,
And thou art lost! thou! my sole benefactor,
The only being who was constant to me
Through every change. Yet, make me not a
traitor!

Let me save thee—but spare my honor!

Lioni. Where
Can lie the honor in a league of murder?
And who are traitors save unto the state?

Ber. A league is still a compact, and more binding
In honest hearts when words must stand for law
And in my mind, there is no traitor like
Him whose domestic treason plants the poniard
With in the breast which trusted to his truth.
Lion. And who will strike the steel to mine?
Ber. Not I;
I could have wound my soul up to all things
Save this. Thou must not die! and think how dear
Thy life is, when I risk so many lives,
Nay, more, the life of lives, the liberty
Of future generations, not to be
The assassin thou miscall'st me;—once, once more
I do adjure thee, pass not o'er thy threshold!
Lion. It is in vain—this moment I go forth.
Ber. Then perish Venice rather than my friend!
I will disclose—unsure—betray—destroy—
Oh, what a villain I become for thee!
Lion. Say, rather thy friends' savior and the
state's—
Speak—pause not—all rewards, all pledges for
Thy safety and thy welfare; wealth such as
The state accords her worthiest servants; nay,
Nobility itself I guarantee thee,
So that thou art sincere and penitent.
Ber. I have thought again: it must not be—
Thou knowest it—that I stand here is the proof,
Not least though last; but having done my duty
By thee, I now must do it to my country!
Farewell—we meet no more in life!—farewell!
Lion. What, ho!—Antonio—Pedro—to the door!
See that none pass—arrest this man!—

Enter Antonio and other armed Domestics, who
seize Bertram.

Lion. (continues.) Take care
He hath no harm; bring me my sword and cloak,
And man the gondola with four oars—quick—

[Exit Antonio.

We will unto Giovannì Gradengio's,
Ad'ed for Marc Carnaro:—fear not, Bertram;
This needful violence is for thy safety,
No less than for the general weal.
Ber. Where wouldst thou
Bear me a prisoner?
Lion. Firstly to the Ten;
Next to the Doge.
Ber. To the Doge?
Lion. Assuredly:
Is he not chief of the state?
Ber. Perhaps at sunrise
Lion. What mean you?—but we'll know anon,
Ber. Art sure?
Lion. Sure as all gentle means can make; and if
They fail, you know "the Ten" and their tribunal,
And that Saint Mark's has dungeons, and the
dungeons
A rack.
Ber. Apply it then before the dawn
Now hastening into heaven.—One more such word,
And you shall perish piecemeal, by the death
You think to doom to me.

Re-enter Antonio.

Ant. The bark is ready,
My lord, and all prepared
Lion. Look to the prisoner.
Bertram, I'll reason with thee as we go
To the Magnifico's, sage Gradengio.

[Exit.
Of blood to crowds begets the thirst of more,  
As the first wine-cup leads to the long revel;  
And you will find a harder task to quell  
Than urge them when they have commenced, but  

That moment a mere voice, a straw, a shadow,  
Are capable of turning them aside.—  
How goes the night?  
Ber. F.  
Almost upon the dawn.  

Doge. Then it is time to strike upon the bell.  
Are the men posted?  
Ber. F.  
By this time they are;  
But they have orders not to strike, until  
They have command from you through me in person.  

Doge. 'Tis well.—Will the morn never put to rest  
These stars which twinkle yet o'er all the heavens?  
I am settled and bound up, and being so,  
The very effort which it cost me to  
Resolve to cleanse this commonwealth with fire,  
Now leaves my mind more steady. I have wept,  
And trembled at the thought of this dread duty,  
But now I have put down all idle passion,  
And look the growing tempest in the face,  
As doth the pilot of an admiral galley:  
Yet (wouldst thou think it, kinman?) it hath been  
A greater struggle to me, than when nations  
Beheld their fate merged in the approaching fight  
Where I was leader of a phalanx, where  
Thousands were sure to perish—Yes, to spill  
The rank polluted current from the veins  
Of a few boastful despots needed more  
To steel me to a purpose such as made  
Timoleon immortal, than to face  
The toils and dangers of a life of war.  
Ber. F. It gladdens me to see your former wisdom  
Subdue the furies which so wrong you are  
You were decided.  

Doge.  
It was ever thus  
With me; the hour of agitation came  
In the first-glimmerings of a purpose, when  
Passion had too much room to sway; but in  
The hour of action I have stood as calm  
As were the dead who lay around me; this  
They knew who made me what I am, and trusted  
To the subduing power which I preserved  
Over my mood, when its first burst was spent.  
But they were not aware that there are things  
Which make revenge a virtue by reflection,  
And not an impulse of mere anger; though  
The laws sleep, justice wakes, and injured souls  
Oft do a public right with private wrong,  
And justify their deeds unto themselves.—  
Methinks the day breaks—is it not so? look,  
Thine eyes are clear with youth;—the air puts on  
A morning freshness, and, at least to me,  
The sea looks grafter through the lattice.  
Ber. F. True,  
The morn is dappling in the sky.  

Doge.  
Away then!  
See that they strike without delay, and with  
The first toll from St. Mark's, march on the palace  
With all our house's strength; here I will meet you—  

The Sixteen and their companies will move  
In separate columns at the self-same moment—  
Be sure you post yourself by the great gate;  
I would not trust "the Ten," except to us—  
The rest, the rabble of patricians, may  

Glut the more careless swords of those leagued  
with us.  
Remember that the cry is still "Saint Mark!  
The Genoese are come—he! to the rescue!  
Saint Mark and liberty!"—Now—now to action.  
Ber. F. Farewell then, noble uncle! we will meet  
In freedom and true sovereignty, or never!  
Doge. Come hither, my Bertuccio—one embrace—  
Speed, for the day grows broader—Send me soon  
A messenger to tell me how all goes  
When you rejoin our troops, and then sound—  

The storm-bell from Saint Mark's!  

[Exit BERTECCIO FALIERO.]  

Doge, (solus.)  
He is gone,  
And on each footstep moves a life.—'Tis done.  
Now the destroying Angel hovers o'er  
Venice, and pauses ere he pours the vial,  
Even as the eagle overlooks his prey,  
And for a moment, poised in middle air,  
Suspends the motion of his mighty wings,  
Then swoops with its unerring beak.—Thou day!  
That slowly walk'st the waters! march—march on—  
I would not smite i' the dark, but rather see  
That no stroke errs. And you, ye kine sea-waves!  
I have seen you dyed ere now, and deeply too,  
With Genoese, Saracen, and Hunnish gore,  
While that of Venice flow'd too, but victorious;  
Now thou must wear an unmix'd crimson; no  
Barbaric blood can reconcile us now  
Unto that horrible incandine,  
But friend or foe will roll in civic slaughter.  
And have I lived to fourscore years for this?  
I, who was named Preserver of the City?  
I, at whose name the million's capes were flung  
Into the air, and cries from tens of thousands  
Rose up, imploring Heaven to send me blessings,  
And fame, and length of days—to see this day?  
But this day, blank within the calendar,  
Shall be succeeded by a bright millennium.  
Doge Dandolo survived to ninety summers  
To vanquish empires, and refuse their crown.  
I will resign a crown, and make the state  
Renew its freedom—but oh! by what means?  
The noble end must justify them.—What  
Are a few drops of human blood? 'tis false,  
The blood of tyrants is not human; they,  
Like to incarnate Molochs, feed on ours  
Until 'tis time to give them to the tombs  
Which they have made so populous.—Oh world!  
Oh men! what are ye, and our best designs,  
That we must work by crime to punish crime?  
And slay as if Death had but this one gate,  
When a few years would make the sword super  
fluous?  
And I, upon the verge of th' unknown realm  
Yet send so many heralds on before me?—  
I must not ponder this.  

[A pause]  

Hark! was there not  
A murmur as of distant voices, and  
The trump of feet in martial unison?  
What phantoms even of sound our wishes raise!  
It cannot be—the signal hath not rung—  
Why pauses it? My nephew's messenger  
Should be upon his way to me, and he  
Himself perhaps even now draws grating back  
Upon its ponderous hinge the steep tower portal,  
Where swings the sullen huge crucial bell,  
Which never knells but for a princely death.
MARINO FALIERO, DOGE OF VENICE. 303

Or for a state in peril, pearing forth
Tremendous bedomens; let it do its office,
And be this peal its awfulllest and last.
Sound till the strong tower rock!—What! silent still?
I would go forth, but that my post is here,
To be the centre of reunion to
The oft discordant elements which form
Leagues of this nature, and to keep compact
The wavering of the weak, in case of conflict;
For if they should do battle, 'twill be here,
Within the palace, that the strife will thicken;
Them here must be my station, as becomes
The master-mover. —Hark! he comes—he comes.
My nephew, brave Bertuccio's messenger.—
What tidings? Is he marching? hath he sped?—
They here! all's lost—yet will I make an effort.

Enter a Signor of the Night, &c. with Guards, &c., &c.

Sig. Doge, I arrest thee of high treason!
Doge. Me! Thy prince, of treason!—Who are they that dare Cloak their own treason under such an order? Sig. (showing his order.) Behold my order from the assembled Ten.

Doge. And where are they, and why assembled? no Such council can be lawful, till the prince Preside there, and that duty's mine: on thine I charge thee, give me way, or marshal me To the council chamber.

Sig. Duke! it may not be; Nor are they in the wond't Hall of Council, But sitting in the convent of Saint Saviour's.

Doge. You dare to disobey me then?

Sig. I serve The state, and needs must serve it faithfully; My warrant is the will of those who rule it.

Doge. And till that warrant has my signature It is illegal, and, as now applied, Rebellious—Hast thou weigh'd well thy life's worth, That thus you dare assume a lawless function? Sig. 'Tis not my office to reply, but act— I am placed here as guard upon thy person, And not as judge to hear or to decide.

Doge, (aside.) I must gain time—So that the storm-bell sound All may be well yet.—Kinsman, speed—speed—speed!—
Our fate is trembling in the balance, and W's to the vanquish'd! be thy prince and people,
O slaves and senate—
[The great bell of St. Mark's tolls.] Lo! it sounds—it tolls.

Doge, (standing.) Hark, Signor of the Night! and you, ye hirelings, Who wield your mercenary staves in fear, It is your knell—Swell on, thou lusty peal! Now, knaves, what ransom for your lives?

Sig. Confusion! Stand to your arms, and guard the door—all's lost Unless that fearful bell be silenced soon.
The officer hath miss'd his path or purpose, Or met some unforseen and hideous obstacle.
Anselmo, with thy company proceed Straight to the tower; the rest remain with me.

[Exit a part of the Guard.

Doge. Wretch! if thou wouldest have thy vile life, implore it.

It is not now a lease of sixty seconds. Ay, send thy miserable ruffians forth; They never shall return.

Sig. So let it be! They die then in their duty, as will I.

Doge. Fool! the high eagle flies at nobler game Than thou and thy base myrmidons,—live on, So thou provok'st not peril by resistance, And learn (if souls so much obscured can bear To gaze upon the sunbeams) to be free.

Sig. And learn thou to be captive—It hath ceased.
[The bell ceases to toll.

The traitorous signal, which was to have set The bloodhound mob on their patrician prey— The knell hath rung, but it is not the senate's.

Doge, (after a pause.) All's silent, and all's lost!

Sig. Now, Doge, denomine me As rebel slave of a revolted council!

Have I not done my duty?

Doge. Peace, thou thing! Thou hast done a worthy deed, and earn'd the price Of blood, and they who use thee will reward thee. But thou wert sent to watch, and not to prate, As thou said'st even now—then do thine office But let it be in silence, as behoves thee, Since, though thy prisoner, I am thy prince.

Sig. I did not mean to fail in the respect Due to your rank: in this I shall obey you.

Doge, (aside.) There now is nothing left me save to die;
And yet how near success! I would have fallen, And proudly, in the hour of triumph, but To miss it thus!—

Enter other Signors of the Night, with Bertuccio Faliero prisoner.

2d. Sig. We took him in the act Of issuing from the tower, where, at his order As delegated from the Doge, the signal Had thus begun to sound.

1st. Sig. Are all the passes Which lead up to the palace well secured?

2d. Sig. They are—besides, it matters not; the chiefs Are all in chains, and some even now on trial— Their followers are dispersed, and many taken.

Ber. F. Uncle!—

Doge. It is in vain to war with Fortune,
The glory hath departed from our house.

Ber. F. Who would have deemed it?—Ah! one moment sooner!

Doge. That moment would have changed the face of ages;

This gives us to eternify—We'll meet it As men whose triumph is not in success, But who can make their own minds all in all, Equal to every fortune. Droop not, 'tis But a brief passage—I would go alone, Yet if they send us, as 'tis like, together Let us go worthy of our sires and selves.

Ber. F. I shall not shame you, uncle.

1st. Sig. Lords, our orders Are to keep guard on both in separate chambers, Until the council call ye to your trial.

Doge. Our trial! will they keep their mockery up. Even to the last? but let them deal upon us, As we had dealt on them, but with less pomp.

'Tis but a game of mutual homicides.

Who have cast lots for the first death, and they
Have won with false dice.—Who hath been our
Judas?
Ist. Sig. I am not warranted to answer that.
Ber. F. I'll answer for thee—'tis a certain
Bertram,
Even now depositing to the secret giunta.
Doge. Bertram, the Bergamask! With what vile

tools
We operate to slay or save! This creature,
Black with a double treason, now will earn
Rewards and honors, and be stamp'd in story
With the geese in the Capitol, which gabbled
Till Horne awoke, and had an annual triumph,
While Manlius, who hurl'd down the Gauls, was
cast
From the Tarpeian.
Ist. Sig. He aspired to treason,
And sought to rule the state.
Doge. He saved the state,
And sought but to reform what he reviv'd—
But this is idle—Come, sirs, do your work.
Ist. Sig. Noble Bertuccio, we must now remove
you
Into an inner chamber.
Ber. F. Farewell, uncle!
If we shall meet again in life I know not,
But they perhaps will let our ashes mingle.
Doge. Yes, and our spirits, which shall yet go
forth,
And do what our frail clay, thus clogg'd, hath
ful'd in!
They cannot quench the memory of those
Who would have hurl'd them from their guilty
thrones,
And such examples will find heirs, though distant.

ACT V.

SCENE I.

The Hall of the Council of Ten assembled with the
additional Senators, who, on the Trials of the
Conspirators for the Treason of Marino Faliero, composed what was called the Giunta.—
Guards, Officers, &c., &c.—Israel Bertuccio
and Philip Calendaro as Prisoners.—Ber-
tram, Lion, and Witnesses, &c.

The Chief of the Ten, BENINTENDE.

Ben. There now rests, after such conviction of
Their manifold and manifest offences,
But to pronounce on these obdurate men
The sentence of the law: a grievous task
To those who hear, and those who speak. Alas!
That it should fall to me! and that my days
Of office should be stigmatised through all
The years of coming time, as bearing record
To this most foul and complicated treason
Against a just and free state, known to all
The earth as being the Christian bulwark 'gainst
The Saracen, and the schismatic Greek;
The savage Hun, and not less barbarous Frak:
A city which has open'd India's wealth
To Europe; the last Roman refuge from
Overwhelming Attila; the Ocean's queen

Proud Genoa's prouder rival. 'Tis to sap
The throne of such a city these lost men
Have risk'd and forfeited their worthless lives—
So let them die the death.
I. Ber. We are prepared;
Your racks have done that for us. Let us die.
Ben. If ye have that to say which would obtain
Abatement of your punishment, the Giunta
Will hear you; if you have sought to confess,
Now is your time, perhaps it may avail ye.
I. Ber. We stand to hear, and not to speak.
Ben. Your crimes
Are fully proved by your accomplices,
And all which circumstance can add to them;
Yet we would hear from your own lips complete
Avowal of your treason: on the verge
Of that dread gulf which none repass, the truth
Alone can profit you on earth or heaven—
Say, then, what was your motive?
I. Ber. Justice!

Ben. What
Your object?
Ben. You are liæf, sir.
I. Ber. So my life grows: I
Was bred a soldier, not a senator.
Ben. Perhaps you think by this blunt brevity
To brave your judges to postpone the sentence?
I. Ber. Do you be brief as I am, and believe me,
I shall prefer that mercy to your pardon.
Ben. Is this your sole reply to the tribunal?
I. Ber. Go, ask your racks what they have wrung
from us,
Or place us there again; we have still some blood
left,
And some slight sense of pain in these wrenched
limbs:
But this ye dare not do; for if we die there—
And you have left us little life to spend
Upon your engines, gorged with pangs already—
Ye lose the public spectacle, with which
Ye would appall your slaves to further slavery!
Groans are not words, nor agony an assent,
Nor affirmation truth, if nature's sense
Should overcome the soul into a lie,
For a short respite—must we bear or die?
Ben. Say, who were your accomplices?
I. Ber. The senate.
Ben. What do you mean?
I. Ber. Ask of the suffering people
Whom your patrician crimes have driven to crime.
Ben. You know the Doge.
I. Ber. I served him at Zara
In the field, when you were pleading here your way
To present office; we exposed our lives,
While you but hazarded the lives of others,
Alike by accusation or defence;
And, for the rest, all Venice knows her Doge,
Through his great actions, and the Senate's insults.
Ben. You have held conference with him?
I. Ber. I am weary,
Even wearier of your questions than your tortures:
I pray you pass to judgment.
Ben. It is coming—
And you, too, Philip Calendaro, what
Have you to say why you should not be doom'd?
Cal. I never was a man of many words,
And now have few left worth the utterance.
Ben. A further application of your engine.
May change your tone. Cal. Most true; it will do so.
A former application did so; but it will not change my words, or, if it did—
Ben. What then?
Cal. Will my avowal on you rack stand good in law?
Ben. Assuredly.
Cal. Whoe'er the culprit be whom I accuse of treason?
Ben. Without doubt, he will be brought up to trial.
Cal. And on this testimony would he perish?
Ben. So your confession be detail'd and full, he will stand here in peril of his life.
Cal. Then look well to thy proud self, President, for by the eternity which yawns before me, I swear that thou, and only thou, shalt be the traitor I denounce upon that rack, if I be stretched there for the second time.
One of the Giants. Lord President, twere best proceed to judgment;
There is no more to be drawn from these men.
The nature of your crime—our law—and peril the state now stands in, leave not an hour's respite—Guards! lead them forth, and upon the balcony of the red columns, where, on festal Thursday, the Doge stands to behold the chase of bulls, let them be justif'd; and leave exposed their wavering relents, in the place of judgment, to the full view of the assembled people—
And heaven have mercy on their souls.
The Giants. Amen!
I. Ber. Signors, farewell! we shall not all again meet in one place.
Ben. And lest they should essay to stir up the distracted multitude—Guards! let their mouths be gagged, even in the act of execution. Lead them hence!
Cal. What! must we not even say farewell to some fond friend, nor leave a last word with our confessor?
Ben. A priest is waiting in the antechamber; but, for your friends, such interviews would be painful to them, and useless all to you.
Cal. I knew that we were gagged in life; at least all those who had not heart to risk their lives upon their open thoughts; but still I deem'd that, in the last few moments, the same idle freedom of speech accorded to the dying, would not now be denied to us; but since—
I. Ber. Even let them have their way, brave Calendario!
What matter a few syllables? let's die without the slightest show of favor from them; so shall our blood more readily arise to heaven against them, and more testify to their atrocities, than could a volume Spoken or written of our dying words? They tremble at our voices—nay, they dread our very silence—let them live in fear!—Leave them unto their thoughts, and let us now address our own above!—Lead on; we are ready. Cal. Israel, hadst thou but hearken'd unto me it had not now been thus; and yon pale villain, the coward Bertram, would—
Ber. Alas! I sain you died in peace with me: I did not seek this task; 'twas forced upon me: Say, you forgive me, though I never can retrieve my own forgiveness—frown not thus!
I. Ber. I die and pardon thee!
Cal. (spitting at him.) I die and scorn thee (Exeunt Israel Bertuccio and Philip Cal. Endaro, Guards, &c. Ben. Now that these criminals have been disposed of, 'Tis time that we proceed to pass our sentence Upon the greatest traitor upon record In any annals, the Doge Faliere! The proofs and process are complete; the time And crime require a quick procedure: shall He now be call'd in to receive the award? The Giunta. Ay, ay.
Ben. The Avogadori, order that the Doge Be brought before the Council.
One of the Giunta. And the rest, When shall they be brought up?
Ben. When all the chiefs have been disposed of. Some have fled to Chiozza but there are thousands in pursuit of them, and such precaution ta'en on terra firma As well as in the islands, that we hope None will escape to utter in strange lands His libellous tale of treason 'gainst the senate.
Enter the Doge as Prisoner, with Guards, &c., &c.
Ben. Doge—for such still you are, and by the law Must be consider'd, till the hour shall come When you must doff the ducal bonnet from that head, which could not wear a crown more noble Than empires can confer, in quiet honor, But it must plot to overthrow your peers, Who made you what you are, and quench in blood A city's glory—we have laid already Before you in your chamber at full length, By the Avogadori, all the proofs Which have appeared against you; and more ample Ne'er rear'd their sanguine shadows to confront a traitor. What have you to say in your defence?
Doge. What shall I say to ye, since my defence must be your condemnation? You are at once offenders and accusers, Judges and executioners!—Proceed Upon your power.
Ben. Your chief accomplices Having confess'd, there is no hope for you. Doge. And who be they?
Ben. The first now stands before you in the court, Bertram, of Bergamo,—would you question him? Doge, (looking at him contemptuously.) No.
Ben. And two others, Israel Bertuccio, and Philip Calendario, have admitted their fellowship in treason with the Doge.
Doge. And where are they?
Ben. Gone to their place, and now answering to Heaven for what they did on earth. Doge. Ah! the plebeian Brutus, is he gone? And the quick Cassius of the arsenal?—How did they meet their doom?
Ben. Think of your own It is approaching. You decline to plead, then?
Doge. I cannot plead to my inferiors, nor
Can recognize your legal power to try me
Show me the law!

Ben. On great emergencies,
The law must be remodell'd or amended:
Our fathers had not fix'd the punishment
Of such a crime, as on the old Roman tables
The sentence against parricide was left
In pure forgetfulness; they could not render
That penal, which had neither name nor thought
In their great bosoms: who would have foreseen
That nature could be filed to such a crime
As sons 'gainst sires, and princes 'gainst their
realms?
Your sin hath made us make a law which will
Become a precedent 'gainst such haughty traitors,
As would with treason mount to tyranny;
Not even contented with a sceptre, till
They can convert it to a two-edged sword!
Was not the place of Doge sufficient for ye?
Where was the signory of Venice?
Doge. The signory of Venice! You betray'd me—
You—you, who sit there, traitors as ye are!
From my equality with you in birth,
And my superiority in action,
You drew me from my honorable toils
In distant lands—on flood—in field—in cities—
You singled me out like a victim to
Stand crown'd, but bound and helpless, at the altar
Where you alone could minister. I knew not—
I sought not—wish'd not—dream'd not the election,
Which reach'd me first at Rome, and I obey'd;
But found on my arrival, that, besides
The jealous vigilance which always led you
To mock and mar your sovereign's best intents,
You had, even in the interregnum of
My journey to the capital, curtail'd
And mutilated the few privileges
Yet left the duke: all this I bore, and would
Have borne, until my very heart was stain'd
By the pollution of your ribaldry,
And he, the ribald, whom I see among you—
Fit judge in such tribunal!
Ben. (interrupting him.) Michel Steno
Is here in virtue of his office, as
One of the Forty; "the Ten" having crave'd
A Giunta of patricians from the senate
To aid our judgment in a trial arduous
And novel as the present: he was set
Free from the penalty pronounced upon him,
Because the Doge, who should protect the law,
Seeking to abrogate all law, can claim
No punishment of others by the statutes
Which he himself denies and violates!

Doge. His punishment! I rather see him there,
Where he now sits, to glut him with my death,
Than in the mockery of castigation,
Which your foul, outward, juggling show of justice
Decreed as sentence! Base as was his crime,
Was purity compar'd with your protection.

Ben. And can it be, that the great Doge of Venice,
With three parts of a century of years
And honors on his head, could thus allow
His fury, like an angry boy's, to master
All feeling, wisdom, faith, and fear; or such
A provocation as a young man's petulance?

Doge. A spark creates the flame—tis the last drop
Which makes the cup run over, and mine was full
Already: you oppress'd the prince and people;
I would have freed both and have fail'd in both:
The price of suc't success would have been glor,
Vengeance, and victory, and such a name
As would have made Venetian history
Rival to that of Greece and Syracuse
When they were freed, and flourish'd ages after,
And mine to Gelon and to Thrasybulus:—
Failing, I know the penalty of failure
Is present infamy and death—the future
Will judge, when Venice is no more or free;
Till then the truth is in abeyance. Pause not;
I would have shown no mercy, and I seek none;
My life is staked upon a mighty hazard,
And, being lost, take what I would have taken:
I would have stood alone amidst your tombs;
Now you may flock round mine, and trample on it,
As you have done upon my heart while living.

Ben. You do confess, then, and admit the justice
Of our tribunal?

Doge. I confess to have fail'd;
Fortune is female: from my youth her favors
Were not withheld; the fault was mine to hope
Her former smiles again at this late hour.

Ben. You do not then in aught arraign our equity?

Doge. Noble Venetians! stir me not with questions.
I am resign'd to the worst; but in me still
Have something of the blood of brighter days,
And am not over-patient. Pray you, spare me
Further interrogation, which boots nothing,
Except to turn a trial to debate.
I shall but answer that which will offend you,
And please your enemies—a host already;
'Tis true, these sullen walls should yield no echo;
But walls have ears—nay, more, they have tongues;
and if
There were no other way for truth to o'erspell them,
You who condemn me, you who fear and slay me,
Yet could not bear in silence to your graves
What you would hear from me of good or evil;
The secret were too mighty for your souls:
Then let it sleep in mine, unless you court
A danger which would double that you escape.
Such my defence would be, had I full scope
To make it famous; for true words are things,
And dying men's are things which long outlive,
And oftentimes avenge them; bury mine,
If ye would fain survive me: take this counsel,
And though too oft ye made me live in wrath,
Let me die calmly; you may grant me this:—
I deny nothing—defend nothing—nothing
I ask of you but silence for myself,
And sentence from the court!

Ben. This full admission
Spare us the harsh necessity of ordering
The torture to elicit the whole truth.

Doge. The torture! you have put me there already
Daily since I was Doge; but if you will
Add the corporeal rack, you may: these limbs
Will yield with age to crushing iron; but
There's that within my heart shall strain your
engines.

Enter an OFFICER.

Officer. Noble Venetians! Duchess Falliero
Requests admission to the Giunta's presence.

Ben. Say, conscript fathers,* shall she be ad
mitted?

One of the Giunta. She may have revelations of
importance
Unto the state, to justify compliance
With her request.

Ben. Is this the general will?

All. It is.

Doge. Oh, admirable laws of Venice! Which would admit the wife, in the full hope That she might testify against the husband. What glory to the chaste Venetian dames! But such blasphemies 'gainst all honor, as Sit here, do well to act in their vocation.

Now, villain Steno! if this woman fail, I'll pardon thee thy lie, and thy escape, And my own violent death, and thy vile life.

The DUCHESS enters.

Ben. Lady! this just tribunal has resolved, Though the request be strange, to grant it, and Whatever be its purport, to accord A patient hearing with the due respect Which fits thy ancestry, thy rank, and virtues: But you turn pale—ho! there, look to the lady! Place a chair instantly.

Ang. A moment's faintness—

Tis past; I pray you pardon me, I sit not In presence of my prince and of my husband, While he is on his feet.

Ben. Your pleasure, lady?

Ang. Strange rumors, but most true, if all I hear And see be sooth, have reach'd me, and I come To know the worst, even at the worst; forgive The abruptness of my entrance and my hearing. Is it—I cannot speak—I cannot shape The question—but you answer it ere spoken, With eyes averted, and with gloomy brows— Oh God! this is the silence of the grave!

Ben. (after a pause.) Spare us, and spare thyself the repetition Of our most awful, but inexorable Duty to heaven and man!

Ang. Yet speak; I cannot—I cannot—no even now believe these things. Is he condemn'd?

Ben. Alas! And was he guilty?

Ben. Lady! the natural distraction of Thy thoughts at such a moment makes the question Merit forgiveness; else a doubt like this Against a just and paramount tribunal Were deep offence. But question even the Doge, And if he can deny the proofs believe him Guiltless as thy own bosom.

Ang. Is it so?

My lord—my sovereign—my poor father's friend— The mighty in the field, the sage in council; Unsay the words of this man!—Thou art silent! Ben. He hath already own'd to his own guilt, Nor, as thou seest, doth he deny it now.

Ang. Ay, but he must not die! Spare his few years, Which grief and shame will soon cut down to days! One day of balled crime must not efface Near sixteen lustres crowded with brave acts.

Ben. His doom must be fulfill'd without remission Of tire or penalty—tis a decree.

Ang. He hath been guilty, but there may be mercy.

Ben. Not in this case with justice.

Ang. Alas! signor, He who is only just is cruel; who

Upon the earth would live were all judged justly?

Ben. His punishment is safety to the state.

Ang. He was a subject, and hath serv'd the state He was your general, and hath saved the state; He is your sovereign, and hath ruled the state

One of the Council. He is a traitor, and betray'd the state.

Ang. And, but for him, there now had been no state To save or to destroy; and you who sit There to pronounce the death of your deliverer, Had now been groaning at a Moslem oar, Or digging in the Hanish mines in fetters!

One of the Council. No, lady, there are others who would die Rather than breathe in slavery!

Ang. If there are so Within these walls, thou art not of the number: The truly brave are generous to the fallen!— Is there no hope?

Ben. Lady, it cannot be.

Ang. (turning to the Doge.) Then die, Faliero since it must be so;

But with the spirit of my father's friend. Thou hast been guilty of a great offence, Half cancelld by the harshness of these men. I would have sued to them—have pray'd to them— Have begg'd as famish'd mendicants for bread— Have wept as they will cry unto their God For mercy, and be answer'd as they answer Had it been fitting for thy name or mine, And if the cruelty in their cold eyes Had not announced the heartless wrath within Then, as a prince, address thee to thy doom!

Doge. I have lived too long not to know how to die!

Thy suing to these men were but the bleating Of the lamb to the butcher, or the cry Of seamen to the surge: I would not take A life eternal, granted at the hands Of wretches, from whose monstrous villainies I sought to free the groaning nations!

M. Steno. A word with thee, and with this noble lady, Whom I have grievously offended. Would Sorrow, or shame, or penance on my part, Could cancel the inexcusable past!

But since that cannot be, as Christians let us Say farewell, and in peace: with full contrition I crave, not pardon, but compassion from you, And give, however weak, my prayers for both.

Ang. Sage Beantene, now chief judge of Venice I speak to thee in answer to your signor.

Inform the ribald Steno, that his words No'er weigh'd in mind with Lorendaz's daughter Further than to create a moment's pity For such as he is: would that others had Despised him as I pity! I prefer My honor to a thousand lives, could such Be multiplied in mine, but would not have A single life of others lost for that Which nothing human can impugn—the sense Of virtue, looking not to what is call'd A good name for reward, but to itself. To me the scorners words were as the wind Unto the rock: but as there are—alas! Spirits more sensitive, on which such things Light as the whirlwind on the waters; souls To whom dishonor's shadow is a substance
more terrible than death here and hereafter; 
Men whose vice is to start at vice's scoffing, 
And who, though proof against all blandishments 
Of pleasure, and all pangs of pain, are feeble 
When the proud name on which they pinnacled 
Their hopes is breathed on, jealous as the eagle 
Of her high fury; let what we now 
Behold, and feel, and suffer, be a lesson 
To wretches how they tamper in their spleen 
With beings of a higher order. Insects 
Have made the lion mad ere now; a shaft 
I' the heel o'fethrow the bravest of the brave; 
A wife's dishonor was the bane of Troy; 
A wife's dishonor unking'd Rome for ever; 
An injured husband brought the Gauls to Clusium, 
And thence to Rome, which perish'd for a time; 
An obscene gesture cost Caligula 
His life, while Earth yet bore his cruelties; 
A virgin's wrong made Spain a Moorish province; 
And Steno's lie, couched in two worthless lines, 
Hath decimated Venice, put in peril 
A senate which hath stood eight hundred years, 
Discrewn'd a prince, cut off his crownless head, 
And forged new fetters for a groaning people! 
Let the poor wretch, like to the courteous 
Who fired Persepolis, be proud of this, 
If it so please him—twere a pride fit for him! 
But let him not insult the last hours of 
Him, who, what'er he now is, seas a hero, 
By the intrusion of his very prayers: 
Nothing of good can come from such a source, 
Nor would we aught with him, nor now, nor ever: 
We leave him to himself, that lowest depth 
Of human baseness. Pardon is for men, 
And not for reptiles—we have none for Steno, 
And no resentment: things like him must sting, 
And higher beings suffer; 'tis the charter 
Of life. The man who dies by the adder's fang 
May have the crawler crush'd, but feels no anger: 
'Twas the worm's nature; and some men are worms 
In soul, more than the living things of tombs. 

Doge, (to Ben.) Signor! complete that which you 
depend your duty. 

Ben. Before we can proceed upon that duty, 
We would request the princess to withdraw; 
'Twill move her too much to be witness to it. 

Ang. I know it will, and yet I must endure it, 
For 'tis a part of mine—I will not quit, 
Except by force, my husband's side.—Proceed! 
Nay, fear not either shriek, or sigh, or tear; 
Though my heart burst, it shall be silent.—Speak! 
I have that within which shall o'ermaster all. 

Ben. Marino Faliero, Doge of Venice, 
Count of Val di Marino, Senator, 
And sometime General of the Fleet and Army, 
Noble Venetian, many times and oft 
Intrusted by the state with high employments, 
Even to the highest, listen to the sentence. 
Convict by many witnesses and proofs, 
And by thine own confession, of the guilt 
Of treachery and treason, yet unheard of 
Until this trial—the decree is death. 
Thy goods are confiscate unto the state, 
Thy name is rased from out her records, save 
Upon a public day of thanksgiving 
For this our most miraculous deliverance, 
When thou art noted in our calendar. 
With earthquakes, pestilence, and foreign foes, 
And the great eneny of man, as subject 
Of grateful masses for Heaven's grace in snatching 
Our lives and country from thy wickedness. 
The place wherein as Doge thou shouldst be painted 
With thine illustrious predecessors, is 
To be left vacant, with a death-black veil 
Plung over these dim words engraved beneath, 
"This place is of Marino Faliero, 
Decapitated for his crimes." 

Doge. "His crimes! 
But let it be so—it will be in vain. 
The veil which blackens o'er this blighted name, 
And hides, or seems to hide, these lineaments, 
Shall draw more gazers than the thousand portraits 
Which glitter round in their pictured trappings— 
Your delegated slaves—the people's tyrants! 
"Decapitated for his crimes!"—What crimes? 
Were it not better to record the facts, 
So that the contemplator might approve, 
Or at the least learn whence the crimes arose? 
When the beholder knows a page, 
Let him be told the cause—it is your history. 

Ben. Time must reply to that: our sons will judge 
Their fathers' judgment, which I now pronounce. 
As Doge, clad in the ducal robes and cap, 
Thou shalt be led hence to the Giant's Staircase, 
Where thou and all our princes are invested; 
And there, the ducal crown being first resumed 
Upon the spot where it was first assumed, 
Thy head shall be struck off; and Heaven have mercy 
Upon thy soul! 

Doge. Is this the Giunta's sentence? 
Ben. It is. 

Doge. I can endure it—And the time? 
Ben. Must be immediate.—Make thy peace with God; 
Within an hour thou must be in his presence. 
Doge. I am already; and my blood will rise 
To Heaven before the souls of those who shed it. 
Are all my lands confiscated? 
Ben. They are; 
And goods, and jewels, and all kind of treasure, 
Except two thousand duetats—these dispose of. 
Doge. That's harsh—I would have lain reserved 
the lands. 
Near to Treviso, which I hold by investment 
From Laurence the Count-bishop of Ceneda, 
In sef perpetual to myself and heirs, 
To portion them (leaving my city spoil, 
My palace and my treasures, to your forfeit) 
Between my consort and my kinsmen. 

Ben. Lie under the state's ban; their chief, thy nephew 
In peril of his own life; but the council 
Postpones his trial for the present. If 
Thou wilt a state unto thy widow'd princess, 
Fear not, for we will do her justice. 

Ang. Signors, 
I share not in your spoils! From henceforth, know 
I am devoted unto God alone, 
And take my refuge in the cloister. 

Doge. Come! 
The hour may be a hard one, but 'twill end. 
Have I sought else to undergo save death? 
Ben. You have nought to do, except confess and 
die. 
The priest is robed, the scimitar is bare, 
And both await without.—But, above all, 
Think not to speak unto the people; they 
Are now by thousands swarming at the gates.
But these are closed; the Ten, the Aragonari, the Ginni, and the chief men of the Forty, alone will be beholders of thy doom, and they are ready to attend the Doge.

Doge. The Doge!

Ben. Yes, Doge, thou hast lived and thou shalt die a sovereign; till the moment which precedeth the secession of that head and trunk, that ducal crown and head shall be united. Thou hast forgot thy dignity in deceiving To plot with petty traitors; not so we, who in the very punishment acknowledge the prince. Thy vile accomplices have died the dog's death, and the wolf's; but thou shalt fall As falls the lion by the hunters, girl, By those who feel a proud compassion for thee, and mourn even the inevitable death Provoked by thy wild wrath, and regal fierceness. Now we remit thee to thy preparation: Let it be brief, and we ourselves will be thy guides unto the place where first we were united to thee as thy subjects, and thy senate; and must now be parted from thee as such for ever, on the self-same spot.—Guards! form the Doge's escort to his chamber.

[Exeunt.

SCENE II.
The Doge's Apartment.

The Doge as Prisoner, and the Duchess attending him.

Doge. Now, that the priest is gone, 'twere useless all To linger out the miserable minutes; But one pang more, the pang of parting from thee, And I will leave the few last grains of sand, Which yet remain of the accorded hour, Still falling—I have done with Time.

Ang. Alas! And I have been the cause, the unconscious cause; And for this funeral marriage, this black union, Which thou, compliant with my father's wish, Didst promise at his death, thou hast seal'd thine own.

Doge. Not so: there was that in my spirit ever Which shaped out for itself some great reverse: The marvel is, it came not until now— And yet it was foretold me.

Ang. How foretold you? Doge. Long years ago—so long, they are a doubt in memory, and yet they live in annals: When I was in my youth and serv'd the senate And signory as podesta and captain Of the town of Treviso, on a day Of festival, the sluggish bishop who Convey'd the Host arose my rash young anger, By strange delay, and arrogant reply To my reproof: I raised my hand and smote him 'Till he reel'd beneath his holy burden; And as he rose from earth again, he raised his tremulous hands in pious wrath towards heaven, Thence pointing to the Host, which had fallen from him, He turn'd to me, and said, 'The hour will come When thou hast o'erthrown shall o'erthrow thee: The glory shall depart from out thy house, The wisdom shall be shaken from thy soul, And in thy best maturity of mind A madness of the heart shall seize upon thee: Passion shall tear thee when all passions cease In other men, or mellow into virtues; And majesty, which decks all other heads, Shall crown to leave thee headless; honors shall But prove to thee the heralds of destruction, And hoary hairs of shame, and both of death, But not such death as fits an aged man.'" Thus saying he pass'd on.—That hour is come Ang. And with this warning couldst thou not have striven To avert the fatal moment, and stone By penitence for that which thou hast done?

Doge. I own the words went to my heart, so much That I remember'd them amid the maze Of life, as if they form'd a spectral voice, Which shook me in a supernatural dream; And I repented; but 'twas not for me To pull in resolution: what must be I could not change, and would nor fear.—Nay more Than cannot have forgot, what all remember, That on my day of landing here as Doge, On my return from Rome, a mist of such Unwonted density went on before The bucentaur like the columnal cloud Which usher'd Israel out of Egypt, till The pilot was misled, and disembark'd us Between the pillars of Saint Mark's, where 'tis The custom of the state to put to death Its criminals, instead of touching at The Riva bellagi Paglia, as the wont is,—So that all Venice shudder'd at the omen, Ang. Ah! little boots it now to recollect Such things.

Doge. And yet I find a comfort in The thought that these things are the work of Fate. For I would rather yield to gods than men, Or cling to any creed of destiny, Rather than deem these mortals, most of whom I know to be as worthless as the dust, And weak as worthless, more than instruments Of an o'er ruling power; they in themselves Were all incapable—they could not be Victors of him who oft had conquer'd for them! Ang. Employ the minutes left in aspirations Of a more healing nature, and in peace Even with these wretches take thy flight to Heaven. Doge. I am at peace: the peace of certainty That a sure hour will come, when their sons' sons, And this proud city, and these azure waters, And all which makes them eminent and bright Shall be a desolation; and a curse, A hissing and a scoff unto the nations; A Carthage, and a Tyre, an Ocean Babel. Ang. Speak not thus now; the surge of passion still Sweeps o'er thee to the last; thou dost deceive Thyself, and canst not injure them—be calmer.

Doge. I stand within eternity, and see Into eternity, and I behold— Ay! palpable as I see thy sweet face —For the last time—the days which I denounce Unto all time against these wave-girt walls, And they who are indwellers. Guard, (coming forward,) Doge of Venice The Ten are in attendance on your highness.

Doge. Then farewell, Angiolina!—one embrace— Forgive the old man who hath been to thee
A fond, but fatal husband—love my memory—
I would not ask so much for me still living,
But thou canst judge of me more kindly now,
Beating my evil feelings are at rest.
Besides, of all the fruit of these long years,
Glory, and wealth, and power, and fame, and name,
Which generally leave some flowers to bloom
Even o'er the grave, I have nothing left, not even
A little love, or friendship, or esteem,
No not enough to extract an epitaph
From ostentatious kinsmen; in one hour
I have uprooted all my former life,
And outlived every thing, except thy heart,
The pure, the good, the gentle, which will oft
With unimpaired but not a clamorous grief
Still keep—thou turn'st so pale!—Alas! she faints,
She hath no breath, no pulse!—Guards lend your aid—
I cannot leave her thus, and yet 'tis better,
Since every lifeless moment spares a pang.
When she shakes off this temporary death,
I shall be with the Eternal.—Call her women
One look!—how cold her hand!—as cold as mine
Shall be ere she recovers.—Gently tend her,
And take my last thanks!—I am ready now.

To utter or to do?

Doge. May I speak?
Ben. Thou mayst:

But recollect the people are without,
Beyond the compass of the human voice.
Doge. I speak to Time and to Eternity,
Of which I grow a portion, not to man.
Ye elements! in which to be resolved,
I hasten, let my voice be as a spirit
Upon you! Ye blue waves! which bore my banes!
Ye winds! which flutter'd o'er as if you loved it,
And fill'd my swelling sails as they were wait'd
To many a triumph! Thou, my native earth,
Which I have bled for, and thou foreign earth,
Which drank this willing blood from many a wound
Ye stones, in which my gore will not shik, but
Reek up to Heaven! Ye skies, which will receive it
Thou sun! which shinest on these 'hinges, and Thou
Who kindlest and who quenchest sins!—Attest! I am not innocent—but are these guiltless?
I perish, but not unavenged; far ages
Float up from the abyss of time to be,
And show these eyes, before they close, the doom
Of this proud city, and I leave my curse
On her and hers for ever!—Yes, the hours
Are silenced by the universal end of the day.
When she, who built 'gainst Attila a bulwark,
Shall yield, and bloodlessly and basely yield
Upto a bastard Attila, without
Shredding so much blood in her last defence
As these old veins, oft drain'd in shielding her,
Shall pour in sacrifice.—She shall be bought
And sold, and be an appanage to those
Who shall despire her!—She shall stoop to be
A province for an empire, petty town
In lieu of capital, with slaves for senators,
Beggars for nobles, panders for a people! 10
Then when the Hebrew's in thy palaces, 11
The Hun in thy high places, and the Greek
Walks o'er thy mart, and smiles on it for his!
When thy patricians beg their bitter bread
In narrow streets, and in their shameful need
Make their nobility a plea for pity!
Then, when the few who still retain a wrench
Of their great fathers' heritage shall fawn
Round a barbarian Vice of Kings' Vicegerent,
Even in the palace where they sway'd as sovereigns,
Even in the palace where they slew their sovereign,
Proud of some name they have disgraced, or sprung
From an adulteress boastful of her guilt,
With some large gondolier or foreign soldier,
Shall bear about their bastardy in triumph
To the third spurious generation;—when
Thy sons are in the lowest scale of being,
Slaves turn'd o'er to the vanquish'd by the victors,
Despised by cowards for greater cowardice,
And scorn'd even by the vicious for such vices
As in the monstrous grasp of their conception
Defy all codes to image or to name them;
Then, when of Cyprus, now thy subject kingdom,
All thing inheritance shall be her shame
Entail'd on thy less virtuous daughters, grown
A wider proverb for worse prostitution;—
When all the ills of conquer'd states shall cling these
Vice without splendor, sin without relief
Even from the gloss of love to smooth it o'er,
But in its stead coarse lusts of habitude,
Prurient yet passionless, cold studied lewdness,
Depraving nature's frailty to an art—
When these and more are heavy on thee, when
Smiles without mirth, and pastimes without pleasure,
Youth without honor, age without respect,
Meanness and weakness, and a sense of wo
'Gainst which thou wilt not strive, and darst not
murmur,
Have made thee last and worst of peopled deserts,
Then, in the last gasp of thine agony,
Amidst thy many murders, think of mine!
Thou den of drunkards with the blood of princes! 15
Gehenna of the waters! thou sea Sodom!
Thus I devote thee to the infernal gods!
Thee and thy serpent seed!
[Hers the Doge turns, and addresses the Executioner.
Slave, do thine office!
Strike as I struck the foe! Strike as I would
Have struck those tyrants! Strike deep as my curse!
Strike—and but once!
[The Doge throws himself upon his knees, and
the Executioner raises his sword, the scene
expires.]

SCENE IV.
The Piazza and Piazzetta of Saint Mark's.—The
People in crowds gathered round the grated gates
of the Ducal Palace, which are shut.

First Citizen. I have gain'd the gate, and can
discern the Ten,
Robed in their gowns of state, ranged round the
Doge.

Second Cit. I cannot reach thee with mine utmost
effort.
How is it? let us hear at least, since sight
Is thus prohibited unto the people,
Except the occupiers of those bars.

First Cit. One has approach'd the Doge, and now
they strip
The ducal bonnet from his head—and now

He raises his keen eyes to heaven; I see
Them glitter, and his lips move—Hush! hush!—no
'Twas but a murmur—Curse upon the distance!
His words are inarticulate, but the voice
Swells up like mudder'd thunder; would we could
But gather a sole sentence!

Second Cit. Hush! we perhaps may catch the
sound.

First Cit.

'I tis vain,
I cannot hear him.—How his hoary hair
Streams on the wind like foam upon the wave!
Now—now—he kneels—and now they form a circle
Round him, and all is hidden—but I see
The lifted sword in air—Ah! Hark! it falls!

[The people murmur.

Third Cit. Then they have murder'd him who
would have freed us.

Fourth Cit. He was a kind man to the commons
ever.

Fifth Cit. Wisely they did to keep their portals
barr'd.

Would we had known the work they were preparing
Ere we were summon'd here, we would have brought
Weapons and forced them!

Sixth Cit. Are you sure he's dead?
First Cit. I saw the sword fall—Lo! what have
we here?

Enter on the Balcony of the Palace which fronts
Saint Mark's Place, a Chief of the Ten, 15 with
a bloody sword. He waves it thrice before the
People, and exclaims,

"Justice hath dealt upon the mighty Traitor!"

[The gates are opened; the populace rush in
towards the "Giant's Staircase," where the
execution has taken place. The foremost of
them exclaims to those behind,
The gory head rolls down the "Giants' Steps!"

[The curtain falls

NOTES TO MARINO FALIERO.

1. A smote the tardy bishop at Treviso. Page 283, line 120.

An historical fact. See Marin Sanuto's Lives of
the Doges.

2. A gondola with one oar only. Page 286, line 46.

A gondola is not like a common boat, but is as
easily rowed with one oar as with two, (though of
course not so swiftly,) and often is so from motives
of privacy; and (since the decay of Venice) of
security.

3. They think themselves
Engaged in secret to the Signory. Page 294, lines 7 and 8.

An historical fact.

4. Within our palace precincts at San Polo. Page 301, line 62.

The Doge's private family palace.

5. "Signor of the Night." Page 303, line 17

"I Signori di Notte" held an important charge
in the old Republic.


"Giovedi Grasso," "fat or greasy Thursday," which I cannot literally translate in the text, was
the day.
APPENDIX TO MARINO FALIERO.

I.

MCCCLIV.

MARINO FALIERO DOGE XLIX.

"Fu eletto da quarantuno Elettori, il quale era Cavaliere e conte di Valdemarino in Trivigliana, ed era rieco, e si trovava ambasciadore a Roma. E a di 9, di Settembre, dopo sepoltol il suo predecessore, fu chiamato il gran Consiglio, e fu preso di fare il Doge giusta il solito. E furono fatti i cinque Correttori, Ser Bernardo Giustiniani Procuratore, Ser Paolo Lordano, Ser Filippo Aurio, Ser Pietro Trivisano, a Ser Tommaso Viadro. I quali a di 10, misero queste correzioni alla promozione del Doge: che i Consiglieri non odano cii Oratori e Nunzi de' Signori, senza i Capi de' quaranta, ne possono rispon- dere ad alcuno, se non saranno quattro Consiglieri e due Capi de' Quaranta. E che osservino la forma del suo Capitolare. E che Messer lo Doge si metta nella miglior parte, quando i giudici tra loro non fussero d'accordo. E ch'egli non possa far vendere i suoi imprestiti, salvo con legittima causa, e col voleo di cinque Consigliere, di due Capi de' Quaranta, e delle due parti del Consiglio de' Pregati. Item, che in luogo di tre mila pelli de' Conigli, che debbon dare l'Zaratini per regali al Doge, non tro vandosi tante pelli, gli diano Ducati ottanta l'anno. E poi a di 11, detto, minore etiam altre correzioni, che se il Doge, che sarà eletto, fosse fuori de' Venezia, i savvissano provvedere del suo ritorno. E quando fosse il Doge ammalato, sia Vicedoge uno de' Consiglieri, da essere eletto tra loro. E che il detto sia nominato Viceudogotene di Messer lo Doge, quando i giudici faranno i suoi atti. E nata, perch'è fu fatto Doge uno ch'era assente, che fu Vicedoge Ser Marino Baduero più vecchio de Con-
**APPENDIX TO MARINO FALIERO.**

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"Il Doge mandò a chiamare Ser Bertuccio Faliero suo nipote, il quale stava con lui in Palazzo, e entran- naro in questa macchinazione. Ne si parirono di lì, che mandarono per Filippo Calendario, uomo marittimo e di gran seguito, e per Bertuccio Israel- lo, ingegnoso e uomo astottissimo. E consigliati dissero ete' ordine di chiamarli alcuni altri. E così per alcuni giorni la notte si riducevano insieme in Palazzo in casa del Doge. E chiamarono a parte a parte altri, videlicet Niccolò Fagninolo, Giovanni da Corfo, Stefano Biondo, Stefano Trivisano, Niccolò Biondo, e Stefano Trivisano. E ordino di fare sedici o diciassette Capì in diversi luoghi della Terra, i qualiavessero cadam di loro guarant' uomini provvigioni, preparati; non dicendo a' detti suoi guarant' quello, che volessero fare. Ma che il giorno stabilito si mostrasse di far quistione tra loro in di- versi luoghi, acciocché il Doge facesse sonare a San Marco le campane, le quali non si possono anuare, s' egli volle comanda. E al suono delle campane questi sedici o diciassette co' suoi uomini venissero a San Marco alle strade, che buttano l' rima. E così i nobili e primarj cittadini, che venissero in Pi azza, per sapere del romore ciò ch' era, li tagliassero a pezzi. E seguirono il detto Signore Messer Marino Faliero Doge. E fermate le cose tra loro, stabilito fu, che questo dovesse esse- sere a' 15 d'Aprile del 1355 in giorno di Mercoledì. La quale macchinazione tratta fu tra loro tascato segretamente, che mai ne puse se non la sorvegli, e che se ne sapesse cos' alcuna. Ma il Signor' Idöü, che ha sempre ajutato questa gloriosissima città e che per le santimonie e giustizie sue mai non l' ha abbandonata, insieme tutti que' dottorati, che al detto fu messo Capì di guarant' uomini per uno di' detti coniugari (il quale intese qualche parola, sicché' comprese l'effetto, che deveva succedere, e il quale è stato di Ser Michele Steno, di Signore di Lioni di di' lioni) de' 15 d'Aprile preso in detto del Ser Niccolò Lioni. E gli disse ogni cosa dell' ordin dato. "Il quale intese le cose, rimase come morto, e intese mo' parte particularità, il detto Beltramo il
BYRON'S WORKS.

voegò che lo tenesse segreto, e glielo disse, acciocché il detto Ser Nicolò non si partisse di casa a dì 15, acciocché egli potesse trovare il modo di dirgli ciò. Ed egli diede la mia lettera, e la firmata, in presenza di una camera. Ed esso andò a casa di M. Giovanni Gradenigo Nasone, il quale fu poi Doge, che stava anch'egli a Sant' Stefanò e dissi loro la cosa. La quale cosa venne notata da Gradenigo, e da Sanzio del grandoissimo importanza, tutta e due andarono a casa di Ser Marco Cornaro, che stava a San Felice. E dettagliò il tutto tutti e tre deliberarono di venire a casa del detto Ser Nicolò; ed essi inviarono a Ser Bertuccio. E quello esaminato, intese le cose, fece starle sorte. E andarono tutti e tre a San Salvatore in sacristia, emandarono il loro famiglii a chiare i Consigliergi, gli Avvogadorgi, i Cape de' Dii, e del Consiglio dei Regordi. E ridisseti insieme dissero loro le cose. I quali rimasero morti. Ed deliberarono di mandare pel detto Bertuccio, e fattolo venire cautamente, ed esaminatolo, e verificate le cose, ancorché ne sennissero gran passione, pure pensarono la provvisione. E mandarono pe' Cape de' Quaranta, pe' Signori di notte, pe' Cape de' Sestieri, ed pe' Cinque del Pace. E ordinato, che egli co' loro uomini trovassero degli altri buoni uomini, e mandassero a casa del detto capo, supponendo che que' loro mani addosso. E tolsel i detti le Maestrazze dell' Arsenna, acciocché i provisionati di' congruiti non potessero offenderli. E si ridossero in Palazzo vero, e ridisetti fece osservano le porte della corte del Palazzo. E mandarono a ordinare al camerario, che non sonassero le campane. E cos' fu eseguito e messo le mani adossò a tutti i nominati di sopra, furono que' condotti al Palazzo. E vedendo il Consiglio dei Dii, che il Doge era nella cospirazione, presero di eleggere venti de' primari della Terra, di giunta al detto Consiglio a consigliare, non per che potessero mettere pallotta.


"E a dì 10 d'Aprile, giorno di Venerdì, fu sen tenziato nel detto Consiglio de' Dii, di tagliare la testa a Messer Marino Faliero Doge sul patto della licenza del Comune, per aver detto di aversi fatto di intende mento, quando montano prima in Palazzo. E così serrato il Palazzo, la mattina seguente a ora di ter za, fu tagliata la testa al detto Doge a d'17 d'Aprile. E prima la berretta fu tolta di testa al detto Doge, avanti che venisseri gia dalla scala. E compiuta la giustizia, pare che un Cape de' Dii andasse alle Colonne del Palazzo sopra la Plaza, e mostrasse la spada immagazzinata a tutti, dicendo: E' stata fatta la giustizia e' Dio gratia, il Traditore. E fu conceputo al detto Doge, tutti lor entrarono dentro con gran furia a vedere il Doge, ch'era stato giustiziato.

E' da saperlo, che a fare la detta giustizia non fu ser Giovanni Sanudo il Consigliere, perché era andato a casa per difetto della persona, sicche furono quattro di soli, che ballot furono, cioè cinque Consigliergi, e nove del Consiglio de' Dii. E fu preso, che tutti i beni del Doge fossero confiscati nel Comune, e così degli altri traditori, dove' fu condotto al detto Doge, tutti e' loro stati a fare la detta sentenza del Doge, e d'altre, avessero licenza di portar' arme di e di note in Venezia e da Grado fino a Gavarezzo, ch'è sotto il Dogato, con due fanti in vita loro, stando i fendi in casa al suo paio e al suo voler, che non avesse fanti, potesse dar tal licenza a' suoi figlioli ovvero fratelli, due però e non più. Ezian dio fu data licenza dell'arme a quattro cascilleria della Corte Maggiore, che furono a prendere le deposizioni e inquisizioni, in perpetuo a loro soli, i quali furono Amadio, Nicolotto de Loreno, Stefanello, e Pietro de' Com' estelli, Serivani de' Signori di note. Ed essendo stati impacciati i cascilleri de' della Cascilleria, Seri Giorgio di Sandro, Ser Govanino, andito per mezzo la Chiesuola di Santa Maria del Pace, fatta fare pel Vescovo Gabriello di Bergamo, e un cassone di pieta con queste lettere: Hee jo set Dominus Marinus Faleto Dux e nel gran Consiglio de' Dii, l'anno Santo, in un mercoledì, 1° Aprile, e venario con lettere, che dicono così: He est locus Marini Faleto, decapitati pro criminius. E pure, che la sua casa fosse data alla Chiesa di Sant' Apos tolo, la quale, essendo baggetto, uno luna sera, capo del trattato per que' di Santa Croce, e ancora furono presi Zanello del Brill, Nicolott' di Rosa, e Ni-
APPENDIX TO MARINO FALIERO.

On the eleventh day of September, in the year of our Lord 1354, Marino Faliero was elected and chosen to be the Duke of the Commonwealth of Venice. He was Count of Valdemarino, in the marches of Treviso, and a Knight and a wealthy man to boot. As soon as the election was completed, it was resolved in the Great Council, that a deputation of twelve should be despatched to Marino Faliero, the Duke, who was then on his way from Rome; and when the deputies arrived, the Duke himself was present to receive them, who, after the usual ceremonies, conducted them to his palace, where they were entertained with a splendid feast. The Duke, in his presiding over the council, was so modest and unassuming, that his lordship was considered as being the most suitable man for the highest offices. However, the Duke was soon forced to resign his office, and to retire to the monastery of S. Maria della Carita, where he spent the remainder of his life, reading and contemplating the affairs of the state. He was succeeded by his son, who continued to reign for a short time, until his death in 1358.
met with the Duke at home in his palace. And the following men were called in singly; to wit: — Nicco del Palio, de' Girolami, Niccoli dalle Bende, Niccolo Biondo and Stefano Trivisano. It was concerted that sixteen or seventeen leaders should be stationed in various parts of the city, or else, as many as the hundred men, armed and prepared; but the followers were not to know their destination. On the appointed day they were to make affrays among themselves here and there, in order that the Duke might have a pretence, for told them that the Duke bade the bells of San Marco be never rung but by the order of the Duke. And at the sound of the bells, these sixteen or seventeen, with their followers, were to come to San Marco, through the streets which open upon the Piazza. And when the noble and leading citizens should come into the Piazza, to know the cause of the riot, then the conspirators were to cut them in pieces; and this work being finished, my Lord Marino Falerio the Duke was to be proclaimed the Lord of Venice. Things having been thus settled, they agreed to fulfil their intent on Wednesday, the fifteenth day of April, in the year 1355. So coyly did — that no one ever dreamt of their machinations.

But the Lord, who hath always helped this most glorious city, and who, loving its righteousness and holiness, hath never forsaken it, inspired one Beltramo, to be the captain of the commission of bringing the plot to light in the following manner. This Beltramo, who belonged to Ser Niccolo Lioni of Santo Stefano, had heard a word or two of what was to take place; and so, in the before-mentioned month of April, he went to the house of the aforesaid Ser Niccolo Lioni, and told him all the particulars of the plot. Ser Niccolo, when he heard all these things, was struck dead, as it were, with affliction. But all the matter seemed to him to be of the very greatest importance, as indeed it was; and they two went to the house of Ser Marco Cornaro, who lived at San Felice; and, having spoken with him, gave him the order to go betimes to the house of Ser Niccolo Lioni, to examine the said Beltramo; and having questioned him, and heard all that he had to say, they left him in confinement. And then they all three went into the sacristy of San Salvador, and sent their men to summon the Councillors, the Avvogadori, the Capi de' Dieci, and those of the Great Council.

When all were assembled, the whole story was told them. They were struck dead, as it were, with affliction. They determined to send for Beltramo. He was brought in before them. They examined him, and ascertained that the matter was true; and, although they were exceedingly troubled, yet they determined upon their measures. And they sent for the Capi de' Quaranta, the Signori di Notte, the Capi de' Sestieri, and the Cinque della Pace; and they were ordered to associate to them all the nobles and gentlemen of the city. And so, when they were proceeded to the houses of the ring leaders of the conspiracy and secure them. And they secured the foreman of the arsenal, in order that the conspirators might, in no wise, gather themselves together. They assembled in the palace. When they were assembled in the palace, they caused the gates of the quadrangle of the palace to be shut. And they sent to the keeper of the bell tower, and forbade the tolling of the bells for that day. And this was the manner of consultation and deliberation, but that they should not be allowed to ballot.

The councillors were the following: Ser Giovanni Mocenigo, Ser Giovanni Foscariner, Ser Marco de' Moro Veniero da Santa Marina, of the Sestiero of Castello; Ser Tommaso Viadro, of the Sestiero of Camerigo; Ser Giovanni Sanudo, of the Sestiero of Santa Croce; Ser Pietro Trivisano, of the Sestiero of San Felice; Ser Andrea Trivisano, of the Sestiero of Ossoduro. The Avvogadori of the Commonwealth were Zufredo Morosini, and Ser Orio Pasquialgo; and these did not ballot. These of the Council of Ten were Ser Giovanni Marcello, Ser Tommaso Sanudo, and Ser Micheleotto Dolfinó, the heads of the aforesaid Council of Ten. Ser Luca da Legge, and Ser Pietro da Mosto, inquisitors of the aforesaid Council. And Ser Marco Feletti, Ser Marino Veniero, Ser Lando Lambardo, and Ser Niccolò Trivisano, of Sant'Agelo.

Late in the night, just before the dawning, they chose a junta of twenty noblemen of Venice from among their own, to understand the plot. They were to give counsel, but not to ballot. And they would not admit any one of Cà Falerio. And Niccolo Falerio, and another Niccolo Falerio, of San "mmaso, were expelled from the Council, because they belonged to the party of the plot; and the resolution of creating the junta of twenty was much praised throughout the state. The following were the members of the junta of twenty: — Ser Marco Giustinian, Procuratore, Ser' Andrea Erizzo, Procuratore, Ser' Leonardo Giustinian, Procuratore, Ser' Andrea Contarini, Ser' Simone Dandolo, Ser' Niccolo Volpe, Ser Giovanni Lorendo, Ser Marco Diedo, Ser Giovanni Gradenigo, Ser' Andrea Cornaro, Ser' Giovanni Sanzio, Ser' Giovanni Sanzio, Ser' Gianfranco, Ser' Rinieri da Mosto, Ser' Gazano Marcello, Ser' Marinò Morosini, Ser Stefano Belegno, Ser Niccolo Lioni, Ser' Filippo Orio, Ser' Marco Trivisano, Ser' Jacopo Bragadin, Ser Giovanni Foscari.

These twenty were accordingly called into the Council of Ten; and they sent for my Lord Marino Falerio the Duke: and my Lord Marino was then consisting in the palace with people of great estate, gentlemen and other good men, none of whom knew yet how the fact stood.

At the same time Bertuccio Israello, who, as one of the ringleaders, was to head the conspirators in the San Zaccaria, San Santerno, and San Samo, before the Council. Zanello del Brin, Nicoletto di Rosa, Nicoletto Alberto, and the Guardiaga, were also taken together, with several seamen, and people of various ranks. These were examined, and the truth of the plot was ascertained.

On the sixteenth of April, judgment was given in the Council of Ten, that Filippo Calendario and Bertuccio Israello should be hanged upon the red pillars of the balconnies of the palace, from which the Duke is wont to look at the bull-hunt: and they were hanged with gags in their mouths.

The next day the following were condemned: — Niccolo Zucucole, Nicoletto Blondo, Nicoletto Doro da Marco Giuda, Jacoletto Dalgutino, Nicoletto Fidel, the son of Philip Calendario, Marco Terello, called Israello, Stefano Trivisano, the money-changer of Santa Margherita, and Antonio dalle Bende. They were executed, after the Council of Ten were endeavoring to escape. Afterwards, by virtue of the sentence which was passed upon them in the Council of Ten, they were hanged on successive days, some being hanged by daylight; they were all brought to the palace; and as the Council of Ten saw that the Duke was in the plot, they resolved that twenty of the leading men of the state should be executed, and on the morrow, for that of consultation and deliberation, but that they should not be allowed to ballot.
APPENDIX TO MARINO FALIERO.

vico of the state, and in order to secure certain criminals, and they knew nothing else, Captolotto, Alberto, the Guardiaga, and Bartolommeo Cinthia, and his son, and several others, who were not guilty, were discharged.

On Friday, the sixteenth day of April, judgment was also given, in the aforesaid Council of Ten, that my Lord Marino Faliero, the Duke, should have his head cut off, and that the execution should be done on the landing-place of the stone staircase, where the Duke sate and paid his oath when they first enter the palace. On the following day, the seventeenth of April, the doors of the palace being shut, the Duke had his head cut off, about the hour of noon. And the cap of earth was taken from the Duke’s head before he came down stairs. Which execution was over, it is said that one of the Council of Ten went to the columns of the palace over against the place of St. Mark, and that he showed the bloody sword unto the people, crying out with a loud voice — ‘The terrible doom hath fallen upon the traitor!’ and the doors were opened, and the people all rushed in, to see the corpse of the Duke who had been beheaded.

It must be known, that Ser Giovanni Sanudo, the cancellor, was not present when the aforesaid sentence was pronounced; because he was unwell and remained at home. So that only fourteen ballotted; this is to say, to seven of the cancellors and seven of the Council of Ten. And it was adjudged that all the lands and chattels of the Duke, as well as of the other traitors, should be forfeited to the state. And, as a grace to the Duke, it was resolved in the Council of Ten, that he should be allowed to dispose of two thousand ducats out of his own property. And it was resolved, that all the councillors and all the Avogadori of the commonwealth, those of the Council of Ten, and the members of the junta who had assisted in passing sentence of death on the Duke and the other traitors, should have the privilege of carrying arms both by day and by night in Venice, and from Grado to Cavazzare. And they were also to be allowed two footmen carrying arms, the aforesaid footmen living and boarding with them in their own houses. And he who did not keep two footmen might transfer the privilege to his sons or his brothers; but only to two. Permission of carrying arms was also granted to the heads of the Chancery, that is to say, of the Supreme Court, who took the depositions; and they were Amedio, Niccolotto di Lorino, Stefanello, and Pietro de Compostella, and the avogadori of the commonwealth.

After the traitors had been hanged, and the Duke had his head cut off, the state remained in great tranquility and peace. And, as I have read in a chronicle, the corpse of the Duke was removed in a barge, with eight torches, to his tomb in the church San Giovanni e Paolo, where it was buried. The tomb is now in that aisle in the middle of the little church of Santa Maria della Pace, which was built by Bishop Gabriel of Bergamo. It is a coffin of stone, with these words engraved thereon: Heic jacet Dominus Marinus Faletero Dux. — And they did not paint his portrait in the hall of the Great Council, as is the case where it is no longer been, you see these words: — ‘Hic est locus Marini Fatleri, decapitati proruminibus’ — and it is thought that his house was granted to the church of Sant’ Apostol; it was that great one near the bridge.

To this we will say, that the aforesaid spoliation was made by the aforesaid: — ‘Marinus Faleto Dux, temeritas me egxit, pronus lui, decapitatus prorominibus.’ Others, also, indited a couplet, worthy of being ascribed upon his tomb.

I am entitled for this excellent avowation of the old chart to Mr. J. F. Folles, to whom I am indebted for a version that could not unsympathetically rise from many years’ intercourse with the Italians, have given by many means so purely and so skilfully.'
of Petrarca: "antica dimostichezza," old intimacy, is the phrase of the poet.

2idy. That Petrarca thought that he had more courage than conduct, "piu di coraggio che di senso,"

3idy. That there was some jealousy on the part of Petrarca; for he says that Marino Faliero was treating of the peace which he himself had "vainly attempted to conclude."

4thly, That the honor of the dukedom was conferred on him, which he neither sought nor expected, "che non chiedeva ne' aspirava," and which had never been granted to any other in like circumstances, "e che non si concedette a nessun altro," "proof of his esteem in which he must have been held."

5thly, That he had a reputation for wisdom, only forfeited by the last enterprise of his life, "si super tanti annii una falsa fama di sapienza." - "He had earned for so many years a false name of wisdom;" rather a difficult task, I should think.

People are generally found out before eighty years of age, at least in a republic.

But immense, and the other historical notes which I have collected, it may be inferred that Marino Faliero possessed many of the qualities, but not the success of a hero; and that his passions were too violent. The palsy and ignorant account of Dr. Moore falls to the ground. Petrarca says, "that there had been no greater event in his times" (our times literally,) "nostri tempi," in Italy. He also differs from the historian in saying that Faliero was "on the banks of the Rhone," instead of at Rome, when elected; the other accounts say, that the deputies of the Venetian senate met him at Ravenna. How this may have been, it is not for me to decide, and is of no great importance. Had the man succeeded, he would have changed the face of Venice, and perhaps of Italy. As it is, what are they both?

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IV.

Extrait de l'ouvrage.—Histoire de la République de Venise, par P. Daru, de l'Académie Française, tom. iv. xxxv. p. 95, &c. Edition de Paris, MDCCXIX.

"A ces attaques si fréquentes que le gouvernement dirigeait contre le clergé à ces luttes établies entre les divers corps constitués, à ces entreprises de la masse de la noblesse contre les dépositaires du pouvoir, à toutes ces propositions d'innovation qui se terminaient toujours par des corps d'état; il faut ajouter une autre cause, non moins propre à propager le même des anciennes doctrines, c'était l'excès de la corruption.

Cette liberté de mœurs, qu'on avait long-temps vantée comme le charme principal de la société de Venise, était devenue un dard scandalux; le lieu du mariage était moins sacré dans ce pays catholique que dans ceux où les lois civiles et religieuses permettent de le disséquer. Faut-il pouvoir rompre le contrat, on supposait qu'il n'avait jamais existé, et les moyens de nullité, allégres avec impudeur par les époux, étaient admises avec la même facilité; ils étaient en concubinat, et les prêtres et religieux des cloîtres et des ermites. Ces divorces colorés d'un autre nom devinrent si fréquents, que l'acte le plus important de la société civile se trouva de la compétence d'un tribunal d'exception, et que ce fut à la police de réprimer le scandale. Le conseil des dix hormonaires, en 1782, que toute femme qui intenterait une demande en disolution de mariage serait obligée d'en attendre le jugement dans un couvent, que le tribunal dessigné."

Bien tout de même, devant lui toutes les causes de cette nature.* Ce Bénédicte est saluatoir sur la jurisprudence ecclésiastique ayant occasion des réclamations de la part de la cour de Rome le conseil se reservait le droit de débiter des époques de leur demande; et consent à le renvoyer à l'officielle, toutes les fois qu'il ne l'aurait pas rejeté.†

"Il y eut un moment où sans doute le renversement des fortunes, la peste des jeunes gens, les discordes domestiques, à s'exciser des maintes que s'attait faites sur la liberté de mœurs qu'il permettait à ses sujets; on chassa de Venise toutes les courtisanes. Mais leur absence ne suffisait pas pour ramener aux bonnes mœurs toute une population élevée dans la plus honteuse licence. Le desordre pénétra dans l'intérieur des familles, dans les cloîtres; et l'on se crut, obligé de rappeler, d'indemniser même des femmes qui suptraient quelquefois d'importants secrets, et qu'on pouvait employer utilement à ruiner des hommes que leur fortune aurait pu rendre dangereux. Depuis, la licence est toujours allée croissant, et l'on a vu non seulement des mères trafiquer de la virginité de leurs filles, mais encore des époux, laquelle y entretint soigneusement un grand nombre de surveillants, étaient les seuls points de réunion de la société de Venise, et dans ces deux endroits si divers on était également libre. La musique, les collations, la galanterie, n'étaient pas plus interdites dans les paroles que dans les casins. Il y avait un grand nombre de casins destinés aux réunions publique, où le jeu était la principale occupation de la société. C'était un singulier spectacle de voir autant d'une table des personnes des deux sexes en masque, et de gravas personnages en robe de magistrature, implorant le hasard, passant des angoisses désespérer aux illusions de l'espoirance, et cela sans proférer une parole.

"Les riches avaient des casins particuliers; mais ils y vivaient avec mystère; leurs femmes dédaillées trouvaient un dédommagement dans la liberté dont elles jouissaient; la corruption des mœurs les avait privés de tout leur empire; on vient de parler toute l'histoire de Venise, et on ne les a pas vus une seule fois exercer la moindre influence."* 

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V.

Extract from the History of the Republic of Venice by P. Daru, Member of the French Academy, vol. v. b. xxxv. p. 95, &c. Paris Ed. 1819.

"To these attacks, so frequently pointed by the government against the clergy,—to the continual struggles between the different constituted bodies,—to these enterprises carried on by the mass of the nobles against the depositaries of power,—to all these projects of innovation, which always ended by a stroke of state policy; we must add a cause not less fitted to spread contempt for ancient doctrines; this was the excess of corruption."

"That freedom of manners which had been long boasted as the principal charm of Venetian society, had degenerated into scandalous licentiousness:**

† Ibid. Dépêche du 3 Septembre, 1785.
‡ Laissez les dix hormonaires porter les drapeaux sous le nom de notre bannière méritée. On leur assigna un fonds et des maisons appelées Cases rampante. Puis vient la dénomination familière de Carrampone.
§ Mayer, Description de Venise, tom. ii. et M. Arberchetz. Tableau de l'Istrie, tom. i. chap. 2.

* Correspondance de M. Schiller chargé d'affaires de France, dépêchée du M. Août, 1786.
the tie of marriage was less sacred in that Catholic country, than among those nations where the laws and religion admit of its being dissolved. Because these were the head:ulators in 1790; vol. I came home in the squadron with the prizes in 1811, and recollect to have heard Sir William Hoste, and the other officers engaged in that glorious conflict, to speak in the highest terms of Pasquiglio's behavior. There is the Abate Morelli. There is Alziva Querini, who, after a long and honorable diplomatic career, finds some consolation for the wrongs of the country, in the pursuits of literature, with his disciples, and in personal friendships. There is a certain protectress of liberty, the heroine of "La Biantina in Gond-letta." There are the patrician poet Moretini and the poet Lamberti, the author of the "Bondman, &c., and many other estimable productions; and not least in an Englishman's estimation, M. Nivio Michelli, the translator of Shakspeare. There are the young Dandolo, and the improvisatore Carer, and Giuseppe Albrici, the accomplished son of a noble family. There is Aglietti, and were there nothing else, there is the immortality of Cavena. Ciegnara, Mustozithi, Bucati, &c., &c., I do not reckon, because the one is a Greek, and the others were born at least a hundred miles off, which, though they do not belong to a foreigner at least a stranger, (forestiere.)

VI.


"Il y une prédiction fort singulière sur Venise : Si tu ne changes pas, dit elle à cette république altière, 'ta liberté,' qui déjà s'enfuit, ne comptera pas un siècle après la millième année.

"En faisant rencontrer le peuple de la Venise Venitiennes jusqu'à l'établissement du gouvernement sous lequel la republique a fleuri, on trouvera que l'élection du premier Doge date de 697, et si l'on y ajoute un siècle après mille, c'est-à-dire onze cents ans, on trouvera encore que le sens de la prédiction littrairement celui-ci : 'Ta liberté ne comptera pas jusqu'à l'an 1797. Rappelez-vous maintenant que Venise a cessé d'être libre en l'an cinquante de la République Francaise, on en 1799; mais vous verrez qu'il n'y eut jamais de prédiction plus précise et plus ponctuellement suivie de l'effet. Vous notez donc comme très remarquables ces trois vers de l'Alamani, adressés à Venise, que personne pourtant n'a remarqués :"

"Se non cangiar prestit, Pan secol solo
Non conterà un milleanno senza
Tuo liberar, che va soggiogato a vo'*

Bien des prophéties ont passé pour telles, et bien des gens ont été appelés prophètes à meilleur marché."

VII.


"There is one very singular prophecy concerning Venice: 'If thou dost not change,' it says to that proud republic, 'thy liberty, which is already on the wing, will not reckon a century more than the thousandth year.'

"If we carry back the epocha of Venetian freedom to the establishment of the government under which the republic flourished, we shall find that the date of the election of the first Doge is 697; and if we add one century to a thousand, that is, twenty hundred years, we shall find the sense of the pre

* Correspondence de M. Robich, French chargé d'affaires. Despatch of 6th August, 1789. *

183. Despatch, 21st August.

184. Despatch, 81st September, 1789.

* The despatch for their recall desire states them as nostre benemeriti merito.

A fund and some houses called case veneziane were assigned to them: which the opposition appellation of Camerae.

BYRON'S WORKS.

diction to be literally this: 'Thy liberty will not last till 1797.' Recollect that Venice ceased to be free in the year 1796, the fifth year of the French republic; and you will perceive that there never was prediction more pointed, or more exactly followed by the event. You will, therefore, note as very remarkable the three lines of Alamanni, addressed to Venice, which, however, no one has pointed out:

"So non omnis senserit, non sequerat solo
Non concert supps, 'I millionem anno
Tur Liberti, qui va fuggereso a vulo."

Many prophecies have passed for such, and many men have been called prophets for much less."

The Doge's prophecy seem remarkable, look to the above, made by Alani two hundred and seventy years ago.

THE TWO FOSCARI:

AN HISTORICAL TRAGEDY.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

Men.—Francis Foscarì, Doge of Venice.
Jacopo Foscarì, Son of the Doge.
James Lorendano, a Patrician.
Marco Memmo, a Chief of the Forty.
Barbarigo, a Senator.
Other Senators, the Council of Ten, Guards, Attendants, &c., &c.

Woman.—Marini, Wife of young Foscarì.

Scene.—the Ducal Palace, Venice.

ACT 1.

SCENE I.

A Hall in the Ducal Palace.

Enter Lorendano and Barbarigo, meeting.

Lor. Where is the prisoner?

Bar. Reposing from the Question.

Lor. The hour's past—six o'clock yesterday.

For the resumption of his trial.—Let us

Rejoin our colleagues in the council, and
Urgè als recall.

Bar. Nay, let him profit by
A few brief minutes for his tortured limbs;
He was o'erwrung by the Question yesterday,
And may die under it if now repeated.

Lor. Well!

Bar. I yield not to you in love of justice,
Or hate of the ambitious Foscari,
Father and son, and all their noxious race;
But the poor wretch has sufferr'd beyond nature's
Most stoical endurance.

Lor. Without owning
His crime?

Bar. Perhaps without committing any.
But he avow'd the letter to the Duke
Of Milan, and his sufferings half atone for
Such weakness.

Lor. We shall see.

Bar. You, Loredano,
Pursue hereditary hate too far.
Lor. How far?

Bar. To extirmination.

Lor. When they are
Extinct, you may say this.—Let's in to council.
Bar. Yet pause—the number of our colleagues is not
Complete yet; two are wanting ere we can
Proceed.

Lor. And the chief judge, the Doge?

Bar. No—he

With more than Roman fortitude, is ever
First at the board in this unhappy process
Against his last and only son.

Lor. True—true—

His last.

Bar. Will nothing move you?

Lor. Feels he, think you?

Bar. He shows it not.

Lor. I have mark'd that—the wretch!
Bar. But yesterday, I hear, on his return
To the ducal chambers, as he pass'd the threshold,
The old man faint'd.

Lor. It begins to work, then.

Bar. The work is half your own.

Lor. And should be all mine—

My father and my uncle are no more.

Bar. I have read their epitaph, which says they died
By poison.

Lor. When the Doge declared that he
Should never deem himself a sovereign till
The death of Peter Loredano, both
The brothers sicken'd shortly;—he is sovereign.

Bar. A wre'ched one.

Lor. What should they be who make
Orphans?

Bar. But did the Doge make you so?

Lor. Yes.

Bar. What solid proofs?

Lor. When princes set themselves
to work in secret, proofs and process are
Alike made difficult; but I have such
Of the first, as shall make the second needless.

Bar. But you will move by law?

Lor. By all the laws

which he would leave us.

Bar. They are such in this

Our state as render retribution easier
Than mongst remoter actions. It is true

That you have written in your books of commerce,
(2) The wealthy practice of our highest nobles,
"Doge Foscari, my debtor for the deaths
Of Marco and Pietro Loredano,
My sire and uncle?")

Lor. It is written thus.

Bar. And will you leave unerased?

Lor. Till balanced

Bar. And how?

[Two Senators pass over the stage, as in their
way to "the Hall of the Council of Ten."]

Lor. You see the number is complete
Follow me. [Exit Loredano]

Bar. (solus.) Follow thee! I have follow'd long
Thy path of desolation, as the wave
Sweeps after that before it, alike whelming
The wreck that creaks to the wild winds, and wretch
Who shrikes within its riven ribs, as gush
The waters through them; but this son and sire
 Might move the elements to pause, and yet
Must I on hardly like them—Oh! would
I could as blindly and remorselessly—
Lo, where he comes!—Be still, my heart! they are
Thy foes, must be thy victims: wilt thou beat
For those who almost broke thee?

Enter Guards, with young Foscari as prisoner, &c.

Guard. Let him rest.

Signor, take time.

Jac. Fos. I thank thee, friend, I'm feeble;
But thou may'st stand reproved.

Guard. I'll stand the hazard.

Jac. Fos. That's kind;—I meet some pity, but no
mercy:

This is the first,

Guard. And might be the last, did they

Who rule behold us.

Bar. (advancing to the Guard.) There is one who does:

Yet fear not; I will neither be thy judge
Nor thy accuser; though the hour is past,
Wait their last summons—I am of "the Tei."
And waiting for that summons, sanction you
Even by my presence: when the last call sounds,
We'll in together.—Look well to the prisoner!

Jac. Fos. What voice is that?—'Tis Barbarigo's

Ah! our house's foe, and one of my few judges.

Bar. To balance such a foe, if such there be:

Thy father sits among thy judges.

Jac. Fos. True

He judges.

Bar. Then deem not the laws too harsh
Which yield so much indulgence to a sire
As to allow his voice in such high matter
As the state's safety—

Jac. Fos. And his son's. I'm faint
Let me approach; I pray you, for a breath
Of air, you window which o'erlooks the waters.

Enter an Officer who whispers Barbarigo.

Bar. (to the Guard.) Let him approach. I man
not speak with him
Further than thus; I have transgress'd my duty
In this brief parley, and must now redeem it
Within the Council Chamber. [Exit Barbarigo]

[Guard conducting Jacopo Foscari to the window]

Guard. There, sir, 'tis
Open—How feel you?  

Jac. Fos.  Like a boy—Oh Venice!  

Guard. And your limbs?  

Jac. Fos. Limbs! how often have they borne me  

Bounding o'er the blue tide, as I have skim'm'd  

The gondola along in childish race,  

And, masqued as a young gondolier, amidst  

My gay competitors, noble as I,  

Raced for our pleasure, in the pride of strength:  

While the fair populace of crowding beauties,  

Pleasant as patrician, cheer'd us on  

With dazzling smiles, and wishes audible,  

And waving kerchiefs, and applauding hands,  

Even to the goal!—How many a time have I  

Clenched with arm still luster, breast more daring,  

The wave all roun'g'd; with a swimmer's stroke  

Flinging the billows back from my drench'd hair,  

And laughing from my lip the audacious brine,  

Which kiss'd it like a wine-cup, rising o'er  

The waves as they arose, and pronder still  

The loftier they uplifted me; and oft,  

In wantonness of spirit, plunging down  

Into their green and glassy gulfs, and making  

My way to shells and sea-weed, all unseen  

By those above, till they wax'd fearful; then  

Returning with my grasp full of such tokens  

As shov'd that I had search'd the deep: exulting,  

With a far-dashing stroke, and drawing deep  

The long-suspended breath, again I spurn'd  

The foam which broke around me, and pursued  

My track like a sea-bird.—I was a boy then.  

Guard. Be a man now: there never was more need  

Of manhood's strength.  

Jac. Fos. (looking from the lattice.) My beautiful,  

my own,  

My only Venice—this is breath! Thy breeze,  

Thine Adrian sea-breeze, how it fans my face!  

The very winds feel native to my veins,  

And cool them into calmness! How unlike  

The hot gales of the horrid Cyclades,  

Which howl'd about my Candiote dungeon, and  

Made my heart sick.  

Guard. I see the color comes  

Back to your cheek: Heaven send you strength to bear  

What more may be imposed!—I dread to think on't.  

Jac. Fos. They will not banish me again?—No—  

Let them wring on; I am strong yet.  

Guard. And the rack will be spared you.  

Jac. Fos. I confess'd  

Once—twice before: both times they exiled me.  

Guard. And the third time will slay you.  

Jac. Fos. Let them do so,  

So I be buried in my birthplace: better  

Be ashes here than aught that lives elsewhere.  

Guard. And can you so much love the soil which hates you?  

Jac. Fos. The soil!—Oh no, it is the seed of the soil  

Which persecutes me; but my native earth  

Will take me as a mother to her arms.  

I ask no more than a Venetian grave,  

A dungeon, what they will, so it be here.  

Enter an Officer

Off! Bring in the prisoner!

---

Guard. Signor, you hear the order,  

Jac. Fos. Ay, I am used to such a summons: 'tis  

The third time they have torture'd me—then lend me  

Thine arm.  

[To the Guard]  

Offi. Take mine, sir; 'tis my duty to  

Be nearest to your person.  

Jac Fos.  

You!—you are he  

Who yesterday presided o'er my pangs—  

Away!—I'll walk alone.  

Offi. As you please, signor:  

The sentence was not of my signing, but  

I dared not disobey the Council when  

They—  

Jac. Fos. Bade thee stretch me on their harsh engine.  

I pray thee touch me not—that is, just now;  

The time will come they will renew that order,  

But keep off from me till 'tis issued. As  

I look upon thy hands my curdling limbs  

Quiver with the anticipated wrenching,  

And the cold drops stream through my brow, as if—  

But onward—I have borne it—I can hear it.—  

How looks my father?  

Offi. With his wonted aspect.  

Jac. Fos. So does the earth, and sky, the blue of ocean,  

The brightness of our city, and her domes,  

The mirth of her Piazzas, even now  

Its merry hum of nations pieces here,  

Even here, into these chambers of the unknown  

Who govern, and the unknown and the unnumber'd  

Judged and destroy'd in silence,—all things wear  

The self-same aspect, to my very sire!  

Nothing can sympathise with Foscarì,  

Not even a Foscarì.—Sir I attend you.  

[EscoNT Jacopo Foscarì, Officer, &c.]

Enter MEMMO and another Senator.

Mem. He's gone—we are too late—think you  

"the Ten"  

Will sit for any length of time to-day?  

Sen. They say the prisoner is most obdurate.  

Persisting in his first avowal; but  

More I know not.  

Mem. And that is much; the secrets  

Of your terrible chamber are as hidden  

From us, the premier nobles of the state,  

As from the people.  

Sen. Save the wounded rumors,  

Which (like the tales of spectres that are rife  

Near ruin'd buildings) never have been proved,  

Nor wholly disbelieved: men know as little  

Of the state's real acts as of the grave's  

Unfathom'd mysteries.  

Mem. But with length of time  

We gain a step in knowledge, and I look  

Forward to be one day of the demecurs.  

Sen. Or Doge?  

Mem. Why, no; not if I can avoid it  

Sen. 'Tis the first station of the state, and may  

Be lawfully desired, and lawfully  

Attain'd by noble aspirants.  

Mem. To such  

I leave it; though born noble, my ambition  

Is limited: I'd rather be an unit  

Of an united and imperial "Ten,"  

Than shine a lonely, though a gilded cypher.—  

Whom have we here? the wife of Foscarì?
Enter Marina, with a female Attendant.

Mar. What, no one?—I am wrong, there still are two;

But they are senators.

Mem. Most noble lady, Command us.

Mar. I command!—Alas! my life
Has been one long entreaty, and a vain one.

Mem. I understand thee, but I must not answer.

Mar. (Ferocely.) True—none dare answer here save on the rack,

Question, save those—

Mem. (interrupting her.) High-born dame! be think thee

Were thou now art

Mar. Where I now am!—It was husband's father's palace.

Mem. The Duke's palace.

Mar. And his son's prison;—true, I have not for-got it;

And if there were no other nearer, bitterer Remembrances, would thank the illustrious Memmo

For pointing out the pleasures of the place.

Mem. Be calm!

Mar. (looking up towards heaven.) I am; but oh, thou eternal God!

Canst thou continue so, with such a world?

Mem. Thy husband yet may be absolved.

Mar. He is, in Heaven. I pray you, signor senator,

Speak not of that; you are a man of office,
So is the Doge; he has a son at stake
Now, at this moment, and I have a husband,
Or had; they are there within, or were at least
An hour since, face to face, as judge and culprit;

Will he condemn him?

Mem. I trust not.

Mar. But if he does not, there are those will sentence both.

Mem. They can.

Mar. And with them power and will are one in wickedness:—my husband's lost!

Mem. Not so;

Justice is judge in Venice.

Mar. If it were so, there now would be no Venice. But let it

live on, so the good die not, till the hour
Of nature's summons; but "the Ten's" is quicker,

And we must wait on't. Ah! a voice of wail!

[Exit Officer.]

Sen. Hark!

Mem. 'Twas a cry of—

No, no; not my husband's—

Not Foscari's.

Mem. The voice was—

Mar. Not his: no.

He shriek! No; that should be his father's part,
Not his—not his—he'll die in silence.

[Exit Officer.]

Mem. What!

Again?

Mar. His voice! it seem'd so: I will not
Believe it. Should he shriek, I cannot cease
To love; but — no — no — no — it must have been
A fearful pang, which wrung a groan from him.

Sen. And, feeling for thy husband's wrongs,
Wouldest thou

Have him bear more than mortal pain, in silence?

Mar. We all must bear our tortures. I have not

Left barren the great house of Foscari,
Though they sweep both the Doge and son from life;
I have endured as much in giving life
To those who will succeed them, as they can
In leaving it: but mine were joyful pangs;
And yet they wrung me till I could have shriek'd
But did not, for my hope was to bring forth
Heroes, and would not welcome them with tears.

Mem. All's silent now.

Mar. Perhaps all's over; but

I will not deem it: he hath served Himself,
And now defies them.

Enter an Officer hastily.

Mem. How now, friend, what seek you?

Offi. A leech. The prisoner has fainted.

[Exit Officer.]

Mem. 'Twere better to retire.

Sen. (offering to assist her.) I pray thee do so.

Mar. Off! I will tend him.

Mem. You! Remember, lady.

Ingress is given to none within those chambers,

Except "the Ten," and their familiars.

Mar. Well, I know that none who enter there return

As they have enter'd—many never; but

They shall not balk my entrance.

Mem. Alas! this Is but to expose yourself to harsh repulse,

And worse suspense.

Mar. Who shall oppose me?

Mem. They Whose duty 'tis to do so.

Mar. 'Tis their duty

To trample on all human feelings, all Ties which bind man to man, to emulate

The fiends, who will one day requite them in Variety of torturing! Yet I'll pass.

Mem. It is impossible.

Mar. That shall be tried Despair defies even despotism: there is

That in my heart would make its way through hosts With levell'd spears; and think you a few jailers

Shall put me from my path? Give me, then, way

This is the Doge's palace; I am wife
Of the Duke's son, the innocent Duke's son, And they shall hear this!

Mem. It will only serve

More to exasperate his judges.

Mar. What

Are judges who give way to anger? they Who do so are assassins. Give me way.

[Exit Marina.]

Sen. Poor lady!

Mem. 'Tis mere desperation; she Will not be admitted o'er the threshold.

Sen. And Even if she be so, cannot save her husband. But, see, the officer returns.

[The Officer passes over the stage with another person]

Mem. I hardly Thought that "the Ten" had even this touch of pity Or would permit assistance to the sufferer.

Sen. I ty! Is't pity to recall to feeling

The wret' h too happy to escape to death By the compassionate trance, poor nature's last Resource against the tyranny of pain?
Mem. I marvel they condemn him not at once.

Sen. That's not their policy; they'd have him live.

Because he fears not death; and banish him,
Because all earth, except his native land,
To him is one wide prison, and each breath
Of foreign air he draws seems a slow poison,
Consuming but not killing.

Mem.     Circumstance

Confirms his crimes, but he avows them not.

Sen. None, save the letter, which he says was
written

Address'd to Milan's duke, in the full knowledge
That it would fall into the senate's hands,
And thus he should be reconveyed to Venice.

Mem. But as a culprit.

Sen. Yes, but to his country;
And that was all he sought, so he avouches.

Mem. The accusation of the bribes was proved.

Sen. Not clearly, and the charge of homicide
Has been annul'd by the death-bed confession
Of Nicolas Erizzo, who slew the late
Chief of "the Ten."

Mem. Then why not clear him?

Sen. They ought to answer; for it is well known
That Almoro Donato, as I said, was slain by Erizzo for private vengeance.

Mem. There must be more in this strange process than

The apparent crimes of the accused disclose—
But here come two of "the Ten"; let us retire.

[Exeunt MEMO and SENATOR.]

Exeunt LOREDANO and BARBARINO.

Bar. (addressing Lor.) That were too much,
believe me, twas not meet
The trial should go further at this moment.

Lor. And so the Council must break up, and
Justice
Pause in her full career, because a woman
Breaks in on our deliberations?

Bar. No,

That's not the cause; you saw the prisoner's state.

Lor. And had he not recover'd?

Bar. To relapse
Upon the least renewal.

Lor. Twas not tried.

Bar. 'Tis vain to murmur; the majority
In council were against you.

Lor. Thanks to you, sir,

And the old ducal dotard, who combined
The worthy voices which o'erruled my own.

Bar. I am a judge; but must confess that part
Of our stern duty, which prescribes the Question,
And bids us sit and see its sharp infliction,
Makes me wish

Lor. What?

Bar. That you would sometimes feel,

As I do always.

Lor. Go to, you're a child,
Infirm of feeling as of purpose, blown
About by every breath, shock by a sigh,
And melted by a tear—a precious judge
For Venice! and a worthy statesman? be partner in my policy!

Bar. He shed
40 tears

Lor. He crie: out twice.

Bar. A sain' had done so, now, or postpone it till to-morrow?

Even with the crown of glory in his eye,
At such inhuman artefact of pain
As was forced on him; but he did not cry
For pity; not a word nor groan escaped him,
And those two shrieks were not in supplication,
But wrung from pangs, and follow'd by no prayers.

Lor. He mutter'd many times between his teeth
But inarticulately.

Bar. That I heard not,
You stood more near him.

Lor. I did so.

Bar. Methought,
To my surprise too, you were touch'd with mercy,
And were the first to call out for assistance
When he was failing.

Lor. I believed that scon

His last.

Bar. And have I not oft heard thee name
His and his father's death your nearest wish?

Lor. If he dies innocent, that is to say,
With his guilt unavow'd, he'll be lamented.

Bar. What, wouldst thou slay his memory?

Lor. Wouldst thou have

His state descend to his children, as it must,
If he die unattainted?

Bar. War with them too?

Lor. With all their house, till theirs or mine are

nothing.

Bar. And the deep agony of his pale wife,
And the repress'd convulsion of the high
And princely brow of his old father, which
Broke forth in a slight shuddering, though rarely,
Or in some clammy drops, soon wiped away
In stern serenity; these moved you not?

[Exit LOREDANO]

He's silent in his hate, as Foscarì
Was in his suffering; and the poor wretch moved me
More by his silence than a thousand outcry's
Could have affected. 'Twas a dreadful sight
When his distracted wife broke through into
The hall of our tribunal, and beheld
What we could scarcely look upon, long used
To such sights. I must think no more of this
Lest I forget in this compassion for
Our foes their former injuries, and lose
The hold of vengeance Loredano plans
For him and me; but mine would be content
With lesser retribution than he thirsts for,
And I would mitigate his deeper hatred
To milder thoughts; but for the present, Foscarì
Has a short hourly respite, granted at
The instance of the elders of the Council,
Moved doubtless by his wife's appearance in
The hall, and his own sufferings. —Lo! they come
How feeble and forlorn! I cannot bear
To look on them again in this extremity:
I'll hence, and try to soften Loredano.

[Exit BARBARINO]

ACT II.

SCENE I.

A Hall in the Doge's Palace

The Doge and a Senator.

Sen. Is it your pleasure to sign the report

Now, or postpone it till to-morrow?
THE TWO FOSCARI.

Dog. I overlook'd it yesterday: it wants
Men't the signature. Give me the pen—

[The Doge sits down and signs the paper.

There, signor.

Sen. (looking at the paper.) You have forgot; it is not sign'd.

Dog. Not sign'd? Ah, I perceive my eyes begin
To wax more weak with age. I did not see
That I had dipp'd the pen without effect.

Sen. (dipping the pen into the ink, and placing the paper before the Doge.) Your hand, too, shakes, my lord: allow me, thus—

Dog. 'Tis done, I thank you.

Sen. Thus the act confirm'd
By you and by the "Ten," gives peace to Venice.

Dog. 'Tis long since she enjoy'd it: may it be
As long ere she resume her arms!

Sen. Thirty-four years of nearly ceaseless warfare
With the Turk, or the powers of Italy;
The state had need of some repose.

Dog. No doubt: I found her queen of ocean, and I leave her
Lady of Loubardy: it is a comfort
That I have added to her diadem
The gems of Breccia and Ravenna; Crema
And Bergamo no less are hers; her realm
By law has grown by thus much in my reign,
While her sea-sway has not shrunk.

Sen. 'Tis most true, and merits all our country's gratitude.

Dog. Perhaps so.

Sen. Which should be made manifest.

Dog. I have not complain'd, sir.

Sen. My good lord, forgive me.

Dog. For what?

Sen. My heart bleeds for you.

Dog. For me, signor?

Sen. And for your—

Dog. Stop! It must have way, my lord.

I have too many duties towards you
And all your house, for past and present kindness,
Not to feel deeply for your son.

Dog. Was this
In your commission?

Sen. What, my lord?

Dog. This prattle
Of things you know not: but the treaty's signed;
Return with it to them who sent you.

Sen. I Obey. I had in charge, too, from the Council
That you would fix an hour for their reunion.

Dog. Say, when they will—now, even at this moment,
If it so please them I am the state's servant.

Sen. They would cord some time for your repose.

Dog. I have no pose, that is, none which shall cause
The loss of an hour's time unto the state.
Let them meet when they will, I shall be found
Where I should be, and what I have been ever.

[Exit Senator.

Enter an Attendant.

Att. Prince

Dog. Say on.

Att. The illustrious lady Foscari
Requests an audience.

Dog. Bid her enter. Poor Marina!

[Enter Attendant with letter.

Mar. I have ventured, father, on
Your privacy.

Dog. I have none from you, my child.
Command my time, when not commanded by
The state.

Mar. I wish'd to speak to you of him.

Dog. Your husband?

Mar. And your son.

Dog. Proceed, my daughter!

Mar. I had obtain'd permission from the "Ten"
To attend my husband for a limited number
Of hours.

Dog. You had so.

Mar. 'Tis revoked.

Dog. By whom?

Mar. "The Ten."—When we had reach'd "the
Bridge of Sighs,"

Which I prepared to pass with Foscari,
The gloomy guardian of that passage first
Demurr'd: a messenger was sent back to
"The Ten;" but as the court no longer sate,
And no permission had been given in writing,
I was thrust back, with the assurance that
Until that high tribunal had reassembled,
The dungeon walls would still divide us.

Dog. True, the form has been omitted in the haste
With which the court adjourn'd, and till it meets,
'Tis dubious.

Mar. Till it meets! and when it meets,
They'll torture him again; and he and I
Must purchase by renewal of the rack
The interview of husband and of wife,
The holiest tie beneath the heavens—Oh God!
Dost thou see this?

Dog. Child—child—

Mar. (abruptly.) Call me not "child!"
You soon will have no children—you deserve none—
You, who can talk thus calmly of a son
In circumstances which would call forth tears
Of blood from Spartans! Though these did not weep
Their boys who died in battle, is it written
That they beheld them perish piecemeal, nor
Stretch'd forth a hand to save them?

Dog. You behold me:
I cannot weep—I would I could; but if
Each white hair on this head were a young life,
This ducal cap the diadem of earth,
This ducal ring with which I wed the waves
A talisman to still them—I'd give all
For him.

Mar. With less he surely might be saved.

Dog. That answer only shows you know no
Venice.

Alas! how should you? she knows not herself,
In all her mystery. Hear me—they who aim
At Foscari, aim no less at his father;
The sire's destruction would not save the son;
They work by different means to the same end,
And that is—but they have not conquer'd yet.

Mar. But they have crush'd.

Dog. Nor crush'd as yet—I live.
Mar. And your son,—how long will he live?
Doge. I trust,
For all that yet is past, as many years
And happier than his father. The rash boy
With womanish impatience to return,
Hath ruin'd all by that detected letter:
A high crime which I neither can deny
Nor palliate, as parent or as Duke:
Had he but borne a little, little longer
His Canioto exile, I had hopes—he has quench'd them—

He must return.
Mar. To exile?
Doge. I have said it.
Mar. And can I not go with him?
Doge. You well know,
This prayer of yours was twice denied before
By the assembled "Ten," and hardly now
Will be accorded to a third request,
Since aggravated errors on the part
Of your lord renders them still more austere.

Mar. Austere? Atrocius! The old human fiends,
With one foot in the grave, with dim eyes, strange
To tears save drops of dotage, with long white
And scanty hairs, and shaking hands, and heads
As palsied as their hearts are hard, they council,
Cabal, and put men's lives out, as if life
Were no more than the feelings long extinguish'd
In their accursed bosoms.

Doge. You know not—
Mar. I do—I do—and so should you, methinks—
That these are demons: could it be else that
Men, who have been of women born and suckled—
Who have loved, or talk'd at least of love—have
Given
Their hands in sacred vows—have danced their babes
Upon their knees, perhaps have mournd' above them
In pain, in peril, or in death—who are,
Or were at least in seeming human, could
Do so they have done by yours, and you yourself,
You, who abet them?

Doge. I forgive this, for
You know not what you say.

Mar. You know it well,
And feel it nothing.

Doge. I have borne so much,
That words have ceased to shake me.

Mar. Oh, no doubt
You have seen your son's blood flow, and your flesh
Shook not;
And after that what are a woman's words?
No more than woman's tears, that should they shake you.

Doge. Woman, this clamorous grief of thine, I tell thee,
Is no more in the balance weigh'd with that
Which—but I pity thee, my poor Marina!

Mar. Pity my husband, or I cast it from me;
Pity thy son! Thou pity!—'tis a word
Strange to thy heart—how came it on thy lips?
Doge. I must bear these reproaches, though they
Wrong me.

Couldst thou but read—

Mar. 'Tis not upon thy brow,
Nor in thine eyes, nor in thine acts,—where then
Should I behold this sympathy! or shall?

Doge. (pointing downwards.) There!

Mar. In the earth?

Doge. To which I am tending: when

It lies upon this heart, 'tis lighter, though
Loaded with marble, than the thoughts which press
it
Now, you will know me better.

Mar. Indeed, thus to be pitied?

Doge. Pity'd! None shall
Ever use that base word, with which men
Cloak their soul's hoarded triumph, as a fit one
To mingle with my name: that name shall be,
As far as I have borne it, what it was
When I received it.

Mar. But for the poor children
Of him thou canst not, or thou wilt not save,
You were the last to bear it.

Doge. Would it were so.
Better for him he never had been born,
Better for me,—I have seen our house dishonor'd.

Mar. That's false! a truer, nobler, truster heart,
More loving, or more loyal, never beat
Within a human breast. I would not change
My exiled, persecuted, mangled husband,
Oppress'd but not disgraced, crush'd, overwhelmed,
Alive, or dead, for prince or paladin
In story or in fable, with a world
To back his suit. Dishonor'd!—he dishonor'd!
I tell thee, Doge, 'tis Venice is dishonor'd;
His name shall be her foulest, worst reproach,
For what he suffers, not for what he did.
'Tis ye who are all traitors, tyrant—ye!
Did you but love your country like this victim
Who totters back in chains to tortures, and
Submits to all things rather than to exile,
You'd fling yourselves before him, and implore
His grace for your enormous guilt.

Doge. Hu was
Indeed all you have said. I better bore
The deaths of the two sons Heaven took from me
Than Jacopo's disgrace.

Mar. That word again?

Doge. Has he not been condemn'd?

Mar. Is none but guilt so?

Doge. Time may restore his memory—I would
hope so.

He was my pride, my—but 'tis useless now—
I am not given to tears, but wept for joy
When he was born; those drops were ominous

Mar. I say he's innocent! And were he not so,
Is our own blood and kin to shrink from us
In fatal moments?

Doge. I shrink not from him:
But I have other duties than a father's;
The state would not dispense me from those duties;
Twice I demanded it, but was refused:
They must then be fulfill'd.

Enter an Attendant.

Att. A message from

"The Ten."

Doge. Who bears it?

Att. le Lorelano.

Doge. He—he admit him. [Exit Attendant.

Mar. Must I then retire?

Doge. Perhaps it is not requisite, if this
Concerns your husband, and if not—Well, signor,
Your pleasure! To Lorelano entering

Lor. I bear that of "the Ten."

Doge. They

Have chosen well their envoy.
"Tis their choice

**Lor.**
Which leads me here.

**Doge.**
It does their wisdom honor,

And no less to their courtesy.—Proceed.

**Lor.**
We have decided.

**Doge.**
We?

**Lor.**
"The Ten" in council.

**Doge.**
What! have they met again, and met without

Apprising me?

**Lor.**
They wish'd to spare your feelings, no less than age.

**Doge.**
That's new—when spared they either? I thank them, notwithstanding.

**Lor.**
You know well

That they have power to act at their discretion,

With or without the presence of the Doge.

**Doge.**
"Tis some years since I learn'd this, long before

I became Doge, or dream'd of such advancement.

You need not school me, signor: I sate in

That council when you were a young patrician.

**Lor.**
True, in my father's time; I have heard him and

The admiral, his brother, say as much.

Your highness may remember them; they both

Died suddenly.

**Doge.**
And if they did so, better /

So die than to be on lingeringly in pain.

**Lor.**
No doubt; yet most men like to live their days out.

**Doge.**
And did not they?

**Lor.**
The grave knows best: they died,

As I said, suddenly.

**Doge.**
Is that so strange,

That you repeat the word emphatically?

**Lor.**
So far from strange, that never was there death

In my mind half so natural as theirs.

Think you not so?

**Doge.**
What should I think of mortals?

**Lor.**
That they have mortal foes.

**Doge.**
I understand you;

Your sires were mine, and you are heir in all things.

**Lor.**
You best know if I should be so.

**Doge.**
I do.

Your fathers were my foes, and I have-heard

Foul rumors were abroad; I have also read

Their epitaph, attributing their deaths

To poison. "Tis perhaps as true as most

Inscriptions upon tombs, and yet no less

A fable.

**Lor.**
Who dare say so?

**Doge.**
I!—"Tis true.

Your fathers were mine enemies, as bitter

As their son e'er can be, and I no less

Was theirs; but I was openly their foe:

I never work'd by plot in council, nor

Cabal in commonwealth, nor secret means

Of practice against life by steel or drug.

The proof is, your existence.

**Lor.**
I fear not.

**Doge.**
You have no cause, being what I am; but

I that you would have me thought, you long ere now

Were past the sense of fear. Hate on; I care not.

**Lor.**
I never yet knew that a noble's life

In Venice had to dread a Doge's frown,

That is, by open means.

**Doge.**
But I, good signor,

Am, or at least was, more than a mere duke,

In blood, in mind, in means; and that they know

Who dreaded to elect me, and have since

Striven all they dare to weigh me down: be sure,

Before or since that period, had I held you

At so much price as to require your absence,

A word of mine had set such spirits to work

As would have made you nothing. But in all things

I have observed the strictest reverence;

Not for the laws alone, for those you have strain'd

(I do not speak of you but as a single

Voice of the many) somewhat beyond what

I could enforce for my authority,

Were I disposed to brawl; but, as I said,

I have observed with veneration, like

A priest's for the high altar, even unto

The sacrifice of my own blood and quiet,

Safety, and all save honor, the decrees,

The health, the pride, and welfare of the state.

And now, sit, to your business.

**Lor.**
"Tis decreed.

That, without further repetition of

The Question, or continuance of the trial,

Which only tends to show how stubborn guilt is,

(\"The Ten,\" dispensing with the stricter law

Which still prescribes the Question, till a full

Confession, and the prisoner partly having

Avow'd his crime in not denying that

The letter to the Duke of Milan's his,) JAMES FOSCAI return to banishment,

And sail in the same galley which convey'd him.

**Mar.**
Thank God! At least they will not drag him more

Before that horrible tribunal. Would he

But think so, to my mind the happiest doom,

Not he alone, but all who dwell here, could

Desire, were to escape from such a land.

**Doge.**
That is not a Venetian thought, my

daughter.

**Mar.**
No, 'twas too human. May I share his

exile?

**Lor.**
Of this "the Ten" said nothing.

**Mar.**
So I thought.

That were too human, also. But it was not

Inhibited?

**Lor.**
It was not named.

**Mar.**
(to the Doge.)

Then, father,

Surely you can obtain or grant me thus much:

[To LORDAR.

And you, sir, not oppose my prayer to be

Permitted to accompany my husband.

**Doge.**
I will endeavor.

**Mar.**
And you, signor?

**Lor.**
Lady

"Tis not for me to anticipate the pleasure

Of the tribunal.

**Mar.**
Pleasure! what a word

To use for the decrees of——

**Doge.**
Daughter, know you

In what a presence you pronounce these things?

**Mar.**
A prince's and his subject's.

**Lor.**
Subject! Oh

It galls you:—well, you are his equal, as

You think; but that you are not, nor would be.

Were he a peasant:—well, then, you're a prince.

A princely noble; and what then am I?

**Lor.**
The offspring of a noble house.
And wedded

To one as noble. What or whose, then is
The presence that should silence my free thoughts?

LOR. The presence of your husband's judges.

DOGE. And false, and hollow—clay from first to last,
The prince's urn no less than potter's vessel.
Our fame is in men's breath, our lives upon
Less than their breath; our durance upon days,
Our days on seasons; our whole being on
Something which is not us!—So, we are slaves.
The greatest as the meanest—nothing rests
Upon our will; the will itself no less
Depends upon a straw than on a storm;
And when we think we lead, we are most led,
And still towards death, a thing which comes so much
Without our act or choice as birth, so that
Methinks we must have sinn'd in some old world,
And this is hell: the best is, that it is not
Eternal.

MAR. These are things we cannot judge
On earth.

DOGE. And how then shall we judge each other
Who are all earth, and I, who am call'd upon
To judge my son? I have administer'd
My country faithully—victoriously—
I dare them to the proof, the chart of what
She was and is: my reign has doubled realms;
And, in reward, the gratitude of Venice
Has left, or is about to leave, me single.

MAR. And Foscari? I do not think of such things,
So I be left with him.

DOGE. You shall be so:
Thick much they cannot well deny.

MAR. And if
They should, I will fly with him.

DOGE. That can no't be.

MAR. I know not, reck no't—
To Syria, Egypt, to the Ottoman—
Any where, where we might respire unfetter'd,
And live nor girt by spiles, nor liable
To edicts of inquisitors of state.

DOGE. What, wouldnst thou have a refuge for
The husband,
And turn him into traitor?

MAR. He is none!
The country is the traitress, which thrusts forth
Her best and bravest from her. Tyranny
Is far the worst of treasons. Dost thou deem
None rebels except subjects? The prince who
Neglects or violates his trust is more
A brigand than the robber-chief.

DOGE. I cannot
Charge me with such a breach of faith.

MAR. No; thou
Observe'st, obey'st, such laws as make old Draco's
A code of mercy by comparison.

DOGE. I found the law; I did not make it. Were I
A subject, still I might find parts and portions
Fit for amendment; but as prince, I never
Would change, for the sake of my house, the charter
Left by our fathers.

MAR. Did they make 't for
The ruin of their children?

DOGE. Under such laws, Venice
Has risen to what she is—a state to gival
In deeds, and days, and sway, and, let me add,
In glory, (for we have had Roman spirits
Among us,) all that history has bequethed
Of Rome and Carthage in their best times, when
The people sway'd by senates.

MAR. Rather say
THE TWO FOSCARIS.

ACT III.

SCENE I.

The Prison of Jacopo Foscarì.

JAC. FOS. (solo.) No light, save you faint gleam, which shows me walls
Which never echo'd but to sorrow's sounds,
The sigh of long imprisonment, the step
Of feet on which the iron clank'd, the groan
Of death, the imprecation of despair!
And yet for this I have return'd to Venice,
With some faint hope, 'tis true, that time, which wears
The marble down, had worn away the hate
Of men's hearts, but I knew them not, and here
Must I consume my own, which never beat
For Venice but with such a yearning as
The dove has for her distant nest, when wheeiling
High in the air on her return to greet
Her callow brood. What letters are these which
[Approaching the wall.

Are sorrow'd along the inexorable wall?
Will the c'sean let me trace them? Ah! the name
Of my sad predecessors, in this place,
The dates of their despair, the brief words of
A grief too great for many. This stone page
Holds like an epitaph their history,
And the poor captive's tale is graven on
His dungeon barrier, like the lover's record
Upon the bark of some tall tree, which bears
His own and his beloved's name. Alas!
I recognize some names familiar to me,
And blighted like to mine, which I will add,
Fittest for such a chronicle as this,
Which only can be read, as writ, by wretches.
[He engraves his name.

Enter a Familiar of "the Ten."

FAM. I bring you food.

JAC. FOS. (after drinking.) I thank you: I am better.

FAM. I am commanded to inform you
That your further trial is postponed.

JAC. FOS. Ah! they relent, then—I had ceased to hope it:
'Twas time.

FAM. (Enact.) Enter MARINA.

JAC. FOS. Wouldst thou share a dungeon?

MAR. My best beloved!

JAC. FOS. (embracing her.) My true wife,
And only friend! What happiness!
We'll part
No more.

JAC. FOS. How! wouldst thou share a dungeon?

MAR. Ay, the rack, the grave, all—anything with thee,
But the tomb last of all, for there we shall
Be ignorant of each other, yet I will
Share that—all things except new separation;
It is too much to have survived the first.
How dost thou? How are those worn limbs? Alas!
Why do I ask? Thy paleness—

JAC. FOS. 'Tis the joy
Of seeing thee again so soon, and so
Without expectancy, has sent the blood
Back to my heart, and left my cheeks like thine.
For thou art pale, too, my Marina.

MAR. 'Tis
The gloom of this eternal cell, which never
Knew sunbeam, and the sallow sullen glare
Of the familiar's torch, which seems akin
To darkness more than light, by lending to
The dungeon vaporits bituminous smoke,
Which cloud what'er we gaze on, even thine eyes—
No, not thine eyes—they sparkle—how they sparkle!

JAC. FOS. And thine?—but I am blinded by the torch.

MAR. As I had been without it. Couldst thou
see here?

JAC. FOS. Nothing at first; but use and time has taught me
Familiarity with what was darkness;
And the gray twilight of such glimmerings as
Glide through the crevices made by the winds.
Was kinder to mine eyes than the full sun,
When gorgeously o'er-gilding any towers
Save those of Venice; but a moment ere
Thou cam'st hither I was busy writing.

Mar. Y' What?

Jac. Fos. My name: look, 'tis there—recorded
The name of him who here preceded me,
If dungeon dates say true.

Mar. And what of him?

Jac. Fos. These walls are silent of men's ends;
they only
Seem to hint shrewdly of them. Such stern walls
Were never piled on high save o'er the dead,
Or those who soon must be so—What of him?
Thou ask'st.—What of me? may soon be ask'd,
With the like answer—doubt and dreadful surmise—
Unless thou tell'st my tale.

Mar. I speak of thee!

Jac. Fos. And wherefore not? All then shall
speak of me:
The tyranny of silence is not lasting,
And, though events be hidden, just men's groans
Will burst all cement, even a living grave's!
I do not doubt my memory, but my life;
And neither do I fear.

Mar. Thy life is safe.

Jac. Fos. And liberty?

Mar. The mind should make its own.

Jac. Fos. That has a noble sound; but 'tis a sound,
A music most impressive, but too transient:
The mind is much, but is not all. The mind
Hath nerv'd me to endure the risk of death,
And torture positive, far worse than death,
(If death be a deep sleep,) without a groan,
Or with a cry which rather shamed my judges
Than me; but 'tis not all, for there are things
More woful, such as this small dungeon, where
I may breathe many years.

Mar. Alas! and this
Small dungeon is all that belongs to thee
Of this wide realm, of which thy sire is prince.

Jac. Fos. That thought would scarcely aid me to
endure it.
My doom is common, many are in dungeons,
But none like mine, so near their father's palace;
But then my heart is sometimes high, and hope
Will stream along those moted rays of light
Peopled with dusty atoms, which afford
Our only day; for, save the jailor's torch,
And a strange fire-fly, which was quickly caught
Last night in yon enormous spider's net,
I ne'er saw aught here like a ray. Alas!
I know if mind may bear us up, or no,
For I have such, and shown it before men;
It slaks in solitude: my soul is social.

Mar. I will be with thee.

Jac. Fos. Ah! if it were so!
But that they never granted—nor will grant,
And I shall be alone: no men—no books—
Those lying likenesses of lying men.
I ask'd for even those outlines of their kind,
Which they term annals, history, what you will,
Which men bequeath as portraits, and they were
Refused me, so these walls have been my study,
More faithful pictures of Venetian story,
With all their blank, or dismal stains, than is
The hall not: far from hence, which bears on high

Hundreds of dogs, and their deeds and dates

Mar. I come to tell thee the result of their
Last council on thy doom.

Jac. Fos. I know it—look!

[He points to his limbs, as referring to the toes
which he had undergone.

Mar. No—no—no more of that: even they relen
From that atrocity.

Jac. Fos. What then?

Mar. That you
Return to Candia.

Jac. Fos. Then my last hope's gone.
I could endure my dungeon, for 'twas Venice;
I could support the torture, there was something
In my native air that buoy'd my spirits up
Like a ship on the ocean toss'd by storms,
But proudly still bestriding the high waves,
And holding on its course; but there, afar,
In that accursed isle of slaves, and captives,
And unbelievers, like a stranded wreck,
My very soul seem'd mouldering in my bosom,
And piecemeal I shall perish, if remanded.

Mar. And here?

Jac. Fos. At once—by better means, as briefer
What? would they even deny me sire's sepulchre,
As well as home and heritage?

Mar. My husband! I have sued to accompany thee hence,
And not so hopelessly. This love of thine
For an ungrateful and tyrannic soil
Is passion, and not patriotism; for me,
So I could see thee with a quiet aspect,
And the sweet freedom of the earth and air,
I would not cavil about climes or regions,
This crowd of palaces and prisons is not
A paradise; its first inhabitants
Were wretched exiles.

Jac. Fos. Well I know now wretched! 

Mar. And yet you see how from their banishment
Before the Tartar into these salt isles,
Their antique energy of mind, all that
Remain'd of Rome for their inheritance,
Created by degrees an ocean-Rome;
And shall an evil, which so often leads
To good, depress thee thus?

Jac. Fos. Had I gone forth
From my own land, like the old patriarchs, seeking
Another region, with their flocks and herds,
Had I been cast out like the Jews from Zion,
Or like our fathers, driven by Attila
From fertile Italy, to barren islets,
I would have given some tears to my late country,
And many thoughts; but afterwards address'd
Myself, with those about me, to create
A new home and fresh state: perhaps I could
Have borne this—though I know not.

Mar. Wherefore unt
It was the lot of millions, and must be
The fate of myriads more.

Jac. Fos. Ay—we but hear
Of the survivors' toil in their new lands,
Their numbers and success; but who can number
The hearts which broke in silence at that parting
Or after their departure; of that malady *
Which calls up green and native fields to view
From the rough deep, with such identity
To the poor exile's fever'd eye, that he

* The coloures.
Can scarcely be restrained from treading them?  
That melody, which out of tones and tunes  
Collects such pasture for the longing sorrow  
Of the sad mountaineer, when far away  
From his snow canopy of cliffs and clouds,  
That he feeds on the sweet, but poisonous thought,  
And dies. You call this weakness! It is strength,  
say—the parent of all honest feeling.  
He who loves not his country, can love nothing.  
Mar. Obey her, then: 'tis she that puts thee forth.  
Jac. Fos. Ay, there it is; 'tis like a mother's curse  
Upon my soul—the mark is set upon me.  
he exiles you speak of went forth by nations,  
'eer hands upheld each other by the way,  
Their tents were pitch'd together—I'm alone.  
Mar. You shall be so no more—I will go with thee.  
Jac. Fos. My best Marina!—and our children?  
Mar. They,  
I fear, by the prevention of the state's  
Abhorrent policy, (which holds all ties  
As threads, which may be broken at her pleasure,)  
Will not be suffer'd to proceed with us.  
Jac. Fos. And canst thou leave them?  
Mar. Yes. With many a pang.  
But—I can leave them, children as they are,  
To teach you to be less a child. From this  
Learn you to sway your feelings, when exacted  
By duties paramount; and 'tis our first  
On earth to bear.  
Jac. Fos. Have I not borne?  
Mar. Too much  
From tyrannous injustice, and enough  
To teach you not to shrink now from a lot,  
Which, as compared with what you have undergone  
Of late, is mercy.  
Jac. Fos. Ah! you never yet  
Were far away from Venice, never saw  
Her beautiful towers in the receding distance,  
While every furrow of the vessel's track  
Seem'd ploughing deep into your heart; you never  
Saw day go down upon your native spires  
So calmly with its gold and crimson glory,  
And after dreaming a disturbed vision  
Of them and theirs, awoke and found them not.  
Mar. I will divide this with you. Let us think  
Of our departure from this much-loved city,  
(Since you must love it as it seems,) and this  
Chamber of state, her gratitude allots you.  
Our children will be cared for by the Doge,  
And by my uncles: we must sail ere night.  
Jac. Fos. That's sudden. Shall I not behold my father?  
Mar. You will.  
Jac. Fos. Where?  
Mar. Here or in the ducal chamber—  
He said not which. I would that you could bear  
Your exile as he bears it.  
Jac. Fos. Blame him not.  
I sometimes murmur for a moment: but  
He could not now act otherwise. A show  
Of feeling or compassion on his part  
Would have but drawn upon his aged head  
Suspicion from "the Ten," and upon mine,  
Accumulated ills.  
Mar. Accumulated!  
What pangs are those they have spared you?  
Jac. Fos. That of leaving  
Venice without beholding him or you,  
Which might have been forbidden now, as twas  
Upon my former exile.  
Mar. That is true,  
And thus far I am also the state's debtor,  
And shall be more so when I see us both  
Floating on the free wave—away—away—  
Be it to the earth's end, from this abhor'd,  
Unjust, and—  
Jac. Fos. Curse it not. If I am silent,  
Who dares accuse my country?  
Mar. Men and Angels  
The blood of myriads reeking up to heaven,  
The groans of slaves in chains, and men in dungeons  
Mothers, and wives, and sons, and sires, and subjects,  
Held in the bondage of ten bald-heads; and  
Though last, not least, thy silence. Couldst thou say  
Aught in its favor, who would praise like thee?  
Jac. Fos. Let us address us then, since so it must be,  
To our departure. Who comes here?  
Enter Loredano, attended by Familiaris.  
Lor. (to the Familiaris.) Retire,  
But leave the torch. (Excuse the two Familiaris)  
Jac. Fos. Most welcome, noble signor  
I did not deem this poor place could have drawn  
Such presence hither.  
Lor. 'Tis not the first time  
I have visited these places.  
Mar. Nor would be  
The last, were all men's merits well rewarded  
Came you here to insult us, or remain  
As spy upon us, or as hostage for us?  
Lor. Neither are of my office, noble lady  
I am sent hither to your husband, to  
Announce "the Ten's" decree.  
Mar. That tenderness  
Has been anticipated: it is known.  
Lor. As how?  
Mar. I have inform'd him, not so gentry,  
Doubtless, as your nice feelings would prescribe,  
The indulgence of your colleagues; but he knew it  
If you come for our thanks, take them, and hence  
The dungeon gloom is deep enough without you,  
And full of reptiles, not less loathsome, though  
Their sting is honest.  
Jac. Fos. I pray you, look at me  
What can avail such words?  
Mar. To let him know  
That he is known.  
Lor. Let the fair dame preserve  
Her sex's privilege.  
Mar. I have some sons, sir,  
Will one day thank you better.  
Lor. You do well  
To nurse them wisely. Foscarini—you know  
Your sentence, then?  
Jac. Fos. Return to Candia?  
Lor. True—  
For life.  
Jac. Fos. Not long.  
Lor. I said—for life.  
Jac. Fos. And I  
Repeat—not long.  
Lor. A year's imprisonment  
In Carcer—afterwards the freedom of
The whole isle.

Jac. Fos. Both the same to me; the after Freedom as is the first imprisonment. Is't true my wife accompanies me?

Lor. Yes, she so wills it.

Mar. Who obtain'd that justice?

Lor. One who wars not with women.

Mar. But oppress;

Men: howsoever let him have my thanks For the only boon I would have asked or taken From him or such as he is.

Lor. He receives them As they are offer'd.

Mar. May they thrive with him So much!—no more.

Jac. Fos. Is this, sir, your whole mission, Because we have brief: time for preparation, And you perceive your presence doth disquiet This lady, of a house noble as yours.

Mar. Nobler!

Lor. How nobler?

Mar. As more generous! We say the "generous stem" to express the purity Of his high blood. Thus much I've learnt, although Venetian, (who see few steeds save of bronze,) From those Venetians who have skimm'd the coasts Of Egypt, and her neighbor Araby: And why not say as soon the "generous man?" If race be aught, it is in qualities More than in years; and mine, which is as old As yours, is better in its product, say— Look not so stern—but get you back, and pore Upon your genealogic trees most green Of leaves and most mature of fruits, and there Blush to find ancestors, who would have blush'd For such a son—thou cold inveterate hater!

Jac. Fos. Again, Marina!

Mar. Again! still, Marina!

See you not, he comes here to glut his hate With a last look upon our misery? Let him partake it!

Jac. Fos. That were difficult.

Mar. Nothing more easy. He partakes it now— Ay, he may veil beneath a marble brow And sneering lip the pang, but he partakes it. A few brief words of truth shame the devil's servants No less than master; I have prob'd his soul A moment, as the eternal fire, ere long, Will reach it always. See how he shrinks from me! With death, and chains, and exile in his hand To scatter o'er his kind as he thinks fit: They are his weapons, not his armor, for I have pierced him to the core of his cold heart. I care not for his frowns! We can but die, And he but live, for him the very worst Of destinies; each day secures him more His temp'ler's.

Jac. Fos. This is mere insanity.

Mar. It may be so; and who hath made us mad?

Lor. Let her go on; it irks not me.

Mar. That's false!

You came here to enjoy a heartless triumph Of cold looks upon manifold griefs! You came To be seduced to vain—to mark our tears, And hoard our groans—to gaze upon the wreck Which you have made a prince's son—my husband; In short, to trample on the fallen—an office The hangman shrinks from, as all men from him!

How have you sped? We are wretched, signor; Your plots could make, and vengeance could deserve us, And how feel you?

Lor. As rocks.

Mar. By thunder blasted. They feel not, but no less are shiver'd. Come, Foscari; now let us go, and leave this felon, The sole fit habitant of such a cell, Which he has peopled often, but ne'er fitly Till he himself shall brood in it alone.

Enter the Dux.

Jac. Fos. My father!

Doge, (embracing him.) Jacopo! my son—my son. Jac. Fos. My father still! How long it is since! Have heard thee name my name—our name!

Doge. My boy! Couldst thou but know

Jac. Fos. I rarely, sir, have murmur'd.

Doge. I feel too much thou hast not.

Mar. Doge, look there!

[She points to Loredano.]

Doge. Daughter, it is superfurious; I have long Known Loredano.

Lor. You may know him better.

Mar. Yes; worse he could not.

Jac. Fos. Father, let not these Our parting hours be lost in listening to Reproachses, which boot nothing. Is it—is it, Indeed, our last of meetings?

Doge. You behold These white hairs!

Jac. Fos. And I feel, besides, that mine Will never be so white. Embrace me, father! I loved you ever—never more than now. Look to my children—to your last child's children Let them be all to you which he was once, And never be to you what I am now.

May I not see them also?

Mar. No—not here.

Jac. Fos. They might behold their parent any where.

Mar. I would that they beheld their father in A place which would not mingle fear with love, To freeze their young blood in its natural current They have fed well, slept soft, and knew not that Their sire was a mere hunted outlaw. Well, I know his fate may one day be their heritage, But let it only be their heritage, And not their present fee. Their senses, though Alive to love are yet awake to terror; And these "chains, too, and thou thick green waves Which floats above the place where we now stand— A cell so far below the water's level, Sending its pestilence through every crevice, Might strike them: this is not their atmosphere However you—and you—and, most of all, As worthiest—you, sir, noble Loredano!
May breathe it without prejudice.

Jac. Fos. I had not
Reflected upon this, but acquiesce.

I shall depart, then, without meeting them?

Doge. Not so: they shall await you in my

chamber.

Jac. Fos. And must I leave them all?

Lor. You must.

Jac. Fos. Not one?

Lor. They are the state’s.

Mar. I thought they had been mine.

Lor. They are, in all maternal things.

Mar. That is, in all things painful. If they’re sick, they will

Be left to me to tend them; should they die,

To me to bury and to mourn; but if

They live, they’ll make you soldiers, senators,

Slaves, exiles—what you will; or if they are

Females with portions, brides and brides for nobles!

Behold the state’s care for its sons and mothers!

Lor. The hour approaches, and the wind is fair.

Jac. Fos. How know you that here, where the

genial wind

Ne’er blows in all its blistering freedom?

Lor. ’Twas so

When I came here. The galley floats within

A bow-shot of the “Riva di Schiavoni.”

Jac. Fos. Father! I pray you to precede me, and

Prepare my children to behold their father.

Dog. Be firm, my son!—

Jac. Fos. I will do my endeavor.

Mar. Farewell! at least to this detested dungeon,

And to whose good offices you owe

In part your past imprisonment.

Lor. And present

Liberation.

Dog. He speaks truth.

Jac. Fos. No doubt! but ’tis

Exchange of chains for heavier chains I owe him.

He knows this, or he had not sought to change

them—

But I reproach not.

Lor. The time narrows, signor.

Jac. Fos. Alas! I little thought so languishingly

To leave abodes like this: but when I feel

That every step I take, even from this cell,

Is one away from Venice, I look back

Even on these dull damp walls, and—

Dog. Boy! no tears.

Mar. Let them flow on: he wept not on the rack

To shame him, and they cannot shame him now.

They will relieve his heart—that too kind heart—

And I will find an hour to wipe away

Those tears, or add my own. I could weep now,

But would not gratify you wretch so far:

Let us proceed. Doge, lead the way.

Lor. To the Familiarities. The torch, there!

Mar. Yes, light us on, as to a funeral pyre.

Joth. Loredano mourning like an heir.

Dog. My son, you are feeble; take this hand.

Jac. Fos. Alas!

Must youth support itself on age, and I

Who ought to be the prop of yours?

Lor. Take mine.

Mar. Touch it not, Foscari! ’twill sting you.

Signor, stand off! be sure, that if a grasp of yours

Would raise us from the gulf wherein we are

plunged

No hand of ours would stretch itself to meet it.

Come, Foscari, take the hand the altar gave you,

It could not save, but will support you ever.

[Exeunt]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.

A Hall in the Ducal Palace.

Enter LORDELANO and BARBAROSSO.

Bar. And have you confidence in such a project

Lor. I have.

Bar. ’Tis hard upon his years.

Lor. Say rather

Kind to relieve him from the cares of state.

Bar. ’Twill break his heart.

Lor. Age has no heart to break.

He has seen his son’s half broken, and, except

A start of feeling in his dungeon, never

Swerved.

Bar. In his countenance, I grant you, never

But I have seen him sometimes in a calm

So desolate, that the most clamorous grief

Had nought to envy him within.

Where is he

Lor. In his own portion of the palace, with

His son, and the whole race of Foscaris.

Bar. Bidding farewell.

Lor. A last. As soon he shal.

Bid to his dukedom.

Bar. When embarks the son?

Lor. Forthwith—when this long leave is taken

’Tis

Time to admonish them again.

Bar. Retrench not from their moments.

Lor. Not I, now

We have higher business for our own. This day

Shall be the last of the old Doge’s reign,

As the first of his son’s last banishment.

And that is vengeance.

Bar. In my mind, too deep.

Lor. ’Tis moderate—not even life for life, the

Denounced of retribution from all time;

They owe me still my father’s and my uncle’s.

Bar. Did not the Doge deny this strongly?

Lor. Doubtless.

Bar. And did not this shake your suspicion?

Lor. No.

Bar. But if this deposition should take place

By our united influence in the Council.

It must be done with all the deference

Due to his years, his station, and his deeds.

Lor. As much of ceremony as you will,

So that the thing be done. You may, for

I care, depute the Council on their knees,

Like Barbarossa to the Pope,) to beg him

To have the courtesy to abdicate.

Bar. What, if he will not?

Lor. We’ll elect another

And make him null.

Bar. But will the laws uphold us?

Lor. What laws?—“The Ten” are laws; and if

they were not,

I will be legislator in this business.
BYRON'S WORKS.

Bar. At your own peril?

Lor. There is none, I tell you.

Our powers are such.

Bar. But he has twice already

Solicited permission to retire,

And twice it was refused.

Lor. The better reason

To grant it the third time.

Bar. Unask'd?

Lor. It shows

The impression of his former instances:
If they were from his heart, he may be thankful:
If not, 'twill punish his hypocrisy.
Come, they are met by this time; let us join them,
And be thou fix'd in purpose for this once.
I have prepared such arguments as will not
Fail to move them, and to remove him: since
Their thoughts, their objects, have been sounded,
do not
You, with your wonted serpules, teach us pause,
And all will prosper.

Bar. Could I but be certain
This is no prelude to such persecution
Of the sire as has fallen upon the son,
I would support you.

Lor. He is safe, I tell you;
His fourscore years and five may linger on
As long as he can drag them: 'tis his throne
Alone is aim'd at.

Bar. But discarded princes
Are seldom long of life.

Lor. And men of eighty
More seldom still.

Bar. And why not wait these few years?

Lor. Because we have waited long enough, and he
Lived longer than enough. Hence! In to council!

[Exeunt LOREDANO and BARBARIGO.

Enter MEMMO and a Senator.

Sen. A summons to "the Ten!" Why so?

Mem. A summons to "the Ten!" Why so?

Sen. Alone can answer; they are rarely wont

To let their thoughts anticipate their purpose
By previous proclamation. We are summon'd—

That is enough.

Sen. For them, but not for us;

I would know why.

Mem. You will know why anon,
If you obey; and, if not, you no less
Will know why you should have obey'd.

Sen. I mean not
To oppose them, but—

Mem. In Venice "but" 's a traitor.

But me no "but" unless you would pass o'er

The Bridge which few repass.

Sen. I am silent.

Mem. Why

Thus hesitate? "The Ten" have call'd in aid
Of their deliberation five and twenty
Patricians of the senate—you are one,

And I another; and it seems to me
Both honor'd by the choice or chance which leads us
To mingle with a body so august.

Sen. Most true. I say no more.

Mem. As we hope, signor,

And all may honestly (that is, all those
Of noble blood may) one day hope to be
Decemvir, it is surely for the senate's
Chosen delegates, a school of wisdom, to

Be thus admitted, though as novices,

To view the mysteries.

Sen. Let us view them: they

No doubt, are worth it.

Mem. Being worth our lives,

If we divulge them, doubtless they are worth

Something, at least to you or me.

Sen. I sought not

A place within the sanctuary; but being
Chosen, however reluctantly so chosen,
I shall fulfil my office.

Mem. Let us not

Be latest in obeying "The Ten's" summons.

Sen. All are not met—'tis of your thought
So far—let's in.

Mem. Most of us—most are welcome

In earnest. Hence—we will not be long so.

[Exeunt.

Enter the DOGE, Jacopo Foscari, and MARINA.

Jac. Fos. Ah, father! though I must and will

depart,

Yet—no—I pray you to obtain for me
That I once more return unto my home,

Hover're remote the period, Let there be
A point of time as beacon to my heart,
With any penalty annex'd they please,

But let me still return.

Doge. Son Jacopo,
Go and obey our country's will: 'tis not

For us to look beyond.

Jac. Fos. But still I must

Look back. I pray you think of me.

Doge. Alas!

You ever were my dearest offspring, when

They were more numerous, nor can be less so

Now you are last; but did the state demand

The exile of the disinterred ashes

Of your three goodly brothers, now in earth,

And their desponding shapes came flitting round
To impede the act, I must no less obey

A duty, paramount to every duty.

Mar. My husband! let us on: this b'lt prolongs

Our sorrow.

Jac. Fos. But we are not summon'd yet;

The galleys sails are not unfurl'd:—who knows?

The wind may change.

Mar. And if it do, it will not

Change their hearts, or your lot: the galleys' oars

Will quickly clear the harbor.

Jac. Fos. O ye elements!

Where are your storms?

Mar. In human breasts. Alas

Will nothing calm you?

Jac. Fos. Never yet did mariner

Put up to patron saint such prayers for prosperous

And pleasant breezes, as I call upon you,
Ye tutelar saints of my own city! which

Ye love not with more holy love than I.

To lash up from the deep the Adrian waves,

And waken Auster, sovereign of the tempest!

Till the sea dash me back on my own shore

A broken corse upon the barren Lido,

Where I may mingle with the sands which skim

The land I love, and never shall see more!

Mar. And wish you this with me beside you?

Jac. Fos. No—

Not for thee, too good, too kind! May'st thou

Live long to be a mother to those children
THE TWO FOSCARI.

Thy fond fidelity for a time deprives
Of such support! But for myself alone,
May all the winds of heaven howl down the Gulf,
And tear the vessel, till the mariners,
Appall'd, turn their despairing eyes on me,
As the Phenicians did on Jonah, then
Cast me out from among them, as an offering
To appease the waves. The billow which destroys me
Will be more merciful than man, and bear me,
Dead, but still bear me to a native grave,
From fisher's hands upon the desolate strand,
Which, of its thousand wrecks, hath ne'er received
One lacerated like the heart which then
Will be—but wherefore breaks it not? why live I?
Mar. To man thyself, I trust, with time, to master
Such useless passion. Until now thou wart
A sufferer, but not a loud one: why
What is this to the things thou hast borne in
silence—
Imprisonment and actual torture?
Jac. Fos. Double, Triplie, and tenfold torture! But you are right,
It must be borne. Father, your blessing.
Doge. Would it could avail thee! but no less thou hast it.
Jac. Fos. Forgive—
Doge. What? Jac. Fos. My poor mother, for my birth,
And me for having lived, and you yourself
(As I forgive you) for the gift of life,
Which you bestow'd upon me as my sire.
Mar. What hast thou done?
Jac. Fos. Nothing. I cannot charge
My memory with much save sorrow: but
I have been so beyond the common lot
Chasten'd and visited. I needs must think
That I was wicked. If it be so, may
What I have undergone here keep me from
A like hereafter!
Mar. Fear not: that's reserved
For your oppressors. Jac. Fos. Let me hope not.
Mar. Hope not?
Jac. Fos. I cannot wish them all they have in-
ficted.
Mar. All! the consummate fiends! A thousand
fold
May the worm which ne'er dieth, feed upon them!
Jac. Fos. They may repent.
Mar. And if they do, Heaven will not
Accept the tardy penitence of demons.

Enter an Officer and Guards.
Offi. Signer! the boat is at the shore—the wind
Is rising—we are ready to attend you.
Ja. Fos. And I to be attended. Once more, father,
I'm sure.
Doge. Take it. Alas! how thine own trembles!
Jac. Fos. No—you mistake; 'tis yours that
shakes, my father.
Farewell! Doge. Farewell! Is there aught else?
Jac. Fos. No—nothing. [To the Officer.
Lend me your arm, good signor.
Offi. You turn pale—
Let me support you—paler—ho! some aid there!
Some water!
Mar. Ah, he is dying!

Jac. Fos. Now, I'm ready—
My eyes swim strangely—where's the door?
Mar. Away
Let me support him—my best love! Oh, God.
How faintly beats this heart—this pulse!
Jac. Fos. The light
Is it the light?—I am faint.
[Officer presents him with water
Offi. He will be better,
Perhaps in the air.
Jac. Fos. I doubt not. Father—wife—
Your hands!
Mar. There's death in that damp, clammy grasp
Oh God!—My Foscarì, how sure you?
Jac. Fos. Well! [He dies
Offi. He's gone!
Doge. He's free.
Mar. No—no, he is not dead
There must be life yet in that heart—he could not
Thus leave me,
Doge. Daughter!
Mar. Hold thy peace, old man.
I am no daughter now—thou hast no son.
Oh, Foscarì!
Offi. We must remove the body.
Mar. Touch it not, dungeon miscreants! your base
office
Ends with his life, and goes not beyond murder,
Even by your murderous laws. Leave his remains
To those who know to honor them.
Offi. I must
Inform the signory, and learn their pleasure.
Doge. Inform the signory from me, the Doge,
They have no further power upon those ashes:
While he lived, he was theirs, as fits a subject—
Now he is mine—my broken-hearted boy!
[Exit Offici
Mar. And I must live!
Doge. Your children live, Marina.
Mar. My children! true—they live, and I must
live
To bring them up to serve the state, and die
As died their father. Oh! what best of blessings
Were bareness in Venice! Would my mother
Had been so!
Doge. My unhappy children!
Mar. What! You feel it then at last—you!—Where is now
The stoic of the state?
Doge, (throwing himself down by the body.) Here,
Mar. Ay, weep on
I thought you had no tears—you hoarded them
Until they are useless; but weep on! he never
Shall weep more—never, never more.

Enter Loredano and Barbarigo
Lor. What's here! Mar. Ah! the devil come to insult the dead
Avaunt!
Incarnate Lucifer! 'tis holy ground.
A martyr's ashes now lie there, which make it
A shrine. Get thee back to thy place of torrent
Bar. Lady, we knew not of this sad event.
But pass'd here merely on our path from council
Mar. Pass on.
Lor. We sought the Doge.
Mar. (pointing to the Doge, who is still on the
ground by his son's body.) He's busy, look
About the business you provided for him.  
Are ye content?  
Bar.  We will not interrupt.  
A parent’s sorrows.  
Mor. No, ye only make them, 
Then leave them.  
Doge. (rising.) Sirs, I am ready.  
Bar. No—not now.  
Lor. Yet 'twas important.  
Doge. If 'twas so, I can 
Only repeat—I am ready.  
Bar. It shall not be 
Just as, though Venice totter’d o’er the deep 
Like a frail vessel. I respect your griefs.  
Doge. I thank you. If the tidings which you bring 
Are evil, you may say them; nothing further 
Can: such me more than thou look’st on there, 
If they be good, say on; you need not fear 
That they can comfort me.  
Bar. I would they could.  
Doge. I spoke not to you, but to Loredano.  
He understands me.  
Mar. Ah! I thought it would be so.  
Doge. What mean you?  
Mar. Lo! there is the blood beginning 
To flow through the dead lips of Foscarì— 
The body bleeds in presence of the assassin.  
[To LOREDANO.  
Thou cowardly murderer by law, behold 
How death itself bears witness to thy deeds!  
Doge. My child! this is a phantasy of grief.  
Bear hence the body. [To his Attendants.] Signors, 
if it please you,  
Within an hour I’ll hear you.  
[Exeunt DOGE, MARINA, and ATTENDANTS with the body.  
[Manent LOREDANO and BARBARIGO.  
Bar. He must not 
Be troubled now.  
Lor. He said himself that nought 
Could give him trouble further.  
Bar. These are words; 
But grief is lonely, and the breaking in 
Upon it barbarous.  
Lor. Sorrow preys upon 
Its solitude, and nothing more diverts it 
From its sad visions of the other world 
Than calling it at moments back to this. 
The busy have no time for tears.  
Bar. And therefore 
You would deprive this old man of all business?  
Lor. The thing’s decreed. The Giunta and “the Ten” 
Have made it law—who shall oppose that law?  
Bar. Humanity.  
Lor. Because his son is dead?  
Bar. And yet unburied.  
Lor. Had we known this when 
The act was passing, it might have suspended 
Its passage, but impedes it not—once past.  
Bar. I’ll not consent.  
Lor. You have consented to 
All that’s essential—leave the rest to me.  
Bar. Why press his abdication now?  
Lor. The feelings 
Of private passion may not interrupt 
The public benefit; and what the state 
Decides to-day must not give way before 
To-morrow for a natural accident.

Bar. You have a son.  
Lor. I have—and had a father.  
Bar. Still so inexorable?  
Lor. Still.  
Bar. But let him 
Inter his son before we press upon him 
This edict.  
Lor. Let him call up into life 
My sire and uncle—I consent. Men may, 
Even aged men, be, or appear to be, 
Sires of a hundred sons, but cannot kindle 
An atom of their ancestors from earth. 
The victims are not equal: he has seen 
His sons expire by natural deaths, and I 
My sires by violent and mysterious maladies. 
I used no poison, bribed no subtle master 
Of the destructive art of healing, to 
Shorten the path to the eternal cure. 
His sons, and he had four, are dead, without 
My dabbling in vilo drugs.  
Bar. And art thou sure 
He dealt in such?  
Lor. Most sure.  
Bar. And yet he seems 
All openness, 
Lor. And so he seem’d not long 
Ago to Carmagnuola.  
Bar. The attained 
And foreign traitor?  
Lor. Even so: when he, 
After the very night in which “the Ten” 
(Join’d with the Doge) decided his destruction, 
Met the great Duke at daybreak with a jest, 
Demanding whether he should augur him 
“The good day or good night?” his Doge-ship 
answered, 
“That he in truth had pass’d a night of vigil 
In which (he added with a gracious smile) 
There often has been question about you.” 
“Twas untrue; the question was the death resolved 
Of Carmagnuola, eight months he died; 
And the old Doge, who knew him doom’d, smiles 
on him 
With deadly cozenage, eight long mouths before 
hand— 
Eight months of such hypocrisy as is 
Learn’d but in eighty years. Brake Carmagnuola 
Is dead; so is young Foscarì and his brethren— 
I never smiled on them.  
Bar. Was Carmagnuola 
Your friend?  
Lor. He was the safeguard of the city 
In early life its foe, but, in his manhood, 
Its savior first, then victim.  
Bar. Ah! that seems 
The penalty of saving cities. He 
Whom we now act against not only saved 
Our own, but added others to her sway.  
Lor. The Romans (and we suppose) gave a crown 
To him who took a city: and they gave 
a crown to him who saved a citizen 
In battle: the rewards are equal. Now 
If we should measure forth the cities taken 
By the Doge Foscarì, with citizens 
Destroy’d by him, or through him, the account 
Were fearfully against him, although narrow’d 
To private havoc, such as between him

* An historical fact.
And my dead father.

Bar. Are you then thus fix'd?

Lor. Why, what should change me?

Bar. That which changes me:

But you, I know, are marble to retain
A feud. But when all is accomplish'd, when
The old man is depos'd, his name degrad'd,
His sons all dead, his family depress'd,
And you and yours triumphant, shall you sleep?

Lor. More soundly.

Bar. That's an error and you'll find it,
Bere you sleep with your fathers.

Lor. They sleep not
In their accelerated graves, nor will
Till Foscar'i fills his. Each night I see them
Stalk frowning round my couch, and, pointing
Towards
The ducal palace, marshal me to vengeance.

Bar. Fancy's distemperature! There is no passion
More spectral or fantastical than hate;
Not ever its opposite, love, so peoples air
With phantoms, as this madness of the heart.

Enter an Officer.

Lor. Wha e' go you, sirrah?

Off. By the ducal order To forward the preparatory-rites
For the late Foscar'i's interment.

Bar. Their

Vault has been open'd of late years.

Bar. 'Twill be full soon, and may be closed for ever.

Off. May I pass on?

Lor. You may.

Bar. How bears the doge
This last calamity?

Off. With desperate firmness;
In presence of another he says little,
But I perceive his lips move now and then;
And once or twice I heard him, from the adjoining
Apartment, mutter forth the words—"my son!"
Searcely audibly. I must proceed. [Exit Officer.

Bar. This stroke
Will move all Venice in his favor.

Lor. Right!

We must be speedy; let us call together
The delegates appointed to convey
The council's resolution.

Bar. I protest
Against it at this moment.

Lor. As you please—
I'll take their voices on it nevertheless,
And see whose most may sway them, yours or mine. [Exit Barberigo and Loredano.

ACT V.

SCENE I.

The Doge's Apartment.

The Doge and Attendants.

Att. My lord, the deputation is in waiting;
But add, that if another hour would better
Accord with your will, they will make it theirs.

Doge. To me all hours are like. Let them
approach. [Exit Attendant

An Officer. Prince! I have done your bidding.

Doge. What command?

Off. A melancholy one—to call the attendance
Of—

Doge. True—true—true! I crave your pardon.
I begin to fall in apprehension, and
Wax very old—old almost as my years.
Till now I fought them off, but they begin
To overtake me.

Enter the Deputation, consisting of six of the
Signory, and the Chief of the Ten.

Noble men, your pleasure!

Chief of the Ten. In the first place the Council
doth condole
With the Doge on his late and private grief.

Doge. No more—no more of that.

Chief of the Ten. Will not the Duke
Accept the homage of respect?

Doge. I do
Accept it as 'tis given—proceed.

Chief of the Ten. "The Ten,"
With a selected junta from the senate
Of twenty-five of the best born patricians,
Of the republic, and the overwhelming cares
Which at this moment, doubly must oppress
Your years, so long devoted to your country,
Have judged it fitting, with all reverence,
Now to solicit from your wisdom, (which
Upon reflection must accord in this,)
The resignation of the ducal ring
Which you have worn so long and venerably;
And to prove that they are not ungrateful nor
Cold to your years and services, they add
An appanage of twenty hundred golden
Ducats, to make retirement not less splendid
Than should become a sovereign's retreat.

Doge. Did I hear rightly?

Chief of the Ten. Need I say again?

Doge. No.—Have you done?

Chief of the Ten. I have spoken Twenty four
Hours are accorded you to give an answer.

Doge. I shall not need so many seconds.

Chief of the Ten. We
Will now retire.

Doge. Stay! Four and twenty hours
Will alter nothing which I have to say.

Chief of the Ten. Speak!

Doge. When I twice before exculpated
My wish to abdicate, it was refused me;
And not alone refused, but ye exacted
An oath from me that I would never more
Renew this instance. I have sworn to die
In full exertion of the functions, which
My country call'd me here to exercise,
According to my honor and my conscience—
I cannot break my oath.

Chief of the Ten. Reduce us not
To the alternative of a decree,
Instead of your compliance.

Doge. Providence
Prolongs my days to prove and chaste me;
But ye have no right to reproach my length
Of days, since every hour has been the country's
I am ready to lay down my life for her,
As I have laid down deader things than life:
But for my dignity—I hold it of

The whole republic; when the general will
is manifest, then you shall all be answer'd.

Chieft of the Ten. We grieve for such an answer; but it cannot
Avail you aught.

Doge. I can submit to all things,
But nothing will advance; no, not a moment.
What you desire—desire.

Chieft of the Ten. With this, then, must we
Return to those who sent us?

Doge. You have heard me.

Chieft of the Ten. With all due reverence we retire.

[Exeunt the Deputation, &c.

Enter an Attendant.

Att. My lord,
The noble dame Marina craves an audience.

Doge. My time is hers.

Enter Marina.

Mar. My lord, if I intrude—
Perchance you fain would be alone?

Doge. Alone!

 alone, come all the world around me, I
Am now and evermore. But we will bear it.

Mar. We will; and for the sake of those who are,
Endeavor—Oh my husband!

Doge. Give it way;
I cannot comfort thee.

Mar. He might have lived,
So form'd for gentle privacy of life,
So loving, so beloved; the native of
Another land, and who so blest and blessing
As my poor Foscari? Nothing was wanting
Unto his happiness and mine, save not
To be Venetian.

Doge. Or a prince's son.

Mar. Yes; all things which conduce to other
men's
imperfect happiness or high ambition,
By some strange destiny, to him proved deadly.
The country and the people whom he loved,
The prince of whom he was the elder born,
And—

Doge. Soon may a prince no longer.

Mar. How?

Doge. They have taken my son from me, and now
aim
At my too long worn diadem and ring.
Let them resume the gawgs!

Mar. Oh, the twarts!

In such an hour, too!

Doge. This is the fittest time:
An hour ago I should have felt it.

Mar. And

Will you not now resent it?—Oh for vengeance!
But he who, had he been enough protected,
Might have repaid protection in this moment,
Cannot assist his father

Doge. Nor should do so
Against his country, had he a thousand lives
Instead of that—

Mar. They tortured from him. This
May be pure patriotism. I am a woman:
To me my husband and my children were
Country and home. I loved him—how I loved him!
I have seen him, pass through such an ordeal as
The old heart would have shrunk from: he is gone,
And I, who would have given my blood for him,
Have nought to give but tears! But could I compass

The retribution of his wrongs!—Well, well;
I have sons who shall be men.

Doge. Your grief distresses you.

Mar. I thought I could have borne it, when I saw
him.
But all is down by such oppression: yes, I thought
That I would rather look upon his corpse
Than his prolong'd captivity:—I am punish'd
For that thought now. Would I were in his grave.

Doge. I must look on him once more.

Mar. Come with me

Doge. Is he—

Mar. Our bridal bed is now his bier.

Doge. And he is in his shroud


[Exeunt the Doge and Marina.

Enter Barbarigo and Loredano.

Bar. (to an Attendant.) Where is the Doge?

Att. This instant retired hence
With the illustrious lady his son's widow.

Lor. Where?

Att. To the chamber where the body lies.

Lor. Let us return, then.

Bar. You forget, you cannot.
We have the implicit order of the Giunta
To await their coming here, and join them in
Their office: they'll be here soon after us.

Bar. And will they press their answer on the Doge?

Lor. 'Twas his own wish that all should be done
promptly.

He answer'd quickly, and must so be answer'd;
His dignity is look'd to, his estate
Cared for—what would he more?

Bar. Die in his robes:
He could not have lived long; but I have done
My best to save his honors, and opposed
This proposition to the last, though vainly.
Why would the general vote compel me hither?

Lor. 'Twas fit that some one of such different
thoughts
Of ours should be a witness, lest false tongues
Should whisper that a harsh majority
Dreaded to have its acts beheld by others.

Bar. And not less, I must needs think, for the sake
Of humbling me for my vain opposition.
You are ingenious, Loredano, in
Your modes of vengeance, nay, poetical,
A very Ovid in the art of hatred;
'Tis thus (although a secondary object,
Yet hate has microscopic eyes) to you
I owe, by way of foil to the more zealous,
This undesired association in
Your Giunta's duties.

Lor. How!—my Giunta!

Bar. Yours!

They speak your language, watch your nod, approve
Your plans, and do your work. Are they not yours?

Lor. You talk unwarily. 'Twere best they hear
not
This from you.

Bar. Oh! they'll hear as much one day
From louder tongues than mine; they have gone
beyond
Even their exorbitance of power: and when
This happens in the most contemn'd and abject
States, stung humanity will rise to check it.

Lor. You talk but idly.

Bar. That remains for proof
Here come our colleagues.

Enter the Deputation as before.

Chief of the Ten. Is the Duke aware
We seek his presence?

Att. He shall be inform'd.

[Exit Attendant.

Bar. The Duke is with his son.
Chief of the Ten. If it be so,
We will remit him till the rites are over.
Let us return. 'Tis time enough to-morrow.
Lor. (aside to Bar.) Now the rich man's hell-fire
upon your tongue.
Unquench'd, unquenchable! I'll have it torn
From its vile babbling roots, till you shall utter
Nothing but sobs through blood, for this! Sage
signors,
I pray ye be not hasty. [Aloud to the others.
Bar. But be human.
Lor. See, the Duke comes!

Enter the Doge.

Doge. I have obey'd your summons.
Chief of the Ten. We come once more to urge
our past request.
Doge. And I to answer.
Chief of the Ten. What?
Doge. My only answer.
You have heard it.
Chief of the Ten. Hear you then the last decree,
Definitive and absolute!
Doge. To the point—
To the point! I know of old the forms of office,
And gentle preludes to strong acts—Go on!
Chief of the Ten. You are no longer Doge; you
are released
From your imperial oath as sovereign;
Your ducal robes must be put off; but for
Your services, the state allots the appanage
Already mention'd in our former congress.
Three days are left you to remove from hence,
Under the penalty to see confiscated
All your own private fortune.
Doge. That last clause,
I am proud to say, would not enrich the treasury.
Chief of the Ten. Your answer, Duke!
Lor. Your answer, Francis Foscari!
Doge. If I could have foreseen that my old age
Was prejudicial to the state, the chief
Of the Republic never would have shown
Himself so far ungrateful, as to place
His own high dignity before his country;
But this life having been so many years
Not useless to that country, I would fain
Have consecrated my last moments to her.
But the decree being render'd, I obey.
Chief of the Ten. If you would have the three
days named extended,
We willingly will lengthen them to eight,
As sign of our esteem.
Doge. Not eight hours, signor,
Nor even eight minutes—There's the ducal ring,
[Taking off his ring and cap.
And there the ducal diadem. And so
The Adriatic's free to wed another.
Chief of the Ten. Yet go not forth so quickly.
Doge. I am old, sir,
And even to move but slowly must begin
To move betimes. Methinks I see among you

A face I know not—Senator! your name,
You, by your garb, Chief of the Forty.

Mem. I am the son of Marco Memmo.
Doge. Ah!
Your father was my friend—but sons and fathers—
What, ho! my servants there!

Att. My prince!
Doge. No prince—
There are the princes of the prince! [Pointing to
the Ten's deputation.]—Prepare
To part from hence upon the instant.
Chief of the Ten. So rashly? 'twill give scandal.
Doge. Answer that;
[To the Ten
It is your province.—Sirs, bestir yourselves:

[To the Servants
There is one burden which I beg you bear
With care, although 'tis past all farther harm—
But I will look to that myself.
Bar. He means
The body of his son.

Doge. And call Marina,
My daughter!

Enter Marina.

Doge. Get thee ready; we must mourn
Elsewhere.
Mar. And every where.
Doge. True; but in freedom,
Without these jealous spies upon the great.
Signors, you may depart: what would you more?
We are going: do you fear that we shall bear
The palace with us? Its old walls ten times
As old as I am, and I'm very old,
Have served you, so have I, and I and they
Could tell a tale; but I invoke them not
To fall upon you! else they would, as erst
The pillars of stone Dagni's temple on
The Israelite and the Philistine's foes.
Such power—I do believe there might exist
In such a race as mine, provoked by such
As you; but I curse not. Adieu, good signors
May the next duke be better than the present.
Lor. The present duke is Paschal Malipiero.
Doge. Not till I pass the threshold of these doors
Lor. Saint Mark's great bell is soon about to tell
For his inauguration.
Doge. Earth and heaven!
Ye will reverberate this peal; and I
Live to hear this!—the first doge who e'er heard
Such sound for his successor! Happier he,
My attained predecessor, stern Faliero—
This insult at the least was spared him.
Lor. What!
Do you regret a traitor?
Doge. No—I merely
Envy the dead.
Chief of the Ten. My lord, if you indeed
Are bent upon this rash abandonment
Of the state's palace, at the least retire
By the private staircase, which conductus you towards
The landing-place of the canal.
Doge. No. I
Will now descend the stairs by which I mounted
To sovereignty—the Giants' Stairs, on whose
Broad eminence I was invested duke.
My services have called me up those steps.
The malice of my foes will drive me down them.  
There live and thirty years ago was I 
Install'd, and traversed these same halls, from which 
I never thought to be divorced except 
A corse—a corse, it might be, fighting for them 
But not push'd hence by fellow-citizens. 
But come; my son and I will go together— 
He to his grave, and I to pray for mine. 
Chief of the Ten. What! thus in public? 
Doge. I was publicly 
Elected, and so will I be deposed. 
Marina! art thou willing? 
Mar. Here's my arm! 
Doge. And here my staff: thus propp'd will I go forth. 
Chief of the Ten. It must not be—the people will perceive it. 
Doge. The people!—There's no people, you well know it, 
Else you dare not deal thus by them or me. 
There is a populace, perhaps, whose looks 
May shame you; but they dare not groan nor curse you, 
Save with their hearts and eyes. 
Chief of the Ten. You speak in passion, 
Elise— 
Doge. You have reason. I have spoken much 
More than my wont: it is a foible which 
Was not of mine, but more excuses you, 
Inasmuch as it shows that I approach 
A dotage which may justify this deed 
Of yours, although the law does not, nor will. 
Farewell, sirs! 
Bar. You shall not depart without 
An escort fitting past and present rank. 
We will accompany, with due respect, 
The Doge unto his private palace. Say! 
My brethren, will we not? 
Different Voices. Ay!—Ay! 
Doge. You shall not 
Stir—in my train, at least. I enter'd here 
As sovereign—I go out as citizen 
By the same portals, but as citizen. 
All these vain ceremonies are base insults, 
Which only ulcerate the heart more, 
Applying poisons there as antidotes. 
Pomp is for princes—I am none!—That's false, 
I am, but only to these gates.—Ah! 
Lor. 
[The great bell of St. Mark's tolls. 
Bar. The bell! 
Chief of the Ten. St. Mark's which tolls for the election 
Of Malipiero. 
Doge. Well I recognize 
The sound! I heard it once, but once before, 
And that is five and thirty years ago, 
Even then I was not young. 
Bar. Sit down, my lord! 
You tremble. 
Doge. 'Tis the knell of my poor boy! 
My heart aches bitterly. 
Bar. I pray you sit. 
Doge. No; my seat here has been a throne till now. 
Marina! let us go. 
Mar. Most readily. 
Doge. (walks a few steps, then stops.) I feel 
As thirst—will no one bring me here 
A cup of water? 
Bar. 
Mar. I— 
And I— 
Lor. 
[The Doge takes a goblet from the hana of Loredano. 
Doge. I take yours, Loredano, from the hand 
Most fit for such an hour as this. 
Lor. Why so? 
Doge. 'Tis said that our Venetian crystal has 
Such pure antipathy to poisons as 
To burst, if aught of venom touches it. 
You bore this goblet, and it is not broken. 
Lor. Well, sir! 
Then it is false, or you are true. 
For my own part, I credit neither; 'tis 
An idle legend. 
Mar. You talk wildly, and 
Had better now be seated, nor as yet 
Depart. Ah! now you look as look'd my husband! 
Bar. He sinks!—support him!—quick—a chair— 
support him! 
Doge. The bell tolls on!—lets hence—my brain's 
on fire! 
Bar. I do beseech you, lean upon us! 
Doge. No. 
A sovereign should die standing. My poor boy! 
Off with your arms!—That bell! 
[The Doge drops down and dies. 
Mar. (to Lor.) Behold! your work's completed! 
Chief of the Ten. Is there then 
No aid? Call in assistance! 
Att. 'Tis all over. 
Chief of the Ten. If it be so, at least his obsequies 
Shall be such as befits his name and nation, 
His rank and his devotion to the duties 
Of the realm, while his age permitted him 
To do himself and them full justice. Brethren. 
Say, shall it not be so? 
Bar. He has not had 
The misery to die a subject where 
He reign'd: then let his funeral rites be princely. 
Chief of the Ten. We are agreed, then? 
All, except Lor., answer, 
Yes. 
Chief of the Ten. Heaven's peace be with him! 
Mar. Signors, your pardon: this is mockery. 
Juggle no more with that poor remnant, which, 
A moment since, while yet it had a soul, 
(A soul by whom you have increased your empire, 
And made your power as proud as was his glory;) 
And banish'd from his palace, and tore down 
From his high place, with such relentless coldness; 
And now, when he can neither know these honors, 
Nor would accept them if he could, you, signors, 
Purpose, with an idle and superfluous pomp 
To make a pageant over what you trampled. 
A princely funeral will be your reproach, 
And not his honor. 
Chief of the Ten. Lady, we revoke not 
Our purposes so readily. 
Mar. I know it, 
As far as touches torturing the living. 
I thought the dead had been beyond even you, 
Though (some, no doubt) consign'd to power which 
may 
Resemble that you exercise on earth. 
Leave him to me; you would have done so for 
His dregs of life, which you have kindly shorten'd.
It is my last of duties, and may prove
A dreary comfort in my desolation.
Grief is fantastical, and loves the dead,
And the apparel of the grave.

Chief of the Ten.

Do you

Pretend still to this office?

Mar.

I do, signor.

Though his possessions have been all consumed
In the state's service, I have still my dowry,
Which shall be consecrated to his rites,
And those of— [She stops with agitation.
Chief of the Ten. Best retain it for your children.
Mar. Ay, they are fatherless, I thank you.
Chief of the Ten.

We

Cannot comply with your request. His relics
Shall be exposed with wonted pomp, and follow'd
Unto their home by the new Doge, not clad
As Doge, but simply as a senator.

Mar. I have heard of murderers, who have inter'd
Their victims; but ne'er heard, until this hour,
Of so much splendor in hypocrisy
O'er those they slew. I've heard of widow's tears—
Alas! I have shed some—always thanks to you!

I've heard of heirs in sables—you have left none
To the deceased, so you would act the part
Of such. Well, sirs, your will be done! as one day
I trust Heaven's will be done too!

Chief of the Ten. Know you, lady,
To whom you speak, and perils of such speech?
Mar. I know the former better than yourselves;
The latter—like yourselves; and can face both.

Wish you more funerals?

Bar. Heen not her rash words,
Her circumstances must excuse her bearing.

Chief of the Ten. We will not note them down.

Bar. (turning to Lor., who is writing upon his tablets.) What art thou writing

With such an earnest brow, upon thy tablets?

Lor. (pointing to the Doge's body.) That he has
paid me!

Chief of the Ten. What debt did he owe you?

Lor. A long and just one; Nature's debt and
mine.

[Curtain falls.]

APPENDIX TO THE TWO FOSCARI.

Extrait de l'Histoire de la République de Venise par
P. Daru, de l'Académie Française, tom. II.

Depuis trente ans, la république n'avait pas
déposé les armes. Elle avait acquis les provinces de
Brescia, de Bergame, de Crème, et la principauté de
Ravenne.

Mais ces guerres continues faisaient beaucoup de
malheureux et de mécontents. Le doge Fran-
cçois Foscari, a qui on ne pouvait pardonner d'en
avoir été le promoteur, manifesta une seconde fois,
e 1442, et probablement avec plus de sincerité que
la première, l'intention d'abjurer sa dignité. Le
conseil s'y refusa encore. Ou avait exige de lui le
serment de ne plus quitter le dogat. Il était déjà
avancé dans la vieillesse, conservant cependant
beaucoup de force de tête et de caractère, et jous-
chant de la gloire d'avoir vu la république endurer au
lieu des limites de ses domaines pendant son admin-
istration.

Au milieu de ces prospérités, de grands chagrin
vinrent mettre à l'épreuve la fermeté de son âme.

Son fils, Jacques Foscari, fut acquise, en 1446,
d'avoir reçu des présents de quelques princes on
seigneurs étrangers, notamment, disait-on, du duc
de Milan, Philippe Visconti. C'était non seulement
une bassesse, mais une infraction des lois posi-
te à la république.

Le conseil des dix traita cette affaire comme s'il
ne fut agi d'un delit commis par un particulier
obèse. L'accusé fut amené devant ses juges,
devant le doge, qui ne crut pas pouvoir s'abstenir
de présider le tribunal. Là, il fut interrogé, appliqué
à la question,* d'claré coupable, et il entendit, de
la bouche de son père, l'arrêt qui le condamnait à
un bannissement perpetuelle et le reléguait à Naples
de Venise, pour y finir ses jours.

Embarqué sur une galère pour se rendre au lieu
de son exil, il tomba malade à Trieste. Les solici-
tations du doge obtinrent, non sans difficulté, qu'on
lui assignât une autre résidence. Enfin, le conseil
des dix lui permit de se retirer à Tévise, en lui
imposant l'obligation d'y rester sous peine de mort,
de se présenter tous les jours devant le gouverneur.
Il y était depuis cinq ans, lorsqu'un des chefs du
conseil des dix assassina. Les soupçons se portè-
rent sur lui; un de ses domestiques qu'on avait vu
à Venise fut arrêté et subit la torture. Les bour
reau ne purent lui arracher aucun avou. Ce
terrible tribunal se fit amener le maître, le soumit
daux mêmes épreuves; il résista à tous les tourments,
ne cessant d'attester son innocence; mais on ne

* E datati la corda per avaro da lui la verità; chiamato il consiglio del
di academy, nel quale fii messo il dogo, fu sommatole. (Matia
Vie de Duchi. P. Foscari.)

F Il fu tormentato en mal condizion con almeno, parve al consiglio de
stetti li condannato la 72a silla. (182.) Vind le teste de jugement;
Com Jacobus Foscari per occasionem persecutus et morti Hieronim Do-
sul soli retrato examinato, et propercificationes, testificationes, et
scruples que habenter contuer eam, clare apparet ipsum esse reum crimini
mensendi, sed properc investigatio et verba quo ali res peruen mer, de quibus
existimatis manifestas, videtur propri operaturum mandatum esse, eam

APPENDIX TO THE TWO FOSCARI.
viv dans cette constance que de l'obéissance; de ce qu'il faisait c'est, on conclut que ce fait existait; on attribuait sa ferveur à la magie, et on lui relevait à la Censure. De ce temps lointain, le béarn, disparu, après un quelconque pitre, ne cessait d'errer à son père, à ses amis, pour obtenir quelque adoucissement à sa brutalité. N'obtenant rien, et sachant que la terreur qu'inspirait le conseil des dix ne lui permettait pas d'espérer de réverber dans l'honneur une seule voix qui s'élève en sa faveur; il fit une lettre pour le nouveau due de Milan, par laquelle, au nom des bons offices que Sforce avait reçus du chef de la république, il lui prit son intervention en faveur d'insécurité, du fils du doge.

Cette lettre, selon quelques historiens, fut confiée à un marchand, qui avait promis de la faire parvenir au due; mais qui, trop averti de ce qu'il avait à craindre en se rendant l'intermédiaire d'une pareille correspondance, se hâta, en débarquant à Venise, de la remettre au chef du tribunal. Une autre version, qui paraît plus juste, rapporte que la lettre fut détenue par un espion, attaché au paà de l'exilé.

Ce fut un nouveau d'ail dont on eut à punir Jacques Foscari. Réclamer la protection d'un prince étranger était un crime, dans un sujet de la république; il y avait un grand parti pour l'arrêter dans les prisons de Venise. A son arrivée il fut soumis à l'extradition. C'était une singulière destination, pour le citoyen d'une république et pour les marchands de trois autres. Sa vie avait été trahie au service de la question. Cette fois la torture était d'autant plus odieuse, qu'elle n'avait point d'objet, le fait qu'on avait à lui reprocher, étant inconnu.

Quand on demanda à l'accusé, dans les intervalles que les bourreaux lui accordaient, pourquoi il avait écrit la lettre qu'on lui prodiguait, il répondit qu'il croyait être innocent parce qu'il ne doutait pas qu'elle ne soit due aux mains du tribunal, que toute autre voix lui avait été formée pour faire parvenir ses réclamations, qu'il s'attendait bien qu'on le ferait amener à Venise; mais qu'il avait tout risque pour avoir la consoliation de voir sa femme, son père, et sa mère, encore une fois. Sur cette naïve déclaration, on confirma sa sentence d'exil; mais on l'aggrava, en y ajoutant qu'il serait reconnu en prison pendant un an. Cette rigueur, dont on sait qu'elle causa un malheur de plus, était sans doute odieuse; mais cette politique, qui défendait à tous les citoyens de faire intervenir les étrangers dans les affaires intérieures de la république, était sage. Elle se faisait dans le même esprit et dans la même inflexibilité. L'historien Paul Morosini a conté que l'empereur Frédéric III. pendant qu'il était l'hôte des Venitiens, demanda, comme une faveur particulière, l'admission d'un citoyen dans le grand conseil, et la grâce d'un ancien gouverneur de Candie, gendre du doge, et banni pour sa mauvaise administration, sans pouvoir obtenir ni l'une ni l'autre. Cependant, on ne put refuser au condamné la permission de voir sa femme, ses enfants, ses parents, qu'il allait quitter pour toujours. Cette dernière entente même fut accompagnée de cruauté par la sévère circonstance, qui retenait les émancipations de la douleur paternelle et conjugale.

Ce ne fut pas dans l'intérieur de leur appartement, mais dans une des grandes salles du palais, qu'une femme, accompagnée de ces quatre fritz, vint faire le tour de la pièce, se serrant dans les bras de l'assassin, et lui assurant ses plus tendres résolutions, ses plus récits, et son doge naître et le dogaressa accablée d'infortunes, firent un moment de la triste consolation de mêler leurs larmes à celles de leur exilé. Il s'jeta à leurs genoux en leur tendant des mains disloquées par la torture, pour les supplier de solliciter quelque secours auprès de la sentence qui venait d'être prononcée contre lui. Son père eut le courage de lui répondre: "Non, mon fils, respectez votre arzt, et obéissez dans le silence et dans la seigneurie." À ces mots il se sépara, de l'infortuné, qui fut sur-le-champ embarqué pour Candie.

D'antiquité vit avec autant d'horreur que d'admiration un pareille condamnation de ses fils évidemment nuisibles. Elle hésita pour qualifier de vertu sublime de ferocité cet effort qui paraît au-dessus de la nature humaine; mais ici, où la première faute n'était qu'une faiblesse, où la seconde n'était pas une provocation, on la troisième n'était rien de criminel, on se souvint de concevoir la constance d'un père, qui voulait que trois fois ses fils simples, qui l'entendent condamner sans peure, et qui n'écrit pas en peine; qui ne l'aborde pour lui montrer un visage plus apaisé. Ce père voulait se refaire pour son fils, l'arrêter pour jamais, lui interdire les murmures et jusqu'à l'espoir? Comment expliquer une croche circonstance, si ce n'est en avouant, à notre regret, que le père se laissa emporter par la nature humaine les mêmes efforts que la vertu? La servitude aurait-elle son horreur comme la liberté?

Quelque temps après ce jugement, ou découvert une véritable aventure de l'escamoteur, dont Jacques Foscari, portait le pinceau; mais il n'était plus temps de réparer cette atroce injustice, le malheureux était mort dans sa prison.

Il me reste à raconter la suite de malheurs qui m'attendirent. Ce fut un moment pour l'empire de Rome, et la décadence de Venise. Foscari, fils, est mort dans la prison de Venise. Je ne sache plus en dire. Il est mort dans le silence et dans la seigneurie. Il est mort dans la gloire, et n'a cessé d'errer, le crime sur le cœur et sans erreur. Le doge me fit dire: "Jacques, ne t'obstine point à cela que vivre la vertu, et nous croyons pieusement." Je ne pus pas m'y résoudre, pour le malheur de ma vie, et être mort sans avoir d'objets. Je ne pus pas m'y résoudre, pour le malheur de ma vie, et être mort sans avoir d'objets. Je ne pus pas m'y résoudre. Je ne pus pas m'y résoudre. Je ne pus pas...
imprima un procès contre André Donato, garde du doge, accusé de pêcheur. De tous les livres de comptes (car il faisait le commerce, comme à cette époque presque tous les patriciens,) il avait inscrit de sa propre main le doge au nombre de ses débiteurs, pour la mort, y était dit, de mon père et de mon oncle.† De l'autre côté du registre, il avait laissé avec page en blanc, pour y faire mention du reconven- ment de cette dette, et, en effet, après la partie du doge, il écrivit sur son registre, il me la paye—

Ce disque n'exprime que de timides contradictions; cependant, la délibération dura huit jours. L'assemblée, ne se jugeant pas sûre de l'approbation universelle que l'acte voulait le lieu faire croire, désirait que le doge donnât lui-même sa désmission. Il avait déjà proposé deux fois, et on n'avait pas voulu l'accepter.

Aucune loi n'aurait imposé que le prince fut révoqué; il était au contraire à vie et les exemples qu'on pouvait citer de plusieurs doges déposés, prouvaient que de telles revolutions avaient toujours été le résultat d'un mouvement populaire.

Mais d'ailleurs, si le doge pouvait être déposé, ce n'était pas assurément par un tribunal composé d'un petit nombre de membres, inutile pour punir les crimes, et nullement investi du droit de revoyer ce que le corps souverain de l'état avait fait.

Cependant, le tribunal arrêta que les six conseillers de la seigneurie, et les chefs du conseil des dix se transperterovaient auprès du doge pour lui signifir, que l'excellente considération qu'il avait convenablement établie, qu'il abandonnerait la charge du doge, leur fussent plus de remplir les fonctions. On lui donnait 1500 ducats d'or pour son entretien vingt-quatre heures pour se débider.*

Foscarì posa sur le champ avec beaucoup de gravité, que deux fois il avait voulu se démettre de sa charge; qu'au lieu de le lui permettre, ou avait exigé de lui le serment de ne plus réitérer cette demande; que la providence avait prolongé ses jours pour l'assister, que cependant on n'était pas en droit de reprocher sa longue vie à un homme qui avait employé quatre-vingt-quatre ans au service de la république; qu'il était prêt encore à lui sacrifier sa vie; mais que, pour sa dignité, il tenait de la république cet office, et qu'il se réservait de répondre sur ce sujet, quand la volonté générale se serait légalement manifestée.

Le lendemain, à l'heure indiquée, les conseillers et les chefs du conseil présent rent. Il ne s'ouvrit pas leur donner d'autre réponse. Cassini semblait sur-le-champ, lui envoyant demander encore une fois sa résolution comme tenant, et, la réponse ayant été la même, on prononça que le doge était à la tête de son palais, et devait sans délai se séparer. Le doge lui assignait une pension de 1500 ducats d'or, en lui enjoignant de sortir du palais dans huit jours, sous peine de voir tous ses biens confisqués.†

* Ce Décret est rapporté textuellement dans la notice
La notice rapporte aussi ce décret.

† Baso ton in historiarum non tempore sed annibus respon-

SOURCE
Ceis, et l'histoire Vénitienne de Viarolo.
Il faut cependant remarquer que dans la notice où l'on rencontre ce fait, la faiblesse est rapportée, que les vingt-cinq adjoints y sont nommés, et que ce nom de Marc Foscarì ne s'y trouve pas.
 CETTE LITIGE ACTuelle de démonstrer

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Le lendemain, ce décret fut porté au doge, et ce fut Jacques Loredan qui eut la cruelle joie de le lui présenter en personne. Si j'avais pu prouver que ma vieillesse fut préjudiciable à l'État, le chef de la république ne se serait pas montré assez ingrat, pour prêter son digne à la patrie; mais cette vie lui ayant été utile pendant tant d'ann'es, je voulus lui faire un présent, qui lui serait d'un grand secours. Le décret est rendu, je m'y conformerai." Après avoir parle ainsi, il se dépouilla des marques de sa dignité, remit l'anneau ducale, qui fut prise en sa possession, et de ce fait, il quitta Vénétie, qu'il avait habitude pendant trente-cinq ans, accompagné de son frère, de ses parents, et de ses amis. Un secrétaire, qui se trouva sur le perron, l'invita à descendre par un escalier dérobé, afin d'éviter la foule du peuple rassemblé chez lui, mais il s'y refusa, disant qu'il voulait descendre par où il était monté; et quand il fut au bas de l'escalier des géants, il se retournant, appuya sur la brûliss, vers le palais en profitant ces paroles: "Mes services m'avaient appelée, la malice de mes ennemis m'en fait sortir."

La foule qui s'ouvrait sur son passage, et qui avait peut-être désiré sa mort, était venue de respect et d'étonnement. * Rentre donc chez vous, la maison, qui la recommanda à sa famille d'oublier les injures de ses ennemis. Personne dans les divers corps de l'État ne se crut en droit de s'étomner, qu'un prince inconsolable se dignait engrâter l'État, et lui reprocher rien; que l'État eût perdu son chef, à l'insu du sénat et du corps souverain lui-même. Le peuple seut n'aisa rechanger quelques regrets; une proclamation du conseil des dix prescrivit le silence le plus absolu sur cette affaire, sous peine de mort. Avant de donner un successeur à François Foscarí, une nouvelle loi fut rendue, qui défendait au doge d'ouvrir et de lire autrement qu'en présence de ses conseillers, les d'pèches des ambassadeurs de la république l'état, de ses successeurs. Les électeurs entrèrent au concile et nommèrent au dogat Paschal Mallipier le 30 Octobre, 1467. La cloche de Sainte-Marc, qui annonçait à Venise son nouveau prince, vint frapper l'oreille de François Foscarí; cette fois sa fermete s'abandonna, il prouva un tel saisissement, qu'il mourut le lendemain. 

La république arrêtat qu'on lui rendrait les mêmes honneurs funèbres que s'il fut mort dans l'exercice de sa dignité; mais lorsqu'on se présenta pour cultiver ses restes, sa veuve, qui de son nom était Marie Nani, d' clara qu'elle ne le souffrirait point; qu'on ne devait pas traiter en prince après sa mort celui qu'il avait dépossédé de la couronne, et que puisqu'il avait cousu ses bien au service de l'État, elle saurait, consacrer sa dot à lui faire rendre les derniers honneurs. On ne tint aucun compte de cette résistance, et malgré les protestations de l'ancienne dogaresse, le corps fut enlevé; revêtu des orna¬ ments ducale, exposé en public; et les obéres furent célébrées avec la pompe accou¬ tumee. Le nouveau doge assista au convok en robe de victoire.

La pitie qu'avait inspiré e le malheur de ce vieille¬ rard, ne fut pas tout-—îl—l'etre de. Un an après, on osa dire que le conseil des dix avait outrepasé ses pouvoirs, et il lui fut défendu par une loi du grand concile de Venise, de l'avancer de juger le prince, à moins que ce ne fût pour cause de délonie."

Un acte d'autorité tel que la d position d'un doge inamovible de sa nature, aurait pu exciter un soullevement general, au moins une occasionner une division dans une r publique autrui constituent que Venise. Mais depuis trois ans, il existait dans celle-ci une magistrature, ou plutôt une autorité, devant laquelle tout devait se faire.


Le Doge de Venise, qui avait prouvé par ce traité une guerre non moins dangereuse que celle qu'il avait terminée presque en même temps par le traité de Lodi, ayant obtenu par long d'année, une vieillesse. François Foscarí occupait cette première dignité de l'État dès le 15 Avril, 1423. Quoi qu'il fût déjà âgé de plus décimante-un ans à l'époque de son élection, il était cependant le plus jeune des quarante-un électeurs. Il avait eu un coup de peine à parvenir au rang qu'il convoitait, et son élection avait été conduite avec beaucoup d'adresse. Pendant plusieurs jours de scrutin res amis les élections, ils se furent abstenus de lui donner leur suffrage, pour que les autres ne le considé¬ rent pas comme un concurrent redoutable. * Le conseil des dix craignait son crédit parmi la noblesse paure, parce qu'il avait cherché à se la rendre favorable, tandis qu'il était procureur de Saint¬ Marie, en faisant employer plus de trente mille ducats à doter des jeunes filles de bonne maison, ou à établir de jeunes gentilshommes. On craignait aussi de lui faire remettre les dix ducats, que on avait enlevé, quatre ans qu'il détenait son ambition et son goât pour la guerre. L'opinion que ses adversaires s'entraînt formée de lui par suite de sa conduite, et de son ambition de quatre ans que Foscarí fut à la tête de la république, elle ne cessa point de combattre. Si les hostilités étaient suspendues durant quelques mois, c'était pour recommencer bientôt avec plus de vigueur.

Le fut l'époque où Venise de la colline de Brescia, Bergame, Ravenne, et Crème; où elle fonda sa domination de Lombardie, et pirat sans cesse sur le point d'asservir toute cette province.

Profond, courageux, incommensurables à sa personne, Foscarí comme un homme de caractère, et ses talents lui furent obtenir plus d'influence sur le républic qui n'avait exercer la plupart des présidents. Mais si son ambition avait eu pour l'agrandissement de sa famille, elle lui eut cruellement trompée; trois de ses fils moururent dans les huit années qui suivirent son élection; le quatrième, Jacob, par lequel la maison Foscarí s'est perpétuée, fut victime de la jalouseie du conseil des dix, et l'opposa par ses malheurs les jours de son père. * En effet, le conseil des dix, redoutant de défaire envers le chef de l'État, lorsqu'il le voyait plus fort par eux par la dévouation, veillait sans cesse sur Foscarí, pour le punir de son crédit, et de sa gloire. Au mois de Fèvrier, 1445, Michel Bevilacqua, Florentin, exilé à Venise, accusa en secret Jacques Foscarí, auprès des enquis de l'État, d'avoir du sud Philippe Visconti, des présens d'argent et de joyaux, par les mains des gens de sa maison. Telle était l'odieuse procédure adoptée à Venise, que sur cette accusation secrète les fils du doge se représentaient de la majesté de la république, fut mis à la torture. On lui arracha par l'estrappade l'aveu, des charges portées contre lui; il fut relâché pour le reste de ses jours à Napoli de Rome, la plus vive, de se présenter contre la maison de la place. * Cependant, le vaisseau qui le portait ayant touché à Trieste, Jacob, gravement malade des suites de la torture, et plus encore de l'humiliation qu'il avait éprouvée, demanda en vain quelque médicament de la terre du lépreux, le sauver; il obéit cette faveur, par une d libration du 28 Décembre, 1446; il fut rappelé à Trieste; et eut la liberté d'habiter tout le Tévenian indifférem¬ment. * Il était en paix à Trieste; et la fille de Léonard

* "Quo in dieo servavit, quid ex propriis motis: " Se laisse soit en laire pour obtenir le renvoi médiateur.
† Hist. de Venise, de Paolo Morevini, lib. 94.
‡ Hist. di Pietro Judicordal, lib. 9.
§ Hist. d'Agostino, lib. 6, cap. 7.
∥ Le général sur le 30 Octobre, 1458. La notice le rapporte.
* Maria Bonato, Vite de' d'udali di Veneti, p. 267.
† Ibid. p. 968.
‡ Ibid. p. 968.
∥ Ibid. p. 1282.
Contarini, qu'il avait épousé le 10 Février, 1441, était venue le joindre dans son exil, lorsque le 5 Novembre, 1449, Almorò Donato, chef du conseil des tenailles de la justice, et ayant médiocrement l'état, Triadano Griitti et Antonio Venieri, portèrent leur souci contre Jacob Foscarì, parce qu'un domestique à lui, nommé Olivier, avait été vu ce soir à Venise, avec quelques autres inquisiteurs d'état, qui portaient le bec devant lui. Olivier fut reconnu à la torture, mais il nia jusqu'à la fin, avec un courage insurpassable, le crime dont on l'accusait, quoique ses juges fussent la barbarie de lui faire rendre toute ses aveux, en main de fer. Cependant, comme Jacob Foscarì avait de puissants motifs d'inimitié contre le conseil des dix, qu'il avait connu, et qui témoinaient de la haine au doge son père, on essaya de mettre à son tour Jacob à la torture, et l'on prolongea contre lui ces affreux tourments, sans réussir à en tirer aucune confession. Malgré sa décision, le conseil des dix le condamna à être transporté à la Cané, et accorda une recompense à son déletour. Mais les horribles douleurs que Jacob Foscarì avait éprouvées avaient trouvé son médecin, ses persécuteurs touchés de ce dernier malheur, permirent qu'on le ramenât à Venise le 25 Mars. Sa peine à la main, il prit dans ses exécutions quelques coups violents de malheur, et il fut reconduit immédiatement à la Cané. Sur ces entretiens, Nicholas Erizzo, homme déjà note pour un précédent crime, confessa, en mourant, de s'être lui-même au temps que Jacob avait eu dont Almorò Donato.

Le malheureux doge, Francesco Foscarì, avait déjà cherché à plusieurs reprises, à abdiquer une dignité si funeste à lui-même et à sa famille. Il lui semblait que, redescendant au rang de simple citoyen, comme il n'inspirerait plus de crainte ou de jalousie, on n'accablerait plus ses fils par ces effroyables persécutions. Abattu par la mort de ses premiers enfants, il avait voulu, dès le 20 Juin, 1453, déposer une dignité, durant l'exercice de laquelle sa patrie avait été tourmentée par la guerre, par la peste, et par des malheurs de tout genre. Il renouvela cette proposition après que les juges rendus contre son fils : mais le conseil des dix le retenait fortement sur le trône, comme il retenait ses fils dans les fers.

En vain Jacob Foscarì, obligé de se présenter chaque jour au gouverneur de la Cané, résistait contre l'injustice de sa dernière sentence, sur laquelle la confession d'Erizzo ne lassait plus de doutes. En vain il demandait grâce au farouché conseil des dix ; il ne pouvait obtenir aucune réponse. Le conseil des dix, entré dans la possession du pouvoir, voulut ainsi tout à la fois à la patrie et à la Constance, et ordonna de rentrer tous deux au dernier terme de la vieillesse, le désir de revoir une patrie dont la cruauté ne meritait pas un si tendre amour, se changeant en lui en une vraie haine. Ne pouvant retourner à Venise pour y vivre libre, il voulut du moins y aller chercher un suppliant. Il crut au duc de Milan à la fin de Mai, 1456, pour incomber à sa protection auprés de lui et sachant qu'une telle lettre serait considérée comme un cordon de sa part et de son roi dans un lieu où il était sûr qu'elle serait saisie par les esprits qui l'entouraient. En effet, la lettre fut tenue de confiance des dix, on l'envoya chercher à Jacob, et il fut reconduit à Venise le 10 Juillet, 1456.

Jacob Foscarì ne nia point sa lettre, il raconta en même temps dans quel but il l'avait écrite et comment il l'avait emmené en les mains de son délateur. Malgré ces aveux, Foscarì fut relevé à la torture, et on lui donna trente tours d'estrapade, pour voir s'il confirmerait ensuite ses dépositions. Quand on le détacha de la corde, on le trouva \( \text{déchiré par ces horribles secousses. Les juges } \) permirent alors à son père, à sa mère, à sa femme et à ses fils, d'aller le voir dans sa prison. Le vieux doge, qui était patriote de la ville de Venise, quand sa peine, dans la chambre où son fils unique était pâsé de ses blessures. Ce fils demandait encore la grâce de mourir dans sa maison. — "Retourne à ton exil, lui dit le doge, "et soumet-toi à ta volonté." Mais en rentrant dans son palais, ce malheureux vieillard s'évanouit, épuisé par la violence qu'il s'était faite. Jacob devait encore passer une année en prison à la Cané, avant qu'on lui rendît la même liberté limitée à laquelle il était réduit avant cet événement ; mais a peine fut-il débarqué sur cette terre d'exil, qu'il y mourut de déprime.

Des-lors, et pendant quinze mois, le vieux doge, accablé d'années et de chagrins, ne recouvra plus la force de son corps ou celle de son âme ; il n'assistait plus à aucun des conseils, et il ne pouvait plus remplir aucune des fonctions de sa dignité. Il était entré dans sa quatrième-vingt-sixième année, et si le conseil des dix avait été susceptible de quelque pitié, il aurait attendu en silence la fin, sans doute à peine, d'un âge de cent ans, comme il en avait tant de malheurs. Mais le chef du conseil des dix était alors Jacques Loredano, fils de Marc, et veuve de Pierre, le grand amiral, qui touteleur vie avaient été les ennemis acharnés du vieux doge. Ils avaient transmis leurs fonctions à leurs fils, et l'un de ces l'encourageait. Le rancunieux n'eût pas été moins satisfait. A l'instigation de Loredano, Jerome Barbarigo, inquisiteur d'état, proposa au conseil des dix, au mois d'Octobre, 1457, de soumettre Foscarì à une nouvelle humiliation. Des que ce magistrat ne pouvait plus remplir ses fonctions, Barbarigo demanda qu'on nommât un autre doge. Le conseil, qui refusa par deux fois l'abdicatìon de Foscarì, parce que la représentant, lui permit d'abdiquer, se plaçant devant de se mettre en contradiction avec ses propres d'érver. Les discussions dans le conseil et la junta se prolongèrent pendant huit jours, jusqu'à la fin de l'année. Cependant, on fit entrer dans l'assemblée Marco Foscarì, procurateur de Saint-Marc, et frère du doge, pour qu'il fit, par le redoutable serment du secret, et qu'il ne put arrêter les menées de ses ennemis. Enfin, le conseil transmettra ce serment auprès de lui et lui réclamera volontairement un emploi qu'il ne pouvait plus exercer. "J'ai juré," répondit le vieillard, "de remplir jusqu'à ma mort, selon mon honneur et ma conscience, les fonctions auxquelles ma patrie m'a appelé. Je ne puis mediller moi-même de mon serment; qu'un ordre des conseils dispose de moi, je m'y soumettrai, mais je ne le devancerai pas. Alors une nouvelle délégation du conseil delia Francesco Foscarì de son serment dual, lui assura une pension de deux mille ducats pour le reste de sa vie, et lui ordonna d'évacuer en trois jours le palais, et de déposer les ornements de sa dignité. Le doge ayant remarqué parmi les conseillers qui venaient de porter ce serment, un cheval de quatre ans, il ne connaissait pas demanda son nom : "Je suis le fils de Marco Memmo," lui dit le conseiller. — "Ah ! ton père était mon ami," lui dit le vieux doge, et en souriant. Il y donna aussitôt des ordres pour qu'on transportât ses effets dans une maison à lui; et le lendemain 23 Octobre on le vit, se soutenant à peine, et appuyé sur son vieux frère, redescendre ces mêmes escaliers sur lesquels, quatre-vingt ans auparavant, il avait vu, sur son bâton, le même exil, et traverser ces mêmes salles où la republique avait reçu serments. Le peuple entier parut indigné de tant de dureté exercée contre un vieillard qu'il avait toujours soutenu, et qui se taisait, en réclamant que le conseil des dix fût publié une défense de parler de

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* Mario Biondo, p. 1139.
* Bibl. p. 1052.
* Bibl. p. 1242.

\[ \text{APPENDIX TO THE TWO FOSCARÌ.} \]

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\[ \text{Maria Biondi, p. 1165.—Navagero, Stor. Venezia, p. 1118.} \]

\[ \text{Vener Bande Sire della Venezia P. II. L. VIII. p. 735.} \]
cette révolution, sous peine d'être traduit devant les inquisiteurs d'état. Le 20 Octobre, Pasqual Malipieri, procureur de Saint-Marc, fut lui pour sauver Augustin Verocari; celui-ci, pour lui éviter l'humiliation de vivre sujet, le où il avait régné. En entendant le son des cloches, qui sonnaient en actions de grâces pour cette élection, il mourut subitement d'une hémorragie causée par une veine qui s'éclata dans sa poitrine.  

"Le doge, blessé de trouver constamment un contradicteur et un censeur si amer dans son frère, lui dit un jour en plein conseil: "Messire Augustin, vous faites tout votre possible pour hâter ma mort; vous vous hâtez de me succéder; mais, si les autres vous connaissent aussi bien que je vous connais, ils n'auront garde de vous éclipser."

La-dessus il se leva, enleva le corona, rentra dans son appartement, et mourut quelques jours après. Ce frère, contre lequel il s'était emporté, fut précisément le successeur de lui demander. C'était un miracle dont on aimait à tenir compte; surtout un parent, de s'être mis en opposition avec le chef de la république."


In Lady Morgan's fearless and excellent work upon "Italy," I perceive the expression of "Rome of the Ocean" applied to Venice. The same phrase occurs in the "Two Foscari." My publisher can vouch for me that my tragedy was written and sent to England some time before I had seen Lady Morgan's work, which I only received on the 16th of August. I hasten, however, to notice the coincidence, and to yield the originality of the phrase to her who first placed it before the public. I am the more anxious to do this, as I am informed (for I have seen but few of the specimens, and those accidentally) that there have lately been brought against me charges of plagiarism. I have also had an anonymous sort of threatening intimation of the same kind, apparently with the intent of extorting from me such charges, but no answer to make. One of them is ludicrous enough. I am reproached for having formed the description of a shipwreck in verse from the narrative of many actual shipwrecks in prose, selecting such materials as were most striking. Gibbon makes it a merit in Tasso "to have copied the minutest details of the Siege of Jerusalem from the Chronicles." In me it may be a demerit, I presume: let it remain so. Whilst I have been occupied in defending Pope's character, the lower orders of Grub street appear to have been visiting mine: this is as it should be, both in them and in me. One of the accusations in the nameless epistle alluded to is still more laughable: it states seriously that I "received five hundred pounds for writing advertisements for Day and Martin's patent blacking!" This is the highest compliment to my literary powers which I ever received. It states also "that a person has been trying to make the acquaintance of Mr. Townsend, a gentleman of the law, who was with me on another occasion; that he is not unacquainted with the purpose of obtaining any defamatory particulars of my life from this occasional visitor." Mr. Townsend is welcome to say what he knows. I mention these particulars merely to show what general what the literary lower world contains, and their way of setting to work. Another charge, made, I am told, in the "Literary Gazette" is, that I wrote the notes to "Queen Mab:" a work which I never saw till some time after its publication, and which I recollect showing to Mr. Southey as a poem of great power and imagination. I never wrote a line of the notes, nor ever saw them except in their published form. No one knows better than the real author, that his opinions and mine differ materially upon the metaphysical portion of that work; though in common with all who are not blinded by baseness and bigotry, I highly admire the poetry of that and his other publications.

Mr. Southey, too, in his pious preface to a poem whose blasphemy is as harmless as the sedition of Wat Tyler, because it is equally absurd with that crime, he deliberately calls upon the "legislature, to look to it," as the toleration of such writings led to the French Revolution: "not such writings as Wat Tyler, but as those of the "Satanic School." This is not true, and Mr. Southey knows it to be not true. Every French writer of any freedom was persecuted; Voltaire and Rousseau were exiles, Marmontel and Diderot were sent to the Bastile, and a perpetual war was waged with the whole class by the existing despots. In the next place the French Revolution was not occasioned by any writings whatsoever, but must have occurred had no such writers ever existed. It is the fashion to attribute every thing to the French Revolution, and the French Revolution to every thing but its real cause. That cause is obvious—the government exacted too much, and the people could neither give nor bear more. Without this, the Encyclopedists might have written their fingers off without the occurrence of a single alteration. And the English Revolution—(the first, I mean)—what was it occasioned by? The Puritans were surely as pious and moral as Wesley or his biographer. Acts—acts of an unjust nature were followed by the people, and not writings against them, have caused the past convulsions, and are tending to the future.

I look upon such as inevitable, though no revolutionist; I wish to see the English constitution restored, but it is destroyed, and naturally one by one, with the greater part of my present property in the funds, what have I to gain by a revolution? Perhaps, I have more to lose in every way than Mr. Southey, with all his places and presents for panegyris and abuse into the bargain. But that a revolution is inevitable, I repeat. The government may exult over the repres- sion of petty tumults; these are but the receding waves of a great wave, and broken for a moment on the shore, while the great tide is still rolling on and gaining ground with every breaker. Mr. Southey accuses us of attacking the religion of the country, and he is amusing it by writing lives of Heavens! One merit of worship is merely destroyed by another. There never was, nor ever will be, a country without a religion. We shall be told of France again; but it was only Paris and the Frago- party, which did their dogmatic nonsense of thephilanthropy. The church of Eng- land, if overthrown, will be swept away by the sectarians, and not by the skeptics. People are too wise to fall for the ill-willed. One notion of their own immense importance in the realms of space, ever to submit to the impiety of doubt. There may be a few such diffident speculators like


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water in the pale sunbeam of human reason, but they are very few; and their opinions, without enthusiasm or appeal to the passions, can never gain proselytes—unless, indeed, they are persecuted—that, to be sure, will increase anything.

Mr. S. with a cowardly ferocity, exults over the anticipated "death-bed repentance" of the objects of his dislike; and indulges himself in a pleasant "Vision of Judgment," in prose as well as verse, full of impious impudence. What Mr. S.'s sensations or ours may be in the awful moment of leaving this state of existence neither he nor we can pretend to decide. In common, I presume, with most men of any reflection, I have not waited for a "death-bed" to repent of many of my actions, notwithstanding the "diabolical pride" which this pitiful renegade in his rancour would impute to those who scorn him. Whether upon the whole the good or evil of my deeds may preponderate is not for me to ascertain; but, as my means and opportunities have been greater, I shall limit my present defence to an assertion (easily proved, if necessary), that I, "in my degree," have done a more real good in any one given year, since I was twenty, than Mr. Southey in the whole course of his shifting and turn-coat existence. There are several actions to which I can look back with an honest pride, not to be damped by the calumnies of a hireling. There are others to which I recur with sorrow and repentance; but the only act of my life of which Mr. Southey can have any real knowledge, as it was one which brought me in contact with a near connexion of his own, did no dishonor to that connexion nor to me.

I am not ignorant of Mr. Southey's calumnies on a different occasion, knowing them to be such which he scattered abroad on his return from Switzerland against me and others: they have done him no good in this world, and, if his creed be the right one, they will do less in the next. What his "death-bed" may be, it is not my province to predicate: let him settle it with his Maker, as I must do with mine. There is something at once ludicrous and blasphemous in this arrogant scribbler of all work sitting down to deal damnation and destruction upon his fellow-creatures, with Wat Tyler, the Apotheosis of George the Third, and the Elegy on Martin the regicide, all shuffled together in his writing-desk. One of his consolations appears to be a Latin note from the work of a Mr. Landor, the author of "Gebir," whose friendship for Robert Southey will, it seems, "be an honor to him when the ephemeral disputes and ephemeral reputations of the day are forgotten." I for one neither envy him "the friendship," nor the glory in reversion which is to accrue from it, like Mr. Thalinson's fortune in the third and fourth generation. This friendship will probably be as memorable as his own epics, which (as I quoted to him ten or twelve years ago in "English Bards") Person said "would be remembered when Homer and Virgil are forgotten, and not till then." For the present, I leave him.
SARDANAPALUS;

A TRAGEDY.

TO

THE ILLUSTRIOUS GOETHE

A STRANGER PRESUMES TO OFFER THE HOMAGE

OF A LITERARY VASSAL TO HIS LIEGE LORD, THE FIRST OF EXISTING WRITERS

WHO HAS CREATED THE LITERATURE OF HIS OWN COUNTRY.

AND ILLUSTRATED THAT OF EUROPE.

THE UNWORTHY PRODUCTION WHICH THE AUTHOR VENTURES TO INSCRIBE TO HIM

IS ENTITLED

SARDANAPALUS.

PREFACE.

In publishing the tragedies of Sardanapalus and the Two Foscari, I have only to repeat that they were not composed with the most remote view to the stage.

On the attempt made by the Managers in a former instance, the public opinion has been already expressed.

With regard to my own private feelings, as it seems that they are to stand for nothing, I shall say nothing.

For the historical foundation of the compositions in question, the reader is referred to the Notes.

The Author has in one instance attempted to preserve, and in the other to approach the "unities;" conceiving that with any very distant departure from them, there may be poetry, but can be no drama. He is aware of the unpopularity of this notion in present English literature; but it is not a system of his own, being merely an opinion, which, not very long ago, was the law of literature throughout the world, and is still so in the more civilized parts of it. But "Nous avons change tout cela," and are reaping the advantages of the change. The writer is far from conceiving that any thing he can adduce by personal precept or example can at all approach his regular, or even irregular predecessors; he is merely giving a reason why he preferred the more regular formation of a structure however feeble, to an entire abandonment of all rules whatsoever. Where he has failed the failure is in the architect, and not in the art.

In this tragedy it has been my intention to follow the account of Diodorus Siculus: reducing it, however, to such dramatic regularity as I best could, and trying to approach the unities. I therefore suppose the rebellion to explode and succeed in one day by a sudden conspiracy instead of the long war of the history.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Men.—SARDANAPALUS, King of Nineveh, and Assyria, &c.
ARRACHES, the Moor, who aspired to the Throne.
BELESES, a Chaldean and Soothsayer.
SALEMEMES, the King’s Brother-in-law.
ALTADA, an Assyrian Officer of the Palace.
PANIA.
ZAMES.
SPERO.
BALE.

Women.—ZARINA, the Queen.
MYRRIHA, an Ionian female Slave, and the Favorite of SARDANAPALUS.

Women composing the Harem of SARDANAPALUS, Guards, Attendants, Chaldean Priests, Mages, &c., &c.

Scene—a Hall in the Royal Palace of Nineveh.
ACT I.

SCENE I.

A Hall in the Palace.

SAIEMENES, (faux.) He hath wrong'd his queen, but still he is her lord;
He hath wrong'd my sister, still he is my brother;
He hath wrong'd his people, still he is their sovereign,
And I must be his friend as well as subject;
He must not perish thus. I will not see
The blood of Nimrod and Semiramis
Sink in the earth, and thirteen hundred years
Of empire ending like a shepherd's tale;
He must be roused. In his effeminate heart
There is a careess courage which corrosion
Has not all quench'd, and latent energies,
Repress'd by circumstance, but not destroy'd—
Steep'd, but not drown'd, in deep voluptuousness.
If born a peasant, he had been a man
To have reach'd an empire; to an empire born,
He will bequeath none; nothing but a name,
Which his sons will not prize in heritage:—
Yet, not all lost, even yet he may redeem
His aloth and shame, by only being that
Which he should be, as easily as the thing
He should not be and is. Were it less toil
To sway his nations than consume his life?
To head an army than to rule a harem?
He sweats in palling pleasures, dulls his soul,
And saps his goodly strength, in toils which yield
not
Health like the chase, nor glory like the war—
He must be roused. Alas! there is no sound
[Sound of soft music heard from within.
To rouse him short of thunder. Hark! the lute,
The lyre, the timbrel; the lascivious tinklings
Of lulling instruments, the softening voices
Of women, and of beings less than women,
Must chime in to the echo of his revel;
While the great king of all we know of earth
Lolls crown'd with roses, and his diadem
Lies negligently by to be caught up
By the first manly hand which dares to snatch it.
Lo, where they come! already I perceive
The reeking odors of the perfumed trains,
And see the bright gems of the glittering girls,
At once his chorus and his council, flash
Along the gallery, and amidst the damsels,
As femininely garb'd, and scarce less female,
The grandson of Semiramis, the man-queen.
He comes! Shall I await him? yes, and front him,
And tell him what all good men tell each other,
Speaking of him and his. They come, the slaves,
Led by the monarch subject to his slaves.

SCENE II.

Enter SARDANAPALUS effemintly dressed, his head crown'd with flowers, and his robe negligently flowing, attended by a train of women and young slaves.

Sar. (speaking to some of his attendants.) Let the pavilion over the Euphrates be unlanded and lit, and furnish'd forth

For an especial banquet; at the hour
Of midnight we will sup there; see nought wanting
And bid the gallery be prepared. There is
A cooling breeze which crisps the broad clear river
We will embark anon. Fair nymphs, who deign
To share the soft hours of Sardanapalus,
We'll meet again in that the sweetest hour,
When we shall gather like the stars above us,
And you will form a heaven as bright as theirs;
Till then, let each be in vers of her time,
And thou, my own Ionian Myrrha,1 choose,
Wilt thou along with them or me? Myr.
My lord—
Sar. My lord, my life! why answerest thou so coldly?
It is the curse of kings to be so answer'd.
Rule thy own hours, thou rulest mine—say, wouldst thou
Accompany our guests, or charm away
The moments from me?
Myr. The king's choice is mine.
Sar. I pray thee say not so: my chiefest joy
Is to contribute to thine every wish.
I do not dare to breathe my own desire,
Lest it should clash with thine; for thou art still
Too prompt to sacrifice thy thoughts for others.
Myr. I would remain: I have no happiness
Save in beholding thine; yet—
Sar. Yet! what yet?
Thy own sweet will shall be the only barrier
Which ever rises betwixt thee and me.
Myr. I think the present is the wonted hour
Of council; I will retire. I
SAL. (comes forward and says,) The Ionian slave
says well; let her retire.
Sar. Who answers? How now, brother?
Sal. The queen's brother,
And your most faithful vassal, royal lord.
Sar. (addressing his train.) As I have said, let all dispose their hours
Till midnight, when again we pray your presence.
(The court retiring)
(To MYRRHA, who is going.) Myrrha! I thought thou wouldst remain.
Myr. Great king,
Thou didst not say so.
Sar. But thou lookedst it;
I know each glance of those Ionic eyes,
Which said thou wouldst not leave me.
Myr. Sire! your brother—
Sal. His consort's brother, minion of Ionia!
How darest thou name me and not blush?
Sar. Not blush!
Thou hast no more eyes than heart to make her crimson
Like to the dying day on Caucasus,
Where sunset tints the snow with rosy shadows,
And then reproach her with thine own cold blindness,
Which will not see it. What, in tears, my Myrrha?
Sal. Let them flow on; she weeps for more than one,
And is herself the cause of bitter tears.
Sar. Cursed be he who caused those tears to flow.
Sal. Curse not thyself—millions do that already
Sar. Thou dost forget thee: make me not remember
I am a monarch.
Sal. Would thou couldst!
BYRON'S WORKS.

Myr. My sovereign, I pray and thou, too, prince, permit my absence. Sar. Since it must be so, and this churl has check'd Thy gentle spirit, go; but recollect That we must forthwith meet: I had rather lose An empire than thy presence. [Exit MYRRHA. Sar. It may be, Thou wilt lose both, and both for ever! Sar. Brother, I can at least command myself, who listen To language such as this: yet urge me not Beyond my easy nature. Sar. 'Tis beyond That easy, far too easy, idle nature, Which I would urge thee. O that I could rouse thee!

Though 'twere against myself. Sar. By the god Baal: Thy man would make me tyrant. Sar. So thou art. Think'st thou there is no tyranny but that Of blood and chains? the despotism of vice— The weakness and the wickedness of luxury— The negligence—the apathy—the evils Of sensual sloth—produce ten thousand tyrants, Whose delegated cruelty surpasses The worst acts of one energetic master, However harsh and hard in his own bearing. The false and fond examples of thy lusts Corrupt no less than they oppress, and sap In the same moment all thy pageant power And those who should sustain it; so that whether A foreign foe invade, or civil broil Distract within, both will alike prove fatal: The first thy subjects have no heart to conquer; The last they rather would assist than vanquish. Sar. Why what makes thee the mouth-piece of the people?

Sal. Forgiveness of the queen, my sister's wrongs; A natural love unto my infant nephews; Faith to the king, a faith he may need shortly, In more than words; respect for Nimrod's line; Also, another thing thou knowest not. Sar. What's that? Sal. To thee an unknown word. Sar. Yet speak it; I love to learn. Sal. Virtue. Sar. Not know the word! Never was word yet rung so in my ears— Worse than the rabble's shout, or splitting trumpet; I've heard thy sister talk of nothing else. Sal. To change the irksome theme, then, hear of vice. Sar. From whom? Sal. Even from the winds, if thou couldst listen Unto the echoes of the nation's voice. Sar. Come, I'm indulgent, as thou knowest, patient, As thou hast often proved—speak out, what moves thee?

Sal. Thy peril. Sar. Say on. Sal. Thus, then: all the nations, For they are many, whom thy father left In heritage, are loud in wrath against thee. Sar. 'Gainst me! What would the slaves say?

Sal. A king.
SARDANAPALUS.

Sal. What means the king?

Sar. To worship your new god
And ancient conqueror. Some wine, I say.

Enter Cupbearer.

Sar. (addressing the Cupbearer.) Bring me the golden goblet thick with gems,
Which bears the name of Nimrod's chalice. Hence!
Fill full, and bear it quickly. [Exit Cupbearer.

Sal. Is this moment
A fitting one for the(resumption of)
Thy yet unslept-off revels?

Re-enter Cupbearer, with wine.

Sar. (taking the cup from him.) Noble kinsman,
If these barbarian Greeks of the far shores
And skirts of these our realms lie not, this Bacchus
Conquered the whole of India, did he not?

Sal. He did, and thence was deem'd a deity.

Sar. Not so:—of all his conquests a few columns
Which may be his, and might be mine, if I
Thought them worth purchase and conveyance, are
The landmarks of the seas of gore he shed,
The realms he wasted, and the hearts he broke.
But here, here in this goblet is the title
To immortality—the immortal grape
From which he first express'd the soul, and gave
To gladden that of man, as some atonement
For the victorious mischief he had done.
Had it not been for this, he would have been
A mortal still in name as in his grave;
And, like my ancestor Semiramis,
A sort of semi-glorious human monster.
Here's that which defined him—let it now
Humanize thee; my sunder, chiding brother,
Pledge me to the Greek god!

Sal. For all thy realms
I would not so blasphome our country's creed.

Sar. That is to say, thou thinkest him a hero,
That he shed blood by oceans; and no god,
Because he turn'd a fruit to an enchantment,
Which cheers the sad, revives the old, inspires
The young, makes Weariness forget his toil,
And Fear her danger; opens a new world.
When this, the present, falls. Well, then I pledge thee
And him as a true man, who did his utmost
In good or evil to surprise mankind. [Drinks.

Sal. Wilt thou resume a revel at this hour?

Sar. And if I did, 'twere better than a trophy,
Being bought without a tear. But that is not
My present purpose: since thou wilt not pledge me,
Continue what thou pleasest.

[To the Cupbearer.) Boy, retire. [Exit Cupbearer.

Sal. I would but have recall'd thee from thy dream:
Better by me awaken'd than rebellion.

Sar. Who should rebel? or why? what cause?
What pretext?

I am the lawful king, descended from
A race of kings who knew no predecessors.
What have I done to thee, or to the people,
That thou shouldst rail, or they rise up against me?

Sal. Of what thou hast done to me, I speak not.

Sar. But thou think'st that I have wrong'd the queen: is't not so?

Sal. Think! Thou hast wrong'd her!

Sar. Patience, prince, and hear me.

She has all power and splendor of her station,
Respect, the tutelage of Assyria's heirs,
The homage and the appanage of sovereignty.
I married her as monarchs wed—for state,
And loved her as most husbands love their wives.
If she or thou supposedst I couldlink me
Like a Chaldæan peasant to his mate,
He knew nor me, nor monarchs, nor mankind.

Sal. I pray thee, change the theme: my blood
dissains
Complaint, and Salemenes' sister seeks not
Reluctant love even from Assyria's lord!
Nor would she deign to accept divided passion
With foreign strumpets and Ionian slaves.
The queen is silent.

Sar. And why not her brother?

Sal. I only echo thee the voice of empires,
Which he who long neglects not long will govern.

Sar. The ungrateful and ungracious slaves! they
murmur
Because I have not shed their blood, nor led them
To dry into the desert's dust by myriads,
Or whiten with their bones the banks of Gangis,
Nor dehast them with savage laws,
Nor sweated them to build up pyramids,
Or Babylonian walls.

Sal. Yet these are trophies
More worthy of a people and their prince
Than songs, and lutes, and feasts, and concubines,
And lavish'd treasures, and comtedum virtus.

Sar. Or for my trophies I have founded cities
There's Tarsus and Anchialus, both built
In one day—what could that blood-loving beldame,
My martial grandam, chase Semiramis,
Do more, except destroy them?

Sal. 'Tis most true;
I own thy merit in those Founded cities,
Built for a whim, recorded with a verse
Which shame both them and thee to coming ages.

Sar. Shame me! By Baal, the cities, though well built,
Are not more goodly than the verse! Say what
Thou wilt 'gainst me, my mode of life and rule,
But nothing 'gainst the truth of that brief record.
Why, those few lines contain the history
Of all things human; hear—"Sardanapalus,
The king, and son of Anacyndaraxes,
In one day built Anchialus and Tarsus.
Eat, drink, and love; the rest's not worth a fillip." 4

Sal. A worthy moral, and a wise inscription,
For a king to put up before his subjects!

Sar. Oh, thou wouldst have me doubtless set up
edicts—
"Obey the king—contribute to his treasure—
Recruit his phalanx—spoil your blood at bidding—
Fall down and worship, or get up and toil."
Or thus—"Sardanapalus on this spot
Slew fifty thousand of his enemies.
These are their sepulchres, and this his trophy.'
I leave such things to conquerors; enough
For me, if I can make my subjects feel
The weight of human misery less, and glide
Unroaming to the tomb; I take no license
Which I deny to them. We all are men.

Sal. Thy sires have been revered as gods—

Sar. In dust
And death, where they are neither gods nor men!
Tale not of such to me! The worms are gods;
At least they banquet upon your gods.
And died for lack of farther nutriment.
Those gods were merely men; look to their issue—
I feel a thousand mortal things about me,
But nothing godlike, unless it may be
The thing which you condemn, a disposition
To love and to be merciful, to pardon
The follies of my species, and (that's human)
To be indulgent to my own.
Sal. Alas!

The doom of Nineveh is seal'd.—Wo—Wo—
"o the unrival'd city!

Sar. What dost dread?
Sal. Thou art guarded by thy foes; in a few hours
The tempest may break out which overwhelms thee,
And thine and mine; and in another day
What shall be the past of Belus' race.
Sar. What must we dread?

Sal. Ambitious treachery,
Which has environ'd thee with snares; but yet
There is resource: empower me with thy signet
To quell the machinations, and I lay
The heads of thy chief foes before thy feet.
Sar. The heads—how many?

Sal. Must I stay to number,
When even thine own's in peril? Let me go;
Give me thy signet—trust me with the rest.
Sar. I will trust no man with unlimited lives.
When we take those from others, we nor know
What we have taken, nor the thing we give.
Sal. Wouldst thou not take their lives who seek
for thine?
Sar. That's a hard question—but, I answer, Yes.
Cannot the thing be done without? Who are they
Whom thou suspectest?—Let them be arrested.
Sal. I would thou wouldst not ask me: the next moment
Will send my answer through thy babbling troop
Of paramours, and thence fly o'er the palace,
Even to the city, and so baffle all.—
Trust me.

Sar. Thou knowest I have done so ever:
Take thou the signet. [Gives the signet.]
Sal. I have one more request.—

Sar. Name it.

Sal. That thou this night forbear the banquet
In the pavilion over the Euphrates.

Sar. Forbear the banquet! Not for all the plotters
That ever shook a kingdom! Let them come,
And do their worst: I shall not bleech for them;
Nor rise the sooner; nor forbear the goblet;
Nor crown me with a single rose the less;
Nor lose one joyous hour.—I fear them not.

Sar. But thou wouldst arm thee, wouldst thou not,

If needful?

Sar. Perhaps. I have the goodliest armor, and
A sword of such a temper; and a bow
And javelin, which might furnish Nimrod forth:
A little heavy, but yet not unwieldy.
And now I think on't, 'tis long since I've used them,
Even in the chase. Hast ever seen them, brother?
Sal. Is this a time for such fantastic trifling?—

If need be, wilt thou wear them?

Sar. Will I not?

Oh! if it must be so, and these rash slaves
Will not be ruled with less, I'll use the sword
Fill they shall wish it turn'd into a distaff.
Sal. They say, thy sceptre's turn'd to that already?

Sar. That's false! but let them say so; the old

Greeks,

Of whom our captives often sing, related
The same of their chief hero, Hercules,
Because he loved a Lydian queen: thou seest
The populace of all the nations seize
Each calamity they can to sink their sovereigns.
Sal. They did not speak thus of thy fathers.

Sar. They dared not. They were kept to toil and combat,
And never changed their chains but for their armor
Now they have peace and pastime, and the license
To revel and to rail; it irks me not.
I would not give the smile of one fair girl
For all the popular breath that e'er divided
A name from nothing. What are the rank
Of this vile herd, grown insolent with feeding,
That I should prize their noisy praise, or dread
Their noisome clamor?

You have said they are men
As such their hearts are something.

Sar. So my dogs are
And better, as more faithful—but, proceed;
Thou hast my signet:—since they are tumultuous,
Let them be temper'd, yet not roughly, till
Necessity enforce it. I hate all pain,
Given or received; we have enough within us,
The meanest vassal as the loftiest monarch,
Not to add to each other's natural burden
Of mortal misery, but rather lessen,
By mild reciprocal alleviation,
The fatal penalties imposed on life:
But this they know not, or they will not know.

I have, by Baal! done all I could to soothe them:
I made no wars, I added no new imposts,
I interfered not with their civic lives,
I let them pass their days as best might suit them,
Passing my own as suited me.

Sal. Thou stopp'd short
Of the duties of a king; and therefore
They say thou art unfit to be a monarch
Sar. They lie.—Unhappily, I am unfit
To be aught save a monarch; else for me
The meanest Mede might be the king instead.
Sal. There is one Mede, at least, who seeks to
be so.

Sar. What mean'st thou?—'tis thy secret, thou desirest
Few questions, and I'm not of curious nature.
Take the fit steps; and, since necessity
Requires, I sanction and support thee. Ne'er

Was man who more desired to rule in peace
The peaceful only; if they rouse me, better
They had conjured up stern Nimrod from his ashes,
"The mighty hunter." I will turn these realms
To one wide desert chase of brutes, who were,
But would no more, by their own choice, be human.
What they have found me, they believe; that which
They yet may find me—shall defy their wish
To speak it worse; and let them thank themselves.

Sal. Then thou at last canst feel?

Sar. Feel! who feels not
Ingratitude?

Sal. I will not pause to answer
With words, but deeds. Keep thou awake that

energy
Which sleeps at times, but is not dead within thee,
And thou may'st yet be glorious in thy reign,
As powerful in thy realm. Farewell!!

Exit Salemehm

Farewell
SARDANAPALUS.

Can see a smile, unless in some broad banquet's
Intoxicating glare, when the buffoons
Have gorged themselves up to equality
Or I have quaff'd me down to their abasement.
Myrrha, I can hear all these things, these names,
Lord—king—sire—monarch—nay, time was I prized them,
That is, I suffer'd them from—slaves and nobles;
But when they falter from the lips I love,
The lips which have been press'd to mine, a chill
Comes o'er my heart, a cold sense of the falsehood
Of this my station, which represses feeling
In those for whom I have felt most, and makes me
Wish that I could lay down the dull tiara,
And share a cottage on the Caucasus
With thee, and wear no crowns but those of flowers.

Myr. Would that we could!  
Sar. And dost thou feel this?—Why?
Myr. Then thou wouldst know what thou canst never know.
Sar. And that is—

The true value of a heart;
At least, a woman's.

Myr. I have proved a thousand—
A thousand, and a thousand.

Hearts?
Sar. I think so.
Myr. Not one! the time may come thou may'st.

It will
Hear, Myrrha! Satemenes has declared—
Or why or how he hath divined it, Belus,
Who founded our great realm, knows more than I—
But Satemenes hath declared my throne
In peril.

Myr. He did well.
Sar. And say'st thou so?
Thou whom he spurn'd so harshly, and now dared
Drive from our presence with his savage jeers,
And made thee weep and blush?

Myr. I should do both
More frequently, and he did well to call me
Back to my duty. But thou speakest of peril—
Peril to thee—
Sar. Ay, from dark plots and snares
From Medes—and discontented troops and nations.
I know not what—a labyrinth of things—
A maze of mutter'd threats and mysteries:
Thou know'st the man—it is his usual custom.
But he is honest. Come, we'll think no more on't—
But of the midnight festival.

Myr. 'Tis time
To think of aught save festivals. Thou hast not
Spurn'd his sage cautions?
Sar. What?—and dost thou fear
Myr. Fear?—I'm a Greek, and how should I fear death?
A slave, and wherefore should I dread my freedom!
Sar. Then wherefore dost thou turn so pale?

Myr. I love.
Sar. And do not I? I love thee far—far more
Than either the brief life or the wide realm,
Which, it may be, is menaced—yet I blench not.
Myr. That means thou lovest nor thyself nor me
For he who loves another loves himself,
Even for that other's sake. This is too rash—
Kingdoms and lives are not to be so lost.
Sar. Lost!—why who is the aspiring chief who dared
Assume to win them?
BYRON'S 

Works.

Who is he should dread
To try so much? When he who is their ruler
Forgets himself, will they remember him?

Sar. Myrrha!

Myr. Frown not upon me: you have smiled
Too often on me not to make those frowns
Bitterer to bear than any punishment
Which they may augur.—King, I am ye. a subject!
Master, I am your slave! Man, I have loved you—
Loved you, I know not by what fatal weakness,
Although a Greek, and born a foe to monarchs—
A slave, and-hating fetters—an Ionian,
And, therefore, when I love a stranger, more
Degraded by that passion than by chains!
Still I have loved you. If that love were strong
Enough to overcome all former nature,
Shall it not claim the privilege to save you?

Sar. Save me, my beauty! Thou art very fair,
And I seek of thee love—not safety.

Myr. And without love where dwells security?

Sar. I speak of woman's love.

Myr. The very first
Of human life must spring from woman's breast,
Your first small words are taught you from her lips,
Your first tears quenched by her, and your last sighs
Too often breathed out in woman's hearing,
When men have shrunk from the ignoble care
Of watching the last hour of him who led them.

Sar. My eloquent Ionian! thou speakest music;
The very chorus of the tragic song
I have heard thee talk of as the favorite pastime
Of thy far father-land. Nay, weep not—calm thee.

Myr. I weep not.—But I pray thee, do not speak
About my fathers or their land.

Sar. Yet oft
Thou speakest of them.

Myr. True—true: constant thought
Will overflow in words unconsciously;
But when another speaks of Greece, it wounds me.

Sar. Well, then, how wouldst thou save me, as
Thou saidst?

Myr. By teaching thee to save thyself, and not
Thyself alone, but these vast realms, from all
The rage of the worst war—the war of brethren.

Sar. Why, child, I lose all war, and warriors—
I live in peace and pleasure: what can man
Do more?

Myr. Alas! my lord, with common men
There needs too oft the show of war to keep
The substance of sweet peace; and for a king,
'Tis sometimes better to be feared than loved.

Sar. And I have never sought but for the last.

Myr. And now art neither.

Sar. Dost thou say so, Myrrha?

Myr. I speak of civic popular love, self-love,
Which means that men are kept in awe and law,
Yet not oppress'd—at least they must not think so;
Or if they think so, deem it necessary,
To ward off worse oppression, their own passions.
A king of feasts, and flowers, and wine, and revel,
And love, and mirth, was never king of glory.

Sar. Glory! what's that?

Myr. Ask of the gods thy fathers.

Sar. They cannot answer; when the priests speak
For them,

For some small addition to the temple.

Myr. Look to the annals of thine empire's founders.

Sar. They are so blotted o'er with blood, I cannot,

But what wouldst have? the empire has been founded
I cannot go on multiplying empires.

Myr. Preserve thine own.

Sar. At least I will enjoy it.

Come, Myrrha, let us on to the Euphrates,
The hour invites, the galley is prepared,
And the pavilion, deck'd for our return,
In fit adornment for the evening banquet,
Shall blaze with beauty and with light, until
It seems unto the stars which are above us
Itself an opposite star; and we will sit
Crown'd with fresh flowers like—

Myr. Victims.

Sar. No, like sovereigns,
The shepherd kings of patriarchal times,
Who knew no brighter gems than summer wreaths
And none but fearless triumphs. Let us on

Enter Pania.

Pan. May the king live for ever!

Sar. Not an hour
Longer than he can love. How my soul hates
This language, which makes life itself a lie,
Flattering dust with eternity. Well, Pania!
Be brief.

Pan. I am charged by Salamenes to
Reiterate his prayer unto the king,
That for this day, at least, he will not quit
The palace; when the general returns,
He will adduce such reasons as will warrant
His daring, and perhaps obtain the pardon
Of his presumption.

Sar. What! am I then coo'd?

Pan. Already captive? can I not even breathe
The breath of heaven? Tell prince Salamenes,
Were all Assyria raging round the walls
In mutinous myriads, I would still go forth.

Pan. I must obey, and yet—

Myr. Oh, monarch, listen.
How many a day and moon thou hast reclined
Within these palace walls in silken dalliance,
And never shown thee to thy people's longing;
Leaving thy subjects' eyes ungratified,
The satraps uncontroll'd, the gods unworship'd,
And all things in the anarchy of sloth,
Till all, save evil, slumber'd through the realm
And wilt thou not now tardy for a day,
A day which may redeem thee? Will thou not
Yield to the few still faithful a few hours,
For them, for thee, for thy past father's race,
And for thy son's inheritance?

Pan. 'Tis true!
From the deep urgency with which the prince
Despatch'd me to your sacred presence, I
Must dare to add my feeble voice to that
Which now has spoken.

Sar. No, it must not be

Myr. For the sake of thy realm!

Sar. Away!

Pan. For thou
Of all thy faithful subjects, who will rally
Round thee and thine.

Sar. These are mere phantasies;
There is no peril: 'tis a sullen scheme
Of Salamenes to approve his zeal,
And show himself more necessary to us.

Myr. By all that's good and glorious take this
Counsel.

Sar. Business to-morrow
SARDANAPALUS.

M yr. Ay, or death to-night.
Ser. W hy let t come then unexpectedly
Midst joy and gentleness, and mirth and love;
So let me fall like the pluck'd rose!—far better
Than thus to be w ith'er'd.
M yr. Then thou wilt not yield,
Even for the sake of all that ever stirr'd
A monarch into action, to forego
A trifling revel.
S er. No.
M yr. Then yield for mine;
For my sake!
S er. Thine, my Myrrha!
M yr. 'Tis the first
Boon which I ever ask'd Assyria's king.
S er. That's true, and we'rt my kingdom must be
granted.
Well, for thy sake, I yield me. Pania, hence!
Thou hear'st me.
Pan. And obey. [E xit Pania.
S er. I marvel at thee.
What is thy motive Myrrha, thus to urge me?
M yr. Thy safety; and the certainty that nought
Could urge the prince thy kinsman to require
Thus much from thee, but some impending danger.
S er. And if I do not dread it, why shouldst thou?
M yr. Because thou dost not fear, I fear for thee.
S er. To-morrow thou wilt smile at these vain
fancies.
M yr. If the worst come, I shall be where none
weep,
And that is better than the power to smile.
And thou?
S er. I shall be king, as heretofore.
M yr. Where?
S er. With Baal, Nimrod, and Semiramis,
Sole in Assyria, or with them elsewhere.
Fate made me what I am—may make me nothing—
But either that or nothing must I be;
I will not live degraded.
M yr. Hadst thou felt
Thus always, none would ever dare degrade thee.
S er. And who will do so now?
M yr. Dost thou suspect none?
S er. Suspect!—that's a spy's office. Oh! we lose
Ten thousand precious moments in vain words,
And rainer fears. Within there,—ye slaves, deck
The hall of Nimrod for the evening revel:
If I must make a prison of our palace,
At least we'll wear our fetters jocundly;
If the Ephratus be forbid us, and
The summer dwelling on its beauteous border,
Here we are still unmenaced. Ho! within there!
[Exit Sardanapalus.
M yr. [solus.] Why do I love this man? My
country's daughters
Love none but heroes. But I have no country!
The slave hath lost all save her bonds. I love him;
And that's the heaviest link of the long chain—
To love whom we esteem not. Be it so:
The hour is coming when he'll need all,
And find none. To fall from him now were baser
Than to have stabb'd him on his throne when highest
Would have been noble in my country's creed:
I was not made for either. Could I save him,
I should not love him better, but myself;
And I have need of the last, for I have fallen
In my own thoughts, by loving this soft stranger:
And yet methinks I love him more, perceiving

That he is hated of his own barbarians,
The natural foes of all the blood of Greece.
Could I but wake a single thought like those
Which even the Phrygians felt when battling long
'Twixt Ilion and the sea, within his heart,
He would tread down the barbarous crowds, and
triumph.
He loves me, and I love him; the slave loves
Her master, and would free him from his vices.
If not, I have a means of freedom still,
And if I cannot teach him how to reign,
May show him how alone a king can leave
His throne. I must not lose him from my sight
[Exeunt.

ACT II.

SCENE I.
The Portal of the same Hall of the Palace.

Bel es es, [solus.] The sun goes down: methinks
he sets more slowly,
Taking his last look of Assyria's empire;
How red he glares amongst those deepening clouds
Like the blood he predicts. If not in vain,
Thou sun that sinkest, and ye stars which rise,
I have outwatch'd ye, reading ray by ray
The edicts of thy orbs, which make Time tremble.
For what he brings the nations, 'tis the further
Hour of Assyria's years. And yet how calm!
An earthquake should announce so great a fall
A summer's sun discloses it. Yon disk,
To the star-read Chaldean, bears upon
Its everlasting page the end of what
Seem'd everlasting; but oh! thou true sun
The burning oracle of all that live,
As fountain of all life, and symbol of
Him who bestows it, wherefore dost thou limit
Thy lore unto calamity? Why not
Unfold the rise of days more worthy thin
All glorious burst from ocean? why not dart
A beam of hope atwixt the future years,
As of wrath to its days? Hear me! oh! hea me
I am thy worshipper, thy priest, thy servant—
I have gazed on thee at thy rise and fall,
And bow'd my head beneath thy mid-day beams,
When my eye dared not meet thee. I have watch'd
For thee, and after thee, and pray'd to thee,
And sacrificed to thee, and read, and fear'd thee,
And ask'd of thee, and thou hast answer'd—but
Only to thus much: while I speak, he sinks—
Is gone—and leaves his beauty, not his knowledge
To the delighted west, which revels in
Its hues of dying glory. Yet what is
Death, so it be but glorious? 'Tis a sunset;
And mortals may be happy to resemble
The gods but in decay.

Enter ARBACES, by an inner door.

Arb. Bel es es, why
So rapt in thy devotions? Dost thou stand
Gazing to trace thy disappearing god
Into some realm of undiscover'd day?
Our business is with night—'tis come.
Bel. Gone.

But aon
Arb. Let it roll on—we are ready.
Bel. Yes.
Arb. Would it were over.
Arb. Does the prophet doubt,
To whom the very stars shine victory?
Bel. I do not doubt of victory—but the victor.
Arb. Well, let thy science settle that. Meantime
I have prepared as many glittering spears
As will out-sparkle our allies—your planets.
There is no more to thwart us. The she-king,
That less than woman, is even now upon
The waters with his female mates. The order
Is issued for the feast in the pavilion.
The first cup which he drinks will be the last
Quaid'd by the line of Nimrod.
Bel. Twas a brave one.
Arb. And is a weak one—'tis worn out—we'll mend it.
Bel. Art sure of that?
Arb. Its founder was a hunter—
I am a soldier—what is there to fear?
Bel. The soldier.
Arb. And the priest, it may be; but
If you thought thus, or think, why not retain
Your kind of connexions? why stir me up?
Why spur me to this enterprise? your own
No less than mine?
Bel. Look to the sky.
Arb. I look.
Bel. What seest thou?
Arb. A fair summer's twilight, and
The gathering of the stars.
Bel. And midst them, mark
You earliest, and the brightest which so quivers,
As it would quit its place in the blue ether.
Arb. Well?
Bel. 'Tis thy natal rader—thy birth planet.
Arb. (touching his scabbard.) My star is in this
scabbard: when it shines,
It shall out-dazzle comets. Let us think
Of what is to be done to justify
Thy planets and their portents. When we conquer,
They shall have temples—ay, and priests—and thou
Shalt be the pontiff of what gods thou wilt;
For I observe that they are ever just,
And own the bravest for the most devout.
Bel. Ay, and the most devout for brave—thou hast not
Seen me turn back from battle.

Arb. No; I own thee
As firm in sight as Babylonia's captain,
As skilful in Chaldea's worship; now,
Will it but please thee to forget the priest,
And be the warrior?
Bel. Why not both?
Arb. The better;
And yet it almost shames me, we shall have
So little to effect. This woman's warfare
Degrazes the very conqueror. To have pluck'd
A bold and bloody despot from his throne,
And grappled with him, clashing steel with steel,
That were heroic or to win or fall;
But to upraise my sword against this silkworm,
And hear him whine, it may be—
Bel. Do not deem it:
He has that in him which may make you strive yet;
And were he all you think, his guards are hardy,
And headed by the cool, stern Salemenes.
Arb. They'll not resist.
Bel. Why not? they are soldiers
Arb. True.
And therefore need a soldier to command them.
Bel. That Salemenes is.
Arb. But not their king.
Besides, he hates the effeminate thing that governs
For the queen's sake, his sister. Mark you not
He keeps aloof from all the revels?
Bel. But

Arb. And from the council—there he is ever constant.
Bel. And ever thed; what would you have more
To make a rebel out of? A fool reigning,
His blood dishonor'd, and himself disdain'd;
Why, it is his revenge we work for.
Bel. Could
He but be brought to think so: this, I doubt of.
Arb. What, if we sound him?
Bel. Yes—if the time served

Enter BALEA.
Bal. Satrap's! The king commands your presence
at
The feast to-night.
Bel. To hear is to obey.
In the pavilion?
Bel. No; here in the palace.
Arb. How! in the palace? it was not thus order'd.
Bel. It is so order'd now.
Arb. And why?
Bel. I know not
May I retire?

Arb. Stay.
Bel. (to Arb. aside.) Hush! let him go his way.
(Alterately to Bal.) Yes, Bales, thank the mon
Of his imperial robe, and say, his slaves
Will take the crumbs he deigns to scatter from
His royal table at the hour—was't midnight?
Bal. It was: the place the hall of Nimrod. Lords
I humble me before you, and depart. [Exit BALEA
Arb. I like not this same sudden change of place;
There is some mystery: wherefore should he change
it?
Bel. Dost he not change a thousand times a day?
Sloth is of all things the most fanciful—
And moves more parasites in its intents
Than generals in their marches, when they seek
To leave their foe at fault.—Why dost thou muse?
Arb. He loved that gay pavilion,—it was ever
His summer dotage.
Bel. And he loved his queen—
And thrice a thousand harlotry besides—
And he has loved all things by turns, except
Wisdom and glory.
Arb. Still—I like it not.
If he has changed—why, so must we: the attack
Were easy in the isolated bower,
Beset with drowsy guards and drunken courtiers;
But in the hall of Nimrod—
Bel. Is it so?
Methought the haughty soldier fear'd to mount
A throne too easily—does it disappoint thee
To find there is a slipperier step or two
Than what was counted on?
Arb. When the hour comes
Thou shalt perceive how far I fear or no.
Thou hast seen my life at stake—and gaily play'd for—
But here is more upon the die—a kingdom.

Bel. I have foretold already—thou wilt win it:
Then on, and prosper.

Arb. Now were I a soothsayer,
I would have boded so much to myself.
But be the stars obey’d—I cannot quarrel
With them, nor their interpreter. Who’s here!

Enter Salemenes.

Sale. Satraps!
Bel. My prince!
Sale. Well met—I sought ye both,
But elsewhere than the palace
Arb. Wherefore so?
Sale. ’Tis not the hour. What hour?
Bel. Midnight, my lord!
Sale. What, are you not invited?
Bel. Oh! yes—we had forgotten.
Sale. Is it usual
Thus to forget a sovereign’s invitation?
Arb. Why—we but now received it.
Sale. Then why here?
Arb. On duty.
Bel. On what duty?
Sale. On the state’s.
We have the privilege to approach the presence,
But found the monarch absent.
Sale. And I too
Am upon duty.
Arb. May we crave its purport?
Sale. To arrest two traitors! Guards! Within there!

Enter Guards.

Sale. (continuing.) Satraps,
Your swords.
Bel. (delivering his.) My lord, behold my scimitar.
Arb. (drawing his sword.) Take mine.
Sale. (advancing.) I will.
Arb. But in your heart the blade—
The hilt quits not this hand.
Sale. (drawing.) If how dost thou brave me?
’Tis well—this saves a trial, and false mercy.
Soldiers, hew down the rebel!
Arb. Soldiers! Ay—

Alone you dare not.
Sale. Alone! foolish slave—
What is there in thee that a prince should shrink from
Of open force? We dread thy treason, not
Thy strength: thy tooth is nought, without its venom—
The serpent’s, not the lion’s. Cut him down.
Sale. (interposing.) Arbaces! Are you mad? Have I not render’d
My sword? Then trust like me our sovereign’s justice.
Arb. No—I will sooner trust the stars thou pratest of
And this slight arm, and die a king at least
Of my own breath and body—so far that
None shall else chain them.
Sale. (to the Guards.) You hear him and me.
Take him not—kill.

(The Guards attack Arbaces, who defends himself valiantly and dexterously till they waiver.
Sale. Is it even so; and must

I do the hangman’s office? Recreants, see
How you should fell a traitor.

[SAULEMENES attacks ARBACES]

Enter Sardanapalus and Train.

Sale. Hold your hands—
Upon your lives, I say. What, deaf or drunken?
My sword! O fool, I wear no sword: here, fellow,
Give me thy weapon.

[SAIDANAPALUS snatches a sword from one of the soldiers, and makes between the combatants— they separate.]

Sale. In my very palace!
What hinders me from cleaving you in twain,
Audacious browlers?
Bel. Sire, your justice.
Sale. Or—
Your weakness.
Sale. (raising his sword.) How?
Sale. Strike! so the blow’s repeated
Upon your traitor—whom you spare a moment
I trust, for torture—I’m content.
Sale. What—him?
Who dares assail Arbaces?
Sale. I!
Sale. Indeed!
Prince, you forget yourself. Upon what warrant?
Sale. (showing the signet.) Thine.
Arb. (confused.) The king’s!
Sale. Yes!, and let the king confirm it.
Sale. I parted hot from this for such a purpose
Sale. You parted with it for your safety—I
Employ’d it for the best. Pronounce in person
Here I am but your slave—a moment past
I was your representative.
Sale. Then sheathe
Your swords.

[ARBACES and SALEMEDES return their swords to the scabbards.]
Sale. Mine’s sheathed: I pray you sheathe not yours;
’Tis the sole sceptre left thee now with safety.
Sale. A heavy one; the hilt, too, hurts my hand.

(To a Guard.) Here, fellow, take thy weapon back
Well, sir,
What doth this mean?
Sale. The prince must answer, that
Sale. Truth upon my part, treason upon theirs.
Sale. Treason—Arbaces! treachery and Beloses—
That were an union I will not believe.
Sale. Where is the proof?
Sale. I’ll answer that, if once
The king demands your fellow-traitors’ sworn
Arb. (to Sale.) A sword which hath been drawn as
oft as thing
Against his foes.
Sale. And now against his brother,
And in an hour or so against himself.
Sale. That is not possible: he dared not; no
No—I’ll not hear of such things. These vile
bickerings
Are spawn’d in courts by base intrigues and base.
Hirelings, who live by lies on good men’s lives.
You must have been deceived, my brothers.
Sale. First
Let him deliver up his weapon, and
Proclaim himself your subject by that duty,
And I will answer all.
Sale. Why, if I thought so
When they shine on my grave I shall know neither
Bel. For neither, sire, say better.
Sar. I will wait, If it so please you, pontiff, for that knowledge.
In the mean time receive your sword, and know That I prefer your service militant
Unto your ministry—not loving either.
Sar. (aside.) His lusts have made him mad. Then I must save him, Spite of himself.
Sar. Please you to hear me, satraps! And chiefly thou, my priest, because I doubt thee More than the soldier; and would doubt thee al, Wert thou not half a warrior: let us part In peace—I'll not say pardon—which must be Earn'd by the guilty; this I'll not pronounce ye, Although upon this breath of mine depends Your own; and, deadlier for ye, on my fears. But fear not—for that I am soft, not fearful— And so live on. Were I the thing some think me, Your heads would now be dripping the last drops Of their attainted gore from the high gates Of this our palace, into the dry dust, Their only portion of the coveted kingdom They would be crown'd to reign o'er—let that pass. As I have said, I will not deem ye guilty, Nor doom ye guiltless. / Albeit better men Than ye or I stand ready to arraign you; And should I leave your fate to sterners judges, And proofs of all kinds, I might sacrifice Two men, who, whatso'ever they now are, were Once honest. Ye are free, sirs.
Arb. Sir, this clemency—
Bel. (interrupting him.) Is worthy of yourself; and, although innocent, We thank—
Sar. Priest! keep your thanksgivings for Belus, His offspring needs none.
Bel. But being innocent—
Sar. Be silent—Guilt is loud. If ye are loyal, Ye are injured men, and should be sad, not grateful.
Bel. So we should be, were justice always done By earthly power omnipotent; but innocence Must oft receive her right as a mere favor.
Sar. That's a good sentence for a homily, Though not for this occasion. Prithee keep it To plead thy sovereign's cause before his people. Bel. I trust there is no cause.
Sar. No cause, perhaps; But many causes—if ye meet with such
In the exercise of your inquisitive function On earth, or should ye read of it in heaven In some mysterious twinkle of the stars, Which are your chronicles, I pray you note, That there are worse things betwixt earth and heaven Than him who ruleth many and slays none; And, hating not himself, yet loves his fellows Enough to spare even those who would not spare Lix Were they once masters—but that's doubtful Satraps!
Your swords and persons are at liberty To use them as ye will—but from this hour I have no call for either. Salamene's!
Follow me.
[Exeunt SARDANAPALUS, SALMENES, and the Train, 50, leaving ARABES and BELISES.
Arb. Beleses!
Bel. Now what think you?
Arb. That we are lost
SARDANAPALUS.

Bel. That we have won the kingdom.
Arb. What? thus suspected—with the sword slung o'er us
But by a single hair, and that still waivering,
To be blown down by his imperious breath
Which spared us—why, I know not.

Bel. But let us profit by the interval.
The hour is still upon our—power the same—
The night: the same we destined. He hath changed
Nothing except our ignorance of all
Suspicion into such a certainty
As must make madness of delay.

Arb. And yet—
Bel. What, doubting still?
Arb. He spared our lives, nay, more,
Saved them from Salemences.

Bel. And how long
Will he so spare? till the first drunken minute.
Arb. Or sober, rather. Yet he did it nobly;
Gave royally what we had forfeited
Basely—
Bel. Say bravely.
Arb. Somewhat of both, perhaps.
But it has touch'd me, and, what'ee betide,
I will no further on.

Bel. And lose the world!
Arb. Lose any thing except my own esteem.
Bel. I blush that we should owe our lives to such
A king of distasts!

Arb. But no less we owe them;
And I'll not blush far more to take the grantor's!
Bel. Thou may'st endure what'ee thou wilt, the stars
Have written otherwise.

Arb. Though they came down,
And marshall'd me the way in all their brightness,
I would not follow.

Bel. This is weakness—worse
Than a scared beldam's dreaming of the dead,
And waking in the dark.—Go to—go to.

Arb. Methought he look'd like Nimrod as he spoke,
Even as the proud imperial statue stands
Looking the monarch of the kings around it,
And sways, while they but ornament, the temple.
Bel. I told you that you had too much despis'd him,
And that there was some royalty within him—
What then? he is the nobler foe.

Arb. But we
The meaner:—Would he had not spared us!

Bel. Wouldst thou be sacrificed thus readily?
Arb. No—but it had been better to have died
Than live ungrateful.

Bel. Oh, the souls of some men.
Thou wouldst digest what some call treason, and
Fools treachery—and, behold, upon the sudden,
Because for something or for nothing, this
Rash reveler steps, ostentatiously,
'Twixt thee and Salemences, thou art turn'd
Into—what shall I say?—Sardanapalus!
I know no name more ignominious.

Arb. But
An hour ago, who dared to term me such
Had held his life but lightly—as it is,
I must forgive you, even as he forgave us—
Semiramis herself would not have done it.

Bel. No—the queen liked no shares of the
kingdom,
Not even a husband.

Arb. I must serve him truly—
Bel. And humbly?
Arb. No, sir, proudly—being honest
I shall be nearer thrones than you to heaven;
And if not quite so haughty, yet more lofty.
You may do your own deeming—you have codes,
And mysteries and corollaries of
Right and wrong, which I lack for my direction,
And must pursue but what a plain heart teaches.
And now you know me.

Bel. Have you finish'd?
Arb. Yes—
With you.

Bel. And would, perhaps, betray as well
As quit me?
Arb. That's a sacerdotal thought.
And not a soldier's.

Bel. Be it what you will—
Truce with these wrangelings, and but hear me.

Bel. There is more peril in your subtle spirit
Than in a phalanx.

Bel. If it must be so—
I'll on alone.

Arb. Alone!

Bel. Thrones hold but one.

Bel. But this is fill'd.

Bel. With worse than vacancy
A despised monarch. Look to it, Arbaces:
I have still aid'd, cherish'd, loved, and urged you;
Was willing even to serve you, in the hope
To serve and save Assyria. Heaven itself
Seem'd to consent, and all events were friendly,
Even to the last, till that your spirit shrunk
Into a shallow softness; but now, rather
Than see my country languish, I will be
Her savior or the victim of her tyrant,
Or one or both, for sometimes both are one;
And, if I win, Arbaces is my servant.

Arb. Your servant!

Bel. Why not? better than be slave
The pardon'd slave of the Sardanapalus.

Enter Pania.

Pan. My lords, I bear an order from the king.
Arb. It is obey'd ere spoken.

Bel. Notwithstanding,
Let's hear it.

Pan. Forthwith, on this very night,
Repair to your respective satrapies
Of Babylon and Media.

Bel. With our troops?

Pan. My order is unto the satrapies and
Their household train.

Bel. But—

Pan. It must be obey'd
Say, we depart.

Bel. My order is to see you
Depart, and not to bear your answer.

Bel. (aside.) Ay!

Well, sir, we will accompany you hence.

Pan. I will retire to marshal forth the guard
Of honor which befits your rank, and wait
Your leisure, so that it the hour exceeds not.

Bel. Now then obey!
BYRON'S WORKS.

Arb. Doubtless.
Bel. Yes, to the gates
That grate the palace, which is now our prison.
No further.
Arb. Thou hast harp'd the truth indeed!
The realm itself, in all its wide extension,
Yawr's dungeons at each step for thee and me.
Bel. Graves!
Arb. If I thought so, this sword should dig
One more than mine.
Bel. It shall have work enough.
Let me hope better than thou augreest;
At present let us hence as best we may.
Thou dost agree with me in understanding
This order as a sentence?
Arb. Why, what other
Interpretation should it bear? it is
The very policy of orient monarchs—
Pardon and poison—favors and a sword—
A distant voyage, and an eternal sleep.
How many satraps in his father's time—
For he I own is, or at least was, bloodless—
Bel. But will not, cannot be so now.
Arb. I doubt it.
How many satraps have I seen set out
In his sire's day for mighty vice-royalties,
While the tombs are on their path! I know not how,
But they all sicken'd by the way, it was
So long and heavy.
Bel. Let us but regain
The free air of the city, and we'll shorten
The journey.
Arb. 'Twill be shorten'd at the gates,
It may be.
Bel. No; they hardly will risk that.
They mean us to die privately, but not
Within the palace or the city walls,
Where we are known and may have partisans:
If they had meant to slay us here, we were
No longer with the living. Let us hence.
Arb. If I but thought he did not mean my life—
Bel. Fool! hence—what else should despotism
alarm'd
Mean? Let us but rejoin our troops, and march.
Arb. Towards our provinces?
Bel. No; towards your kindom.
There's time, there's heart, and hope, and power,
And means,
Which their half measure leaves us in full scope.—
Away!
Arb. And I even yet repenting must
Relapse to guilt!
Bel. Self defence is a virtue,
Soe bulwark of all right. Away, I say!
Let's leave this place, the air grows thick and
coking,
And the walls have a scent of nightshade—hence!
Let us not leave them time for further council.
Our quick departure proves our civic zeal:
Our quick departure kinders our good escort,
The worthy Pania, from anticipating
The orders of some parasangs from hence;
Nay, there's no other choice, but—hence, I say.

[Exit with ARBACES, who follows reluctantly.

Enter SARDANAPALUS and SALEMOVES.

Sar. Well, all is remedied, and without bloodshed,
That worst of mockery's of a remedy;
W're more secure by these men's exile.
Sal. As he who treads on flowers is from the adder
Twined round their roots.
Sar. Why, what wouldst have me do?
Sal. Undo what you have done.
Sar. Revoke my pardon
Sal. Replace the crown now tottering on yr. temples.
Sar. That were tyrannical.
Sal. But sure.
Sar. We are so.
What danger can they work upon the frontier?
Sal. They are not there yet—never should they
be so,
Were I well listened to.
Sar. Nay, I have listend
Impartially to thee—why not to them?
Sal. You may know that hereafter; as it is,
I take my leave to order forth the guard.
Sar. And you will join us at the banquet?
Sal. Sire,
Dispense with me—I am no wassailler:
Command me in all service save the Bacchant's.
Sar. Nay, but 'tis fit to revel now and then.
Sal. And fit that some should watch for those
who revel
Too oft. Am I permitted to depart?
Sar. Yes—Stay a moment, my good Salemenes
My brother, my best subject, better prince
Than I am king. You should have been the
monarch,
And I—know not what, and care not; but
Think not I am insensible to all
Thine honest wisdom, and thy rough yet kind
Thought oft reproving, suffurance of my follies
If I have spared these men against thy counsel,
That is, their lives—it is not that I doubt
The advice was sound; but, let them live: we will
not
Cavil about their lives—so let them mend them.
Their banishment will leave me still sound sleep,
Which their death had not left me.
Sal. Thus you run
The risk to sleep for ever, to save traitors—
A moment's pang now changed for years of crime
Still let them be made quiet.
Sar. Tempt me not:
My word is past.
Sal. But it may be recall'd.
Sar. Tis royal.
Sal. And should therefore be decisive
This half indulgence of an exile serves
But to provoke—a pardon should be ful,
Or it is none.
Sar. And who persuaded me
After I had repeal'd them, or at least
Only dismiss'd them from our presence, who
Urged me to send them to their satrapies?
Sal. True; that I had forgotten; that is, sire,
If they c'rrch reach their satrapies—why, then,
Reprove me more for my advice.
Sar. And if
They do not reach them—look to it!—in safety,
In safety, mark me—and security—
Look to thine own.
Sal. Permit me to depart;
Their safety shall be cared for.
Sar. Get thee hence, thou
And, prithee, think more gently of thy brother
SARDANAPALUS.

Sal. Sire, I shall ever duly serve my sovereign.

(Sal. exits Saucemen.)

Ser. (solus.) That man is of a temper too severe; Hard but as lofty as the rock, and free From all the taints of common earth—while I Am softer clay, impregnated with flowers; But as our mould is, must the produce be. If I have err’d this time, ’tis on the side Where error sits more lightly on that sense, I know not what to call it; but it recks On me oftimes for pain, and sometimes pleasure, A spirit which seems placed about my heart To court its throbs, not quicken them, and ask Questions which mortal never dared to ask me, Nor Baal, though an oracular deity— Albeit his marble face majestical Frows as the shadows of the evening dim His brows to changed expression, till at times I think the statue looks in act to speak. Away with these vain thoughts, I will be joyous— And here comes Joy’s true herald.

Enter MYRRHA.

Myrr. King! the sky Is overcast, and mists muttering thunder, In-clouds that seem approaching fast, and show In forked flashes a commanding tempest. Will you then quit the palace? Ser. Tempest, sayst thou?

Myrr. Ay, my good lord.

Ser. For my own part, I should be Not ill content to vary the smooth scene, And watch the warring elements; but this Would little suit the silken garments and Smooth faces of our festive friends. Say, Myrrha, Art thou of those who dread the roar of clouds? Myrr. In my own country we respect their voices As auguries of Jove.

Ser. Jove—ay, your Baal— Ours also has a property in thunder, And ever and anon some falling bolt Proves his divinity, and yet sometimes Strikes his own altars.

Myrr. That were a dread omen.

Ser. Yes—’tis for the priests. Well, we will not go forth. Beyond the palace walls to-night, but make Our feast within.

Myrr. Now, Jove be praised! that he Hath heard the prayer thou wouldst not hear. The gods Are kinder to thee than thou to thyself, And flash this storm between thee and thy foes, To shield thee from them.

Ser. Child, if there be peril, Methinks it is the same within these walls As on the river’s brink.

Myrr. Not so; these walls Are high and strong, and guarded. Treason has To penetrate through many a winding way, And busy portal; but in the pavilion There is no bulwark.

Ser. No, nor in the palace, Nor in the fortress, nor upon the top Of cloud-fenced Caucasus, where the eagle sits Nested in pathless clefs, if treachery be; Even as the arrow finds the airy king, The steel will reach the earthly. But be calm; The men, or innocent or guilty, are Banish’d, and far upon their way.

Myrr. They live, then?

Ser. So sanguinary? Thou!

Myrr. I would not shrink From just infliction of due punishment On those who seek your life: ver’t otherwise, I should not merit mine. Besides, you heard The princely Saucemen.

Ser. This is strange; The gentle and the austere both against me, And urge me to revenge.

Myrr. ’Tis a Greek virtue.

Ser. But not a kingly one—I’ll none out; or If ever I indulge in’t, it shall be With kings—my equals.

Myrr. These men sought to be so

Ser. Myrrha, this is too feminine, and springs From fear—

Myrr. For you.

Ser. No matter still, ’tis fear. I have observed your sex, once roused to wrath, Are timidly vindictive to a pitch Of perseverance, which I would not copy. I thought you were exempt from this, as from The childish helplessness of Asian woman.

Myrr. My lord, I am no boaster of my love, Nor of my attributes: I have shared your splendor And will partake your fortunes. You may live To find one slave more true than subject myriads; But this the gods avert! I am content To be beloved on trust for what I feel, Rather than prove it to you in your griefs, Which might not yield to any cares of mine.

Ser. Griefs cannot come where perfect love exists Except to heighten it, and vanish from That which it could not scare away. Let’s in— The hour approaches, and we must prepare To meet the invited guests, who grace our feast.

[Exeunt.]
BYRON'S WORKS.

And not gone tracking it through human ashes,
Making a grave with every footstep.
Zam.  No;
All hearts are happy, and all voices bless
The king of peace, who holds a world in jubilee.
Sar.  Art sure of that? I have heard otherwise,
Some say that there be traitors.
Zam.  Traitors they
Who dare to say so!—'Tis impossible.
What cause?
Sar.  What cause? true,—fill the goblet up,
We will not think of them: there are none such,
Or if there be, they are gone.
All.  Guests, to my pledge!
Down on your knees, and drink a measure to
The safety of the king—the monarch, say I!
The god Sardanapalus!

[Zanes and the Guests kneel, and exclaim—

Mightier than

His father Baal, the god Sardanapalus!

[It thunders as they kneel: some start up in confusion.

Zam.  Why do you rise, my friends? in that
strong peal

His father gods consented.

Menaced, rather.

King, wilt thou bear this mad impolicy?
Sar.  Impolicy!—nay, if the sires who reign'd
Before me can be gods, I'll not disgrace
Their lineage. But arise, my pious friends;
Hoard your devotion for the thunderer there;
I seek but to be loved, not worship'd.
All.  Both—
Both you must ever be by all true subjects.
Sar.  Methinks the thunders still increase: it is
An awful night.

Oh yes, for those who have
No palace to protect their worshippers.
Sar.  That's true, my Myrrha; and could I convert
My realm to one wide shelter for the wretched,
I'd do it.

Thou'rt no god, then, not to be
Able to work a will so good and general,
As thy wish would imply.
Sar.  And your gods, then,
Who can, and do not?

Do not speak of that,
Least we provoke them.
Sar.  True, they love not censure
Better than mortals. Friends, a thought has
struck me.

Were there no temples, would there, think ye, be
Air worshippers? that is, when it is angry,
And pelting as even now.

The Persian prays

Upon his mountain.
Sar.  Yes, when the sun shines.

And I would ask if this your palace were
Unroof'd and desolate, how many flatterers
Would lick the dust in which the king lay low?
Alt.  The fair Ionian is too sarcastic
Upon a nation whom she knows not well;
The Assyrians know no pleasure but their king's;
And homage is their pride.
Sar.  Nay, pardon, guests.
The fair Greek's readiness of speech.

We honor her of all things next to thee.
Hark! what was that?

Zam.  That! nothing but the jar
Of distant portals shaken by the wind.
Alt.  It sounded like the clash of—hark again
Zam.  The big rain pattering on the roof.
Sar.  No more
Myrrha, my love, hast thou thy shell in order?
Singing me a song of Sappho, her, thou know'st,
Who in thy country thrives—

Enter Pania, with his sword and garments bloody
and disordered.  The Guests rise in confusion.

Pan. (to the Guards.)  Look to the portals
And with your best speed to the walls without.
Your arms! To arms! the king's in danger.  Mon.
arch!

Excuse this haste,—'tis faith.
Sar.  Speak on.

Pan.  It is
As Salamenes fear'd; the faithless satraps—

Sar.  You are wounded—give some wine.  Take
breath, good Pania.

Pan.  'Tis nothing—a mere flesh wound.  I am
worn
More with my speed to warn my sovereign,
Then hurt in his defence.

Well, sir, the rebels? 

Pan.  Soon as Arbaces and Beleses reach'd
Their stations in the city, they refused
To march; and on my attempt to use the power
Which I was delegated with, they call'd
Upon their troops, who rose in fierce defiance.

All?

Pan.  Too many.

Spare not of thy free speech
To spare mine ears the truth.

My own slight guard
Were faithful, and what's left of it is still so.

And are these all the force still faithful?

No—

The Bactrians, now led on by Salamenes,
Who since then was on his way, still urged
By strong suspicion of the Median chiefs,
Are numerous, and make strong head against
The rebels, fighting inch by inch, and forming
An orb around the palace, where they mean
To centre all their force, and save the king.

(He hesitates.)  I am charged to—

'Tis no time for hesitation.

Pan.  Prince Salamenes doth implore the king
To arm himself, although but for a moment,
And show himself unto the soldiers: his
Sole presence in this instant might do more
Than host's can do in his behalf.

What, ho! My armor there.

And wilt thou?

Will I not?

Ho, there!—but seek not for the buckler: 'tis
Too heavy—a light cuirass and my sword.

Where are the rebels?

Scarce a furlong's length
From the outward wall, the fiercest conflict rages

Sar.  Then I may charge on horseback. Sfero,
Order my horse out.  There is space enough
Even in our courts, and by the outer gate,
To march half the horsemen of Arabia.

[Exit Sfero for the armor

Myr.  How do I love thee!

Sar.  I ne'er doubted it
SARDANAPALUS.

Myr. But now I know thee.  
Sar. (to his Attendant.) Bring down my spear I too—
Where's Salemenes?  
Pan. Where a soldier should be, 
In the thick of the fight.  
Sar. Then hasten to him—is 
The path still open, and communication 
Left 'twixt the palace and the phalanx?  
Pan. 'Twas 
When I late left him, and I have no fear; 
Our troops were steady, and the phalanx form'd.
Sar. Tell him to spare his person for the present, 
And that I will not spare my own—and say, I come.
Pan. There's victory in the very word.

[Exit Pania.  
Sar. Altada—Zames—forth, and arm ye! There 
Is all in readiness in the armory. 
See that the women are bestow'd in safety 
In the remote parts; let a guard 
Be set before them, with strict charge to quit 
The post but with their lives—command it, Zames. 
Altada, arm yourself, and return here; 
Your post is near our person.

[Exit Zames, Altada, and all save Myrrha.  
Enter Sphero and others with the King's Arms, &c.  
Sph. King! your armor.  
Sar. (arming himself.) Give me the cuirass so—
my bárdic; now 
My sword; I had forgot the helm—where is it? 
That's well—no, 'tis too heavy; you mistake, too, 
It was not this I meant, but that which bears 
A diadem around it.
Sph. Sire, I deem'd 
That too conspicuous from the precious stones 
To risk your sacred brow beneath—and, trust me, 
This is of better metal, though less rich. 
Sar. You deem'd! Are you too turn'd a rebel? 
Fellow 
Your part is to obey; return, and—no—
It is too late—I will go forth without it. 
Sph. At least wear this. 
Sar. A mountain on my temples.  
Sph. Sire, the meannest 
Soldier does not forth thus exposed to battle, 
All men will recognize you—for the storm 
Has ceased, and the moon breaks forth in her 
brightness. 
Sar. I go forth to be recognized, and thus 
Shall be so sooner, Now—my spear I'm arm'd. 
[In going stops short, and turns to Sphero. 
Sphro—I had forgotten, bring the mirror.* 
Sph. The mirror, sire?  
Sar. Yes, sir, of polish'd brass, 
Brought from the spoils of India—but be speedy. 

[Exit Sphero.  
Sar. Myrrha, retire unto a place of safety. 
Why went you not forth with the other damsel's?  
Myr. Because my place is here. 
Sar. And when I am gone—
Myr. I follow 
Sar. You! to battle? 
Myr. If it were so, 

*Twere not the first Greek girl that trod the path 
I will await here your return.
Sar. The place 
Is spacious, and the first to be sought out, 
If they prevail; and, if it should be so, 
And I return not—
Myr. Still we meet again 
Sar. How?  
Myr. In the spot where all must meet at last— 
In Hades! if there be, as I believe, 
A shore beyond the Styx: and if there be not, 
In ashes.  
Sar. Darest thou so much?  
Myr. I dare all things— 
Except survive what I have loved, to be 
A rebel's booty: forth, and do your bravest.

[Re-enter Sphero with the mirror.  
Sar. (looking at himself.) This cuirass fits me 
well, the baldric better, 
And the helm next at all. Methinks I seem 
[Flings away the helmet after trying it again 
Passing well in these toys; and now to prove them. 
Altada! Where's Altada?  
Sph. Waiting, sire, 
Without: he has your shield in readiness.  
Sar. True; I forgot he is my shield-bearer 
By right of blood, derived from age to age. 
Myrrha, embrace me;—yet once more—once more 
Love me, what'er betide. My chiefest glory 
Shall be to make me worthier of your love. 
Myr. Go forth, and conquer! 

[Exit SARDANAPALUS and Sphero.  
Now, I am alone, 
All are gone forth, and of that all how few 
Perhaps return. Let him but vanquish, and 
Me perish! If he vanquish not, I perish; 
For I will not outlive Him; he has wound 
About my heart, I know not how nor why. 
Not for that he is king; for now his kingdom 
Rocks underneath his throne, and the earth 
To yield him no more & it than a grave; 
And yet I love him more. Oh, mighty Jove! 
Forgive this monstrous love for a barbarian, 
Who knows not of Olympus! yes, I love him 
Now, now, far more than—Hark—to the wa. 
shout! 
Methinks it nears me. If it should be so, 
[She draws forth a small vial. 
This cunning Cohlchan poison, which my father 
Learn'd to compound on Euxine shores, and taught 
me a 
How to preserve, shall free me! It had freed me 
Long ere this hour, but that I loved, until 
I half forget I was a slave—where all 
Are slaves save one, and proud of servitude, 
So they are served in turn by something lower 
In the degree of bondage, we forget 
That shackles worn like ornaments no less 
Are chains. Again that shout! and now the clash 
Of arms—and now—and now—

[Enter Altada.  
Alt. Ho, Sphero, ho!  
Myr. He is not here; what wouldst thou with 
him? How 
Goes on the conflict?  
Alt. Dubiously and fiercely, 
Myr. And the king?
BYRON'S WORKS.

Alt. Like a king. I must find Siero.
And bring him a new spear and his own helmet.
He fights till now bareheaded, and by far
Too much exposed. The soldiers knew his face,
And the foe too; and in the moon's broad light,
His silk tiara and his flowing hair
Make him a mark too royal. Every arrow
Is pointed at the fair hair and fair features,
And the broad fillet which grows both.

Mjr. Ye gods,
Who falminate o'er my father's land, protect him!
Were you sent by the king?

Alt. By Salemenes,
Who sent me privily upon this charge,
Without the knowledge of the careless sovereign.
The king! the king fights as he revels! ho!
What, Siero! I will seek the army—
He must be there. [Exit Altada—

Mjr. 'Tis no dishonor—no—
'Tis no dishonor to have loved this man.
I almost wish now, what I never wish'd
Before, that he were Grecian. If Alcides
Were shamed in weeping Lydian Omphale's
She-garb, and wielding her vile distaff, surely
He, who springs up a Hercules at once,
Nursed in effeminate arts from youth to manhood,
And rushes from the banquet to the battle,
As though it were a bed of love, deserves
That a Greek girl should be his paramour,
And a Greek bard his minstrel, a Greek tomb
His monument. How goes the strife, sir?

Enter an Officer.

Officer. Lost,
Lost almost past recovery. Zames! Where
Is Zames?

Mjr. Posted with the guard appointed
To watch before the apartment of the women.

[Mjr. (solus.) He's gone; and told no more than
That all's lost!
What need have I to know more? In those words,
Those little words, a kingdom and a king,
A line of thirteen ages, and the lives
Of thousands, and the fortunes of all left
With life, are merged; and I, too, with the great,
Like a small bubble breaking with the wave
Which bore it, shall be nothing. At the least
My fate is in my keeping: no proud victor
Shall count me with his spoils.

Enter Pania. Away with me,
Myrrha, without delay; we must not lose
A moment—all that's left us now.

Mjr. The king?

PANIA. [raising his sword to despatch him, exclaims]—Now call upon thy planets; will they shoot
From the sky to preserve their seer and credit?
[They fight; Belbeses is wounded and disarmed.

Bel. But not by thee.

Pania is cast, and rescued Belbeses.

Bel. They assail the King, who, in turn, is rescued
by a party of his Soldiers, who drive the
Rebels off.

The villain was a prophet after all.
Upon them—ho! there—victory is ours.

[Mjr. (to Pan.) Pursue! Why stand'st thou
here, and leave the ranks
Of fellow-soldiers conquering without thee?

PANIA. The King's command was not to quit thee.

Mjr. Think not of me—a single soldier's arm.
"Must not be wanting now. I ask no guard,
I need no guard: what, with a world at stake,
Keep watch upon a woman? Hence, I say,
Or thou art ashamed! Nay, then I will go forth,
A feeble female, 'midst their desperate strife,
And bid thee guard me there—where thou shouldst
shield
thy sovereign. [Exit MYRRAH.
Pan. Yet stay, damsel! She's gone.
If aught of ill betide her, better I
Had lost my life. Sardanapalus holds her
Far dearer than his kingdom, yet he fights
For that too; and can I do less than he?
Who never flash'd a scimitar till now?
Myrrha, return, and I obey you, though
In disobedience to the monarch. [Exit PANIA.

Enter ALTADA and SYERO by an opposite door.

Alt. Myrrha! What! gone? yet she was here when the fight raged,
And Pania also. Can aught have befallen them?
Sfe. I saw both safe, when late the rebels fled:
They probably are but retified to make
Their way back to the harem.
Alt. If the king
Prove victor, as it seems even now he must,
And miss his own Ionian, we are doom'd
To worse than captive remains.
Sfe. Let us trace them;
She cannot be fled far; and, found, she makes
A richer prize to our soft sovereign
Than his recover'd kingdom.
Alt. Balz himself
Ne'er fought more fiercely to win empire, than
His silken son to save it; he defies
All augury of foes or friends; and like
The close and sultry summer's day, which bodes
A twilight tempest, bursts forth in such thunder
As sweeps the air, and deluges the earth.
The man's inscrutable.
Sfe. Not more than others.
All are the sons of circumstance: away—
Let's seek the slave out, or prepare to be
Tortur'd for his infatuation, and
Condemn'd without a crime. [Exeunt.

Enter SALEMENES and SOLDIERS, &c.

Sal. The triumph is
Flattering: they are beaten backward from the
palace,
And we have open'd regular access
To the troops station'd on the other side
Euphrates, who may still be true; nay, must be,
When they hear of our victory. But where
Is the chief victor? whose the king?

Enter SARDANAPALUS, cum suis, &c., and MYRRAH.

Sar. Here, brother.
Sal. Unhurt, I hope.
Sar. Not quite; but let it pass.
We've clear'd the palace—
Sal. And I trust the city.
Our numbers gather: and I've ordered onward
A cloud of Persians, hitherto reserved,
all fresh and gay to pour'd upon them
In their retreat, which soon will be a flight.
Sar. It is already, or at least they march'd
Faster than I could follow with my Bactrians,
Who spared no speed. I am spent: give me a seat
Sal. There stands the throne, sire.
Sar. 'Tis no place to rest on
For mind nor body: let me have a couch,
A peasant's stool, I care not what: so—now
I breathe more freely.
Sal. This great hour has proved
The brightest and most glorious of your life.
Sar. And the most tiresome. Where's my cup
bearer?
Bring me some water.
Sal. (smiling.) 'Tis the first time he
Ever had such an order: even I,
Your most austere of counsellors, would now
Suggest a purpler beverage.
But there's enough of that shed: as for wine,
I have learn'd to-night the price of the pure element
'thrice have I drank of it, and thrice renew'd,
With greater strength than the grape ever gave me
My charge upon the rebels. Where's the soldier
Who gave me water in his helmet?
One of the Guards.
Sar. Slain, sire! An arrow pierced his brain, while, scattering
The last drops from his helm, he stood in act
to place it on his brows.
Sar. Slain! unrewarded!
And slain to serve my thirst: that's hard, poor slave.
Had he but lived, I would have gorged him with
Gold: all the gold of earth could ne'er repay
The pleasure of that draught; for I was parch'd
As I am now. [They bring water—he drinks.
I live again—from henceforth
The goblet I reserve for hours of love,
But war on water.
Sal. And that bandage, sire,
Which girds your arm?
Sar. A scratch from brave Beleses.
Myr. Oh! he is wounded!
Sar. Not too much of that;
And yet it feels a little stiff and painful,
Now I am cooler.
Myr. You have bound it with—
Sar. The fillet of my diadem: the first time
That ornament was ever aught to me,
Save an encumbrance.

Myr. (to the attendants.) Summon speedily
A leech of the most skilful, pray, retire;
I will unbind your wound and tend it.
Sar. Do so,
For now it throbs sufficiently; but what
Know'st thou of wounds? yet wherefore do I ask?
Know'st thou, my brother, where I lighted on
This minion?
Sal. Herding with the other females,
Like frighten'd antelopes.
Sar. No: like the dam
Of the young lion, femininely raging,
(And femininely mea'neth furiously.)
Because all passions in excess are female,)
Against the hunter flying with her cub,
She urged on with her voice and gesture, and
Her floating hair and flashing eyes, the soldiers,
In the pursuit.
Sal. Indeed!
You see, this night
Made warriors of more than me. I paused
To look upon her, and her kindled cheek;
Her large black eyes, that flash’d through her long
hair
As it stream’d o’er her; her blue veins that rose
Along her most transparent brow; her nostril
Dilated from its symmetry; her lips
Apart; her voice that clove through all the din,
As a lute’s pierceth through the cymbal’s blast,
Jarr’d but not drown’d by the loud brattling; her
Waved arms, more dazzling with their own born
whiteness
Than the steel her hand held, which she caught up
From a dead soldier’s grasp; all these things made
Her seem unto the troops a prophetess
Of Victory, or Victory herself,
Come down to hail us her’s.

Sal. (aside.)
This is too much;
Again the love-fit’s on him, and all’s lost,
Unless we turn his thoughts.
(Aside.) But pray thee, sire,
Think of your wound—you said even now ‘twas
painful.

Sar. That’s true; too; but I must not think
of it.

Sal. I have look’d to all things needful, and will
now
Receive reports of progress made in such
Orders as I had given, and then return
To hear your further pleasure.

Sar. Be it so.
Sal. (in retiring.) Myrrha!

Myr. Prince!

Sal. You have shown a soul to-night,
Which, were he not my sister’s lord—But now
I have no time: thou lovest the king?

Myr. I love
Sardanapalus.

Sal. But wouldst he have him king still?

Myr. I would not have him less than what he
should be.

Sal. Well then, to have him king, and yours, and
all
He should, or should not be; to have him live,
Let him not sink back into luxury.
You have more power upon his spirit than
Wisdom within these walls, or fierce rebellion
Raging without: look well that he relapse not.

Myr. There needed not the voice of Salemenes
To urge me on to this: I will not fail.
All that a woman’s weakness can—

Sal. Is power
Omnipotent o’er such a heart as his;
Exert it wisely.

Sar. Myrrha! what, at whispers
With my stern brother? I shall soon be jealous.

Myr. (smiling.) You have cause, sire; for on the
earth there breathes not
A man more worthy of a woman’s love—
A soldier’s trust—a subject’s reverence—
A king’s esteem—the whole world’s admiration!

Sar. Praise him, but not so warmly. I must not
Hear those sweet lips grow eloquent in aught
That throws me into shade; yet you speak truth.

Myr. And now retire, to have your wound look’d to.
Pray, lean on me.

Sar. Yes love but not from pain.

ACT IV.

SCENE I.

SARDANAPALUS discovered sleeping upon a Couch
and occasionally disturbed in his slumbers, with
MYRRA watching.

Myr. (sole, gazing.) I have stolen upon his rest,
‘If rest it be,
Which thus convulses slumber: shall I wake him?
No, he seems calmer. Oh, thou God of Quiet!
Whose reign is o’er seal’d eyelids and soft dreams,
Or deep, deep sleep, so as to be unfathom’d,
Look like thy brother, Death—so still—so stillless—
For then we are happiest; as it may be, we
Are happiest of all within the realm
Of thy stern, silent, and unawakening twin
Again he moves—again the play of pain
Shoots o’er his features, as the sudden gust
Crispe the reluctant lake that lay so calm
Beneath the mountain shadow; or the blast
Ruffles the autumn leaves, that drooping cling
Faintly and motionless to their loved boughs.
I must awake him—yet not yet: who knows
From what I rouse him? It seems pain; but if
I quicken him to heavier pain? The fever
Of this tumultuous night, the grief too of
His wound, though slight, may cause all this, and
shake
Me more to see than him to suffer. No:
Let nature use her own maternal means,—
And I await to second not disturb her.

Sar. (awakening.) Not so; although ye multiplied
the stars,
And gave them to me as a realm to share
From you and with you! I would not so purchase
The empire of eternity. Hence—hence—
Old hunter of the earliest brutes! and ye,
Who hunted fellow-creatures as if brutes!
Once bloody mortals—and now bloodier idols,
If your priests lie not! And thou, ghastly beldame!
Dripping with dusky gore, and trampling on
The carcases of Inde—Away! away!
Where am I? Where the spectres? Where—No—
That is no false phantom: I should know it ’midst
All that the dead dare gloomily raise up
From their black gulf to daunt the living. Myrrha:

Myr. Alas! thou art pale, and on thy brow the
drops
Gather like night dew. My beloved, hush—
Calm thee. Thy speech seems of another world,
And thou art loved of this. Be of good cheer;
All will go well.

Sar. Thy hand—so—’tis thy hand;
’Tis flesh; grasp—clasp—yet closer, till I feel
Myself that which I was.

Myr. At least know me
For what I am, and ever must be—thine.

Sar. I know it now. I know this life again.
Ah, Myrrha! I have been where we shall be.

Myr. My lord!

Sar. I’ve been in’ the grave—where the worms are
lords,
And kings are—But I did not deem it so;
I thought ’twas nothing.

Myr. So it is; except
Unto the timid, who anticipate
That which may never be.
Sar. Oh, Myrrha! if Sleep show such things, what may not death disclose?
Myr. I know no evil death can show, which life Has not already shown to those who live Embodied longest. If there be indeed A shore, where mind survives, 'twill be as mind, All unincorporate: or if there fits A shadow of this cumbersome clag of clay, Which stalks, methinks, between our souls and heaven, And feters us to earth—at least the phantom, Whate'er it have to fear, will not fear death.
Sar. I fear it not; but I have felt—have seen— A legion of the dead.
Myr. And so have I. The dust we tread upon was once alive, And wretched. But proceed: what hast thou seen? Speak it, 'twill lighten thy dimm'd eyes:
Sar. Methought—
Myr. Yet pause, thou art tired—in pain—exhausted; all Which can impair both strength and spirit; seek Rather to sleep again.
Sar. Not now—I would not dream; though I know it now to be a dream What I have dreamt:—and canst thou bear to hear it?
Myr. I can bear all things, dreams of life or death, Which I participate with you, in semblance Or full reality.
Sar. And this look'd real, I tell you: after that these eyes were open, I saw them in their flight—for then they fled.
Myr. Say on.
Sar. I saw, that is, I dream'd myself Here—here—every where we are, guests as we were, Myself a host that deem'd himself but guest, Willing to equal all in social freedom; But, on my right hand and my left, instead Of these and Zamas, and our accustomed meeting, Was ranged on my left hand a haughty, dark, And deadly face—I could not recognize it, Yet I had seen it, though I knew not where; The features were a giant's, and the eye Was still, yet lighted; his long locks curl'd down On his vast bust whence a huge quiver rose With shafts-heads feather'd from the eagle's wing, That peep'd up bristling through his serpent hair. I invited him to fill the cup which stood Between us, but he answer'd not—I fill'd it— He took it not, but stared upon me, till I remembr'd the fix'd glare of his eye, and frizzled upon him as a king should frown— His frown'd not in his turn, but look'd upon me With the same aspect, which appall'd me more, Because he changed not; and I turn'd for refuge To milder guests, and sought them on the right, Where thou wert wont to be. But—

[He pauses.
Myr. What instead? In thy own chair—thy own place in the banquet I touched my sweet face in the circle—but Instead—a gray-hair'd, wither'd, bloody-eyed, And bloody-handed, ghastly, ghostly thing, Female in garb, and crown'd upon the brow, Furrow'd with years yet snarcing with the passion

Of vengeance, leering too with that of lust, Sate:—my veins curdled.

Myr. Is this all? Upon Her right hand—her lank, bird-like right hand stood A goblet, bubbling o'er with blood; and on Her left, another, fill'd with—what I saw not, But turn'd from it and her. But all along The table sate a range of crowned wretches, Of various aspects, but of one expression.
Sar. And felt you not this a mere vision?

No. It was so palpable, I could have touch'd them I turn'd from one face to another, in The hope to find at last one which I knew Ere I saw theirs; but no—all turn'd upon me, And stared, but neither ate nor drank, but stared Till I grew stone, as they seem'd half to be, Yet breathing stone, for I felt life in them, And life in me: there was a horrid kind Of sympathy between us, as if they Had lost a part of death to come to me, And I the half of life to sit by them. We were in an existence all apart From heaven or earth—and rather let me see Death all than such a being! Myr. And the end?

Sar. At last I sate marble, as they, when rose The hunter, and the crew; and smiling on me— Yes, the enlarged but noble aspect of The hunter smiled upon me—I sho'd say, His lips, for his eyes moved not—and the woman's Thin lips relax'd to something like a smile. Both rose, and the crown'd figures on each hand Rose also, as if aping their chief shades— Mere mimics even in death—but I sate still: A desperate courage crept through every limb, And at the last I fear'd them not, but laugh'd Full in their phantom faces. But then—then The hunter laid his hand on mine: I took it, And grasp'd it—but it melted from my own, While he too vanish'd, and left nothing but The memory of a hero, for he look'd so.

Myr. And was: the ancestor of heroes, too, And thine less no.

Sar. Ay, Myrrha, but the woman The female who remain'd, she flew upon me, And burnt my lips up with her noisome kisses, And flinging down the goblets on each hand, Methought their poisons flow'd around us, till Each form'd a hideous river. Still she clung The other phantoms, like a row of statues, Stood dull as in our temples, but she still Embraced me, while I shrunk from her, as if, In lieu of her remote descendant, I Had been the son who slew her for her incest. Then—then a chaos of all lost things Throng'd thick and shapeless: I was dead, ya feeling— Buried, and raised again—consumed by worms, Purged by the flames, and wither'd in the air! I can fix nothing further of my thoughts, Save that I long'd for thee, and sought for thee, In all these agonies, and woke and found thee.

Myr. So shalt thou find me ever at thy side, Here and hereafter, if the last may be. But think not of these things—the mere creations Of late events, acting upon a frame
Unused to toil, yet overwrought by toil
Such as might try the sternest.

I am better.

Now that I see 
a more, what was seen
Seems nothing.

**Enter Salamenes.**

Sal. Is the king so soon awake?
Sar. Yes, brother, and I saw I had not slept;
For all the predecessors of our line
Rose up, methought, to drag me down to them.
My father was among them, too; but he,
I knew not why, kept from me, leaving me
Between the hunter-founder of our race,
And her, the homicide and husband-killer,
Whom you call glorious.

Sal. So I term you also,
Now you have shown a spirit like to hers.
By daybreak I propose that we set forth,
And charge once more the rebel crew, who still
Keep gathering head, repulsed, but not quite quelled.
How wears the night?

Sal. There yet remain some hours
Of darkness: use them for your further rest.
Sar. No, not to-night, if ‘tis not gone: methought
I pass’d hours in that vision.

Scarcely one;
I watch’d by you: it was a heavy hour,
But an hour only.
Sar. Let us then hold council;
To-morrow we set forth.
Sal. But ere that time,
I had a grace to seek.
Sar. ‘Tis granted.
Sal. Hear it.

Ere you reply too readily; and ‘tis
For your ear only.

**Myr.** Prince, I take my leave.

**Exit Myrrha.**

Sal. That slave deserves her freedom.
Sar. Freedom only!

That slave deserves to share a throne.
Sal. Your patience—
‘Tis not yet vacant, and ‘tis of its partner
I come to speak with you.
Sar. How! of the queen?
Sal. Every so. I judged it fitting for their safety,
That, ere the dawn, she sets forth with her children
For Laphigniosa, where our kinsman Cotta
Governs; and there at all events secure
My nephews and your sons their lives, and with them
Their just pretensions to the crown in case—
Sal. I perish—as is probable: well thought—
Let them set forth with a sure escort.

Sal. That
Is all provided, and the galley ready
To drop down the Euphrates; but ere they
Depart, will you not see—
Sar. My sons? It may
Unman my heart, and the poor boys will weep;
And what can I reply to comfort them,
Save with some hollow hopes, and ill-worn smiles?
You know I cannot sojourn.
Sal. But you can feel;
At least, I trust so: in a word, the queen
Requests to see you ere you part—for ever.
Sar. Unto what end? what purpose? I will grant
Aught—all that she can ask—but such a meeting.
Sal. You know, or ought to know, enough of

Since you have studied them so steadily,
That what they ask in aught that touches on
The heart, is dearer to their feelings or
Their fancy, than the whole external world.
I think as you do of my sister’s wish;
But ‘twas her wish—she is my sister—you
Her husband—will you grant it?
Sar. ‘Twill be useless
But let her come.
Sal. I go.

**Exit Salamenes.**

Sar. We have lived asurfer
Too long to meet again—and now to meet!
Have I not cares now, and pangs enough
To bear alone, that we must mingle sorrows,
Who have ceased to mingle love?

**Re-enter Salamenes and Zarina.**

Sal. My sister! Courage, Shame not our blood with trembling, but remember
From whence we sprung. The queen is present, sire.
Zar. I pray thee, brother, leave me.
Sal. Since you ask it.

**Exit Salamenes.**

Zar. Alone with him! How many a year has past
Though we are still so young, since we have met,
Which I have worn in widowhood of heart.
He loved me not: yet he seems little changed—
Changed to me only—would the change were mutual!
He speaks not—scarcely regards me—not a word—
Nor look—yet he was soft of voice and aspect—
Indifferent, not austere. My lord!
Sar. Zarina!
Zar. No, not Zarina—do not say Zarina.
That tone—that word—annihilate long years,
And things which make them longer.
Sar. ‘Tis not too late
To think of these past dreams. Let’s not reproach—
That is, reproach me not—for the last time—
Zar. And first. I ne’er reproach’d you.
Sar. ‘Tis most true,
And that reproach comes heavier on my heart
Than—But our hearts are not in our own power.
Zar. Nor hands; but I gave both.
Sar. Your brother said
It was your will to see me, ere you went
From Nineveh with—(He hesitates.)
Zar. Our children: it is true.
I wish’d to thank you that you had not divided
My heart from all that’s left it now to love—
Those who are yours and mine, who look like you,
And look upon me as you look’d upon me
Once—but they have not changed.
Sar. Nor ever will
I fail would have them dutiful.
Zar. I cherish
Those infants, not alone from the blind love
Of a fond mother, but as a fond woman.
They are now the only tie between us.
Sar. Deem not
I have not done you justice: rather make them
Resemble your own line than their own sire.
I trust them with you—to you: fit them for
A throne, or, if that be denied—You have heard
Of this night’s tumults?
Zar. I had half forgotten,
And could have welcomed any grief save yours,
Which gave me to behold your face again.
SAR DAN APA LUS.

Sar. The throne—believe it not in fear—but 'tis
In peril; they perhaps may never mount it:
But set them not for this lose sight of it.
I will dare all things to bequeath it them;
But if I fail, then they must win it back
Bravely—and, won, wear it wisely, not as I
Have wasted down my royalty.

Zar. They ne'er
Shall know from me of aught but what may honor
Their father's memory.

Sar. Rather let them hear
The truth from you than from a ramping world.
If they be in adversity, they'll learn
Too soon the scorn of crowds for crownless princes,
And find that all their father's sins are theirs.
My boys!—I could have borne it were I childless.
Zar. Oh! do not say so—do not poison all
My peace left, by unwhipping that thou wert
A father. If thou conquerest, they shall reign,
And honor him who saved the realm for them,
So little cared for as his own; and if—

Sar. 'Tis lost, all earth will cry out thank your
father!
And they will swell the echo with a curse.
Zar. That they shall never do; but rather honor
The name of him, who, dying like a king,
In his last hours did more for his own memory
Than many monarchs in a length of days,
Which date the flight of time, but make no annals.
Sar. Our annals draw per chant unto their close;
But at the least, whate'er the past, their end
Shall be like their beginning—memorable.

Zar. Yet, be not rash—be careful! of your life,
Live but for those who love.

Sar. And who are they?
A slave, who loves from passion—I'll not say
Ambition—she has seen thrones shake, and loves;
A few friends, who have revell'd till we are
As one, for they are nothing if I fall;
A brother I have injured—children whom
I have neglected, and a spouse—

Zar. Who loves.

Sar. And pardons?

Zar. I have never thought of this,
And cannot pardon till I have condemn'd,
My wife!—

Zar. New blessings on thee for that word!
I never thought to hear it more—from thee.

Sar. Oh! thou wilt hear it from my subjects Yes—
These slaves whom I have nurtured, pamper'd, fed,
And sworn with peace, and gorg'd with plenty, till
They reign themselves—all monarchs in their mansions,
Now swarm forth in rebellion, and demand
His death, who made their lives a jubilee;
While the few upon whom I have no claim
Are faithful! This is true, yet monstrous.

Zar. Perhaps too natural; for benefits
Turn poison in bad minds.

Sar. And good ones make
Good out of evil. Happier than the bee,
Which hives not but from wholesome flowers.

Zar. Then reap
The honey, nor inquire whence 'tis derived
Be satisfied—you are not all abandon'd.

Sar. My life insures me that. If sw long, bethink
you,
Were not I yet a king, should I be mortal;

That is, where mortals are, not where they must be.

Zar. I know not. But yet live for my—that is,
Your children's sake!

Sar. My gentle, wrong'd Zarina!
I am the very slave of circumstance
And impulse—borne away with every breath.
Misplaced upon the throne—misplaced in life.
I know not what I could have been, but feel
I am not what I should be—let it end.
But take this with thee: if I was not form'd
To prize a love like thine, a mind like thine,
Not dote even on thy beauty—as I've doted
On lesser charms, for no cause save that such
Devotion was a duty, and I hated
All that look'd like a chain for me or others,
(This even rebellion must avouch;) yet hear
These words, perhaps among my last—that none
Ever valued more thy virtues, though he knew not
To profit by them—as the miner lights
Upon a vein of virgin ore, discovering
That which avail'd him nothing: he hath found it,
But 'tis not his—but some superior's, who
Placed him to dig, but not divide the wealth
Which sparkles at his feet: nor dare he lift
Nor poise it, but must grovel on, upturning
The sullen earth.

Zar. Oh! if thou hast at length
Discover'd that my love is worth esteem,
I ask no more—but let us hence together
And I—let me say we—shall yet be happy
Assyria is not all the earth—we'll find
A world out of our own—and be more blest.
Than I have ever been, or thou, with all
An empire to indulge thee.

Enter SALEMENES.

Sal. I must part ye—
The moments, which must not be lost. are passing
Zar. Inhuman brother! wilt thou thus weigh out
Instants so high and blest?

Sal. Blest!

Zar. He hath been
So gentle with me, that I cannot think
Of quitting.

Sal. So—this feminine farewell
Ends as such partings end, in no departure.
I thought as much, and yielded against all
My better bodings. But it must not be.

Zar. Not be?

Sal. Remain, and perish—

Zar. With my husband—

Sal. And children.

Zar. Alas.

Sal. Hear me, sister, like
My sister:—all's prepared to make your safely
Certain, and of the boys too, our last hopes;
'Tis not a single question of mere feeling,
Though that were much—but 'tis a point of state
The rebels would do more to seize upon
The offsprings of their sovereign, and so crush—
Zar. Ah! do not name it.

Sal. Well, then, mark me: when
They are safe beyond the Median's grasp, the rebels
Have miss'd their chief aim—the extinction
Of the line of Nimrod. Though the present king
Fall, his sons live for victory and vengeance
Zar. But could I not remain, alone?

Sal. What! leave
Your childr'en, with two parents, and yet orphans—
In a strange land—so young, so distant?
Zar. No—
My heart will break.
Sal. Now you know all—decide.
Zar. Zarina, he hath spoken well, and we
Must yield awhile to this necessity.
Remaining here, you may lose all; departing,
You save the better part of what is left,
To both of us, and to such loyal hearts
As yet beat in these kingdoms.
Sal. The time presses.
Zar. G3, then. If e'er we meet again, perhaps
I may be worthy of you—and, if not,
Remember that my faults, though not atoned for,
Are ended. Yet, I dread thy nature will
Grieve more above the blighted name and ashes
Which once were mightiest in Assyria—than—
But I grow womanish again, and must not;
I must learn sternness now. My sins have all
Been of the softer order—hide thy tears—
I do not bid thee not to shed them—twere
Easier to stop Euphrates at its source.
Than one tear of a true and tender heart—
But let me not behold them; they unman me
Here when I had reman'd myself. My brother,
Lend her away.
Zar. Oh, God! I never shall
Behold him more!
Sal. [striving to conduct her.] Nay, sister, I must
be obey'd.
Zar. I must remain—away! you shall not hold
me.
What, shall he die alone? I live alone?
Sal. He shall not die alone; but lonely you
Have lived for years.
Zar. That's false! I knew he lived,
And lived upon his image—let me go!
Sal. [conducting her off the stage.] Nay, then, I
must use some fraternal force,
Which you will pardon.
Zar. Never. Help me! Oh!
Sardanapalus, wilt thou thus behold me,
Torn from thee?
Sal. Nay—then all is lost again,
If that this moment is not gain'd.
Zar. My brain turns—
My eyes fall—where is he?
Sal. [advancing.] No—set her down.
She's dead—and you have slain her.
Sal. 'Tis the mere
Faintness of o'erwrought passion: in the air
She will recover. Pray, keep back.—[Aside.] I
must
Away! myself of this sole moment to
Bear her to where her children are embark'd,
I the royal galley on the river.
Sal. [sobus.] This, too—
And this too must I suffer—I, who never
Indited purposely on human hearts
A v$	ext{16}$ntary pang! But that is false—
She loved me, and I loved her.—Fatal passion,
Why dost thou not expire at once in hearts
Which thou hast lighted up at once? Zarina!
I must pay dearly for the desolation
Now brought upon thee. Had I never loved
But thee, I should have been an unopposed
Monarch of honoring nations. To what gulfs
A single deviation from the track
Of human duties leads even those who claim
The noma$^g$ of mankind as their born due,
And find it, till they forfeit it themselves!

Enter Myr$^h$.

Myr. You here! Who call'd you?
Myr. No one—but I heart
Far off a voice of wail and lamentation,
And thought—
It forms no portion of your duties
To enter here till sought for.
Myr. Though I might! Perhaps, recall some softer words of yours.
(Although they too were chiding,) which reproved
me
Because I ever dreaded to intrude;
Resisting my own wish and your injunction
To heed no time nor presence, but approach you
Uncall'd for: I retire.
Myr. Yet stay—being here.
I pray you pardon me: events have sour'd me
Till I was peevish—heed it not: I shall
Soon be myself again.
Myr. I wait with patience,
What I shall see with pleasure.
Myr. Scarcely a moment
Before your entrance in this hall, Zarina;
Queen of Assyria, departed hence.
Myr. Ah!
Myr. Wherefore do you start?
Myr. Did I do so?
Myr. Twas well you entered by another portal,
Else you had met. That pang at least is spared her.
My. I know to feel for her.
Myr. That is too much,
And beyond nature—tis nor mutual
Nor possible. You cannot pity her,
Nor she aught but
Myr. Despise the favorite slave:
Not more than I have ever scorn'd myself.
Myr. Scorn'd! what, to be the envoy of your sex,
And lord it o'er the heart of the world's lord?
Myr. Were you the lord of twice ten thousand
words?
As you are like to lose the one you sway'd—
I did abuse myself as much in being
Your paramour, as though you were a peasant—
Nay, more, if that the peasant were a Greek.
Myr. You talk it well—
And truly.
Myr. In the hour
Of man's adversity all things grow daring
Against the falling; but as I am not
Quite fall'n, nor now disposed to bear reproaches,
Perhaps because I merit them too often,
Let us then part while peace is still between us.
Myr. Part!
Myr. Have not all past human beings parted
And must not all the present one day part?
Myr. Why?
Myr. For your safety, which I will have lock'd to
With a strong escort to your native land;
And such gifts, as, if you had not been all
A queen, shall make your dowry worth a kingdom.
Myr. I pray you talk not thus.
Myr. The queen is gone
You need not shame to follow. I would fall
Alone— I seek no partners but in pleasure.
SARDANAPALUS.

Myr. And I no pleasure but in parting not. You shall not force me from you.

Yo. Think well of it—

It s-son may be too late.

Myr. So let it be;

For then you cannot separate me from you. Yo. And will not; but I thought you wish’d it. Myr. I! Yo. You spoke of your absishment. Myr. And I feel it Deeply—more deeply than all things but love. Yo. Then fly from it.

Myr. ’Twill not recall the past—

’Twill not restore my honor, nor my heart. No—here I stand or fall. If that you conquer, I live to joy in your great triumph; should your lot be different, I’ll not weep, but share it. You did not doubt me a few hours ago. Yo. Your courage never—nor your love till now; And none could make me doubt it save yourself. Those words—

Myr. Were words. I pray you, let the proofs Be in the past acts you were pleased to praise This very-night, and in my further bearing, Beside, wherever you are borne by fate. Yo. I am content: and, trusting in my cause, Think we may yet be vict’rs and return To peace—the only victory I covet. To me war is no glory—conquest no Renown. To be forced thus to uphold my right Sites heavier on my heart than all the wrongs These men would bow me down with. Never, never Can I forget this night, even should I live To add it to the memory of others. I thought to have made mine inoffensive rule An era of sweet peace ’midst bloody annals, A green spot amidst desert centuries, On which the future would turn back and smile, And cultivate, or sigh when it could not Recall Sardanapalus’ golden reign. I thought to have made my realm a paradise, And every moon an epoch of new pleasures. I took the rabble’s shouts for love—the breath Of friends for truth—the lips of woman for My only guerdon—so they are my Myrrha: He kisses her. Kiss me. Now let them take my realm and life; They shall have both but never thee! Myr. No, never! Man may despoil his brother man of all That’s great or glittering—kingdoms fall—hosts yield—

Friends fail—slaves fly—and all betray—and, more Than all, the most indebted—but a heart That loves without self-love! ’Tis here—now prove it.

Enter SALEMENES.

Sa. I sought you—How! she here again? Yo. Return not

Now to reproof: methinks your aspect speaks Of higher matter than a woman’s presence. Sa. The only woman whom it much imports me At such a moment now is safe in absence— The queen’s embark’d—

Yo. And well? say that much. Sa. Yes. Her transient weakness has pass’d o’er; at least, It settled into tearless silence: her Pale face and glittering eye, after a glance Upon her sleeping children, were still fix’d Upon the palace towers as the swift galley Stole down the hurrying stream beneath the star light; But she said nothing.

Yo. Would I felt no more Than she has said!

Sal. ’Tis now too late to feel! Your feelings cannot cancel a sole pang: To change them, my advices bring sure tidings That the rebellious Medes and Chaldees, mar shall’d By their two leaders, are already up In arms again; and, serring their ranks, Prepare to attack: they have apparently Been join’d by other satraps.

Yo. What! more rebels Let us be first, then.

Sal. That were hardly prudent Now, though it was our first intention. If By noon to-morrow we are join’d by those I’ve sent for by sure messengers, we shall be In strength enough to venture an attack, Ay, and pursuit too; but till then, my voice Is to await the onset.

Yo. I detest That waiting; though it seems so safe to fight Behind high walls, and hurl down foes into Deep fosses, or behold them sprawl on spikes Strew’d to receive them, still I like it not— My soul seems lukewarm; but when I set on them Though they were piled on mountains, I would have A pluck at them, or perish in hot blood!— Let me then charge. Sal. You talk like a young soldier Yo. I am no soldier, but a man: ay eak not Of soldiership, I loathe the word, and those Who pride themselves upon it; but direct me Where I may pour upon them.

Sa. You must spare To expose your life too hastily; ’tis not Like mine or any other subject’s breath: The whole war turns upon it—with it; this Alone creates it, kindles, and may quench it— Prolong it—end it.

Yo. Then let us end both! ’Twere better thus, perhaps, than prolong either; I’m sick of one, perchance of both. [A trumpet sounds without Hark! Sa. Reply, not listen. Sal. And your wound! Yo. ’Tis bound—'Tis heal’d—I had forgotten it. Away! A leech’s lancet would have scratch’d me deeper, The slave that gave it might be well ashamed To have struck so weakly.

Sa. Now, may none this hour Strike with a better aim! Yo. Ay, if we conquer; But if not, they will only leave to me A task they might have spared their king. Up’s them! [Trumpet sounds again. Sa. I am with you. Yo. Ho, my arms! again, my arms!
ACT V.

SCENE I.

The same Hall in the Palace.

MYRNA and BALEA.

Myr. (at a window.) The day at last has broken.

What a night!

Has usher'd it! How beautiful in heaven!

Though varied with a transitory storm,

More beautiful in that variety!

How hideous upon earth! where peace and hope,

And love and revel, in an hour were trampled

By human passions to a human chaos,

Not yet resolved to separate elements—

'Tis warring still! And can the sun rise,

So bright, so rolling back the clouds into

Vapors more lovely than the unclouded sky,

With golden pinnacles, and snowy mountains,

And billows purpler than the ocean's, making

In heaven a glorious mockery of the earth,

So like we almost deem it permanent;

So fleeting, we can scarcely call it aught

Beyond a vision, 'tis so transiently

Scatter'd along the eternal vault: and yet

It dwells upon the soul, and soothes the soul,

And blends itself into the soul, until

Sunrise and sunset form the haunt'd epoch

Of sorrow and of love; which they who mark not,

Know not the realms where those twin genii

(Who chasten and who purify our hearts,

So that we would not change their sweet rebukes

For all the boisterous joys that ever shook

The air with clamor) build the palaces

Where their fond votaries repose and breathe

Briefly—but in that brief cool calm inhale

Enough of heaven to enable them to bear

The rest of common, heavy, human hours,

And dream them through in placid sufferance;

Though seemingly employ'd like all the rest

Of toiling breathers in allotted tasks

Of pain or pleasure, two names for one feeling,

Which our eternal, restless agony

Would vary in the sound, although the sense

Escapes our highest efforts to be happy.

Bal. You must right calmly: and can you so

watch

The sunrise which may be our last?

Myr. It is.

Therefore that I so watch it, and reproach

These eyes, which never may behold it more

For having look'd upon it, oft, oft,

Without the reverence and the rapture due

To that which keeps all earth from being as fragile

As I am in this form. Come, look upon it,

The Chaldee's god, which, when I gaze upon,

I grow almost a convert to your Baal.

Bal. As now he reigns in heaven, so once on earth

He sway'd.

Myr. He sways it now far more, then; never

Had earthly monarch half the peace and glory

Which centres in a single ray of his.

Bal. Surely he is a god!

Myr. So we Greeks deem too;

And yet I sometimes think that gorgeous orb

Must rather be the abodes of gods than one

Of the immortal sovereigns. Now he breaks

Through all the clouds, and fills my eyes with light

That shuts the world out. I can look no more

Bal. Hark! heard you not a sound?

Myr. No, 'twas mere fancy.

They battle it beyond the wall, and not

As in late midnight conflict in the very

Chambers: the palace has become a fortress

Since that insidious hour; and here within

The very centre, girded by vast courts

And regal halls of pyramid proportions,

Which must be carried one by one before

They penetrate to where they then arrived,

We are as much shut in even from the sound

Of peril as from glory.

Bal. But they reach'd

Thus far before.

Myr. Yes, by surprise, and were

Beat back by valor; now at once we have

Courage and vigilance to guard us.

Bal. May they.

Prosper!

*Myr. That is the prayer of many, and

The dread of more: it is an anxious hour,

I strive to keep it from my thoughts. Alas!

How vainly!

Bal. Is it said the king's demeanor

In the late action scarcely more appalling

The rebels than astonish'd his true subjects.

Myr. 'Tis easy to astonish or appal

The vulgar mass which moulds a horde of slaves;

But he did bravely.

Bal. Slew he not Beleses?

I heard the soldiers say he struck him down

Myr. The wretch was overthrown, but rescued to

Triumph, perhaps, o'er one who vanquish'd him

In fight, as he had spared him in his peril;

And by that helpless pity risk'd a crown.

Bal. Hark!

Myr. You are right; some steps approach, but slowly.

Enter Soldiers bearing in Salemnes wounded, with

a broken Javelin in his side; they set him upon

one of the Couches which furnish the Apartment.

Myr. Oh, Jove!

Bal. Then all is over.

Sal. That is false.

Hew down the slave who says so, if a soldier.

Myr. Spare him—he's none: a mere court butterfly,

That flutters in the pageant of a monarch.

Sal. Let him live on, then.

Myr. So wilt thou, I trust.

Sal. I fear we shall live this hour out, and the event,

But doubt it. Wherefore did ye bear me here?

Sal. By the king's order. When the Javelin struck

you,

You fell and faint'd; 'twas his strict command

To bear you to this hall.

Sal. 'Twas not ill done:

For seeming slain in that cold dizzy trance,

The sight might shake our soldiers—but—'tis vain,

I feel it ebbing!

Myr. Let me see the wound;

I am not quite skillless: in my native land

'Tis part of our instruction. 'War being constant,

We are enabled to look on such things.

Sal. Best extr

The Javelin.

Myr. Hold! no, no, it cannot be.

Sal. I am sped, then!
SARDANAPALUS.

Myr. With the blood that fast must follow
The extracted weapon, I do fear thy life.
Sal. And I not death. Where was the king when
Convey'd me from the spot where I was striken?
Sol. Upon the same ground, and encouraging
With voice and gesture the dispirited troops
Who had seen you fall, and falter'd back.
Sal. Whom heard ye
Named next to the command?
Sol. I did not hear.
Sal. Fly, then, and tell him, 'twas my last request
That Zames take my post until the junction,
So hoped for, yet delay'd, of Ofratanes,
Satrap of Susa. Leave me here: our troops
Are not so numerous as to spare your absence.
Sol. But, prince—
Sal. Hence, I say! here's a courtier and
A woman, the best chamber company.
As you would not permit me to expire
Upon the field, I'll have no idle soldiers
About my sick couch. Hence! and do my bidding!
[Exeunt the Soldiers.

Myr. Gallant and glorious spirit! must the earth
So soon resign thee?
Sal. Gentle Myrrha, 'tis
The end I would have chosen, had I saved
The monarch or the monarchy by this;
As 'tis I have not outlived them.
Myr. You wax paler.
Sal. Your hand; this broken weapon but prolongs
My pangs, without sustaining life enough.
To make me useful: I would draw it forth
And my life with it, could I but hear how
The fight goes.

[Enter SARDANAPALUS and Soldiers.

Sal. My best brother!
And the battle
Is lost?
Myr. (despondingly.) You see me here.
Sal. I'd rather see you thus.
[Exeunt the soldiers.

Myr. Did you not
Receive a token from your dying brother,
Appointing Zames chief?

Sal. I did.
Myr. Where's Zames?
Sal. Dead.
Myr. And Altada?
Sal. Dying.
Myr. Pania? Sero?
Sal. Pania yet lives; but Sero's fled, or captive.
I am alone.
Myr. And is all lost?
Sal. Our walls,
Though thinly mann'd, may still hold out against
Their present force, or aught save treachery:
But I the field—
Myr. I thought 'twas the intent
Of Salemenes not to risk a sally
Till ye were strengthen'd by the expected succors.
Sal. I overruled him.
Myr. Well, the fault's a brave one.
Sal. But fatal. Oh, my brother! I would give
These realms, of which thou wert the ornament,
The sword and shield, the sole-redeeming honor.
To call back—but I will not weep for thee;
Thou shalt be mourn'd for as thou wouldst or
mourn'd.
It grieves me most that thou couldst not this life
Believing that I could survive what thou
Hast died for—our long loyalty of race.
If I redeem it, I will give thee blood
Of thousands, tears of millions, for atonement,
(The tears of all the good are thine already,)
If not, we meet again soon, if the spirit
Within us lives beyond:—thou readest mine.
And dost me justice now. Let me once clasp
That yet warm hand, and fold that throbless heart
To this which beats so bitterly. Now, bear
The body hence.

Sal. Where?

Sal. Where is it?

Myr. To my proper chamber
Place it beneath my canopy, as though
The king lay there; when this is done, we will
Speak further of the rights due to such ashes.
[Exeunt Soldiers with the body of Salemenes.

Myr. Enter Pania.

Sal. Well, Pania! have you placed the guards and
Issued
The orders fix'd on?

Pan. Sire, I have obey'd.
Sal. And do the soldiers keep their hear's up?
Pan. Sire!
Sal. I'm answer'd! When a king asks twice, and
has
A question as an answer to his question,
It is a portent. What! they are dishearten'd?
Pan. The death of Salemenes, and the shouts
Of the exulting rebels on his fall,
Have made them—
Sal. Rage—not drop—it should have been.
We'll find the means to rouse them.
Pan. Such a loss
Might sadden even a victory.
Sal. Alas!
Who can so feel it as I feel; but yet,
Though coop'd within these walls, they are strong,
and we
Have those without who will break their way through
hosts,
To make their sovereign's dwelling what it was
A palace; not a prison, nor a fortress.

Enter an Officer, hastily.

Sal. Thy face seems ominous. Speak!

Off. I dare not.
Sal. Dare not!

While millions dare revolt with sword in hand!
That's strange. I pray thee break that loyal silence.
Which loathes to shock its sovereign; we can hear
Worse than thou hast to tell.
Pan. Proceed, thou hearst.

Off. The wall which skirted near the river's brink
Is thrown down by the sudden inundation
Of the Euphrates, which now rolling, swolen
From the enormous mountains where it rises,
By the late rains of that tempestuous region,
Overflows its banks, and hath destroyed the bulwark
Pan. That's a black augury! it has been said
For ages, "that the city ne'er should yield
To man, until the river grew its foe."
Though a long line of sovereigns have lain down
Along its golden frame—as hearing for
A time what late was Salamied.) Search.
And you companions: there's enough to load ye,
Though ye be many. Let the slaves be freed, too
And all the inmates of the palace, of
Whatever sex, now quit it in an hour.
Thence launch the royal vessels, once form'd so
pleasure,
And now to serve for safety, and enthrall
The river's broad and swollen, and uncommanded
(For one man in all the English by these besiegers.
Fly! and be happy!
Pan. Under your protection!
So you accompany your faithful guard.
Sar. No, Pania! that must not be; get thee hence
And leave me to my fate.
Pan. 'Tis the first time
I ever disobey'd: but now—
Sar. So all men
Dare bear me now, and Insolence within
Ape treason from without. Question no further
'Tis my command, my last command. Wilt thou
Oppose it? thou?
Pan. But yet—not yet.
Sar. Well, then,
Swear that you will obey when I shall give
The signal.
Pan. With a heavy but true heart,
I promise.
Sar. 'Tis enough. Now order here
Fagots, pine-nuts, and wither'd leaves, and such
Things as catch fire and blaze with one sole spark
Bring cedar, too, and precious drugs, and spices,
And mighty planks to nourish a tall pile;
Bring frankincense and myrrh, too, for it is
For a great sacrifice I build the pyre;
And heap them round yon throne.
Pan. My lord!
Sar. I have said it,
And you have sworn.
Pan. And could keep my faith
Without a vow. [Exit Pania.
Myr. What mean you?
Sar. You shall know
Anon—what the whole earth shall never forget.
Pania, returning with a Herald.
Pan. My king, in going forth upon my duty,
This herald has been brought before me, craving
An audience.
Sar. Let him speak.
Her. The King Arbaes—
Sar. What, crown'd already?—But, proceed.
Her. Beleus.
The anointed high-priest—
Sar. Of what god, or demon?
With new kings rise new altars. But, proceed;
You are sent to prate your master's will, and not
Reply to mine.
Her. And Satrap Ofratanes—
Sar. Why, he is ours.
Her. (showing a ring.) Be sure that he is now
In the camp of the conquerors; behold
His signet-ring.
Sar. 'Tis his. A worthy triad!
Poor Salamenes! thou hast died in time
To see one treachery the less: this man
Was thy true friend and my most trusted subject.
Proceed.

Her. They offer thee thy life, and freedom
Of choice to single out a residence
In any of the further provinces,
Guarded and watch'd, but not confined in person,
Where thou shalt pass thy days in peace; but on
Condition that the three young princes are
Given up as hostages.

Sar. (ironically.) The generous victors!
Her. I wait the answer.
Sar. Answer, slave! how long
Have slaves decided on the doom of kings?

Her. Since they were free.

Sar. Mouthpiece of mutiny?

Thou at the least shalt learn the penalty
Of treason, though its proxy only. Pania!
Let his head be thrown from our walls within
The rebels' lines, his carcass down the river.

Away with him!

[PANIA and the Guards seizing him.

Pan. I never yet obey'd
Your orders with more pleasure than the present.

Hence with him, soldiers! do not soil this hall
Of royalty with treasonable gore:
Put him to rest without.

Her. A single word:
My office, king, is sacred.

Sar. And what's mine?

That thou shouldst come and dare to ask of me
To lay it down?

Her. I but obey'd my orders,
At the same peril if refused, as now
Incur'd by my obedience.

Sar. So there are
New monarchs of an hour's growth as despotic
As sovereigns swathed in purple, and enthroned
From birth to manhood!

Her. My life waits your breath.
Yours (I speak humbly)—but it may be—yours
May also be in danger scarce less imminent:
Would it then suit the last hours of a line
Such as is that of Ninrod, to destroy
A peaceful herald, unarm'd, in his office;
And violate not only all that man
Holds sacred between man and man—but that
More holy tie which links us with the gods?

Her. He's right. Let him go free. My life's
last act
Shall not be one of wrath. Here, fellow, take

[ Gives him a golden cup from a table near.

This golden goblet, let it hold your wine,
And think of me; or melt it into ingots,
And think of nothing but their weight and value.
Her. I thank you doubly for your life, and this
Most gorgeous gift, which renders it more precious.
But must I bear no answer?

Sar. Yes, I ask
An hour's truce to consider.

Her. But an hour's?

Sar. An hour's: if at the expiration of
That time your masters hear no further from me,
They are to deem that I reject their terms,
And actbefittingly.

Her. I shall not fail
To be a faithful legate of your pleasure.

Sar. And, hark! a word more.

Her. I shall not forget it,

What'er it be.

Sar. Commend me to Bele seas;
And tell him, ere a year expire, I summon
Him hence to meet me.

Her. Where?

Sar. At Babylon.

At least from thence he will depart to meet me.

Her. I shall obey you to the letter.

[Sar. [Exit Herald.]

Pania!—

Now, my good Pania!—quick—with what I order'd
Pan. My lord,—the soldiers are already charged.
And, see! they enter.

[Soldiers enter, and form a pile about the
Throne, &c.

Sar. Higher, my good soldiers,
And thicker yet; and see that the foundation
Be such as will not speedily exhaust
Its own too subtle flame; nor yet be quench'd
With such obsequious aid would bring to quell it
Let the throne form the core of it: I would not
Leave that, save fraught with fire unquenchable,
To the new comers. Frame the whole as if
'Twere to inkindle the strong tower of our
Invertebrate enemies. Now it bear's a look! aspect!
How say you, Pania, will this <as> suffice
For a king's obsequies?

Pan. Ay, for a kingdom's.

I understand you, now.

Sar. And blame me?

Let me but fire the pile, and share it with you.

Myr. That duty's mine.

Pan. A woman's!

Myr. Tis the soldier's
Part to die for his sovereign, and why not
The woman's with her lover.

Pan. Tis most strange!

Myr. But not so rare, my Pania, as thou think'st at it
In the meantime, live thou. Farewell! the pile
Is ready.

Pan. I should shame to leave my sovereign
With but a single female to partake
His death.

Sar. Too many far have heralded
Me to the dust, already. Get thee hence;
Enrich thee.

Pan. And live wretchedly!

Think upon
Thy vow:—'tis sacred and irrevocable.

Pan. Since it is so, farewell.

Sar. Search well my chamber
Feel no remorse at bearing off the gold;
Remember, what you leave you leave the slaves
Who slew me: and when you have borne away
All safe off to your boats, blow one long blast
Upon the trumpet as you quit the palace.
The river's brink is too remote, its stream
Too loud at present to permit the echo
To reach distinctly from its banks. Then fly,—
And as you sail, turn back; but still keep on
Your way along the Euphrates: if you reach
The land of Paphlagonia, where the queen
Is safe with my three sons in Cottas's court,
Say what you saw at parting, and request
That she remember what I said at one
Parting more mournful still.

Pan. That royal hand

Let me then once more press it to my lips;
And these poor soldiers who throng round you, and
Would fain die with you!

[The Soldiers and PANIA throng round him,
kissing his hand and the hem of his robe.]

Sar. My best! my last friends!
Let’s not unmans each other: part at once:
All farewells should be sudden, when for ever,
Else they make an eternity of moments,
And clog the last sands of life with tears.
Hence, and be happy: trust me, I am not
Now to be pitied; or far more for what
Is past than present;—for the future, ’tis
In the hands of the deities, if such
There be: I shall know soon. Farewell—Farewell.

[Exeunt PANIA and Soldiers.]

MYR. These men were honest: it is comfort still
That our last looks should be on loving faces.

Sar. And lovely ones, my beautiful—but hear me!
If at this moment, for we now are on
The brink, thou feel’st an inward shrinking from
This leap through flame into the future, say it:
I shall not love thee less; nay, perhaps more,
For yielding to thy nature: and there’s time
Yet for thee to escape hence.

MYR. Shall I light
One of the torches that lie heaped beneath
The ever-burning lamp that burns without,
Before Baal’s shrine, in the adjoining hall?

Sar. Do so. Is that thy answer?

MYR. Thou shalt see.

[Sar. sol但对于 words She’s firm. My fathers! whom I
will rejoin,
It may be, purified by death from some
Of the gross stains of too material being,
I would not leave your ancient first abode
To the defilement of usurping bondmen;
If I have not kept your inheritance
As ye bequeathed it, this bright part of it,
Your treasure, your abode, your sacred reliks
Of arms, and records, and monuments, and spoils,
In which they would have revel’d, I bear with me
To you in that absorbing element,
Which most personifies the soul as leaving
The least of matter unconsumed before
Its fiery working: and the light of this
Most royal of funereal pyres shall be
Not a mere pillow form’d of cloud and flame,
A beacon in the horizon for a day,
And then a mount of ashes, but a light
To lessen ages, rebel nations, and
Voluptuous princes. Time shall quench full many
A people’s records, and a hero’s acts;
Swee’st empire after empire, like this first
Of empires, into nothing; but even then
Shall spare this deed of mine, and hold it up
A problem few dare impugn, and none
Desire—but, it may be, avoid the light
Which led to such a consummation.

MYRHA returns with a lighted Torch in one hand,
and a Cup in the other.

MYR. Lo!

I’ve lit the lamp which lights us to the stars.
Sar. And the cup?

MYR. ’Tis my country’s custom to
Make a libation to the gods.
Sar. And mine
To make libations among men. I’ve not
Forgot the custom; and although alone,

Will drain one draught in memory of many
A joyous banquet past.

[SARDANAPALUS takes the cup, and after drink
ing and tinkling the reversed cup, as a drop
falls, exclaims—

Is for the excellent Beleses.

MYR. Why
Dwells thy mind rather upon that man’s name
Than on his mate’s in villany?

Sar. The one
Is a mere soldier, a mere tool, a kind
Of human sword in a fiend’s hand; the other
Is master-mover of his warlike puppet:
But I dismiss them from my mind.—Yet pause,
My Myrrha! dost thou truly follow me,
Freely and fearlessly?

MYR. And dost thou think
A Greek girl dare not do for love, that which
An Indian widow braves for custom?

Sar. Then
We but await the signal.

MYR. It is long
In sounding.

Sar. Now, farewell; one last embrace.

MYR. Embrace, but not the last; there is one more

Sar. True, the commingling fire will mix our ashes

MYR. And pure as is my love to thee, shall they,
Furged from the dross of earth, and earthly passion.
Mix pale with thine. A single thought yet irks me
Sar. Say it.

MYR. It is that no kind hand will gather
The dust of both into one urn.

Sar. The better:
Rather let them be borne abroad upon
The winds of heaven, and scatter’d into air,
Than be polluted more by human hands
Of slaves and traitors; in this blazing palace.
And its enormous walls of reeking ruin.
We leave a nobler monument than Egypt
Hath piled in her brick mountains, o’er dead kings,
Or kine, for none know whether those proud piles
Be for their monarch, or their ox-god Apis:
So much for monuments that have forgotten
Their very record!

MYR. Then farewell, thou earth!
And loveliest spot of earth! farewell, Ionia!
Be thou still free and beautiful, and far
Aloof from desolation! My last prayer
Was for thee, my last thoughts, save one, were of thee!

Sar. And that?

MYR. [The trumpet of PANIA sounds without]

Sar. Hark!

MYR. Now!

Sar. Adieu, Assyria;
I loved thee well, my own, my fathers’ land,
And better as my country than my kingdom.
I satiﬁed thee with peace and joys; and this
Is my reward! and now I owe thee nothing,
Not even a grave.

[He mounts the pile

MYR. Now, Myrrha!

MYR. Art thou ready?

Sar. As the torch in thy grasp.

[As MYRHA springs forward to throw herself
into the flames, the Curtain falls.
NOTES TO SARDANAPALUS.

1.

And thou, my own Ionian Myrrha.
Page 349, line 60.

"The Ionian name had been still more comprehensive, having included the Achaian and the Boeotians, who, together with those to whom it was afterwards confined, would make nearly the whole of the Greek nation, and among the orientals it was always the general name for the Greeks."—Milford's Greece, vol. 1. p. 199.

2.

"Sardanapalus
The king, and son of Anacyndaraxes,
In one day built Anchialus and Tarsus.
Eat, drink, and love; the rest's not worth a fillip."
Page 351, lines 103—106.

"For this expedition he took not only a small chosen body of the phalanx, but all his light troops, in the first day's march he reached Anchialus, a town said to have been founded by the King of Assyria, Sardanapalus. The fortifications, in their magnitude and extent, still in Arrian's time, bore the character of greatness, which the Assyrians appear singularly to have affected in works of the kind. A monument representing Sardanapalus was found there, warranted by an inscription in Assyrian characters, of course in the old Assyrian language, which the Greeks, whether well or ill, interpreted thus: 'Sardanapalus, son of Anacyndaraxes, in one day founded Anchialus and Tarsus. Eat, drink, play; all other human joys are not worth a fillip.' Supposing this version nearly exact, (for Arrian says it was not quite so,) whether the purpose has not been to invite to civil order a people disposed to turbulence, rather than to recommend immoderate luxury, may perhaps reasonably be questioned. What, indeed, could be the object of a king of Assyria in founding such towns in a country so distant from his capital, and so divided from it by an immense extent of sandy deserts and lofty mountains, and, still more, how the inhabitants could be at one in circumstances to abandon themselves to the intemperate joys which their prince has been supposed to have recommended, is not obvious; but it may deserve observation that, in that line of coast, the southern of Lesser Asia, ruins of cities, evidently of an age after Alexander yet barely named in history, at this day astonish the adventurous traveller by their magnificence and elegance. Amid the desolation which, under a singularly barbarian government, has for so many centuries been daily spreading in the finest countries of the globe, whether more from soil and climate, or from opportunities for commerce, extraordinary means must have been found for communities to flourish there, whence it may seem that the measures of Sardanapalus were directed by juster view than have been commonly ascribed to him: but that monarch having been the last of a dynasty, ended by a revolution, obloquy on his memory would follow of course from the policy of his successors and their patrons.

"The inconsistency of tradition concerning Sardanapalus is striking in Diodorus's account of him."
WERNER; OR, THE INHERITANCE:
A TRAGEDY.

TO
THE ILLUSTRIOUS GOETHE,
BY ONE OF HIS HUMBlest ADMIRERS,
THIS TRAGEDY IS DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

THE following Drama is taken entirely from the "German's Tale, Kruttmer," published many years ago in Lee's Canterbury Tales; written (I believe) by two sisters, of whom one furnished only this story and another, both of which are considered superior to the remainder of the collection. I have adopted the characters, plan, and even the language, of many parts of this story. Some of the characters are modified or altered, a few of the names changed, and one character (Ida of Stralenheim) added by myself; but in the rest the original is chiefly followed. When I was young, (about fourteen, I think,) I first read this tale, which made a deep impression upon me; and may, indeed, be said to contain the germ of much that I have since written. I am not sure that it ever was very popular; or, at any rate, its popularity has since been eclipsed by that of other great writers in the same department. But I have generally found that those who had read it, agreed with me in their estimate of the singular power of mind and conception which it develops. I should also add conception, rather than execution; for the story might, perhaps, have been developed with greater advantage. Among those whose opinions agreed with mine upon this story, I could mention some very high names; but it is not necessary, nor indeed of any use, for every one must judge according to his own feelings. I merely refer the reader to the original story, that he may see to what extent I have borrowed from it; and am not unwilling that he should find much greater pleasure in perusing it than the drama which is founded upon its contents.

I had begun a drama upon this tale so far back as 1815, (the first I ever attempted, except one at thirteen years old, called "Ulric and Ivina," which I had sense enough to burn,) and had nearly completed an act, when I was interrupted by circumstances. This is somewhere among my papers in England; but as it has not been found, I have rewritten the first, and added the subsequent acts. The whole is neither intended, nor in any shape adapted, for the stage.

February, 1822.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

Men.—WERNER.
ULRIC.
STRALENHEIM.
IDENSTEIN.
GABOR.
FRITZ.
HENRICK.
ERIC.
ARNHEIM.
MEISTER.
RODOLPH.
LUDWIG.

Women.—JOSEPHINE.
IDA STRALENHEIM.

Scene—Partly on the Frontier of Silcia, and partly in Siegendorf Castle, near Prague.

Time—The Close of the Thirty Years' War.
ACT I.

SCENE I.

The Hall of a decayed Palace near a small Town on the Northern Frontier of Silesia—the Night tempestuous.

WERNER, and JOSEPHINE, his wife.

Jos. My love, be calmer.

Wer. I am calm.

Jos. Yes, but not to thyself: thy pace is hurried, and no one walks a chamber like to ours with steps like thine when his heart is at rest. Were it a garden, I should deem thee happy, and stepping with the bee from flower to flower; but here! 

Wer. 'Tis chill; the tapestry lets through: the wind to which it waves: my blood is frozen. 

Jos. Ah, no!

Wer. (smiling.) Why! wouldst thou have it so?

Jos. I would have it a healthful current.

Wer. Let it flow until 'tis split or check'd—how soon, I care not. 

Jos. And am I nothing in thy heart? 

Wer. All—all.

Jos. Then canst thou wish for that which must break mine?

Wer. (approaching her slowly.) But for thee I had been—no matter what, but much of good and evil; what I am, thou knowest; what I might or should have been, thou knowest not: but still I love thee, nor shalt thou divide us.

[WERNER walks on abruptly, and then approaches JOSEPHINE.]

The storm of the night, perhaps, affects me; I'm a thing of feelings, and have of late been sickly, as, alas! thou know'st by sufferings more than mine, my love! in watching me.

Jos. To see thee well is much—

To see thee happy—

Wer. Where hast thou seen such? Let me be wretched with the rest!

Jos. But think how many in this hour of tempest shiver beneath the biting wind and heavy rain, whose every drop bows them down nearer earth, which hath no chamber for them save beneath her surface.

Wer. And that's not the worst; who cares for chambers? rest is all. The wretches whom thou namest—say, the wind howls round them, and the dull and dropping rain saps in their bones the creeping narrow. I have been a soldier, a hunter, and a traveller, and am a beggar, and should know the thing thou talk'st of. 

Jos. And art thou not now shelter'd from them all? 

Wer. Yes. And from these alone. 

Jos. And that is something. 

Wer. True—to a peasant.

Jos. Should the nobly born be thankful for that refuge which their habits of early delicacy render more needful than to the peasant, when the ebb of fortune leaves them on the sheals of life?

Wer. It is not that, thou know'st it is not; we have borne all this, I'll not say patiently, except in thee—but we have borne it.

Jos. Well?

Wer. Something beyond our outward sufferings (though these were enough to gnaw into our souls) Hath stung me oft, and, more than ever, now. When, but for this untoward sickness, which seized me upon this desolate frontier, and hast wasted, not alone my strength, but means and leaves us—no! this is beyond me—but for this I had been happy—now been happy—The splendor of my rank sustained—my name, my father's name—been still upheld; and, more than those—

Jos. (abruptly.) My son—our son—Ulric been clas'd again in these long-empty arms and all a mother's hunger satisfied. Twelve years! he was but eight then—beautiful He was, and beautiful he must be now. My Ulric! my adored!

Wer. I have been full oft the chase of Fortune: now she hath o'ertaken my spirit where it cannot turn at bay,—Sick, poor, and lonely.

Jos. Lonely! my dear husband Wer. Or worse—involving all I love, in this far worse than solitude. Aloné, I had died, and all been over in a nameless grave.

Jos. And I had not outlived thee; but pray take comfort! We have struggled long; and they what strive with fortune win or weary her at last. So that they find the goal or cease to feel further. Take comfort, we shall find our boy.

Wer. We were in sight of him, of every thing which could bring compensation for past sorrow and to be baffled thus!

Jos. We are not baffled.

Wer. Are we not penniless?

Jos. We ne'er were wealthy.

Wer. But I was born to wealth, and rank, and power;

Ex 'by'd them, loved them, and, alas! abused them. Am, forfeited them by my father's wrath, in m—'er-fervent youth; but for the abuse Long, sufferings have stoned. My father's death left the path open, yet not without snares. This cola and creeping kinman, who so long kept his eyes on me, as the snake upon the fluttering bird, hath ere this time upstopt me. Become the master of my rights, and lord of that which 'fits him up to princes in Dominion and d, main.

Jos. Who knows? our son May have returned back to his grandsire, and even now uphold thy rights for thee?

Wer. Tis hopeless.

Since his strange disappearance from my father, Entailing, as it were, my sins upon himself, no tidings have reveal'd his course. I parted with him to his grandsire, on the promise that his anger would stop short of the third generation, but Heaven seems to claim her stern prerogative, and visit upon my boy his father's faults and follies.

Jos. I must hope better still.—at least we have...
BAFFLED THE LONG PURSUIT OF STRALENHEIM.

WER. We should have done, but for this fatal sickness.
More fatal than a mortal malady,
Because it takes not life, but life's sole solace;
Even now I feel my spirit girt about
By the snares of this avaricious fiend:—
How do I know he hath not tracked us here?

JOS. He does not know thy person; and his spies,
Who so long watch'd thee, have been left at Ham-burgh.

OUR UNEXPECTED JOURNEY, AND THIS CHANGE
Of name, leave all discovery far behind:
None hold us here for aught save what we seem.
WER. Save what we seem! save what we are—sick beggars,
Even to our very hopes.—Ha! ha!

JOS. Alas!

WER. Who would read in this form
The high soul of the son of a long line?
Who, in this garb, the heir of princely lands?
Who, in this sunken, sickly eye, the pride
Of rank and ancestry? in this worn cheek
And famine-hollow'd brow, the lord of halls
Which daily feast a thousand vassals?

JOS. You
Ponder'd not thus upon these worldly things,
My Werner! when you deign'd to choose for bride
The foreign daughter of a wandering exile.
WER. An exile's daughter with an outcast son
Were a fit marriage; but I still had hopes
To lift thee to the state we both were born for.
Your father's house was noble though decay'd;
And worthy by its birth to match with ours.

JOS. Your father did not think so, though 'twas noble;
But had my birth been all my claim to match
With thee, I should have deem'd it what it is.
WER. And what is that in thine eyes?

JOS. All which it has done in our behalf,—nothing.
WER. How,—nothing?

JOS. Or worse; for it has been a canker in
Thy heart from the beginning: but for this,
We had not felt our poverty but as
Millions of myriads feel it, cheerfully;
But for these phantoms of thy feudal fathers,
Thou mightst have earn'd thy bread, as thousands earn it;
Or, if that seem'd too humble, tried by commerce,
Or other civic means, to amend thy fortunes,
WER. [Ironically.] And been an Hanseatic burgher!

JOS. Excellent!

WER. What'er thou mightst have been, to me thou art
What no state high or low can ever change,
My heart's first choice;—which chose thee, knowing neither
Thy birth, thy hopes, thy pride; nought, save thy sorrows:
While they last, let me comfort or divide them;
When they end, let mine end with them, or thee!
WER. My better angel! such I have ever found thee;

JOS. This rashness, or this weakness of my temper,
Ne'er raised a thought to injure thee or thine.
Thou didst not mar my fortunes: my own nature
In youth was such as to unmake an empire,

Had such been my inheritance; but now
Chasten'd, subdued, out-worn, and taught to know
Myself,—to lose this for our son and thee!

Trust me, when in my two-and-twentieth spring,
My father barr'd me from my father's house,
The last sole scion of a thousand sires,
(For, I was then the last,) it hurt me less
Than to behold my boy and my boy's mother
Excluded in their innocence from what
My faults deserved—exclusion; though then
My passions were all living serpents, and
Twined like the gorgon's round me.

JOS. [A loud knocking is heard]
Hark!
WER. A knocking
JOS. Who can it be at this lone hour? We have few visitors.
WER. And poverty hath none,
Save those who come to make it poorer still.
Well, I am prepared.
WER. [Werner puts his hand into his bosom, as if to search for some weapon.]
JOS. Oh, do not look so. I will to the door. It cannot be of import
In this lone spot of wintry desolation;—
The very desert saves man from mankind.

SHE GOES TO THE DOOR

ENTER IDENSTREIN.

IDEN. A fair good evening to my fairer hostess
And worthy!—What's your name, my friend?
WER. Are you
Not afraid to demand it?
IDEN. Not afraid?

WER. Egad! I am afraid. You look as if I asked for something better than your name,
By the face you put on it.

WER. Better, sir!
IDEN. Better or worse, like matrimony: what
Shall I say more? You have been a guest this month
Here in the prince's palace—(to be sure,
His highness had resign'd it to the ghosts .
And rats these twelve years—but 'tis still a palace)—
I say you have been our lodger, and as yet
We do not know your name.
WER. My name is Werner.
IDEN. A goodly name, a very worthy name
As e'er was gilt upon a trader's board:
I have a cousin in the lazaretto
Of Hamburg, who has got a wife who bore
The same. He is an officer of trust,
Surgeon's assistant, (hoping to be surgeon,) And has done miracles in the way of business. Perhaps you are related to my relative?
WER. To yours?

JOS. Oh, yes; we are, but distantly
Cannot you humor the dull gossip till

[Aside to Werner.]

WE LEARN HIS PURPOSE?

IDEN. We, I'm glad of that;
I thought so long, such natural yearnings
Play'd round my heart:—blood is not water, cousin,
And so let's have some wine, and drink unto
Our better acquaintance: relatives should be
Friends.
WER. You appear to have drank enough already;
And if you had not, I've no wine to offer
Else it were yours: but this you know, or should know:

[Aside to Werner.]
WERNER.

You see I am poor, and sick, and will... but see
That I would be alone; but to your business!
What brings you here?

Iden. Why, what should bring me here? Wer. I know not, though I think that I could guess
That which will send you hence.

Jos. (aside.) Patience, dear Werner.

Iden. You don’t know what has happened, then?
Jos. How should we?

Iden. The river is overflow’d?
Jos. Alas! we have known
That to our sorrow for these five days; since
It keeps us here.

Iden. But what you don’t know is,
That a great personage, who faun would cross,
Against the stream and three postillions’ wishes,
Is drown’d below the ford, with five post-horses
A monkey, and a mastiff, and a valet.
Jos. Poor creatures! are you sure?

Iden. Yes, of the monkey,
And the valet, and the cattle; but as yet
We know not if his excellency’s dead
Or no; your noblemen are hard to drown,
As it is fit that men in office should be;
But what is certain is, that he has swallow’d
Enough of the Oder to have burst two peasants;
And now a Saxon, and Hungarian traveller,
Who, at their proper peril, snatch’d him from
The whirling river, have sent on to crave
A lodging, or a grave, according as
It may turn out with the live or dead body.
Jos. And where will you receive him? here, I hope,
If we can be of service—say the word.

Iden. Here? no; but in the prince’s own apart-
ment,
As fits a noble guest:—’tis damp, no doubt,
Not having been inhabited these twelve years;
But then he comes from a much damper place,
So scarcely will catch cold in’t, if he be
Still liable to cold—and if not, why
He’ll be worse lodged to-morrow: nevertheless,
I have ordered fire and all appliances
To be got ready for the worst—that is,
In case he should survive.

Jos. Poor gentleman!
I hope he will with all my heart.

Wer. Intendant,
Have you not learn’d his name? My Josephine,
[Aside to his wife.
Retire; I’ll sift this fool.

Iden. His name! oh Lord!
Who knows if he hath now a name or no?
’Tis time enough to ask it when he’s able
To give an answer; or if not, to put
His heir’s upon his epitaph. Methought
Just now you chid me for demanding names?

Wer. True, true, I did so; you say well and wisely.

Enter Gabor.

Gab. If I intrude, I crave—

Iden. Oh, no intrusion!
This is the palace; this a stranger like
Yourself; I pray you make yourself at home:
But where’s his excellency, and how fares he?

Gab. Wily, and weary, but out of peril:
He paused to change his garments in a cottage,
(Where I doff’d mine for these, and came on hither.)
And has almost recover’d from his drenching.
He will be here anon.

Gab. (to Werner.) This master of the ceremoni
is
The intendant of the palace, I presume:
’Tis a fine building, but decay’d.

Iden. What ho, there! hustle!
Without there, Herman, Weiburg, Peter, Conrad
[Give directions to different servants who enter.
A nobleman sleeps here to-night—see that
All is in order in the damask chamber—
Keep up the store—I will myself to the cellar—
And Madame Idenstein (my consort, stranger) shall
Furnish forth the bed-apparel; for,
To say the truth, they are marvellous scant of this
Within the palace precincts, since his highness
Lift it some dozen years ago. And then
His excellency will sup, doubtless?

Gab. Faith!
I cannot tell: but I should think the pillow
Would please him better than the table after
His soaking in your river: but for fear
Your viands should be thrown away, I mean
To sup myself, and have a friend without
Who will do honor to your good cheer with
A traveller’s appetite.

Iden. But are you sure
His excellency—But his name: what is it?

Gab. I do not know.

Iden. And yet you saved his life.

Gab. I help’d my friend to do so.

Iden. Well, that’s strange.
To save a man’s life whom you do not know.

Gab. Not so; for there are some I know so well,
I scarce should give myself the trouble.

Iden. Pray,
Good friend, and who may you be?

Gab. By my family
Hungarian.

Iden. Which is call’d?

Gab. It matters little.

Iden. (aside.) I think that all the world are grown
anonymous,
Since no one cares to tell what he’s call’d.

Gab. Pray, has his excellency a large suite?

Iden. How many?

Gab. I did not count them.

Iden. We came up by mere accident, and just
In time to drag him through his carriage window.

Iden. Well, what would I give to save a great man,
No doubt you’ll have a swinging sum as recompense.

Gab. Perhaps.

Iden. Now, how much do you reckon on?

Gab. I have not yet put up myself to sale:
In the mean time, my best reward would be
A glass of your Hockheimer—a good glass,
Wreath’d with rich grapes and Bacchanel devices,
O’erflowing with the oldest of your vintage;
For which I promise you, in case you ever
Run hazard of being drown’d, (although I own
It seems, of all deaths, the least likely for you.)
I’ll pull you out for nothing. Quick, my friend,
And think, for every bumper I shall quaff,
A wave the less may roll above your head.

Iden. (aside.) I don’t much like this fellow—close
and dry.
He seems, two things which suit me not; however,
Wine he shall have; if that unlocks him not,
I shall not sleep to-night for curiosity.
[Exit Idenstein.

Gab. (to Werner.) This master of the ceremoni
is
The intendant of the palace, I presume:
’Tis a fine building, but decay’d.
BYRON'S WORKS.

Gab. I know no man, not even myself: how should I then know one I no'er beheld till half an hour since?

Wer. Sir, I thank you. Your offer's noble were fit to a friend, and not unkind as to an unknown stranger, though scarcely prudent; but no less I thank you I am a beggar in all save his trade; and when I beg of any one it shall be of him who was the first to offer what few can obtain by asking. Pardon me.

[Exit WERNER.

Gab. (solus.) A goodly fellow by his looks, though worn, as most good fellows are, by pain or pleasure which tear life out of us before our time; I scarce know which most quickly; but he seems to have seen better days, as who has not who has seen yesterday?—but here approaches our sage intendant, with the wine: however, for the cup's sake I'll bear the cupbearer.

Enter IDENSTEIN.

Iten. 'Tis here! the superannuum! twenty years of age, if 'tis a day.

Gab. Which epoch makes young women and old wine; and 'tis great pity, of two such excellent things, increase of years, which still improves the one, should spoil the other. Fill full—Here's to our hostess!—your fair wife! [Takes the glass.

Iten. Fair!—Well, I trust your taste in wine is equal to that you show for beauty; but I pledge you Nevertheless.

Gab. Is not the lovely woman I met in the adjacent hall, who, with an air, and port, and eye, which would have better been 'd this palace in its brightest days, (though in a garb adapted to its present Abandonment,) return'd my salutation:—is not the same your spouse?

Iten. I would she were, but you're mistaken—that's the stranger's wife.

Gab. And by her aspect she might be a prince's: though time hath touch'd her too, she still retains much beauty, and more majesty.

Iten. And that is more than I can say for Madame Idenstein, at least in beauty: as for majesty, she has some of its properties which might be spared—but never mind!

Gab. I don't. But who may be this stranger? He too hath a bearing above his outward fortunes.

Iten. There I differ. He's poor as Job, and not so patient; but who he may be, or what, or aught of him, except his name, (and that I only learn'd to-night,) I know not.

Gab. But how came he here?

Iten. In a most miserable old castle, about a month since, and immediately fell sick, almost to death. He should have died.

Gab. Tender and true—but why?

Iten. Why, what is life without a living? He has not a stiver.

Gab. In that case, I much wonder that a person of your apparent prudence should admit:

Wer. The apartment

Design'd for him you recon'd will be found in a better order for a sickly guest.

Gab. I wonder then you occupied it not, for you seem delicate in health.

Wer. (quickly.) Sir!

Gab. Pray excuse me: have I said ought to offend you?

Wer. Nothing: but we are strangers to each other. Gab. And that's the reason I would have us less so: I thought our bustling guest without bad said you were a chance and passing guest, the counter-part of you and my companions.

Wer. Very true.

Gab. Then, as we never met before, and never, it may be, may again encounter, why, I thought to cheer up this old dungeon here (At least to me) by asking you to share the fare of my companions and myself.

Wer. Pray, pardon me; my health—

Gab. Even as you please, I have been a soldier, and perhaps am blunt in bearing.

Wer. I have also served, and can requite a soldier's greeting.

Gab. In what service?

Wer. (quickly, and then interrupting himself.) I command—no—I mean I served; but it is many years ago, when first Bohemian raised her banner against the Austrian.

Gab. Well, that's over now, and peace has turn'd some thousand gallant hearts adrift to live as they best may; and, to say truth, some take the shortest.

Wer. What is that?

Gab. Whate'er they lay their hands on. All Silesia and Lusatia's woods are tenanted by bands of the late troops, who levy on the country for their maintenance; the Chatelains must keep their castle walls—beyond them 'tis but doubtful travel for your rich count or full-blown baron. My comfort is that, where I may, I've little left to lose now.

Wer. And I—nothing.

Gab. That's harder still. You say you were a soldier.

Wer. I was.

Gab. You look one still. All soldiers are, or should be comrades, even though enemies. Our swords when drawn must cross, our engines aim (While level'd) at each other's hearts; but when a truce, a peace, or what you will, remix the hilt into its scabbard, and lets sleep the spark which lights the matchlock, we are brethren. You are poor and sickly—I am not rich but healthy; I want for nothing which I cannot want; you seem devoid of this—will share it?

[Gabor pulls out his purse.

Gab. Who told you I was a beggar?

Wer. You yourself in saying you were a soldier during peace-time.

Wer. (looking at him with suspicion.) You know me not?
Gusts so forc'd into this noble mansion.

Iden. That's true; but pity, as you know, does make One's heart commit these follies; and besides, They had some valuables left at that time, Which paid their way up to the present hour; And so I thought they might as well be lodged Here as at the small tavern, and I gave them The run of some of the oldest palace rooms. They served to air them, at the least as long As they could pay for fire-wood.

Gb. Poor souls!

Iden. Exceeding poor.

Gb. And yet unused to poverty, If I mistake not. Whither were they going? Iden. Oh! Heaven knows where, unless to heaven itself.

Some days ago that loc^k'd the likeliest journey For Werner.

Gb. Werner! I have heard the name: But it may be a feign'd one.

Iden. Like enough! But hark! a noise of wheels and voices, and A blaze of torches from without. As sure As destiny, his excellency's to me. I must be at my post: will you not join me, To help him from his carriage, and present Your humble duty at the door?

Gb. I dragg'd him From out that carriage when he would have given His barony or county to repel The rushing river from his gurgling throat. He has valets now enough: they stood aloof then, Shaking their dripping ears upon the shore, All roaring, "Help!" but offering none; and As for duty (as you call it)—I did mine then, Now do yours. Hence, and bow and cringe him here!

Iden. I cringe—but I shall lose the opportunity— Plague take it! he'll be here, and I not there! (Exit Idenstein, hastily.)

Re-enter Werner.

Wer. (to himself.) I heard a noise of wheels and voices. How All sounds now jar me. Presence Gab.) Still here! Is he not A spy of my pursuers? His frank offer To suddenly, and to a stranger, wore The aspect of a secret enemy; For friends are slow at such.

Gb. Sir, you seem rapt: And yet the time is not akin to thought. These old walls will be noisy soon. The baron, Or count (for whatsoever this half-drown'd noble May be), for whom this desolate village and Its lone inhabitants show more respect Than did the elements, is come.

Iden. (without.) This way— Your excellency—have a care, The staircase is a little gloomy, and Somewhat decay'd; but if we had expected So high a guest—Pray take my arm, my lord.

Enter Stralenheim, Idenstein, and Attendants— partly his own, and partly retainers of the domain of which Idenstein is Intendant.

Stral. I'll rest me here a moment

Iden. (to the servants.) Ho! a chair Instantly, knaves! [Stralenheim sits down Wer. (aside.) 'Tis he! I'm better now.

Who are these strangers?

Iden. Please you, my good lord, One says he is no stranger. Wer. (aloud and hastily.) Who says that? [They look at him with surprise. Iden. Why, no one spoke of you, or to you—but Here's one his excellency may be pleased To recognize. [Pointing to Gaben Gab. I seek not to disturb His noble memory.

Stral. I apprehend This is one of the strangers to whose aid I owe my rescue.' Is not that the other?

[Pointing to Werner Iden. My state when I was succour'd must excuse My uncertainty to whom I owe so much. Iden. He—no, my lord! he rather wants for rescue Than can afford it. 'Tis a poor sick man, Travel-tired, and lately risen from a bed From whence he never dream'd to rise.

Stral. Methought That there were two.

Gb. There were, in company; But, in the service render'd to your lordship, I need must say but one, and he is absent. The chief part of whatever aid was render'd Was his: it was his fortune to be first. My will was not inferior, but his strength And youth outstripp'd me; therefore do not waste Your thanks on me. I was but a glad second Unto a nobler principal.

Stral. Where is he?

An Atten. My lord, he tarried in the cottage where Your excellency rested for an hour, And said he would be here to-morrow.

Stral. Till That hour arrives, I can but offer thanks, And then—

Gb. I seek no more, and scarce deserve So much. My comrade may speak for himself.

Stral. (fixing his eyes upon Werner; then aside.) It cannot be! and yet he must be look'd to. 'Tis twenty years since I beheld him with These eyes: and, though my agents still have kept Theirs on him, policy has held aloof My own from his, not to alarm him into Suspicion of my plan. Why did I leave At Hamburg those who would have made assurance If this be he or no? I thought, ere now, To have been lord of Seigendorf, and pasted In haste, though even the elements appear To fight against me, and this sudden flood May keep me prisoner here till——

[He pauses, and looks at Werner; then resumes, Pensive. Will it not please you to pass on? Stral. 'Tis past fatigue which gives my weigh'd down spirit An outward show of thought. I will to rest.
Iden. The prince’s chamber is prepared, with all
The very furniture the prince used when
Last here, in its full splendor.

(Aside.) Somewhat tatter’d
And devilish damp, but fine enough by torchlight;
And that’s enough for your right noble blood
Of twenty quarterings upon a hatchment;
So let their bearer sleep ’neath something like one
Now, as he one day will for ever lie.
Strat. (rising and turning to Gabol.) Good night,
good people! Sir, I trust to-morrow
Will find me apter to requisite your service.

n the meantime I crave your company
A moment in my chamber.

Gab. I attend you.
Strat. (after a few steps, pauses and calls We-ner.) Friend!

Wer. Sir!
Iden. Sir! Lord—oh Lord! Why don’t you say
His lordship, or his excellency? Pray,
My lord, excuse this poor man’s want of breeding:
He hath not been accustomed to admission
To such a presence.
Strat. (to Idenstein.) Peace, intendant.
Iden. Oh!

I am dumb.
Strat. (to Werner.) Have you been long here?
Wer. Long?
Strat. I sought
An answer, not an echo.
Wer. You may seek
Both from the walls. I am not used to answer
Those whom I know not.
Strat. Indeed! Ne’er the less,
You might reply with courtesy to what
Is ask’d in kindness.
Wer. When I know it such,
I will require—that is reply—in unison.
Strat. The intendant said, you had been detain’d
by sickness—
If I could aid you—journeying the same way?
Wer. (quickly.) I am not journeying the same way.
Strat. How know ye
That, ere you know my route?
Wer. Because there is
But one way that the rich and poor must tread
Together. You diverged from that dread path
Some hours ago, and I some days: henceforth
Our roads must lie asunder, though they tend
All to one home.
Strat. Your language is above
Your station.
Wer. (bitterly.) Is it?
Strat. Or, at least, beyond
Your garb.
Wer. ’Tis well that it is not beneath it,
As sometimes happens to the better clad.
But, in a word, what would you with me?
Strat. (startled.) I?
Wer. Yes—you! You know me not, and question me.
And wonder that I answer not—not knowing
My inquisitor. Explain what you would have,
And then I’ll satisfy yourself, or me.
Strat. I know not that you had reasons for reserve.
Wer. Many have such:—Have you none?
Strat. None which can
Interest a mere stranger.

Wer. Then forgive
The same unknown and humble stranger, if
He wishes to remain so to the man
Who can have nought in common with him.
Strat. Sir,
I will not balk your humor, though untoward:
I only meant you service—but good night!
Intendant, show the way! (to Gabol.) Sir, you will
Tell me with me?

[Enter Stralenheim and Attendants; Iden-stein and Gabol.

Wer. (solus.) ’Tis he! I am taken in the toils.

Before
I quitted Hamburg, Giulio, his late steward,
Inform’d me that he had obtain’d an order
From Brandenburgh’s elector, for the arrest
Of Kruftzner (such the name I then bore) when
I came upon the frontier; the free city
Alone preserved my freedom—till I left
Its walls—fool that I was to quit them! But
I deem’d this humble garb, and route obscure,
Had baffled the slow hounds in their pursuit.
What’s to be done? He knows me not by person
Nor could aught, save the eye of apprehension,
Have recognised him, after twenty years,
We met so rarely and so coldly in
Our youth. But those about him! Now I can
Divine the frankness of the Hungarian who
No doubt is a mere tool and spy of Stralenheim’s
To sound and to secure me. Without means!
Sick, poor—begirt too with the flooding rivers,
Impassable even to the wealthy, with
All the appliances which purchase modes
Of overpowering peril with men’s lives,—
How can I hope? An hour ago methought
My state beyond despair; and now, ’tis such,
The past seems paradise. Another day,
And I’m detected,—on the very eve
Of honors, rights, and my inheritance,
When a few drops of gold might save me still
In favoring an escape.

Enter Idenstein and Fritz, in conversation.

Fritz. Immediately.
Iden. I tell you ’tis impossible.
Fritz. It must
Be tried; however; and if one express
Fail, you must send on others, till the answer
Arrives from Frankfort, from the commandant.
Iden. I will do what I can.
Fritz. And recollect
To spare no trouble; you will be repaid
Tenfold.
Iden. The baron is retired to rest?
Fritz. He hath thrown himself into an easy chair
Beside the fire, and slumbers; and has order’d
He may not be disturb’d until eleven,
When he will take himself to bed.
Iden. Before
An hour is past I’ll do my best to serve him.

Fritz. Remember! [Exit Fritz.
Iden. The devil take these great men! they
Think all things made for them. Now here must I
Rouse up some half a dozen shivering vassals
From their scant pallets, and, at peril of
Their lives, despatch them o’er the river towards
Frankfort. Methinks the baron’s own experience
Some hours ago might teach him fellow-feeling:
But no, ‘’it must,’’ and there’s an end. How now?
Are you there, Mynheer Werner?
Werner. You have left
Your noble guest right quickly.
Jos. It seems to like that none should sleep besides.
Here is a packet for the commandant
Of Frankfort, at all risks and all expenses;
but I must not lose time: Good-night!
[Exit Idenstein]
Werner. So, so, it thickens! Ay, "the commandant."
This tallies well with all the prior steps
Of this cool, calculating fiend, who walks
Between me and my father's house. No doubt
He writes for a detachment to convey me
Into some secret fortress.—Sooner than
This—
[Werner looks around, and matches up a knife
lying on a table in a recess.]
—Now I am master of myself at least.
Hark,—footsteps! How do I know that Stralenheim
Will wait for even the show of that authority
Which is to overshadow usurpation?
That he suspects me's certain. I'm alone;
He with a numerous train. I weak; he strong
In gold, in numbers, rank, authority.
I nameless, or shining in my name
Destruction, till I reach my own domain;
He full-blown with his titles, which impose
Still further on these obscure petty burgheurs
Than they could do elsewhere. Hark! nearer still!
I'm to the secret passage, which communicates
With the—No! all is silent—twas my fancy!—
Still as the breathless interval between
The flash and thunder:—I must hush my soul
Amidst its perils. Yet I will retire,
To see if still be unexplored the passage
I left of: it will serve me as a den
Of secrecy for some hours at the worst.
[Werner draws a panel, and exit, closing it
after him.]

Enter Gab and Josephine.
Gab. Where is your husband?
Jos. Here, I thought: I left him
Not long since in his chamber. But these rooms
Have many outlets, and he may be gone
To accompany the intendant.
Gab. Baron Stralenheim
Put many questions to the intendant on
The subject of your lord, and, to be plain,
I have my doubts if he means well.
Jos. Alas! What can there be in common with the proud
And wealthy baron and the unknown Werner?
Gab. That you know best.
Jos. Or, if it were so, how
Come you to stir yourself in his behalf,
Rather than that of him whose life you saved?
Gab. I help'd to save him, as in peril: but
I did not pledge myself to serve him in
Oppression. I know well these nobles, and
Their thousand modes of trampling on the poor.
I have proved them; and my spirit boils up when
I find them practising against the weak:—
This is my only motive.
Jos. It would be
Not easy to persuade my consort of
Your good intentions.

Gab. Is he so suspicious?
Jos. He was not once; but time and troubles have
Made him what you behold.
Gab. I'm sorry for it.
Suspicion is a heavy armor, and
With its own weight impedes more than protects.
Good night! I trust to meet him at daybreak.
[Exit Gaberet.]

Re-enter Idenstein and some peasants. Josephine
retires up the Hall.
First Peasant. But if I'm droun'd?
Iden. Why, you will be well paid for't,
And have risk'd more than drowning for as much,
I doubt not.
Second Peasant. But our wives and families?
Iden. Cannot be worse of than they are, and may
Be better.
Third Peasant. I have neither, and will venture.
Iden. That's right. A gallant carle and fit to be
A soldier. I'll promote you to the ranks
In the prince's body-guard—if you succeed;
And you shall have besides in sparkling coin
Two thalers.
Third Peasant. No more!
Iden. Out upon your avarice!
Can that low vice alloy so much ambition?
I tell thee, follow, that two thalers in
Small change will subdivide into a treasure.
Do not five hundred thousand heroes daily
Rise and souls for the tiche of one thaler?
When had you half the sum?
Third Peasant. Never—but ne'er
The loss I must have three.
Iden. Have you forgot
Whose vassal you were born, knave?
Third Peasant. No—the prince's,
And not the stranger's.
Iden. Sirrah! in the prince's
Absence, I am sovereign: and the baron is
My intimate connexion:—"Cousin Idenstein
(Quoth he) you'll order out a dozen villains."
And so, you villains! troop—march—march, I say.
And if a single dog's-ear of this packet
Be sprinkled by the Oder—look to it!
For every page of paper shall a hide
Of yours be stretch'd as parchment on a drum,
Like Ziska's skin, to beat alarm to all
Refractory vassals, who can not effect
Impossibilities—away, ye earth-worms!
Jos. (coming forward.) I fain would shun these
scenes, too oft repeated,
Of feudal tyranny o'er petty victims;
I cannot aid, and will not witness such.
Even here, in this remote, unnamed, dull spot,
The dimnest in the district's map, exist
The insolence of wealth in poverty
O'er something poorer still—the pride of rank
In servitude, o'er something still more servile,
And vice in misery affecting still
A tatter'd splendor. What a state of being!
In Tuscany my own dear sunny land,
Our nobles were but citizens and merchants,
Like Cosmo. We had evils, but not such
As these; and our all-ripe and gushing valleys
Made poverty more cheerful, where each herb
Was in itself a meal, and every vine
Rain'd, as it were, the beverage which makes glad
The heart of man; and the ne'er unfelt sun
But rarely clouded, and when clouded, leaving
His warmth behind in memory of his beams)
Makes the worn mantle, and the thin robe, less
Oppressive than an emperor's jewell'd purple.
But, here! the deserts of the north appear
To imitate the ice-wind of their clime,
Searching the shivering vassal through his rags,
To wring his soul—as the bleak elements
His form. And 'tis to be among these sovereigns
My husband pants! and such his pride of birth—
That twenty years of usage, such as no
Father born in a humble state could nerve
His soul to persecute a son withal,
Hath changed no atom of his early nature; But I, born nobly also; from my father's
Kindness was taught a different lesson. Father!
May thy long-tried and now rewarded spirit
Look down on us and our so long desired
Ulrich! I love my son, as thou didst me!
What's that? Thou, Werner! can it be? and thus?

Enter Werner hastily, with the knife in his hand,
by the secret panel, which he closes hurriedly
after him.

Wer. (not at first recognising her.) Discover'd! I
then I'll stab——(recognising her.)

Ah! Josephine,
Why art thou not at rest?
What doth this mean?
Wer. (showing a rouleau.) Here's gold—gold,
Josephine,
Will rescue us from this detested dungeon.
Jos. And how obtain'd?—that knife!
Wer. 'Tis bloodless—yet.
Away—we must to our chamber.
Jos. But whence comest thou?
Wer. Ask not! but let us think where we shall go—
This—this will make us way—(showing the gold—)
I'll fit them now.
Jos. I dare not think thee guilty of dishonesty.
Wer. Dishonor!
Jos. I have said it.
Wer. Let us hence;
'Tis the last night, I trust, that we need pass here.
Jos. And not the worst, I hope.
Wer. Hope! I make sure.
But let us to our chamber.
Jos. Yet one question—
What hast thou done?
Wer. (fiercely.) Left one thing undone, which
Had made all well: let me not think of it!
Away
Jos. Alas, that I should doubt of thee! 

ACT II.

SCENE I.

A Hall in the same Palace.

Enter Idenstein and Others.

Iden. Fine doings! goodly doings! honest doings:
A baron pillaged in a prince's palace!

Where, till this hour, such a sin ne'er was heard of.
Fritz. It hardly could, unless the rats despoil'd
The mice of a few shreds of tapestry.
Iden. Oh! that I o'er should live to see this day
The honor of our city's gone for ever.
Fritz. Well, but now to discover the delinquent
The baron is determined not to lose
This sum without a search.
Iden. And so am I.
Fritz. But whom do you suspect?
Iden. Suspect! all people
Without—within—above—below—Heaven help me!
Fritz. Is there no other entrance to the chamber?
Iden. None whatsoever.
Fritz. Are you sure of that?
Iden. Certain. I have lived and served here since
my birth,
And if there were such, must have heard of such,
Or seen it.
Fritz. Then it must be some one who
Had access to the antechamber.
Iden. Doubtless.
Fritz. The man call'd Werner's poor!
Iden. Poor as a miser,
But lodged so far off, in the other wing,
By which there's no communication with
The baron's chamber, that it can't be he.
Besides, I bade him "good night." in the hall,
Almost a mile off, and which only leads
To his own apartment, about the same time
When this burglarious, larcenous felony
Appears to have been committed.
Fritz. There's another
The stranger—
Iden. The Hungarian?
Fritz. He who help'd
To fish the baron from the Oder.
Iden. Not
Unlikely. But, hold—might it not have been
One of the suite?
Fritz. How? We, sir!
Iden. No—not you,
But some of the inferior knaves. You say
The baron was asleep in the great chair—
The velvet chair—in his embroid'rd night-gown,
His toilet spread before him, and upon it
A cabinet with letters, papers, and
Several rouleaux of gold: of which one only
Has disappear'd—the door unbol'd, with
No difficult access to any.
Fritz. Good sir,
Be not so quick; the honor of the corps
Which forms the baron's household's unimpeach'd
From steward to scullion, save in the fair way
Of peculation; such as in accomp'ts,
Weights, meausr's, larder, cellar, buttery,
Where all men take their prey; as also in
Postage of letters, gathering of rents,
Purveying feasts, and understanding with
The honest trades who furnish noble masters
But for your petty, picking, downright thievry.
We scorn as we do board-wages. Then
Had one of our folks done it, he would not
Have been so poor a spirit as to hazard
His neck for one rouleau, but have sweep'd all;
Also the cabinet, if portable.
Iden. There is some sense in that—
Fritz No, sir, be sure
'Twas none of our corps; but some petty, trivial
WERNER.

Picker and stealer, without art or genius. The only question is—Who else could have Access, save the Hungarian and yourself? Iden. You don’t mean me? Fritz. No, sir; I honor more Your talents— Iden. And my principles, I hope. Fritz. Of course. But to the point: What’s to be done? Iden. Nothing—but there’s a good deal to be said. We’ll offer a reward; move heaven and earth, And the police, (though there’s none nearer than Frankfort;) post notices in manuscript, (For we’ve no printer;) and set by my clerk To read them, (for few can, save he and I.) We’ll send out villains to strip beggars, and, Search empty pockets; also, to arrest All gipsies, and ill-clothed and sallow people. Prisoners we’ll have at least; if not the culprit; And for the baron’s gold—if ‘tis not found, At least we shall have the full satisfaction Of melting twice its substance in the raising Of the ghost of this roulée. Here’s alchemy For your lord’s losses! Fritz. He hath found a better. Iden. Where? Fritz. It is a most immense inheritance. The late Count Siegendorf, his distant kinsman, Is dead near Prague, in his castle, and my lord Is on his way to take possession. Iden. Was there No heir? Fritz. Oh, yes; but he has disappear’d Long from the world’s eye, and perhaps the world. A prodigal son, beneath his father’s ban For the last twenty years; for whom his sire Refused to kill the fattened calf; and, therefore, If living, he must chew the husks still. But The baron would find means to silence him, Were he to reappear; he’s politic, And has much influence with a certain court. Iden. He’s fortunate. Fritz. ‘Tis true, there is a grandson, Whom the late count reclaim’d from his son’s hands, And educated as his heir; but then His birth is doubtful. Iden. How so? Fritz. His sire made A left-hand, love, impudent sort of marriage, With an Italian exile’s dark-eyed daughter: Noble, they say, too; but no match for such A house as Siegendorf’s. The grandsire ill Could brook the alliance; and could ne’er be brought To see the parents, though he took the son. Iden. If he’s a lad of mettle, he may yet. Dispute your claim, and weave a web that may Puzzle your baron to unravel. Fritz. Why, For mettle, he has quite enough: they say, He forms a happy mixture of his sire And grand sire’s qualities,—impetuous as The former, and deep as the latter; but The strangest is, that he too disappear’d Some months ago. Iden. The devil he did! Fritz. Why, yes: It must have been at his suggestion, at An hour so critical as was the eve Of the old man’s death, whose heart was broken by it. Iden. Was there no cause assign’d? Fritz. Plenty, no doubt. And none perhaps the true one. Some aver’d It was to seek his parents; some because The old man held his spirit in so strictly, (But that could scarce be, for he doted on him;) A third believed he wish’d to serve in war, But peace being made soon after his departure, He might have since return’d were that the motive A fourth set charitably have surmised, As there was something strange and mystical in him That in the wild exuberance of his nature He had join’d the black bands, who lay waste Lyæus The mountains of Bohemia and Silesia, Since the last years of war had dwindled into A kind of general condottiere system Of bandit warfare; each troop with its chief, And all against mankind. Iden. That cannot be. A young heir, bred to wealth and luxury, To risk his life and honors with disbanded Soldiers and desperadoes! Fritz. Heaven best known! But there are human natures so allied Unto the savage love of enterprise, That they will seek for peril as a pleasure. I’ve heard that nothing can reclaim your Indian, Or tame the tiger, though their infancy Were fed on milk and honey. After all, Your Wallenstein, your Tilly and Gustavus, Your Bannier, and your Torstenson and Weimar, Were but the same thing upon a grand scale; And now that they are gone, and peace proclaim’d, They who would follow the same pastime must Pursue it on their own account. Here comes The baron, and the Saxon stranger, who Was his chief aid in yesterday’s escape, But did not leave the cottage by the Oder Until this morning. Enter STRALENHEIM and ULRIG. Stral. Since you have refused All compensation, gentle stranger, save Inadequate thanks, you almost check even: Making me feel the worthlessness of words, And blush at my own barren gratitude, They seem so niggardly compared with what Your courteous courage did in my behalf— Ulr. I pray you press the theme no further. Stral. But Can I not serve you? You are young, and of That mould which throws out heroes; fair in favor Brave, I know, by my living now to say so; And doubtless, with such a form and heart, Would look into the fiery eyes of war; As ardently for glory as you dare An obscure death to save an unknown stranger In an as perilous, but opposite element. You are made for the service: I have served; Have rank by birth and soldiership, and friends Who shall be yours. ’Tis true this pause of peace Favors such views at present scantily; But ’twill not last, men’s spirits are too stirring: And, after thirty years of conflict, peace Is but a petty war, as the times show us In every forest, or a mere arm’d truce. War will reclaim his own; and, in the meantime You might obtain a post, which would ensure A higher soon, and, by my influence, fail not
BYRON'S WORKS.

To rise. I speak of Brandenburg, wherein I stand well with the elector; in Bohemia, like you, I am a stranger, and we are now upon its frontier.

Ulr. You perceive my garb is Saxon, and of course my service due to my own sovereign. If I must decline your offer, 'tis with the same feeling which induced it.

Stral. Why, this is mere usury!

I owe my life to you, and you refuse the acquittance of the interest of the debt, to heap more obligations on me, till I bow beneath them.

Ulr. I claim the payment.

Stral. You shall say so when you are nobly born?

Ulr. I have heard my kinsmen say so.

Stral. Your actions show it. Might I ask your name?

Ulr. Uriel.

Stral. Your house's?

Ulr. When I'm worthy of it, I'll answer you.

Stral. (aside.) Most probably an Austrian, whom these unsettled times forbid to boast his lineage on these wild and dangerous frontiers, where the name of his country is abhor'd.

[Aloud to Fritz and Idenstein.]

So, sirs! how have ye sped in your researches?

Iden. Indifferent well, your excellency.

Stral. Then I am to deem the plunderer is caught?

Iden. Humph!—not exactly.

Stral. Or at least suspected!

Iden. Oh! for that matter, very much suspected.

Stral. Who may he be?

Iden. Why, don't you know, my lord?

Stral. How should I? I was fast asleep.

Iden. And so was I, and that's the cause I know no more than does your excellency.

Stral. (to Fritz.) Prithee, Fritz, inform me what hath been, done to trace the fellow?

Fritz. Faith! My lord, not much as yet, except conjecture.

Stral. Besides the loss, (which, I must own, affects me) just now, I understand, I needs would find the villain out of public motives; for so dexterous a spoiler, who could creep through my attendants, and so many people and lighted chambers, on my rest, and snatch the gold before my scarse-closed eyes, would soon leave bare your borough, Sir Intendant!

Iden. True

If there were aught to carry off, my lord.

Ulr. What is all this?

Stral. You join'd us but this mornig, and have not heard that I was robb'd last night.

Ulr. Some rumor of it reach'd me as I pass'd the outer chambers of the palace, but I know no further.

Stral. It is a strange business: the intendant can inform you of the facts.

Iden. Most willingly. You see—

Stral. (impatiently.) Defer your tale till certain of the hearer's patience.

Iden. That can only be approved by proofs. You see—

Stral. (again interrupting him, and addressing Ulric.) In short, I was asleep upon a chair my cabinet before me, with some gold. Upon it, (more than I much like to lose, though in part only;) some ingenious person contrived to glide through all my own attendants, besides those of the palace, and bore away a hundred golden ducats, which to find I would be fain, and there's an end. Perhaps you (as I still am rather faint) would add to yesterday's great obligation, this, though slighter, yet not slight, to aid these men (who seem but lukewarm in recovering it?) Ulr. Most willingly, and without loss of time—

(Iden.) Come hither, mybmheur!

Iden. But so much haste bodet the Right little speed, and—

Ulr. Standing motionless

None; so let's march: we'll talk as we go on.

Iden. But—

Ulr. Show the spot, and then I'll answer you.

Fritz. I will, sir, with his excellency's leave.

Stral. Do so, and take you old ass with you.


Stral. (solus.) A stalwart, active, soldier-looking stripling, handsome as Hercules ere his first labor, and with a brow of thought beyond his years. When in repose, till his eye kindles up in answering yours. I wish I could engage him. I have need of some such spirits near me now, for this inheritance is worth a struggle. And though I am not the man to yield without one, neither are they who now rise up between me and my desire. The boy, they say, 's a bold one; but he hath play'd the truant in some hour of freakish folly, leaving fortune to champion his claims. That's well. The father whom for years I've track'd, as does the bloodhound, new! In sight, but constantly in scent, had put me to fault: but here I have him, and that's better. It must be he! All circumstance proclaims it; and careless voices, knowing not the cause of my inquiries, still confirm it—'Yes! The man, his bearing, and the mystery of his arrival, and the time; the account, too. The intendant gave (for I have not beheld her) of his wife's dignified but foreign aspect; besides the antipathy with which we met, as snakes and lions shrink back from each other, by secret instinct that both must be foes. Deadly, without being natural prey to either;
All—all—confirm it to my mind. However, We'll grapple, n'ertheless. In a few hours, The order comes from Frankfort, if these waters Rise not the higher, (and the weather favors Their quick abatement,) and I'll have him safe Within a dungeon, where he may avouch His real estate and name; and there's no harm done, Should he prove other than I deem. This robbery (Save for the actual loss) is lucky also: He's poor, and that's suspicious—he's unknown, And that's defenseless.—True, we have no proofs Of guilt, but what hath he of innocence? Were he a man indifferent to my prospects, In other bearings, I should rather lay The inculpation on the Hungarian, who Hath something which I like not; and alone Of all around, except the intendant, and The prince's household and my own, had ingress Familiar to the chamber.

Enter Gabor.

Friend, how fare you? Gab As those who fare well everywhere, when they Have sapp'd and slumber'd, no great matter how— And you, my lord? Stcg]. Better in rest than purse: Mine inn is like to cost me dear. Gab. I heard Of your late loss; but 'tis a trifle to One of your order. Stral. You would hardly think so. Gab. I never had so much (At once) in my whole life, and therefore am not Fit to decide. But I came here to see you. Your couriers are turn'd back— I have outstript then,

In my return. Stral. You!—Why? Gab. I went at daybreak, To watch for the abatement of the river, As being anxious to resume my journey. Your messengers were all check'd like myself; And, seeing the case hopeless, I await The current's pleasure. Stral. Would the dogs were in it! Why did they not, at least, attempt the passage? I order'd this at all risks. Gab. Could you order The Oder to divide, as Moses did The Red Sea, (scarcely redder than the flood Of the swoln stream,) and be obey'd, perhaps They might have ventured. Stral. I must see to it: The knaves! the slaves!— but they shall smart for this. [Exit StralENHEIM. Gab. (solus.) There goes my noble, feudal, self-will'd baron!

Epitome of what brave chivalry The preux chevaliers of the good old times Have left us. Yesterday he would have given His lands, (if he hath any,) and, still dearer, His sixteen quarterings, for so much fresh air As would have filled a bladder, while he lay Sorgling and foaming half way through the window Of his o'eract and water-logg'd conveyance: An I now he storms at half a dozen wretches Because they love their lives too! Yet, he's right!

'Tis strange they should, when such as he may put them To hazard at his pleasure. Oh! thou world! Thou art indeed a melancholy jest! [Exit Gabor.

SCENE II.

The Apartment of Werner, in the Palace.

Enter Josephine and Ulric.

Jos. Stand back, and let me look at thee again! My Ulrie!—my beloved!—can it be— After twelve years? Ulr. My dearest mother! Jos. Yes! My dream is realized—how beautiful! How more than all I sigh'd for! Heaven receive A mother's thanks!—a mother's tears of joy! This is indeed thy work!—At such an hour, too, He comes not only as a son, but savior. Ulr. If such a joy await me, it must double What I now feel, and lighten from my heart A part of the long debt of duty, not Of love (for that was ne'er withheld)—forgive me! This long delay was not my fault. Jos. I know it. But cannot think of sorrow now, and doubt If I e'er felt it, 'tis so dazzled from My memory, by this oblivious transport! My son!

Enter Werner. Wer. What have we here, more strangers? Jos. Look upon him! What do you see? Wer. A stripling, For the first time— Ulr. (kneeling.) For twelve long years, my father Wer. Oh, God! Jos. He faints! Wer. Ulr. (Embraces him.) Ulr. My father, Siegendorf! Wer. (starting.) Hush! boy— The walls may hear that name! Ulr. What then? Wer. Why, then,— But we will talk of that anon. Remember, I must be known here but as Werner. Come! Come to my arms again! Why, thou look'st all I should have been, and was not. Josephine! Sure 'tis no father's fondness dazzles me; But had I seen that form amid ten thousand Youth of the choicest, my heart would have chosen This for my son!

Ulr. And yet you knew me not! Wer. Alas! I have had that upon my soul Which makes me look on all men with an eye That only knows the evil at first glance. Ulr. My memory served me far more fondly; I have not forgotten aught; and oftentimes In the proud and princely halls of—(I'll not name them, As you say that 'tis perilous)—but! the pomp Of your sire's feudal mansion, I look'd back To the Bohemian mountains many a sunset, And wept to see another day go down O'er thee and me, with those huge hills between us They shall not part us more. Wer. I know not that Are you aware my father is no more?
Ulr. Oh heavens! I left him in a green old age, And looking like the oak, worn but still steady Amidst the elements, whilst younger trees Fell fast around him. 'Twas scarce three months since.

Wer. Why did you leave him?
Jos. (embracing Ulric.) Can you ask that question?

Is he not here?

Wer. True; he hath sought his parents, And found them; but, oh! how, and in what state Ulric. All shall be better'd. What have we to do is to proceed, and to assert our rights, Or rather yours; for I waive all, unless Your father has disposed in such a sort Of his broad lands as to make mine the foremost, So that I must prefer my claim for form: But I trust better, and that all is yours.

Wer. Have you not heard of Stralenheim?

Ulr. I saved

His life but yesterday: he's here.

Wer. You saved The serpent who will sting us all!

Ulr. You speak

Riddles: what is this Stralenheim to us?

Wer. Every thing. One who claims our father's lands:

Our distant kinsman, and our nearest foe.

Ulr. I never heard his name till now. The count Indeed, spoke sometimes of a kinsman, who, If his own line should fail, might be remotely Involved in the succession; but his titles Were never named before me—and what then? His right must yield to ours.

Wer. Ay, if at Prague:
But here he is all-powerful; and has spread snares for thy father, which, if hitherto He hath escaped them, is by fortune, not By favor.

Ulr. Doth he personally know you?
Wer. No; but he guesses shrewdly at my person, As he betray'd last night; and I, perhaps; But owe my temporary liberty To his uncertainty.

I think you wrong him, (Excuse me for the phrase;) but Stralenheim Is not what you prejudge him, or, if so, He owes me something both for past and present I saved his life, he therefore trusts in me. He hath been plunder'd too, since he came hither: Is sick; a stranger; and as such not now Able to trace the villain who hath robb'd him: I have pledged myself to do so; and the business Which brought me here was chiefly that: but I Have found, in searching for another's dross, My own whole treasure—you, my parents! 

Wer. (agitatedly.) Who Taught you to mouth that name of "villain"?

Ulr. What

More noble name belongs to common thieves? Wer. Who taught you thus to brand an unknown being With an infernal stigma?

Ulr. My own feelings

Taught me to name a ruffian from his deeds.

Wer. Who taught you, long-sought and ill-found Ulric boy! that It would be safe for my own son to insult me?

Ulr. I named a villain. What is there in common

With such a being and my father?

Wer. That ruffian is thy father!

Jos. Oh, my son! Believe him not—and yet!—(her voice faltered.)

Ulr. (starts, looks earnestly at Werner, and then says slowly) And you avow it?

Wer. Ulric, before you dare despise your father, Learn to divine and judge his actions. Young, Rash, new to life, and rear'd in luxury's lap, Is it for you to measure passion's force, Or misery's temptation? Wait—(not long, It cometh like the night, and quickly)—Wait.— Wait till, like me, your hopes are blighted—till Sorrow and shame are handmaids of your cabin, Famine and poverty your guests at table; Despair your bedfellow—then rise, but not From sleep, and judge! should that day ever arrive— Should you see then the serpent, who hath coiled Himself around all that is dear and noble Of you and yours, lie slumbering in your path, With but a few folds between your steps and happiness, When â£, who lives but to tear from you name, Lands, life itself, lies at your mercy, with Chance your conductor; midnight for your mantle; The bare knife in your hand, and earth asleep, Even to your deadliest foe; and he as 'twere Inviting death, by looking like it while His death alone can save you:—Thank your God! If then, like me, content with petty plunder, You turn aside—I did so.

Ulr. (abruptly.) But—

Wer. (outragedly.) Hear me! I will not brook a human voice—scarce dare Listen to my own (if that be human still)— Hear me! you do not know this man—I do. He's mean, deceitful, avaricious. You Deem yourself safe, as young and brave; but learn None are secure from desperation, few From subtlety. My worst foe, Stralenheim, Haunted a prince's palace, couch'd within A prince's chamber, lay below my knife! An instant—a mere motion—the least impulse Had swept him all and fears of mine from earth. He was within my power—my knife was raised Withdrawn—and I'm in his:—are you not so? Who tells you that he knows you not? Who says He hath not lure you here to end you? or To plunge you, with your parents, in a dungeon?

[He pauses.]

Ulr. Proceed—proceed! 

Wer. Me he hath ever known And hunted through each change of time—name— fortune.

And why not you? Are you more versed in men? He wound snakes round me; flung along my path Reptiles, whom, in my youth I would have spurn'd, Even from my presence; but, in spurrying now, Fill only with fresh venom. Will you be

More patient? Ulric! Ulric!—there are crimes Made venial by the occasion, and temptations Which nature cannot master or forbear.

Ulr. (looks first at him, and then at Josephine.)

My mother!

Wer. Ay! I thought so: you have now Only one parent. I have lost alike Father and son, and stand alone.

Ulr. But stay!

[Wer. Werner rushes out of the chamber]
Jos. (to Ulric.) Follow him not until this storm
of passion
Abates. Think'st thou, that were it well for him,
I had not follow'd?

Ulr. I obey you, mother,
Although reluctantly. My first act shall not
Be one of disobedience.

Jos. Oh! he is 'good'!
Condemn him not from his own mouth, but trust
To me, who have borne so much with him for and for him,
That this is but the surface of his soul,
And that the depth is rich in better things.

Ulr. These then are but my father's principles?

Jos. Nor doth he
Think as he speaks. Alas! long years of grief
Have made him sometimes thus.

Ulr. Explain to me
More clearly, then, these claims of Stralenheim,
That, when I see the subject in its bearings,
I may prepare to face him, or at least
To extricate you from your present peril.

Jos. I pledge myself to accomplish this—but would
I had arriv'd a few hours sooner!

Jos. Ay!
Hadst thou but done so!

Enter Gabor and Idenstein, with Attendants.

Gab. (to Ulric.) I have sought you, comrade.

Jos. (to Idenstein.) But for your age and folly, I would—

Iden. Help!
Hands off! Touch an intendant!

Gab. Do not think
I'll honor you so much as to save your throat
From the Ravenstone* by chok'ng you myself.

Iden. Thank you for the respite; but there are
Those who have greater need of it than me.

Ulr. Unriddle this vile wrangling, or—

Gab. At once, then,
The baron has been rob'bd, and upon me
This worthy personage has deign'ed to fix
His kind suspicions—me! whom he ne'er saw
Till yester evening.

Iden. Wouldst you have me suspect
My own acquaintance? You have to learn
That I keep better company.

Gab. You shall
Keep the best short'ly, and the last for all men,
The worms! you hound of malice!

[Gabor seizes on him.]

Ulr. (interfering.) Nay, no violence:
He's old, unarm'd—be temperate, Gabor!

Gab. (letting go Idenstein.) True:
I am a fool to lose myself because
Fools deem me knave: it is their homage.

Ulr. (to Idenstein.) How

I'd fear you?

Iden. Help!

Ulr. I have help'd you.

Iden. Kill him! then
I'll say w.

Gab. I am calm—live on!

The Ravenstone, "Ravenstein," is the stone gibbet of Germany, and so
called from the raven perching on it.

Iden. That's more
Than you shall do, if there be judge or judgment
In Germany. The baron shall decide!

Gab. Does he abet you in your accusation?

Iden. Does he not?

Gab. Then next time let him go sink
 Ere I go hang for snatch'ng him from drowning
But here he comes!

Enter Stralenheim.

Gab. (goes up to him.) My noble lord, I'm here.

Stral. Well, sir!

Gab. Have you sought with me?

Stral. What should I
Have with you?

Gab. You know best, if yesterday's
Flood has not wash'd away your memory;
But that's a trifle. I stand here accused,
In phrases not equivocal, by you
Intendant, of the pillage of your person
Or chamber—is the charge your own or his?

Stral. I accuse no man.

Gab. Then you acquit me, baron!

Stral. I know not whom to accuse, or to acquit,
Or scarcely to suspect.

Gab. But you at least
Should know whom not to suspect. I am insulted—
Oppress'd here by these menials, and I look
To you for remedy—teach them their duty!
To look for thieves at home were part of it,
If duly taught; but, in one word, if I
Have an accuse, let it be a man
Worthy to be so of a man like me.

I am your equal.

Stral. You!

Gab. Ay, sir; and, for
Aught that you know, superior; but proceed—
I do not ask for hints, and surmises,
And circumstance, and proofs; I know enough
Of what I have done for you, and what you owe me.
To have at least waited your payment rather
Than paid myself, had I been eager of
Your gold. I also know that were I even
The villain I am deem'd, the service render'd
So recently would not permit you to
Pursue me to the death, except through shame,
Such as would leave your scutcheon but a blank.

But this is nothing; I demand of you
Justice upon your unjust servants, and
From your own lips a disavowal of
All sanction of their insolence: thus much
You owe to the unknown, who asks no more,
And never thought to have ask'd so much.

Stral. This topic
May be of innocence.

Gab. 'Sdeath! who dare doubt it
Except such villains as ne'er had it?

Stral. You
Are hot, sir.

Gab. Must I turn an icicle.
Before the breath of menials, and their master?

Stral. Ulric! you know this man; I found him in
Your company.

Gab. We found you in the Oder
Would we had left you there!

Stral. I give you thanks, sir.

Gab. I've earn'd them; but might have earn'd
More from others,
Perchance, if I had left you to your fate.
Stras. Ulric! you know this man?
Gab. No more than you do.
Ulric. If he avouches not my honor.
Stras. I am satisfied.
Gab. (Ironically.) Right easily, methinks. What is the spell in his asseveration?
Stras. More than in mine?
Gab. I merely said that I was satisfied—not that you were absolved.
Stras. I'm sure.
Gab. (Again! Am I accused or no?)
Stras. (to Josephine.) Who's safe?
Gab. (interrupting her with a stern look, and turning afterwards to Stralenheim.) Both.
Stras. What hath caused all this?
Gab. (talking his sword.) They shall. You have wrong'd me, Ulric,
More with your unknown thoughts than sword; I would
The last were in my bosom rather than
The first in yours. I could have borne you noble's
Absurd insinuations—ignorance
And dull suspicion are a part of his
Entail will last him longer than his lands.—
But I may fit him yet:—you have vanquish'd me.
I was the fool of passion to conceive
That I could cope with you, whom I had seen
Already proved by greater perils than
Rest in this arm. We may meet by and by,
However—but in friendship. [Exit Gabo.
Stras. I will brook
No more! This outrage following up his insults,
Perhaps his guilt, has cancell'd all the little
I owed him heretofore for the so-vaunted
Aid which he added to your abler succor.
Ulric, you are not hurt?
Stras. Not even by a scratch.
Stras. (to Idenstein.) Intendant take your measures to secure
You know: I revoke my former lenity.
He shall be sent to Frankfort with an escort
The instant that the waters have abated.
Iden. Secure him! he hath got his sword again—
And seems to know the use on't; 'tis his trade,
Belike;—I'm a civilian.
Stras. Fool! are not
You score of vassals dogging at your heels
Enough to seize a dozen such? Hence! after him
Ulr. Baron, I do beseech you!
Stras. I must be
Obey'd. No words!
Iden. Well, if it must be so—
March, vassals! I'm your leader, and will bring
The rear up: a wise general never should
Expose his precious life—on which all rests.
I like that article of war. [Exit Idenstein and Attendants
Stras. Come hither,
Ulric: what does that woman here? Oh! now
I recognize her, 'tis the stranger's wife
Whom they name "Werner."
Stras. 'Tis his name.
Indeed.
is not your husband visible, fair dame? —
Jos. Who seeks him?
Stral. No one—for the present: but
I fain would parley, Ulric, with yourself
Alone.
Ulr. I will retire with you.
Jos. Not so;
You are the latest stranger, and command
All places here.
(Aside to Ulric as she goes out.) O Ulric! have a care—
Remember what depends on a rash word!
(Ulr to Josephine.)
Fear not!—
[Exit Josephine.]
Stral. Ulric, I think that I may trust you:
You saved my life—and acts like these beget
Unbounded confidence.
Ulr. Say on.
Stral. Mysterious
And long-engender'd circumstances (not
To be now fully enter'd on) have made
This man obnoxious—perhaps fatal to me.
Ulr. Who? Gabor, the Hungarian?
Stral. No—this "Werner"—
With the false name and habit.
Ulr. How can this be?
He is the poorest of the poor—and yellow
Sickness sits cavern'd in his hollow eye:
The man is helpless.
Stral. He is—tis no matter;—
But if he be the man I deem (and that
He is so, all around us here—and much
That is not here—confirm my apprehension)
He must be made secure ere twelve hours further.
Ulr. And what have I to do with this?
Stral. I have sent
To Frankfort, to the governor, my friend,
(I have the authority to do so by
An order of the house of Brandenburg,)
For a fit escort—but this cursed flood
Bars all access, and may do for some hours.
Ulr. It is abating.
Stral. That is well.
But how
Am I concern'd?
Stral. As one who did so much
For me, you cannot be indifferent to
That which is of more import to me than
The life you rescued.—Keep your eye on him!
The man avoids me, knows that I now know him.—
Watch him!—as you would watch the wild boar
when
He makes against you in the hunter's gap—
Like him he must be spear'd.
Ulr. Why so?
Stral. He stands
Between me and a brave inheritance!
Oh, could you see it! But you shall.
Ulr. I hope so.
Stral. It is the richest of the rich Bohemia,
Unsearched by searching war. It lies so near
The strongest city, Prague, that fire and sword
Have skim'd it lightly: so that now, besides
Its own exuberance, it bears double value
Confronted with whole realms afar and near
Made deserts.
Ulr. You describe it faithfully.
Stral. Ay—could you see it, you would say so—
but,
As I have said, you shall.
Ulr. I accept the amen
Stral. Then claim a recompense from it and me,
Such as both may make worthy your acceptance
And services to me and mine for ever.
Ulr. And this sole, sick, and miserable wretch—
This way-worn stranger—stands between you and
This Paradise?—(As Adam did between
The devil and his)—[Aside.]
Stral. He doth.
Ulr. Hath he no right?
Stral. Right! none. A disinherited prodigal,
Who for these twenty years disgraced his lineage
In all his acts—But chiefly by his marriage,
And living amidst commerce-fetching burghers,
And dabbling merchants, in a mart of Jews.
Ulr. He has a wife, then?
Stral. You'd be sorry to
Call such your mother. You have seen the woman
He calls his wife.
Ulr. Is she not so?
Stral. No more
Than he's your father—an Italian girl,
The daughter of a banish'd man, who lives
On love and poverty with this same Werner.
Ulr. They are childless, then?
Stral. There is or was a bastard,
Whom the old man—the grandsire (as old age
Is ever doting) took to warm his bosom
As it went chillly downward to the grave:
But the imp stands not in my path—he has fled
No one knows whither; and if he had not,
His claims alone were too contemptible
To stand.—Why do you smile?
Ulr. At your vain fears
A poor man almost in his grasp—a child
Of doubtful birth—can startle a grandee!
Stral. All's to be fear'd, where all is to be gain'd.
Ulr. True; and aught done to save or to obtain it
Stral. You have harp'd the very string next to my
heart.
I may depend upon you?
Ulr. "Twere too late
To doubt it.
Stral. Let no foolish pity shake
Your bosom (for the appearance of the man
Is pitiful)—he is a wretch, as likely
To have robb'd me as the fellow more suspected,
Except that circumstance is less against him,
He being far off, and in a chamber
Without approach to mine: and, to say truth,
I think too well of blood allied to mine,
To deem he would descend to such an act.
Besides he was a soldier, and a brave one
Once—though too rash.
Ulr. And they, my lord, we know
By our experience never plunder till
They knock the brains out first—which makes them
heirs,
Not thieves. The dead, who feel nought, can lose
nothing,
Nor e'er be robb'd: their spoils are a bequest
No more.
Stral. Go to! you are a wag. But say
I may be sure you'll keep an eye on this man,
And let me know his slightest movement towards
Concealment or escape?
Ulr. You may be sure
You yourself could no watch him more than I
A Hall in the same Palace, from whence the secret Passage leads.

Enter Werner and Gabor.

GAB. Sir, I have told my tale: if it so please you
To give me refuge for a few hours—well—
If not, I'll try my fortune elsewhere.

WER. How can I, so wretched, give to misery
A shelter—wanting such myself as much
As e'er the hunted deer a covert—
GAB. Or the wounded lion his cool cave. Methinks
You rather look like one would turn at bay,
And rip the hunter's entrails.

WER. Why?
GAB. I care not
If it be so, being much disposed to do
The same myself. But will you shelter me?
I am oppress'd like you—and poor like you—
Disgraced—
WER. (abruptly.) Who told you that I was disgraced?
GAB. No one; nor did I say you were so: with
Your poverty my likeness ended; but
I said I was so—and would add, with truth,
As undeservedly as you.

WER. Again!

GAB. As I?
WER. —Or any other honest man,
What the devil would you have? You don't believe me
Guilty of this base theft?

GAB. Why that's my heart of honor: you young gallant—
Your miserly intendant and dense noble—
All—all suspected me; and why? because
I am the worst-clothed and least named among them;
Although, were Musus' lattice in our breasts,
My soul might brook to open it more widely
Than theirs: but thus it is—you poor and helpless—
Both still more than myself.

WER. How know you that?
GAB. You're right: I ask for shelter at the hand
Which I call helpless; if you now deny it,
I were well paid. But you, who seem to have proved
The wholesome bitterness of life, know well,
By sympathy, that all the outspread gold
Of the New World the Spaniard boasts about
Could never tempt the man who knows its worth,
Weigh'd at its proper value in the balance,
Save in such guise (and there I grant its power,
Because I feel it) as may leave no nightmare—
Upon his heart o' nights.

WER. What do you mean?

GAB. Just what I say; I thought my speech was plain:
You are no thief—nor I—and, as true men,
Should aid each other.

WER. It is a damned world, sir.
GAB. So is the nearest of the two next, as
The priests say, (and no doubt they should know best.)
Therefore I'll stick by this—as being loth
To suffer martyrdom, at least with such
An epitaph as larceny upon my tomtom.
It is but a night's lodging which I crave;
To-morrow I will try the waters, as
The dove did, trusting that they have abated.

WER. Abated? Is there hope of that?

GAB. There was At noontido.
WER. Then we may be safe.
GAB. Are you
In peril?
WER. Poverty is ever so.
GAB. That I know by long practice. Will you not
Promise to make mine less?
WER. Your poverty?
GAB. No—you don't look a leech: that disorder;
I meant my peril only: you've a roof,
And I have none; I merely seek a covert.

WER. Rightly: for how should such a wretch as I
Have gold?
GAB. Searce honestly, to say the truth can't,
Although I almost wish you had the baron's.
WER. Dare you insinuate?
GAB. What?
WER. Are you aware
To whom you speak?
GAB. No; and I am not used
Greatly to care. (A noise is heard within.) But
Hark! they come!

WER. Who come?
GAB. The intendant and his man-bounds after me:
I'd face them—but it were in vain to expect
Justice at hands like theirs. Whence shall I go?
But show me any place. I do assure you,
If there be faith in man, I am most guiltless
Think if it were your own case!

WER. (Aside.) Oh, just God!
Thy hell is not hereafter! Am I dust still?
GAB. I see you're moved; and it shows well in you:
I may live to requite it.

WER. Are you not
A spy of Stralenheim's?
GAB. Not I! and if
I were what, is there to espy in you?
Although I recollect his frequent question
About you and your spouse might lead to some
Suspicion; but you best know—what—and why
I am his deadliest foe.

WER. You?
GAB. After such
A treatment for the service which in part
I render'd him, I am his enemy:
If you are not his friend, you will assist me.
WER. I will
GAB. But how?
WER. (showing the panel.) There is a secret
spring:
Remember, I discover'd it by chance,
And used it but for safety.
WERNER.

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'Gab. Open it, and I will use it for the same.
Wer. As I have said: it leads through winding walls, (So thick as to bear paths within their ribs, Yet lose no jot of strength or stateliness,) And hollow cells, and obscure niches, to I know not whither; you must not advance: Give me your word.
Gab. It is unnecessary;
How should I make my way in darkness through A Gothic labyrinth of unknown windings?
Wer. Yes, but who knows to what place it may lead?
I know not—(mark you!)—but who knows it might not Lead even into the chambers of your foe? So strangely were contrived these galleries By our Teutonic fathers in old days, When man built less against the elements Than his next neighbor. You must not advance Beyond the two first windings; if you do, (Albeit I never pass'd them,) I'll not answer For what you may be led to.
Gab. But I will.
A thousand thanks!
Wer. You'll find the spring more obvious On the other side; and, when you would return, It yields to the least touch.
Gab. I'll in—farewell!
[GABIN goes in by the secret panel.
Wer. (solus,) What have I done? Alas! what had I done Before to make this fearful? Let it be Still some atonement that I save the man, Whose sacrifice had saved perhaps my own— They come! to seek elsewhere what is before them!

Enter Idenstein and Others.
Iden. Is he not here? He must have vanish'd then Through the dim gothic glass by pious aid Of pictured saints upon the red and yellow Casements, through which the sunset streams like sunrise On 10ug pearl-color'd beards and crimson crosses, And gilded croissers, and cross'd arms, and cowls, And helms, and twisted armor, and long swords, All the fantastic furniture of windows Dim with brave knights and holy hermits, whose Likeness and fame alike rest on some panes Of crystal, which each rattling wind proclaims As frail as any other life or glory.
He's gone, however.
Wer. Whom do you seek?
Iden. A villain.
Wer. Why need you come so far, then?
Iden. In the search Of him who robb'd the baron.
Wer. You have divined the man?
Iden. As sure as you Stand there: but where's he gone?
Wer. Who?
Iden. He we sought.
Wer. You see he is not here.
Iden. And yet we traced him Up to this hall. Are you accomplishes? Or deal you in the black art?
Wer. I deal plainly, To many men the blackest.
Iden. It may be I have a question or two for yourself Hereafter; but we must continue now Our search for t'other.
Wer. You had best begin Your inquisition now: I may not be So patient always.
Iden. I should like to know, In good sooth, if you really are the man That Stralenheim's in quest of.
Wer. Insolent! Said you not that he was not here?
Iden. Yes, we; But there's another whom he tracks more keenly And soon, it may be, with authority Both paramount to his and mine. But, come! Bustle, my boys! we are at fault.

[Exit Idenstein and Attendants.
Wer. In what A maze hath my dim destiny involved me! And one base sin hath done me less ill than The leaving undone one far greater. Down, Thou busy devil rising, in my heart! Thou art too late! I'll nought to do with blood.

Enter Ulric.
Ulr. I sought you, father.
Wer. Is't not dangerous?
Ulr. No; Stralenheim is ignorant of all Or any of the ties between us:— He sends me here a spy upon your actions, Deeming me wholly his.
Wer. I cannot think it: 'Tis but a snare he winds about us both, To swoop the sire and son at once.
Ulr. I cannot Pause at each petty fear, and stumble at The doubts that rise like briars in our path, But must break through them, as an unarm'd carse Would, though with naked limbs, were the wolf rustling In the same thicket where he hew'd for bread. Nets are for thrushes, eagles are not caught so We'll overfly or rend them.
Wer. Show me how.
Ulr. Can you not guess?
Wer. I cannot.
Ulr. That is strange Came the thought ne'er into your mind last night? Wer. I understand you not.
Ulr. Then we shall never More understand each other. But to change The topic—
Wer. You mean to pursue it, as 'Tis of our safety.
Ulr. Right; I stand corrected. I see the subject now more clearly, and Our general situation in its bearings. The waters are abating: a few hours Will bring his summons'd myrmidons from Frankfort, When you will be a prisoner, perhaps worse, And I an outcast, bastardized by practice Of this same baron to make way for him.
Wer. And now your remedy! I thought to escape By means of this accursed gold; but now I dare not use it, show it, scarce look on it Methinks it wears upon its face my guilt For motto, not the mintage of the state:
And, for the sovereign's head, my own begirt
With hissing snakes, which curl around my temples,
And cry to all beholders, Lo! a villain!
Ulr. You must not use it, at least now; but take
This ring.
Wer. A gem! It was my father's!
Ulr. And
As such is now your own. With this you must
Bide the intendant for his old caliche
And horses to pursue your route at sunrise,
Together with my mother.
Wer. And leave you,
So lately found, in peril too?
Ulr. Fear nothing!
The only fear were if we fled together,
For that would make our ties beyond all doubt.
The waters only lie in floods between
This burgh and Frankfort; so far's in our favor.
The route on to Bohemia, though encumbr'd,
Is not impassable; and when you gain
A few hours' start, the difficulties will be
The same to your pursuers. Once beyond
The frontier, and you're safe.
Wer. My noble boy!
Ulr. Hush! hush! no transports: we'll indulge
in them
In Castle Siegendorf! Display no gold:
Show Idenstein the gem, (I know the man,
And have look'd through him;) it will answer thus
A double purpose. Stralenheim lost gold—
No jewel: therefore it could not be his;
And then the man who was possesst of this
Can hardly be suspected of abstraciffin
The baron's coin, when he could thus convert
This ring to more than Stralenheim has lost
By his last night's slumber. Be not over timid
In your address, nor yet too arrogant,
And Idenstein will serve you.
Wer. I will follow
In all things your direction.
Ulr. I would have
Spared you the trouble; but had I appear'd
I'd take an interest in you, and still more
By dabbling with a jewel in your favor,
All had beer, known at once.
Wer. My guardian angel!
This overpays the past. But how wilt thou
Fare in our absence?
Ulr. Stralenheim knows nothing
Of me as aught of kindred with yourself.
I will but wait a day or two with him
To hull all doubts, and then rejoin my father.
Wer. To part no more!
Ulr. I know not that; but at
The least we'll meet again once more.
Wer. My boy!
My friend! my only child, and sole preserver!
Oh, do not hate me!
Ulr. Hate my father.
Wer. Ay,
My father hated me. Why not my son?
Ulr. Your father knew you not as I do.
Wer. Scorpions
Are in thy words! Thou know me? in this guise,
Thou canst not know me, I am not myself;
Yet (hate me not) I will be soon.
Wer. I'll wait!
In the meantime be sure that all a son
Can do for parents shall be done for mine.
Wer. I see it, and I feel it; yet I feel
Further—that you despise me.
Ulr. Wherefore should I
Wer. Must I repeat my humiliation?
Ulr. No!
I have fathom'd it and you. But let us talk
Of this no more. Or if it must be ever,
Not now. Your error has redoubled all
The present difficulties of our house,
At secret war with that of Stralenheim:
All we have now to think of is to baffle
Him. I have shown one way.
Wer. The only one,
And I embrace it, as I did my son,
Who show'd himself and father's safety in
One day.
Ulr. You shall be safe; let that suffice.
Would Stralenheim's appearance in Bohemia
Disturb your right, or mine, if once we were
Admitted to our lands?
Wer. Assuredly,
Situ'ate as we are now, although the first
Possessor might, as usual, prove the strongest,
Especially the next in blood.
Ulr. Blood; 'tis
A word of many meanings; in the veins
And out of them, it is a different thing—
And so it should be, when the same in blood
(As it is called) are aliens to each other,
Like Theban brethren: when a part is bad,
A few split ounces purify the rest.
Wer. I do not apprehend you.
Ulr. That may be—
And should, perhaps—and yet—but get ye ready
You and my mother must away to-night.
Here comes the intendant: sound him with the gem
'Twixt sink into his venial soul like lead
Into the deep, and bring up slime and mud,
And ooze too, from the bottom, as the lead doth
With its greased understratum; but no less
Will serve to warn our vessels through these shoals
The freight is rich, so heave the line in time!
Farewell! I scarce have time, but yet your hand,
My father—
Wer. Let me embrace thee!
Ulr. We may be
Observed: subdue your nature to the hour!
Keep off from me as from your foe!
Wer. Accursed
Be he who is the stifling cause which smothers
The best and sweetest feeling of our hearts;
At such an hour too!
Ulr. Yes, curse—it will ease you;
Here is the intendant.

Enter Idenstein.

Master Idenstein
How fare you in your purpose? Have you caught
The rogue?
Iden. No, faith!
Ulr. Well, there are plenty more
You may have better luck another chase.
Where is the baron?
Iden. Gone back to his chamber:
And now I think not, asking after you
With nobly-born impatience.
Ulr. Your great men
Must be answer'd on the instant, as the bound
Of the sting steed replies unto the spur:
Tis well: they have horses, too; for if they had not,
I fear that men must draw their chariots, as
They say kings did Sesostris.

I'd. Who was he?

Ulr. An old Bohemian—an imperial gipsy.

I'd. A gipsy or Bohemian, 'tis the same,
For they pass by both names. 'Was he one?

Ulr. I've heard so; but I must take leave. In-
tendant,

Your servant!—Werner, (to Werner slightly,) if
that be your name,

Yours. [Exeunt I'den.

I'den. A well-spoken, pretty-faced young man!
And prettily behaved! he knows his station,
You see, sir: how he gave to each his due
Precedence!

Wer. I perceived it, and applaud
His just discernment and your own.

I'den. That's well—
That's very well. You also know your place, too;
And yet, I don't know that I know your place.

Wer. (showing the ring.) Would this assist your
knowledge

I'den. How!—What!—I'gh! and a jewel!

Wer. 'Tis your own on one condition.

I'den. Mine!—Name it!

Wer. That hereafter you permit me
At thrice its value to redeem: 'tis
A family ring.

I'den. A family!—yours!—a gem! I'm
breathless!

Wer. You must also furnish me
An hour ere daybreak: let all means to quit
This place.

I'den. But is it real? Let me look on it.

Diamond, by all that's glorious!

Wer. Come! I'll trust you;
You have guess'd, no doubt, that I was born above
My present seeming.

I'den. I can't say I did,
Though this looks like it: this is the true breeding
Of gentle blood.

Wer. I have important reasons
For wishing to continue privately
My journey hence.

I'den. So then you are the man
Whom Stralheim's in quest of?

Wer. I am not;
But being taken for him might conduct
To much embarrassment to me just now,
And to the baron's self hereafter—'tis
To spare both that I would avoid, all bustle.

I'den. Be you the man or no, 'tis not my business;
Besides, I never should obtain the half
From this proud,iggardly noble, who would raise
The country for some missing bits of coin,
And, never offer a precise reward—
But this!—another look!

Wer. Gaze on it freely;
At day-dawn it is yours.

I'den. Oh, thou sweet sparkler!
Thou more than all the stones of philosophy!
Thou touchstone of Philosophy herself!
Thou bright eye of the Mind! thou loadstar of
The soul! the true magnetic Pole to which
All hearts point duly north, like trembling needles!
Thou flaming Spirit of the Earth! which, sitting
High on the monarch's diadem, attractest

More worship than the majesty who sweats
Beneath the crown which makes his head ache, like
Millions of hearts which bleed to lend it lustre;
Shalt thou be mine? I am, methinks, already
A little king, a lucky alchemist!—
A wise magician, who has bound the devil
Without the forfeit of his soul. But come,
Werner, or what else?

Wer. Call me Werner still;
You may yet know me by a loftier title.

I'den. I do believe in thee! thou art the spirit
Of whom I long have dream'd in a low garb.—
But come, I'll serve thee; thou shalt be as free
As air, despite the waters; let us hence:
I'll show thee I am honest!—(oh, thou jewel!)
Thou shalt be furnish'd, Werner, with such means
Of flight, that if 'tis worth a small, not birds
Should overtake thee. Let me gaze again:
I have a foster-brother in the mart
Of Hamburg skill'd in precious stones. How many
Carats may it weigh?—Come, Werner I will wing
thee.

[Exeunt]

SCENE II.

STRALENHEIM'S Chamber.

STRALENHEIM and FRITZ.

Frits. All's ready, my good lord!

Stral. I am not sleepy,
And yet I must to bed; I fain would say
To rest, but something heavy on my spirit,
Too dull for wakefulness, too quiet for slumber,
Sits on me as a cloud along the sky,
Which will not let the sunbeams through, nor yet
Descend in rain and end, but spreads itself
Twixt earth and heaven, like envy between man
And man, an everlasting mist;—I will
Unto my pillow.

Frits. May you rest there well!

Stral. I feel, and fear, I shall.

Frits. And wherefore fear?

Stral. I know not why, and therefore do fear more
Because an undescribable—but this
All folly. Were the locks (as I desired)
Changed, to-day, of this chamber? for last night's
Adventure makes it needful.

Frits. Certainly,
According to your order, and beneath
The inspection of myself and the young Saxon
Who saved your life. I think they call him "Ulr.

Stral. You think! you supercilious slave! what right
Have you to tax your memory, which should be
Quick, proud, and happy to retain the name
Of him who saved your master, as a litany
Whose daily repetition marks your duty.—
Get hence! "You think," indeed! you who stood
still
Howling and dripping on the bank, whilst I
Lay dying, and the stranger dash'd aside
The roaring torrent, and restored me to
Thank him—and despise you. "You think!" and scarce
Can recollect his name! I will not waste
More words on you. Call me betimes.

Frits. Good night!

I trust to-morrow will restore your lordship
To renovated strength and temper.

[The scene closes]
A Garden.

Enter Werner.

Wer. I could not sleep, and now the hour's at hand; All's ready. Idenstein has kept his word; And station'd in the outskirts of the town, Upon the forest's edge, the vehicle Awaits us. Now the dwindling stars begin To pale in heaven; and for the last time I Look on these horrible walls. Oh! never, never Shall I forget them. Here I came most poor, But not dishonour'd: but I leave them with A stain,—if not upon my name, yet in My heart!—a never-dying cancer-worm, Which all the coming splendor of the lands, And rights, and sovereignty of Siegendorf Can scarcely hull a moment. I must find Some means of restitution, which would ease My soul in part; but how without discovery?— It must be done, however; and I'll pause Upon the method the first hour of safety. The madness of my misery led to this Base infamy; repentance must retrieve it: I will have sought of S. Rathenhim's upon My spirit, though he would grasp all of mine; Lands, freedom, life,—and yet he sleeps! as soundly! Perhaps, as infancy, with gorgeous curtains Spread for his canopy, o'er silken pillows, Such as when——Hark! what noise is that? Again The branches shake; and some loose stones have fallen From yonder terrace. [Ulric leaps down from the terrace Ulric! ever welcome! Thrice welcome now! this filial—— Ulr. Stop! Before We approach, tell me—— Wer. Way look you so? Do I Behold my father, or—— Ulr. What? Wer. An assassin? Ulr. Insane or insolent! Wer. Reply, sir, as You prize your life, or mine! Wer. To what must I Answer? Ulr. Are you or are you not the assassin Of Stralenheim? Wer. I never was as yet The murderer of any man. What mean you? Ulr. Did not you this night (as the night before) Retrace the secret passage? Did you not Again revisit Stralenheim's chamber? and—— [Ulric pauses] Wer. Proceed. Ulr. Died he not by your hand? Wer. Great God Ulr. You are innocent, then! my father's inno cent! Embrace me! Yes,—your tone,—your look,—yes, yes— Yet say so. Wer. If I e'er, in heart or mind, Conceived deliberately such a thought, But rather strive to trample back to hell Such thoughts—if e'er they glared a moment through The irritation of my oppressed spirit— May heaven be shut for ever from my hopes As from mine eyes! Ulr. But Stralenheim is dead Wer. 'Tis horrible! 'tis hideous, as 'tis hateful! But what have I to do with this? Ulr. No bolt Is forced, no violence can be detected, Save on his body. Part of his own household Have been alarm'd; but as the intendant is Absent, I took upon myself the care—— Of mustering the police. His chamber has, Past doubt, been enter'd secretly. Excuse me, If nature—— Ulr. Oh, my boy! what unknown woes Of dark fatality, like clouds, are gathering Above our house! Ulr. My father! I acquit you! But will the world do so? will even the judge
In Innocence's shadow, it may be,
Because 'tis dusky
Ulr. And if I do so,
What will mankind, who know you not, or knew
But to oppress? You must not stand the hazard
Away—I'll make all easy. Idenstein
Will for his own sake and his jewel's, hold
His peace—he also is a partner in
Your flight—moreover—
Wer. Fly! and leave my name
Link'd with the Hungarian's, or prefer'd as poorest,
To bear the brand of bloodshed?
Ulr. Pshaw! leave
Except our father's sovereignty and castle,
For which you have so long panted and in vain
What name? You have no name, since that you bear
Is feign'd.
Wer. Most true; but still I would not have at
Engraved in crimson in men's memories,
Though in this most obscure abodes of men—
Besides, the search—
Ulr. I will provide against
Aught that can touch you. No one knows you here
As heir of Siegenfeld: If Idenstein
Suspects, 'tis but suspicion, and he is
A fool: his folly shall have such enjoyment,
Too, that the unknown Werner shall give way
To nearer thoughts of self. The laws (if 'er
Laws reach'd this village) are all in abeyance
With the late general war of thirty years,
Or crush'd, or rising slowly from the dust,
To which the march of armies trampled them.
Stralenheim, although noble, is unheeded
Here, save as such—without lands, influence,
Save what hath perish'd with him Few prolong
A week beyond their funeral rites their sway
O'er men, unless by relatives, whose interest
Is roused: such is not here the case; he died
Alone, unknown,—a solitary grave,
Obscure as his deserts, without a scutcheon,
Is all he'll have, or wants. If I discover
The assassin, 'twill be well—if not, believe me
None else; though all the full-fed train of menials
May howl above his ashes (as they did
Around him in his danger on the Oder)
Will no more stir a finger now than then.
Hence! hence! I must not hear your answer.—Loona
The stars are almost faded, and the gray
Begins to grizzle the black hair of night.
You shall not answer—pardon me that I
Am peremptory: 'tis your son that speaks,
Your long-lost late-found son.—Let's call my
mother:
Softly and swiftly step, and leave the rest
To me: I'll answer for the event as far
As regards you, and that is the chief point,
As my first duty, which shall be observed.
We'll meet in Castle Siegenfeld—once more
Our banners shall be glorious! Think of that
Alone, and leave all other thoughts to me,
Whose youth may better battle with them.—Hence!
And may your age be happy!—I will kiss
My mother once more, then Heaven's speed be with
you!
Wer. This counsel's safe—but is it honorable?
Ulr. To save a father is a child's chief honor.
ACT IV.

SCENE I.

A Gothic Hall in the Castle of Siegendorf, near Prague.

Enter ERIK and Henrik, retainers of the Count.

ERIK. So better times are come at last; these Old walls new masters and high vassall—both A long desideratum.

HEN. Yes, for masters, It might be unto those who long for novelty, Though made by a new grave: but as for vassall, Methinks the old Count Siegendorf maintain'd His fouldal hospitality as high As e'er another prince of the empire

ERIK. Why, For the mere cup and treacher, we no doubt Fared passing well; but as for merriment And sport, without which salt and sauces season The cheer but scantily, our sizings were Even of the narrowest.

HEN. The old count loved not The roar of revel; are you sure that this does? ERIK. As yet he hath been courteous as his bounteous, And we all love him.

HEN. His reign is as yet Hardly a year o'erpast its honey-moon, And the first year of sovereigns is bridal: A non, we shall perceive his real sway And moods of mind.

ERIK. Pray heaven he keep the present! Then his brave son, Count Ulrice—there's a knight! Pity the wars are c' er! HEN. Why so? ERIK. Look on him!

HEN. And answer that yourself.

ERIK. He's very youthful, And strong and beautiful as a young tiger.

HEN. That's not a faithful vassal's likeness.

ERIK. Perhaps a true one.

ERIK. Pity, as I said, The wars are over. in the hall, who like Count Ulrice for a well-supported pride, Which awes, but yet offends not? in the field, Who like him with his spear in hand, when gnashing His tusks, and rising up from right to left The howling hounds, the boar makes for the thicket? Who back's a horse, or bears a hawk, or wears A sword like him? Whose plume node knightlier? HEN. No one's, I grant you. Do not fear, if war Be long in coming he is of that kind Will make it for himself, if he hath not Already done as much.

ERIK. What do you mean? HEN. You can't deny his train of followers (But few our native fellow vassals born On the domain) are such a sort of knaves As—(Passes.) ERIK. What?

HEN. The war (you love so much) leaves living, Like other parents, she spoils her worst children.

ERIK. Nonsense! they are all brave iron-visaged fellows, Such as old Tilly loved.

HEN. And who loved Tilly t

Ask that of Magdebourg—or for that matter Wallenstein either; they are gone to—

ERIK. But what beyond 'tis not ours to pronounce.

HEN. I wish they had left us something of their rest;
The country (nominally now at peace) Is overrun with—God knows who: they fly By night, and disappear with sunrise; but Leave us no less desolation, may, even more, Than the most open warfare.

ERIK. But Count Ulrice—

What has all this to do with him?

HEN. With him! He—might prevent it. As you say he's fond Of war, why makes he it not on those marauders?

ERIK. You'd better ask himself?

HEN. I would as soon Ask of the lion why he laps not milk.

ERIK. And here he comes!

HEN. The devil! you'll hold your tongue;

ERIK. Why do you turn so pale?

HEN. 'Tis nothing—but Be silent.

ERIK. I will upon what you have said.

HEN. I assure you I meant nothing,—a mere sport Of words, no more; besides, had it been otherwise He is to expouse the gentle baroness Ida of Stralenheim, the late baron's heiress, And she no doubt will soften whatever O'fiercenesse the late long intestine wars Have given all natures, and most unto those Who were born in them, and bred up upon The knees of Hombich; sprinkled, as it were, With blood even at their baptism. Prifthee, peace On all that I have said!

Enter Ulric and Rodolph.

ULR. Good morrow, count.

ULR. Good morrow, worthy Henrick. ERIK. is All ready for the chase?

ERIK. The dogs are order'd Down to the forest, and the vassals out To beat the bushes, and the day looks promising Shall I call forth your excellency's suite? What curser will you please to mount?

ULR. The dun, Walstein.

ERIK. I fear he scarcely has recover'd The toils of Monday: 'twas a noble chase; You spear'd four with your own hand.

ULR. True, good Ern Rodolph! I had forgotten—let it be the gray, then, Old Ziska: he has not been out this fortnight.

ERIK. He shall be straight caparison'd. How many Of your immediate retainers shall Escort you?

ULR. I leave that to Weilburgh, our Master of the horse. [Exit ERIK.

ROD. My lord! Ulr. The news Is awkward from the—(RODOLPH points to Hen- nick.)

How now, Henrick? why Loiter you here?

HEN. For your commands, my lord

ULR. Go to my father, and present my duty
And learn if he would aught with me before
I mount.                              [Exit HENRICK.

Rodolph, our friends have had a check
Upon the frontiers of Franconia; and
'Tis rumor'd that the column sent against them
Is to be strengthened. I must join them soon.
Rod. Best wait for further and more sure advices.
Ulr. I mean it—and indeed it could not well
Have fallen out at a time more opposite
to all my plans.
Rod. It will be difficult
To excuse your absence to the count your father.
Ulr. Yes, but the unsettled state of our domain
In high Silesia will permit and cover
My journey. In the mean time, when we are
Engaged in the chase, draw off the eighty men
Whom Wolfe leads—keep the forests on your route:
You know it well?
Rod. As well as on that night
When we—

Ulr. We will not speak of that until
We can repeat the same with like success,
And when you have join'd, give Rosenberg this letter.
[Give a letter.

Rod. Add further, that I have sent this slight addition
To our force with you and Wolfe, as herald of
My coming, though I could but spare them ill
At this time, as my father loves to keep
Full numbers of retainers round the castle,
Until this marriage, and its feasts and fooleries,
Are rung out with its peal of nuptial nonsense.
Rod. I thought you loved the lady Ida?
Ulr. Why, I do so—but it follows not from that
I would bind in my youth and glorious years,
So brief and burning with a lady's zone,
Although 'twere that of Venus;—but I love her,
As woman should be loved, fairly and solely.
Rod. And constantly?
Ulr. I think so; for I love
Nought else. But I have not the time to pause
Upon these bogwars of the heart. Great things
We have to do ere long. Speed! speed! go
Rodolph!

Rod. On my return, however, I shall find
The baroness Ida lost in Countess Siegendorf?
Ulr. Perhaps—my father wishes it; and sooth
'Tis no bad policy: this union with
The last bud of the rival branch at once
Unites the future and destroys the past.
Rod. Adieu.
Ulr. Yet hold—we had better keep together
Until the chase begins; then draw thou off,
And do as I have said.
Rod. I will. But to
Return—'twas a most kind act in the count
Your father to send up to Konigsberg
For this fair orphan of the baron, and
To hail her as his daughter.
Ulr. Wondrous kind! Especially as little kindness till
Then grew between them.
Rod. The late baron died
Of a fever did he not?
Ulr. How should I know?
Rod. I have heard it whisper'd there was some-
thing strange
About his death—and even the place of it
Is scarcely known.
Ulr. Some obscure viation on
The Saxon or Silesian frontier.
Rod. He
Has left no testament—no farewell words?
Ulr. I am neither confessor nor notary,
So cannot say.
Rod. Ah! here's the lady Ida
Enter Ida STRALENHEIM.
Ulr. You are early, my sweet cousin.
Ida. N't too early
Dear Ulric, if I do not interrupt you.
Why do you call me 'cousin'?
Ulr. (smiling.) Are we not so?
Ida. Yes, but I do not like the name; mech. nics
It sounds so cold, as if you thought upon
Our pedigree, and only weigh'd our blood.
Ulr. (starting.) Flood!
Ida. Why does yours start from your cheeks?
Ulr. Ay! doth it!
Ida. It doth—but no! it rushes like a torrent
Even to your brow again.
Ulr. (recovering himself.) And if it fled,
It only was because your presence sent it
Back to my heart, which beats for you, sweet cousin!
Ulr. Nay, then I'll call you sister.
Ida. I like that name still worse. Would we had ne'er
Been aught of kindred!
Ulr. (gloomily.) Would we never had.
Ida. Oh heavens! and can you wish that?
Ulr. Dearest Ida,
Did not echo your own wish?
Ida. Yes, Ulric,
But then I wish'd it not with such a glance,
And scarce knew what I said; but let me be
Sister or cousin, what you will, so that
I still to you am something.
Ulr. You shall be
All—all—
Ida. And you to me are so already;
But I can wait.
Ulr. Dear Ida!
Ida. Call me Ida,
Your Ida, for I would be yours, none else's—
Indeed I have none left, since my poor father—
[She pauses.
Ulr. You have mine—you have me.
Ida. Dear Ulric, how I wish
My father could but view our happiness,
Which wants but this!
Ulr. Indeed!
Ida. You would have loved him.
He you; for the brave ever love each other:
His manners were a little cold, his spirit
Proud, (as is birth's prerogative;) but under
This grave exterior—Would you had known each
other!
Had such as you been near him on his journey
He had not died without a friend to sooth
His last and lonely moments.
Ulr. Who says that?
Ida. What?
Ulr. That he died alone.
Ida. The general rumour
And disappearance of his servants, who
Have no return'd: that fever was most deadly
Which swept them all away.
BYRON'S

WORKS.

Enter Werner at Count Siegendorp.

Ulr. My father, I salute you, and it grieves me With such brief greeting.—You have heard or bugle;
The vassals wait.

Sieg. So let them.—You forget To-morrow is the appointed festival In Prague for peace restored. You are apt to follow The chase with such an ardor as will scarce Permit you to return to-day, or if Return’d, too much fatigued to join to-morrow The nobles in our marshall'd ranks.

Ulr. You, count, Will well supply the place of both—I am not A lover of these pageantries.

Sieg. No, Ulric;
It were not well that you alone of all
Our young nobility——

Ida. And far the noblest
In aspect and demeanor.

Sieg. (to Ida.) True, dear child,
Though somewhat frankly said for a fair damsel,—
But, Ulric, recollect too our position,
So lately reinstated in our honors:
Believe me, 'twould be mark'd in any house,
But most in ours, that one should be found wanting At such a time and place. Besides, the Heaven Which gave us back our own, in the same moment It spread its peace o'er all, hath double claims On us for thanksgiving: first, for our country; And next, that we are here to share its blessings.

Ulr. (aside.) Devout, too! well, sir, I obey at once.

(Then aloud to a Servant.)

Ludwig, dismiss the train without! [Exit Ludwig.

Ida. And so
You yield at once to him what I for hours
Might supplicate in vain.

Sieg. (smiling.) You are not jealous
Of me, I trust, my pretty rebel! who
Would sanction disobedience against all
Except thyself? But fear not: thou shalt rule him Hereafter with a fonder sway and firmer.

Ida. But I should like to govern now.

Sieg. You shall,
Your harp, which by the way awaits you with
The countess in her chamber. She complains That you are a sad traitor to your music:
She attends you.

Ida. Then good morrow, my kind kinsman
Ulric, you'll come and hear me?

Ulr. And by and by.

Ida. Be sure I'll sound it better than your bugles:
Then pray you be as punctual to its notes:
I'll play you King Gustavus' march.

Ulr. And why not,
Old Tilly's?

Sieg. Not that monster's! I should think
My harp-strings rang with groans, and not with music,
Could aught of his sound on it:—but come quickly Your mother will be eager to receive you.

[Exit Ida

Sieg. Ulric, I wish to speak with you alone.

Ulr. My time's your vassal.—
(aside to Rodolph.) Rodolph, hence, and do
As I directed; and by his best speed
And readiest means let Roseueberg reply.
Rod. Count Siegendorf, command you aught? I am bound
Upon a journey past the frontier.
Sieg. (start.) Ah!
Where? on what frontier?
Rod. The Silesian, on
My way—(aside to Ulric)—Where shall I say?
Ulr. (aside to Rodolph.) To Hamburgh.
(Aside to himself.) That
Word will I think put a firm padlock on
His further inquisition.
Rod. Count, to Hamburgh.
Sieg. (agitated.) Hamburgh! No, I have nought
to do there, nor
Am aught connected with that city. Then
God speed you!
Rod. Fare ye well, Count Siegendorf!
[Exit Rodolph.
Sieg. Ulric, this man, who has just departed, is
One of those strange companions whom I fain
Would reason with you on.
Ulr. My lord, he is
Noble by birth, of one of the first houses
In Saxony.
Sieg. I talk not of his birth,
But of his bearing. Men speak lightly of him.
Ulr. So they will do of most men. Even the
monarch
Is not fenced from his chamberlain's slander. or
The sneer of the last courtier whom he has made
Great and ungrateful.
Sieg. If I must be plain,
The world speaks more than lightly of this Rodolph:
They say he is leagued with the "black bands"
who still
Ravage the frontier.
Ulr. And will you believe
The world?
Sieg. In this case—yes.
Ulr. In any case
I thought you knew it better than to take
An accusation for a sentence.
Sieg. Son!
I understand you: you refer to—
but
My destiny has so involved about me
Her spider web, that I can only flutter
Like the poor fly, but break it not. Take heed,
Ulric; you have seen to what the passions led me:
Twenty long years of misery and famine
Quench'd them not—twenty thousand more, per-
chance,
Hereafter (or even here in moments which
Might date for years, did Anguish make the dial)
May not obliterate or expiate
The madness and dishonor of an instant.
Ulric, be warn'd by a father!—I was not
By my self, and you behold me!
Ulr. I behold
The prosperous and beloved Siegendorf,
Lord of a prince's appanage, and honor'd
By those he rules and those he ranks with.
Sieg. Ah!
Why wilt thou call me prosperous, while I fear
For thee? Beloved, when thou lov'st me not!
All hearts but one may beat in kindness for me—
But if my son's is cold!—
Ulr. Who dare say that?
Sieg. Noce else but I, who see it—feel it—keener
Than would your adversary, who dared say so,
Your sabre in his heart! Bu mine survives
The wound.
Ulr. You err. My nature is not given
To outward fondling; how should it be so,
After twelve years' divortce from my parents?
Sieg. And did not I too pass those twelve tora
years
In a like absence? But 'tis vain to urge you—
Nature was never call'd back by remonstrance.
Let's change the theme. I wish you to consider
That these young violent nobles of high name,
But dark deeds, (ay, the darkest, if all Rumor
Reports be true,) with whom thou consortest,
Will lead thee—
Ulr. (impatiently.) I'll be led by no man.
Sieg. Nor
Be leader of such, I would hope: at once
To wean thee from the perils of thy youth
And haughty spirit, I have thought it well .
That thou shouldst wed the lady Ida—more
As thou appear'st to love her.
Ulr. I have said
I will obey your orders, were they to
Unite with Hecate—can a son say more?
Sieg. He says too much in saying this. It is not
The nature of thine age, nor of thy blood,
Nor of thy temperament, to talk so coolly,
Or act so carelessly, in that which is
The bloom or blight of all men's happiness.
(For Glory's pillow is but rest-less, if
Love lay not down his cheek thereof:) some strong
bias.
Some master fiend is in thy service to
Misrule the mortal who believes him slave,
And makes his every thought subservient; else
Thou'dst say at once—'I love young Ida, and
Will wed her;' or, 'I love her not, and all
The powers of earth shall never make me.'—So
Would I have answer'd.
Ulr. Sir, you wed for love
Sieg. I did, and it has been my only refuge
In many miseries.
Ulr. Which miseries
Had never been but for this love-match.
Sieg. Still
Against your age and nature? Who at twenty
E'er answer'd thus till now?
Ulr. Did you not warn me
Against your own example?
Sieg. Boyish sophist!
In a word, do you love, or love not, Ida?
Ulr. What matters it, if I am ready to
Obey you in espousing her?
Sieg. As far
As you feel, nothing, but all life for her.
She's-young—all beautiful—adores you—is
Endow'd with qualities to give happiness,
Such as rounds common life into a dream
Of something which your poets cannot paint,
And (if it were not wisdom to love virtue)
For which Philosophy might barter wisdom:
And giving so much happiness, deserves
A little in return. I would not have her
Break her heart for a man who has none to break
Or wither on her stalk like some pale rose'
Deserted by the bird she thought a nightingale.
According to the Orient tale. She is—
Ulr. The daughter of dead Stridelme, in your for
I'll wed her, n'ertheless; though, to say truth,
Thou villainous gold! and thy dead master's doon!
Though he died not by me or mine, as much
As if he were my brother! I have ta'en
His orphan Ida—cherish'd her as one
Who will be mine.

Enter an Attendant.

Att. The abbot, if it please
Your excellency, whom you sent for, waits
Upon you.

[Exit Attendant

Enter the Prior Albert.

Prior. Peace be with these walls, and all
Within them!

Sieg. Welcome, welcome, holy father!
And may thy prayer be heard!—all men have need
Of such, and I—

Prior. Have the first claim to all
The prayers of our community, Our convent,
Erected by your ancestors, is still
Protected by their children.

Prior. Yes, good father;
Continue daily orisons for us
In these dim days of heresies and blood,
Though the schismatic Swede, Gustavus, is
Gone home.

Prior. To the endless home of unbelievers,
Where there is everlasting wail and wo,
Gnashing of teeth, and tears of blood, and fire
Eternal, and the worm which dieth not!

Sieg. True, father; and to avert those pangs from me,
Who, though of our most faultless holy church,
Yet died without its last and dearest offices,
Which smooth the soul through purgatorial pains,
I have to offer humbly this donation
In masses for his spirit.

[SiEGENDORF offers the gold which he had taken
from STRALENHEIM.

Prior. Count, if I receive it, 'tis because I know too well
Refusal would offend you. Be assured
The largess shall be only dealt in alms,
And every mass less sung for the dead.
Our house needs no donations, thanks to yours,
Which has of old endow'd it; but from you
And yours in all meet things 'tis fit we obey.
For whom shall mass be said?

Sieg. (sulking.)

Prior. For— for the dead.
Sieg. His name?

Prior. 'Tis from a soul, and not a name,
I would avert perdition.

Prior. I meant not
To pry into your secret. We will pray
For one unknown, the same as for the proudest.

Sieg. Secret! I have none; but, father, he who's gone
Might have one; or, in short, he did bequeath—
No, not bequeath—but I bestow this sum
For pious purposes.

Prior. A proper deed
In the behalf of our departed friends.

Sieg. But he who's gone was not my friend, but
foe,
The deadliest and the staunchest.

Prior. Better still! To employ our means to obtain heaven for the soul
Of our dead enemies is worthy those
Who can forgive them living.
Sieg. But I did not
Forgive this man. I loathed him to the last,
As he did me. I do not love him now,
But—
Prior. Best of all! for this is pure religion;
You faint would rescue him you hate from hell—
An evangelical compassion—with
Your own gold too!
Sieg. Father, 'tis not my gold.
Prior. Whose then? You said it was no legacy.
Sieg. No matter whose—of this be sure, that he
Who own'd it never more will need it, so
In that which it may purchase from your altars:
Tis yours, or theirs.
Prior. Is there no blood upon it?
Sieg. No: but there's worse than blood—eternal
shame!
Prior. Did he who own'd it die in his bed?
Sieg. Alas! He did.
Prior. Son! you relapse into revenge,
If you regret your enemy's bloodless death.
Sieg. His death was fathomlessly deep in blood.
Prior. You said he died in his bed, not battle.
Sieg. Died, I scarce know—but—he was stabb'd i' the
dark.
And now you have it—perish'd on his pillow
By a cut-throat!—Ay!—you may look upon me!
I am not the man. I'll meet your eye on that point
As I can one day God's.
Prior. Nor did he die,
By means, or men, or instrument of yours?
Sieg. No! by the God who sees and strikes!
Prior. Nor know you
Who slew him?
Sieg. I could only guess at one,
And he to me a stranger, unconnected,
As unemploy'd. Except by one day's knowledge
I never saw the man who was suspected.
Prior. Then you are free from guilt.
Sieg. (ragerly.) Oh! I am I?—say!
Prior. You have said so, and know best.
Sieg. Father! I have spoken
The truth, and nought but truth, if not the whole;
Yet say I am not guilty! for the blood
Of this man weighs on me, as if I shed it,
Though, by the Power who abhorreth human blood
I did not!—nay once spared it, when I might
And could—say, perhaps, should (if our self-safety
Be e'er excusable in such defences
Against the attack of over-potent foes:)
But pray for him, for me, and all my house;
For, as I said, though I be innocent,
I know not why, a like remorse is on me,
As if he had fallen by me or mine. Pray for me,
Father! I have pray'd myself in vain.
Prior. I will
Be comforted! You are innocent, and should
Be calm as innocence.
Sieg. But calmness is not
Always the attribute of innocence.
I feel it is not.
Prior. But it will be so,
When the mind gathers by its truth within it.
Remember the great festival to-morrow,
In which you rank amidst our chiefest nobles,
As well as your brave son; and smooth your aspect;
Nor in the general orison of thanks
For bloodshad stopt, let blood you shed not rise
A cloud upon your thoughts. This were to be
Too sensitive. Take comfort, and forget
Such things, and leave remorse unto the guilty.

ACT V.

SCENE I.

A large and magnificent Gothic Hall in the Castle of
Siegendorf, decorated with Trophies, Barques and the
Arms of that family.

Enter ARNHEIM and MEISER Attendants of COUNCIL
SIEGENDORF.

Arn. Be quick! the count will soon return: the
ladies
Already are at the portal. Have you sent
The messengers in search of him he seeks for?
Meis. I have, in all directions, over Prague
As far as the man's dress and figure could
By your description track him. The devil take
These revels and processions! All the pleasure
(If such there be) must fall to the spectators.
I'm sure none doth to us who make the show.
Arn. Go to! my lady countess comes.
Meis. I'd rather
Ride a day's hunting on an outworn jade.
Than follow in the train of a great man
In these dull pageantries.

Att. Begone! and rai
Within.

[Exeunt.

Enter the Countess JOSEPHINE SIEGENDORF and
IDA STRALENHEIM.

Jos. Well, Heaven be praised, the show is over.
Ida. How can you say so! I never have I dreamt
Of sought so beautiful. The flowers, the boughs,
The banners, and the nobles, and the knights,
The gems, the robes, the plumes, the nappy faces,
The courtesies, and the incense, and the sun
Streaming through the stain'd windows, even the
tombs,
Which look'd so calm, and the celestial hymns,
Which seem'd as if they rather came from heaven
Than mounted there. The bursting organ's loud
Rolling on high like harmonious thunder;
The white robes and the lifted eyes; the world
At peace! and all at peace with one another!
Oh, my sweet mother! [Embracing JOS.
Jos. My beloved child!
For such, I trust, thou shalt be shortly.
Ida. Oh, I am so already. Feel how my heart beats!
Jos. It does, my love; and never may it thro'
With aught more bitter.
Ida. Never shall it do so!
Jos. How should it? What should make us grieve?
I hate
To hear of sorrow: how can we be sad,
Who love each other so entirely? You,
The count, and Ulric, and your daughter Ida
Jos. Poor child!
Ida. Do you pity me?
Jos. No: but I envy
And that in sorrow, not in the world's sense
Of the universal vice, if one vice be
More general than another.

Ida. I'll not hear
A word against a world which still contains
You and my Ulric. Did you ever see
Aught like him? How he tower'd among them all!
How all eyes follow'd him. The flowers fell faster—
rain'd from each lattice at his feet, methought,
Than before all the rest: and where he trod
I dare be sworn that they grew still, nor e'er
Will wither.

Jos. You will spoil him, little flatterer,
If he should hear you.
Ida. But he never will.
I dare not say so much to him—I fear him
Jos. Why so? he loves you well.
Ida. But I can never
Shape my thoughts of him into words to him.
Besides, he sometimes frightens me.
How so?
Jos. A cloud comes o'er his blue eyes suddenly,
Yet he says nothing.
Jos. It is nothing: all men,
Especially in these dark troublous times,
Have much to think of.
Ida. But I cannot think
Of aught save him.
Jos. Yet there are other me'n,
In the world's eye, as goody. There's, for instance,
The young Count Waldorf, who scarce once withdrew
His eyes from yours to-day.
Ida. I did not see him,
But Ulric. Did you not see at the moment
When all knelt, and I wept: and yet methought,
Through my fast tears, though they were thick and
warm,
I saw him smiling on me.
Jos. I could not
See aught save heaven, to which my eyes were raised
Together with the people's.
Ida. I thought too
Of heaven, although I look'd on Ulric.
Jos. Come,
Let us retire; they will be here anon
Expectant of the banquet. We will lay
Aside these nodding plumes and dragging trains.
Ida. And, above all, these stiff and heavy jewels,
Which make my head and heart ache, as both throb
Beneath their glitter o'er my brow and zone.
Jos. Do not mother, I am with you.

[Exeunt.]

Enter Count SIEGENDORF, in full dress, from the
solemnity, and LUDWIGO.

Sieg. Is he not found?
Lud. Strict search is making every where; and if the
man be in Prague, be sure he will be found.
Sieg. Where's Ulric?
Lud. He rode round the other way
With some young nobles; but he left them soon;
And, if I err not, not a minute since
I heard his excellence, with his train,
Galloping o'er the west drawbridge.

Enter Ulric, splendidly dressed
Sieg. (to LUDWIGO.) See they cease not
Their quest of him I have described. (Exit LUDWIGO.)
Oh, Ulric!

How have I long'd for thee!

Ultr. Your wish is granted:

Behold me!

Sieg. I have seen the murderer.
Ultr. Whom? Where?
Sieg. The Hungarian, who slew Stralenheim
Ultr. You dream.
Sieg. I live! and as I live, I saw him—

Heard him! he dared to utter even my name.
Ultr. What name?
Sieg. Werner. 'twas mine.
Ultr. It must be so;
No more: forget it.
Sieg. Never! never! all
My destinies were woven in that name:
It will not be engraved upon my tomb,
But it may lead me there.

Ultr. To the point—the Hungarian!
Sieg. Listen!—The church was throng'd; the
hymn was raised;

"Te Deum" pesl'd from nations, rather than
From choirs, in one great cry of "God be praised"
For one day's peace, after thrice ten dread years
Each bloodier than the former: I arose,
With all the nobles, and as I look'd down
Along the lines of lifted faces,—from
Our banner'd and escutcheon'd gallery, I
Saw, like a flash of lightning, (for I saw
A moment and no more,) what struck me sightless
To all else—the Hungarian's face! I grew
Sick; and when I recover'd from the mist
Which curl'd about my senses, and again
Look'd down, I saw him not. The thanksgiving
Was over, and we march'd back in procession.

Ultr. Continue.

Sieg. When we reach'd the Mlndau's bridge
The joyous crowd above, the numberless
Barks mann'd with revellers in their best garbs
Which shot along the glancing tide below,
The decorated street, the long array,
The clashing music, and the thundering
Of far artillery, which seem'd to bid
A long and loud farewell to its great doings.

The standards o'er me, and the trampings round,
The roar of rushing thousands,—all—all could not
Cross this man from my mind, although my senses
No longer held him palpable.

Ultr. You saw him
No more, then?
Sieg. I look'd as a dying soldier
Looks at a draught of water, for this man;
But still I saw him not; but in his stead—
Ultr. What in his stead?
Sieg. My eye for ever fell
Upon your dancing crest; the loftiest,
As on the loftiest and the loveliest head
It rose the highest of the stream of plumes,
Which overflow'd the glittering streets of Prague.

Ultr. What's this to the Hungarian?
Sieg. Much; for I
Had almost then forgot him in my son;
When just as the artillery ceased, and paused
The music, and the crowd embraced in lieu
Of shouting, I heard in a deep, low voice,
Distinct and keener far upon my ear
Than the late cannon's volume, this word—"Wer
mer!"

Ultr. Uttered by—
Sieg. Hr! I turn'd—and saw—and fell

Ultr. And wherefore? Were you seen?
Sieg. The officious carer.

Of those around me dragg'd me from the spot,
Seeing my faintness, ignorant of the cause;
You, too, were too remote in the procession
(The old nobles being divided from their children)
To aid me.

Ulr. But I'll aid you now.

Sieg. In what?

Ulr. In searching for this man, or—When he's found,
What shall we do with him?

Sieg. I know not that.

Ulr. Then whereabouts seek him?

Sieg. Because I cannot rest
Till he is found. His fate, and Stralenheim's,
And curs, seem intertwined! nor can be
Unravell'd, till—

Enter an Attendant.

Att. A stranger to wait on
Your excellency.

Sieg. Who?

Att. He gave no name.

Sieg. Admit him, ne'ertheless.

[The Attendant introduces GABOR, and afterwards exit.

Ah!

Gab. 'Tis, then, Werner!

Sieg. (haughtily.) The same you knew, sir, by
that name; and you!

Gab. (looking round.) I recognize you both: father
and son,
It seems. Count, I have heard that you, or yours,
Have lately been in search of me; I am here.

Sieg. I have sought you, and have found you;
you are charged;
(Your own heart may inform you why) with such
A crime as—

[He pauses.

Gab. Give it utterance, and then
I'll meet the consequences.

Sieg. You shall do so—

Unlucky—

Gab. First, who accuses me?

Sieg. All things,
If not all men: the universal rumor—
My own presence on the spot—the place—the time,
And every speck of circumstance unite
To fix the blot on you.

Gab. And on me only;
Pause ere you answer: is no other name,
Save mine, stain'd in this business?

Sieg. Trifling villain!
Who play'st with shine own guilt! Of all that
breathe
Thou best dost know the innocence of him
'Gainst whom thy breath would blow thy bloody
slander,
But I will talk no further with a wretch,
Further then justice asks. Answer at once,
And without quibbling, to my charge.

Gab. 'Tis false!

Sieg. Who says so?

Gab. L.

Sieg. And how disprove it?

Gab. By

The presence of the murderer.

Sieg. Name him?

Gab. He

May have more names than one. Your lordship had so

Once on a time.

Sieg. If you mean me, I dare
Your utmost.

Gab. You may do so, and in safety;
I know the assassin.

Sieg. Where is he?

Gab. (pointing to ULRIC.) Beside you.

[Ulrich rushes forward to attack GABOR; SIEGENDORF interposes.

Sieg. Liar and fiend! but you shall not be slain;
These walls are mine, and you are safe within them
(He turns to Ulrich)

Ulric, repel this calumny, as I
Will do. I show it as a growth so monstrous,
I could not deem it earth-born: but be calm;
It will refuse itself. But touch him not.

[Ulrich endeavors to compose himself.

Gab. Look at him, count, and then hear me.

Sieg. (first to GABOR, and then looking at Ulrich.)
I hear thee

My God! you look—

Ulr. How?

Sieg. As on that dread night
When we met in the garden.

Ulr. (composes himself.) It is nothing.

Gab. Count, you are bound to hear me. I came
hither
Not seeking you, but sought.
When I knelt down
Amidst the people in the church, I dream'd not
To find the beggar'd Werner in the seat
Of senators and princes; but you have call'd me,
And we have met.

Gab. Go on, sir.

Sieg. (first) Ist I do so,
Allow me to inquire who professed
By Stralenheim's death? Was't I—as peck is ever,
And poorer by suspicion on my name!
The baron lost in that last outrage neither
Jewels nor gold; his life alone was sought,—
A life which stood between the claims of others
To honors and estates scarce less than princely.

Sieg. These hints, as vague as vain, attach no less
To me than to my son.

Gab. I can't help that,
But let the consequence alight on him
Who feels himself the guilty one among us
I speak to you, Count Siegendorf, because
I know you innocent, and deem you just.
But ere I can proceed—dare you protect me?

Dare you command me?

[Siegendorf first looks at the Hungarian, and
then at Ulrich, who has un buckled his sabre
and is drawing lines with it on the floor—still
in its sheath.

Ulr. (looks at his father and says.) Let the man
go on!

Gab. I am unarmed, count—bid your son lay down
His sabre.

Ulr. (offers it to him contemptuously.) Take it

Gab. No, sir, 'tis enough.
That we are both unarmed—I would not choose
To wear a steel which may be stain'd with more
Blood than came there in battle.

Ulr. (casts the sabre from him in contempt.) It—
or some
Such other weapon, in my hands—spared yours
Once when disarm'd and at my mercy.

Gab. True—

I have not forgotten it: you spared me for
Your own especial purpose—to sustain
Anonymity not my own.

Ulr. Proceed.

The tale is doubtless worthy the relater.
But is it of my father to hear further?

[To Siegfried.]

Sieg (takes his son by the hand.) My son! I know my own innocence, and doubt not
Of yours—but I have promised this man patience;
Let him continue.

Gab. I will not detain you
By speaking of myself much; I began
Life early—and am what the world has made me.
At Frankfort on the Oder, where I pass'd
A winter in obscurity, it was
My chance at several places of resort
(Which I frequented sometimes, but not often)
To hear related a strange circumstance
In February last. A martial force,
Sent by the state, had after strong resistance
Secured a band of desperate men, supposed
Marauders from the hostile camp. They proved,
However, not to be so—but banditti,
Whom either accident or enterprise
Had carried from their usual haunt—the forests
Which skirt Bohemia—even into Lusatia.
Many among them were reported of
High rank—and martial law slept for a time.
At last they were escorted o'er the frontiers,
And placed beneath the civil jurisdiction
Of the free town of Frankfort. Of their fate
I know no more.

Sieg. And what is this to Ulrike?

Gab. Among them there was said to be one man
Of wonderful endowments: birth and fortune,
Youth, strength, and beauty, almost superhuman,
And courage as unrival'd, were proclaim'd
His by the public rumor; and his sway
Not only over his associates, but
His judges, was attributed to witchcraft,
Such was his influence:—I have no great faith
In any magic save that of the mine—
I therefore deem'd him wealthy.—But my soul
Was roused with various feelings to seek out
This prodigy, if only to behold him.

Sieg. And did you so?

Gab. You'll hear. Chance favor'd me,
A popular affray in the public square
Drew crowds together—it was one of those
Occasions where men's souls look out of them,
And show them as they are—even in their faces:
The moment my eye met his, I exclaimed,
"This is the man!" though he was then, as since,
With the nobles of the city. I felt sure
I had not err'd, and watch'd him long and nearly:
I noted down his form—his gesture—features,
Stature, and bearing, and amidst them all,
Midst every natural and acquired distinction,
I could discern, methought, the assassin's eye
And gladiator's heart.

Ulr. (smiling.) The tale sounds well.

Gab. And may sound better.—He appear'd to me
One of those beings to whom fortune bends
As she doth to the daring—and on whom
The fate of others oft depend; besides,
An indescribable sensation drew me
Near to this man, as if my point of fortune
Was to be fix'd by him.—There I was wrong.

Sieg And may not be right now.

Gab. I follow'd him.

Solicited his notice—and obtained it—
Though not his friendship:—it was his intention
To leave the city privately—we left it
Together—and together we arrived
In the poor town where Werner was conceal'd,
And Stralenheim was succor'd—Now we are on
The verge—dare you hear further?

Sieg. Or I have heard too much.

Gab. I saw in you
A man above his station—and if not
So high, as now I find you, in my then
Conceptions, 'twas that I had rarely seen
Men such as you appear'd in height of mind
In the most high of worldly rank; you were
Poor, even to all save rags: I would have shared
My purse, though slender, with you—you refused it.
Sieg. Doth my refusal make a debt to you,
That thus you urge it?

Gab. Still you owe me something
Though not for that; and I owed you my safety,
At least my seeming safety, when the slaves
Of Stralenheim pursued me on the grounds
That I had rob'd him.

Sieg. Whom and whose house you arraign, reviving viper

Gab. I accuse no man—save in my defence.
You, count, have made yourself accuser—judge.
Your hall's my court, your heart is my tribunal.
Be just, and I'll be merciful!

Sieg. You merciful!

You! Base calumniator!

Gab. I. 'Twill rest
With me at last to be so. You conceal'd me—
In secret passages known to yourself,
You said, and to none else. At dead of night,
Weary with watching in the dark, and dubious
Of tracing back my way, I saw a glimmer,
Through distant crannies, of a twinkling light:
I follow'd it, and reach'd a door—a secret
Portal—which open'd to the chamber, where,
With cautious hand and slow, having first undone
As much as made a crevice of the fastening,
I look'd through and beheld a purple bed,
And on it Stralenheim !—

Sieg. Asleep! And yet
You slew him!—Wretch!

Gab. He was already slain,
And bleeding like a sacrifice. My own
Blood became ice.

Sieg. But he was all alone!
You saw none else? You did not see the—

[He pauses from agitation.

Gab. No

He, whom you dare not name, nor even I
Scare dare to recollect, was not then in
The chamber.

Sieg. (to Ulrike.) Then, my boy! thou art guiltless still—

Thou bad'st me say I was so once—Oh! now
Do thou as much?

Gab. Be patient! I can not
Recede now, though it shake the very walls
Which frown above us. You remember,—or
If not, your son does,—that the locks were changed
Beneath his chief inspection on the morn
Which led to this same night: how he had enter'd
He best knows—but within an antechamber.
WERNER.

The door of which was half ajar, I saw
A man who wash’d his bloody hands, and oft
With stern and anxious glance gazed back upon
The bleeding body—but it moved no more.

Sieg. Oh! God of fathers!

Gab. I beheld his features
As I see yours—but yours they were not, though
Resembling them—behold them in Count Ulrich’s!
Distinct, as I beheld them, though the expression
Is not now what it then was;—but it was so
When I first charged him with the crime—so lately.

Sieg. This is so—

Gab. (interrupting him.) Nay—but hear me to the end!

Now you must do so.—I conceived myself
Betray’d by you and him (for now I saw
There was some & between you) into this
Pretended den of refuge, to become
The victim of your guilt; and my first thought
Was vengeance: but though arm’d with a short
Poniard
(Having left my sword without) I was no match
For him at any time, as had been proved
That morning—either in address or force.
I turn’d and fled—! the dark: chance rather than
Skill made me gain the secret door of the hall,
And thence the chamber where you slept; if I
Had found you waking, Heaven alone can tell
What vengeance and suspicion might have
prompted;
But ne’er slept guilt as Werner slept that night.

Sieg. And yet I had horrid dreams! and such brief
Sleep.
The stars had not gone down when I awoke,
Why didst thou spare me? I dreamt of my father—
And now my dream is out

Goo. Tis not my fault,
If I have read it.—Well! I fled and hid me—
Chance led me here after so many moons—
And show’d me Werner in Count Siegendorf’s
Werner, whom I had sought in huts in vain,
Inhabited the palace of a sovereign!
You sought me and have found me—now you know
My secret, and may weigh its worth.

Sieg. (after a pause.) Indeed!

Gab. Is it revenge or justice which inspires
Your meditation?

Sieg. Neither—I was weighing
The value of your secret.

Gab. You shall know it
At once. — When you were poor, and I, though poor,
Rich enough to relieve such poverty
As might have envied mine, I offer’d you
My purse—you would not share it.—I’ll be franker
With you: you are wealthy, noble, trusted by
The imperial powers—you understand me?

Sieg. Yes.

Gab. Not quite. You think me venal, and scarce
true:
Tis no less true, however, that my fortunes
Have made me both at present. You shall aid me;
I would have aided you—and also have
Been somewhat damaged in my name to save
Yours and your son’s. Weigh well what I have
said.

Sieg. Dare you await the event of a few minutes’
Deliberation?

Gab. (casts his eyes on Ulric who is leaning
against a pillar.) If I should do so?

Sieg. I pledge my life for yours. Withdraw into
This tower.

[Opens a turret door
Gab. (hesitatingly.) This is the second safe
asylum
You have offer’d me.

Sieg. And was not the first so?

Gab. I know not that it was even now—but will approve
The second. And I have still a further shield.—
I did not enter Prague alone; and should I
Be put to rest with Stralenheim, they are
Some tongues without will wag in my behalf;
Be brief in your decision!

Sieg. I will be so.—

My word is sacred and irrevocable
Within these walls, but it extends no further.
Gab. I’ll take it for so much.

Sieg. (points to Ulric’s sabre still upon the
ground.)

Take also that—

I saw you eye it eagerly, and him
Distrustfully.

Gab. (takes up the sabre.) I will: and so provide
To sell my life—not cheaply.

[Gabor goes into the turret, which Siegendorf closes.

Sieg. (advances to Ulric.) Now, Count Ulric!

For son I dare not call thee—What sayst thou?

Ulr. His tale is true.

Sieg. * True, monster?

Ulr. Most true, father.

And you did well to listen to it: what
We know, we can provide against. He must
Be silenced.

Sieg. Ay, with half of my domains;
And with the other half, could he and thou
Unsay this villainy.

Ulr. It is no more
For trifling or dissembling. I have said,
His story’s true; and he too must be silenced

Sieg. How so?

Ulr. As Stralenheim is. Are you so da.
As never to have hit on this before?

Sieg. Discovery in the act could make me know
His death? Or had the prince’s household been
Then summon’d, would the cry for the police
Been left to such a stranger? Or should I
Have loiter’d on the way? Or could you, Werner,
The object of the baron’s hate and fears,
Have fled, unless by many an hour before
Suspicion woke? I sought and fathomed you,
Doubting if you were false or feeble: I
Perceived you were the latter; and yet so
Confiding have I found you. that I doubted
At times your weakness.

Sieg. Parricide! no less
Than common stabber! What deed of my life,
Or thought of mine, could make you deem me fit
For your accomplice?

Ulr. Father, do not raise
The devil you cannot lay between us. This
Is time for union and for action, not
For family disputes. While you were tortured,
Could I be calm? Think you that I have heard
This fellow’s tale without some feeling?—you
Have taught me feeling for you and myself;
For whom or what else did you ever teach it?

Sieg. Oh! my dead father’s curse! tis working
worse.
Ulric. Let it work on! the grave will keep it down!
Ashes are feeble foes: it is more easy
To baffle such, than countermine a mole,
Which winds its blind but living path beneath you.
Yet hear me still!—if you condemn me, yet
Remember who hath taught me once too often
To listen to him! Who proclaim’d to me
That there were crimes made venial by the occasion?
That passion was our nature? that the goods
Of Heaven waited on the goods of fortune?
Who show’d me his humanity secured
By his nerves only? Who deprived me of
All power to vindicate myself and race
In open day? By his disgrace which stamp’d
(it might be) hastily on me, and on
Himself—a felon’s braud! The man who is
At once both warm and weak invites by deeds
He longs to do, but dare not. Is it strange
That I should act what you could think? We have done
With right and wrong; and now must only ponder
Upon effects, not causes. Stralenheim,
Whose life I saved from impulse, as, unknown,
I would have saved a peasant’s or a dog’s, I slew
Known as our foe—but not from vengeance. He
Was a rock in our way which I cut through,
As doth the bolt, because it stood between us
And our true destination—but not idly.
As stranger I preserved him, and he owed me
His life: when due, I but resumed the debt.
He, you, and I stood o’er a gulf wherein
I have plunged our enemy. You, kindled first
The torch—you show’d the path; now trace me that
Of safety—or let me!
Siege. I have done with life!
Ulric. Let us have done with that which cankers life—
Familiar feuds and vain recriminations
Of things which cannot be undone. We have
No more to learn or hide: I know no fear,
And have within these walls men whom
(Although you know them not) dare venture all things.
You stand high with the state: what passes here
Will not excite her too great curiosity:
Keep your own secret, keep a steady eye,
Stir not, and speak not;—leave the rest to me:
We must have no third babblers thrust between us.
[Exit Ulric.]

Siege. (solus.) Am I awake? are these my father’s halls?
And you—my son? My son! mine! who have ever
Abhorr’d both mystery and blood, and yet
Am plunged into the deepest hell of both!
I must be speedy, or more will be shed—
The Hungarians!—Ulric—he hath partisans,
It seems! I might have guess’d as much. Oh fool!
Wolves prowl in company. He hath the key
(As I too of the opposite door which leads
Into the turret. Now then! or once more
To be the father of fresh crimes, no less
Than of the criminal! Ho! Gabor! Gabor!
[Exit into the turret, closing the door after him.]

SCENE II.

The Interior of the Turret.

Gab and Siegendorf.

Gab. Who calls?
Sieg. I—Siegendorf! Take these, and fly
Lose not a moment!
[ Tears off a diamond star and other jewels, and thrusts them into Gabi’s hand.]
Gab. What am I to do
With these?
Sieg. Whate’er you will: sell them, or hoard
And prosper; but delay not, or you are lost!
Gab. You pledged your honor for my safety?
Sieg. And
Must thus redeem it. Fly! I am not master,
It seems, of my own castle—of my own
Retainers—nay, even of these very walls,
Or I would bid them fall and crush me! Fly:
Or you will be slain by—
Gab. Is it even so?
Farewell, then! Recollect, however, count
You sought this fatal interview?
Sieg. I did:
Let it not be more fatal still!—Begone!
. Gab. By the same path I entered?
Sieg. But lie!—a safe sam
And loiter not in Prague,—you do not know
With whom you have to deal.
Gab. I know too well—
And knew it ere yourself, unhappy sire!
Farewell! [Exit Gabi]
Sieg. (solus and listening.) He hath clear’d the staircase. Ah! I hear
The door sound loud behind him! He is safe!
Safe!—Oh, my father’s spirit!—I am faint—
[He leans down upon a stone seat, near the wall of the tower, in a drooping posture.

Enter Ulric, with others armed, and with weapons drawn.

Ulric. Despatch!—he’s there!
Ludwig. The count, my lord!
Ulric. (recognising Siegendorf.) You here, sir?
Sieg. Yes: if you want another victim, strike!
Ulric. (seeing him stript of his jewels.) Where is the ruffian who hath plunder’d you?
Vassals, despatch in search of him! You see
’Twas as I said—the wretch hath stript my father
Of jewels which might form a prince’s heirem!
Away! I’ll follow you forthwith.
[Exeunt all but Siegendorf and Ulric.]
What’s this?

Where is the villain?
Sieg. There are two, sir: which
Are you in quest of?
Ulric. Let us hear no more
Of this: he must be found. You have not let him
Escape?
Sieg. He’s gone.
Ulric. With your connivance?
Sieg. Fool! With
My fullest, freest aid.
Ulric. Then fare you well!
[ Ulric is going]
Sieg. Stop! I command—entreat—implore! Oh Ulric!
Will you then leave me?
What! remain to be denounced—drugg'd, it may be, in chains; and all by your inherent weakness, half-humanity, selfish remorse, and temporising pity, that sacrifices your whole race to save a wretch to profit by our ruin! No, count, henceforth you have no son! Sieg. I never had one; and would you ne'er had borne the useless name! Where will you go? I would not send you forth without protection.

Ulfr. Leave that unto me. I am not alone; nor merely the vain heir of your domains; a thousand, ay, ten thousand swords, hearts, and hands, are mine.

Sieg. The foresters! With whom the Hungarian found you first at Frankfort?

Ulfr. Yes—men—who are worthy of the name! Go tell your senators that they look well to Prague; their feast of peace was early for the times; there are more spirits abroad than have been lain with Wallenstein!

Enter Josephine and Ida.

Jos. What is't we hear? My Siegendorf!

Thank Heav'n, I see your safe!

Sieg. Safe!

Ida. Yes, dear father.

Sieg. No, no; I have no children: never more call me by that worst name of parent.

Jos. What means my good lord?

Sieg. That you have given birth to a demon!

Ida. (taking Ulric's hand.) Who shall dare say this of Ulrie?

Sieg. Ida, beware! there's blood upon that hand!

Ida. (stooping to kiss it,) I'd kiss it off, though it were mine!

Sieg. It is so!

Ulfr. Away! it is your father's! [Exit Ulric.

Ida. Oh, great God! And I have loved this man! [Ida falls senseless—Josephine stands speechless with horror.

Sieg. The wretch hath slain them both!—My Josephine! we are now alone! Would we had ever been so!—All is over for me!—Now open wide, my sire, thy grave; thy curse hath dug it deeper for thy son in mine!—The race of Siegendorf is past!
HOURS OF IDLENESS;
A SERIES OF POEMS, ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED

* "Virgiliius poëtica Canic."*  
HORACE, lib. 8, Od. 1.  
Μὴ ρῆ μὲ παλ αἶνες, μῆτε τι πενεῖ. 
HOMER, Iliad. x. 398.  
"He whistled as he went for want of thought."  
DRYDEN.

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE FREDERICK, EARL OF CAR-LISLE, 
KNIGHT OF THE GARTER, ETC., ETC.

THE SECOND EDITION OF THESE POEMS IS INSCRIBED, 
BY HIS OBLIGED WARD AND AFFECTIONATE KINSMAN, 
THE AUTHOR.

Lord Byron first appeared as an author in November, 1806, when he printed a collection of poems for distribution among his friends. The first copy of this volume, which is a thin quarto, was presented to Mr. Beecher, who immediately perceived, on looking over its pages, that some of the contents were by no means of a description to reflect credit on their author; and at his friendly suggestion the whole impression, with the exception of two, or, at the most, three copies, was committed to the flames. After the destruction of this volume, Lord Byron directed the collection to be reprinted, with the omission of the objectionable poems. This edition, which was confined to a hundred copies, and, like its predecessor, designed for private circulation, was proceeded in so quickly, that at the end of about six weeks, January, 1807, it was ready for delivery. The volume was entitled "Poems on Various Occasions," and was printed at Newark by S. and J. Ridge; the author's name was not given. The dedication was, "To those friends at whose request they were printed, for whose amusement or approbation they were solely intended, these trifles are respectfully dedicated by the author." Immediately following the dedication was this notice:—

"The only apology necessary to be adduced in extenuation of any errors in the following collection is, that the author has not yet completed his nineteenth year. December 23, 1806. The approbation which this volume received from the friends to whom it was submitted induced Lord Byron, more immediately before the public; and in the latter end of May, 1807, this collection, with considerable alterations, the omission of some poems, and the addition of others, was reprinted and published under the title of "Hours of Idleness, a Second Poems, original and translated, by George Gordon, Lord Byron, a Minor." This volume was also printed at Newark. In the four editions of this work, which rapidly succeeded each other, many variations are found: several corrections were made; several pieces were silently withdrawn, and replaced by others; and after the first edition a dedication to Lord Carlisle was prefixed. In the present publication, all those Poems from the "Private Volume, and the early editions of "Hours of Idleness, which were suppressed by the author, are reprinted, and all the variations of the different impressions are noticed.

PREFACE.*

In submitting to the public eye the following collection, I have not only to combat the difficulties

* Printed in the first edition of Hours of Idleness; omitted in the second.
tense of verse generally encounter, but may
charge of presumption for obtruding myself
world, when, without doubt, I might be, at
more usefully employed. These produc-
tions, the fruits of the lighter hours of a young
poet, have lately completed his nineteenth year.
I have seen the internal evidence of a boyish mind,
perhaps, unnecessary information. Some
written during the disadvantages of illness,
self, the voice of Praise, may at least arrest
Censure. A considerable portion of these
works have been privately printed, at the request
of several of my friends. I am sensible of the
drawbacks of the plan of a social circle is not the criterion by which
my genius is to be estimated, yet, H to do
I must "care greatly," and I have haz-
perated reputation and feelings in publishing this
works. I "have passed the Rubicon," and must
now submit without a murmur; for
speak the truth, I have had little
success in the last attempt. The
shall submit without a murmur; for
not without solicitude for the fate of these
my expectations are by no means san-
probable that I may have dared much
care; for, in the words of Cowper, "it is
write what may please our friends, who,
ay are such, are apt to be a little biased
" and another to write what may please
because they who have no connection,
nnowledge of the author, will be sure to
they can." To the truth of this, how-
not wholly subscribe: on the contrary, I
ad that these trifles will not be treated
however, is not my
vocation; to divert the dull moments of
the monotony of a vacant hour,
This sin": little can be expected from
using a muse. My wreath, scanty as it
all shall derive from these productions;
never attempt to replace its fading
pluck a single additional sprig from groves,
at best, an intruder. Though accus-
my younger days, torove a careless
Highlands of Scotland, I have not, of
had the benefit of such pure air, or so ele-
cid, as might enable me to enter the
genuine bards, who have enjoyed both
itages. But they derive considerable
from their productions,
shall expiate my rashness as an inter-
without the latter, and in all proba-
ary slight share of the former. I leave
others: "Virum volitare per ora." I look to the
few who will hear with patience "dulce est desipere
in loco."—To the former worthies I resign, withou
beping, the hope of immortality, and content my
self with the not very magnificent prospect of rank
among the nob of gentlemen who write;—
my readers must determine whether I dare say "with
ease," or the honor of a posthumous page in "The
Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors," a work to
which the peerage is under infinite obligations, in-
such as many names of considerable length,
short, and antiquity, are thereby rescued from the
obscurity which unluckily overshadowed several vol-
uminous productions of their illustrious bearers.

With slight hopes and some fears, I publish this
first and last attempt. To the dictates of young
ambition may be ascribed many actions more crim-
inal and equally absurd. To a few of my own age
the contents may afford amusement: I trust they
will, at least, be found harmless. It is highly im-
probable, from my situation and pursuits hereafter,
that I should ever obtrude myself a second time on
the public; nor even in the very doubtful event of
present indulgence, shall I be tempted to commit
a future trespass of the same nature. The opinion
of Dr. Johnson on the Poems of a noble relation of
mine," "That when a man of rank appeared in the
character of an author, his merit should be hand
somely acknowledged," can have little weight with
verbal, and still less with periodical censors; but
were it otherwise, I should be loth to avail myself
of the privilege, and would rather incur the bitter-
est censure of anonymous criticism than triumph in
honors granted solely to a title.

ON LEAVING NEWSTEAD ABBEY.
WHY DOST THOU BUILD THE HALL, SON OF THE
WINDED DAYS? DOST THOU LOOK FROM THE TOWER
TO-DAY: YET A FEW YEARS AND THE BLAST OF
THE DESERT COMES, IT HOWLES IN THE EMPTY
COURT.—Ossian.

THROUGH thy battlements, Newstead, the hollow
winds whistle;
Thou, the hall of my fathers, art gone to decay;
In thy once smiling garden, the hemlock and thistle
Have choked up the rose which late bloomed in
the way.

Of the mail-cover'd Barons, who proudly to battle
Led their vassals from Europe to Palestine's plain,
The escutcheon and shield, which with every blast
rattle,
Are the only sad vestiges now that remain.

No more doth old Robert, with harp-stringing
numbers,
Raise a flame in the breast for the war-lan'lld
wreck;
Near Askalon's tower, John of Horistan slumbers
Unnerved is the hand of his minstrel by death.

* The Earl of Carlisle, whose works have long remained sealed to public
appreciation, to whom, by their intrinsic worth, they were well entitled.
† The name was added in the first edition of Hours of Idleness.
‡ Horistan Castle, in Derbyshire, an ancient seat of the Byron family.
BYRON'S WORKS.

Paul and Hubert, too, sleep in the valley of Cressy;
For the safety of Edward and England they fell:
My fathers! the tears of your country redress ye;
How you fought, how you died, still her annals can tell.

On Marston,* with Rupert,' 'gainst traitors contending,
Four brothers enriched with their blood the bleak field;
For the rights of a monarch their country defending,
Till death their attachment to royalty seal'd.

Shades of heroes, farewell! your descendant, departing
From the seat of his ancestors, bids you adieu!
Abroad, or at home, your remembrance imparting
Now courage, he'll think upon glory and you.

Though a tear dim his eye at this sad separation,
'Tis nature, not fear, that excites his regret;
For distant he goes, with the same emulation,
The fame of his fathers he ne'er can forget.

That fame, and that memory, still will he cherish;
He vows that he ne'er will disgrace your renown;
Like you will he live, or like you will he perish;
When decay'd, may he mingle his dust with your own.

1803.

UN A DISTANT VIEW OF THE VILLAGE, AND SCHOOL OF HARROW ON THE HILL.†

Oh I mild protection where at Jupiter annex.
Virgil, Ecclid, lib. 9, 590.

Ye scenes of my childhood, whose loved recollection
Emitters the present, compared with the past;
Where science first dawned on the powers of reflection,
And friendships were form'd too romantic to last;

Where fancy yet joys to retrace the ressemblance
Of comrades in friendship and mischief allied;
How welcome to me your ne'er fading remembrance,
Which rests in the bosom, though hope is denied!

Again I revisit the hills where we sported,
The streams where we swam, and the fields where we fought;
The school where, loud warn'd by the bell, we reviewed,
To pore o'er the precepts by pedagogues taught.

Again I behold where for hours I have ponder'd,
As reclining, at eve; on yon tombstone I lay;

* The battle of Marston Moor, where the adherents of Charles I. were defeated.
† Lift of the English and French, and related to Charles I. He afterwards surrendered the king in the reign of Charles II.
‡ This poem was prefixed in the private volume, and in the first edition of Works of Byron, where the motto from Virgil was added; it was afterwards omitted.

Or round the steep brow of the church 
Wander'd,
To catch the last gleam of the sun's setting

I once more view the room with spectato 
rounded,
Where, as Zanga, I trod on Alonzo o'erth
While to swell my young pride such appall
sounded,
I fancied that Mossop* himself was outsho

Or, as Lear, I poured forth the deep impress
By my daughters of kingdom and reason
Till, fired by loud plaudits and self-adulation
I regarded myself as a Garrick revived.

Ye dreams of my boyhood, how much I reg
Unfold'd your memory, dwells in my breast
Though sad and deserted, I ne'er can forge
Your pleasures may still be in fancy pos

To Idaj full oft may remembrance restore
While fate shall the shades of the future
Since darkness o'ershadow the prospects
More dear is the beam of the past to my

But if, through the course of the year I
await me,
Some new scene of pleasure should ope
I will say, while with rapture the thought
elate me,

"Oh! such were the days which I knew."

TO D.‡

In thee I fondly hoped to clasp
A friend, whom death alone could
Till envy, with malignant grasp,
Detach'd thee from my breast for ev

True she has forced thee, from my breast
Yet in my heart thou keep'st thy seat.
There, there thine image still must rest
Until that heart shall cease to beat.

And, when the grave restores her dead
When life again to dust is given,
On thy dear breast I'll lay my head—
Without thee, where would be my

February

* Mossop, a contemporary of Garrick, famous for his part in Young's tragedy of the Revenge.
† "Your memory回omes through the agonised breast."
‡ "I thought the poor brain, forever even to madness,
Of tears, as of poison, for you was drench'd,
But the drops which now flow down the bosom
Of Cohens and the springs have some medicine in

Sweet scenes of my childhood! your last recollection
This wrong from these syrups, in weeping long of
In increase the name of my joyous bidding
The last and the fondest I ever shall dead."

Poems

§ Prefixed to the private volume only.
HOURS OF IDLENESS.

EPITAPH ON A FRIEND.*

A p r e, u n m e n x 1910, e n 1 910. 9 evo.

JH, Friend! for ever loved, for ever dear;†
What fruitless tears have bathed thy honor'd bier!
What sighs re-echo'd to thy parting breath,
Whilst thou wast struggling in the pangs of death!
Could tears retard the tyrant in his course;
Could sighs avert his dart's relentless force,
Could youth and virtue claim a short delay,
Or beauty charm the spectre from his prey;
Thou still hast lived to bless my aching sight,
Thy comrade's honor, and thy friend's delight.
† If yet thy gentle spirit hover nigh
The spot where now thy mouldering ashes lie
Here wilt thou read, recorded on my heart,
A grief too deep to trust the sculptor's art;
No marble marks thy couch of lowly sleep,
But living statues there are seen to weep;
Affliction's semblance bends not o'er thy tomb,
Affliction's self deplores thy youthful doom.
What though thy sire lament his falling line,
A father's sorrows cannot equal mine!
Though none like thee his dying hour will cheer,
Yet other offspring soothe his heartache here:
But who with me shall hold thy former place?
Thine image what new friendship can efface?
Ah none!—a father's tears will cease to flow,
Time will assuage an infant brother's woe;
To all, save one, is consolation known,
While solitary friendship sighs alone.

1803.

A FRAGMENT.

WHEN, to their airy hall, my fathers' voice
Shall call my spirit, joyful in their choice;
When, poised upon the gale, my form shall ride,
Or, dark in mist, descend the mountain's side:
Oh may my shade behold no sculptured urns
To mark the spot where earth to earth returns!
§ No lengthened scroll, no praise-encumber'd stone,
My epitaph shall be my name alone:
If that with honor fail to crown my clay,
Oh may no other fame my deeds repay!
That, only that, shall single out the spot;
§ By that remain: be'd, or with that forgot.

1803.

* These lines were printed in the private volume; the title being "Epitaph on a beloved Friend." The note was added in the first edition of Hours of Idleness.

† "Oh, Hay! I for ever loved, for ever dear."—Private volume.

‡ "Though low thy lot, since in a village born,
No tears did thy humble name adorn;
To me for sorrow was thy absence here."
Then all the joys wealth, force, and friends could prove.
For thee alone I lived, or wish'd to live;"—Reprint.

Oh God! if tramps, this man's word foreshire:
Heart-burnings now, I walk an equal doom,
Content to join thee in thy rapt vision tomb;
Where, this frail bough encompass'd to extend, "
I'll make my last cold pillow on thy breast;
That breast where oft in life I've laid my head,
Yet receive me unclouding with she dead;
This life reign'd without one parting sigh;
Together in one bed of earth we'll lie;"—Private volume.

Moreover share the fate to mortal give,
Together mix our dust, and hope for heaven."

Fust, was not conclusion in the private volume.

§ "No lengthened scroll, no praise-encomber'd stone.
My epitaph shall be my name alone:
If that with honor fail to crown my clay,
Oh may no other fame my deeds repay!
That, only that, shall single out the spot;"
By that remain: be'd, or with that forgot."—Private volume.

TO EDDLESTON.*

Let Folly smile, to view the names
Of thee and me in friendship twined;
Yet Virtue will have greater claims
To love, than rank with vice combined.
And though unequal is thy fate,
Since title deck'd my higher birth,
Yet envy not this gaudy state;
Thine is the pride of modest worth.

Our souls at least congenial meet,
Nor can thy lot my rank disgrace;
Our intercourse is not less sweet,
Since worth of rank supplies the place.
November, 1803.

REPLY TO SOME VERSES OF J. M. B.
PIGOE, ESQ., ON THE CRUELTY OF HIS
MISTRESS.†

Why, Pigot, complain
Of this damsel's disdain,
Why thus in despair do you fret?
For months you may try,
Yet, believe me, a sigh
Will never obtain a coquette.

Would you teach her to love?
For a time seem to rove;
At first she may frown in a pet;
But leave her awhile,
She shortly will smile,
And then you may kiss your coquette.

For such are the airs
Of these fanciful fair's
They think all our homage a debt;
Yet a partial neglect
Soon takes an effect,
And humbles the proudest coquette.

Dissemble your pain,
And lengthen your chain,
And seem her hauteur to regret;
If again you shall sigh,
She no more will deny
That yours is the racy coquette.

If still, from false pride,
Your pangs she deride,
This whimsical virgin forget;
Some other admire,
Who will melt with your fire,
And laugh at the little coquette.

For me, I adore
Some twenty or more,
And love them most dearly; but yet,
Though my heart they enthrall,
I'd abandon them all,
Did they act like your blooming coquette.

* Only printed in the private volume.
† Printed in the private volume only.
No longer repine, 
Adopt this design, 
And break through her slight-woven net; 
Away with despair, 
No longer forbear 
To fly from the captious coquette.

Then quit her, my friend! 
Your bosom defend, 
Ere quite with her snares you’re beast: 
Lest your deep-wounded heart, 
When incensed by the smart, 
Should lead you to curse the coquette. 

October 27th, 1806.

TO THE SIGHING STREPHON.*

YOUR pardon, my friend, 
If my rhymes did offend, 
Your pardon, a thousand times o’er; 
From friendship I strove 
Your pangs to remove, 
But I swear I will do so no more. 

Since your beautiful maid 
Your flame has repaid, 
No more I your folly regret; 
She’s now most divine, 
And I bow at the shrine 
Of this quickly-reformed coquette.

Yet still, I must own, 
I should never have known 
From your verses, what else she deserved; 
Your pain seem’d so great, 
I pitted your fate, 
As your fair was so devilish reserved.

Since the balm breathing kiss 
Of this magical miss 
Can such wonderful transports produce; 
Since the “world you forget, 
When your lips once have met,” 
My counsel will get but abuse.

You say, when “I love, 
I know nothing of love;”
’Tis true, I am given to range: 
If I rightly remember, 
I’ve loved a good number, 
Yet there’s pleasure, at least, in a change.

I will not advance, 
By the rules of romance, 
To humor a whimsical fair; 
Though a smile may delight, 
Yet a frown won’t affright, 
Or drive me to dreadful despair.

While my blood is thus warm 
I ne’er shall reform, 
To mix in the Platonists’ school; 
Of this I am sure, 
Was my passion so pure, 
Thy mistress would think me a fool.

And if I should shun 
Every woman for one, 
Whose image must fill my whole breast 
Whom I must prefer, 
And sigh but for her— 
What an insult ‘would be to the rest!

Now, Strephon, good-bye; 
I cannot deny 
Your passion appears most absurd; 
Such love as you plead 
Is pure love indeed, 
For it only consists in the word

THE TEAR.

* O hestrymarnum fors, tevra sacros 
  Dedicamus omnis ex animal quinere 
  Pellic 1, le foco qui in aestatem 
  Pecus te, pie Nymphas, aeneis.”—Gray.

WHEN Friendship or Love
  Our sympathies move,
  When truth in a glance should appear,
  The lips may beguile
  With a dimple or smile,
  But the test of affection’s a Tear.

  Too oft is a smile
  But the hypocrite’s wile,
  To mask detestation or fear;
  Give me the soft sigh,
  Whilst the soul-telling eye
  Is dimm’d for a time with a Tear.

  Mild Charity’s glow,
  To us mortals below,
  Shows the soul from barbarity clear,
  Compassion will melt,
  Where this virtue is felt,
  And its dew is diffused in a Tear.

  The man doom’d to sail
  With the blast of the gale,
  Through billows Atlantic to steer,
  As he bends o’er the wave
  Which may soon be his grave,
  The green sparkles bright with a Tear.

  The soldier brave’s death
  For a fanciful wreath,
  In Glory’s romantic career;
  But he raises the foe
  When in battle laid low,
  And bathes every wound with a Tear.

  If with a high-bounding pride
  He return to his bride,
  Renouncing the gore-crimson’d spear.
  All his toils are repud
  When, embracing the maid,
  From her eyelid he kisses the Tear.

  Sweet scene of my youth!
  Seat of Friendship and Truth,

* These stanzas were only printed in the private volume.
* This motto was inserted in the first edition of Hours of Idleness.
Where love chased each fast-fleeting year,
Loth to leave thee, I mourned,
For a last look I turn'd,
But thy spire was scarce seen through a Tear.

Though my vows I can pour
To my Mary no more,
My Mary to Love once so dear,
In the shade of her bower
I remember the hour
She rewarded those vows with a Tear.

By another possesor,
May she live ever blest!
Her name still my heart must revere:
With a sigh I resign
What I once thought was mine,
And forgive her deceit with a Tear.

Ye friends of my heart,
Ere from thee I depart,
This hope to my breast is most near:
If again we shall meet
In this rural retreat,
May we meet, as we part, with a Tear.

When my soul wings her flight
To the regions of night,
*And my corse shall recline on its bier,
As ye pass by the tomb
Where my ashes consume,
Oh! moisten their dust with a Tear.*

May no marble bestow
The splendor of wo
Which the children of vanity rear:
No fiction of fame
Shall blazon my name;
All I ask—all I wish—is a Tear.

October 26, 1806.

TO MISS PIGOT.f

ELIZA, what fools are the Mussulman sect,
Who to women deny the soul's future existence,
Could they see thee, Eliza, they'd own their defect,
And this doctrine would meet with a general resistance.

Had their prophet possess'd half an atom of sense,
He ne'er would have women from paradise driven,
Instead of his hours, a flimsy pretence,
With women alone he had peopled his heaven.

Yet still to increase your calamities more,
Not content with depriving your bodies of spirit,
He allot's one poor husband to share amongst four,
With souls you'd dispense; but this last, who could bear it?

His religion to please neither party is made;
On husbands 'tis hard, to the wives most uncivil;
Still I can't contradict, what so of: has been said,
"Though women are angels, yet wedlock's the devil."

*"And my body shall sleep on its bier."—Private volume.
† Found only in the private volume.


*AWAY, away, your flattering arts
May now betray some simpler hearts;
And you will smile at their believing,
And they shall weep at your deceiving."

ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING, ADDRESSED TO MISS ——.

DEAR simple girl, those flattering arts,
From which thou'lt guard frail female hearts
Exist but in imagination—
Mere phantoms of thine own creation;
For he who views that witching grace,
That perfect form, that lovely face,
With eyes admiring, oh! believe me,
He never wishes to deceive thee:
Once in thy polished mirror glance,
Thou'lt there descry that elegance
Which from our sex demands such praises,
But envy in the other raises:
Then he who tells thee of thy beauty,
Believe me, only does his duty:—
Ah! fly not from the candid youth;
It is not flattering,—tis truth.

July, 1806.

THE CORNELIAN.†

No specious splendor of this stone
Endears it to my memory ever;
With lustre only once it shone,
And blushes modest as the giver.

Some, who can sneer at friendship's ties,
Have for my weakness oft reproved me;
Yet still the simple gift I prize,—
For I am sure the giver loved me.

He offer'd it with downcast look,
As fearful that I might refuse it;
I told him when the gift I took,
My only fear should be to lose it.

This pledge attentively I view'd,
And sparkling as I held it near,
Methought one drop the stone bedew'd,
And ever since I've loved a tear.

Still, to adorn his humble youth,
Nor wealth nor birth their treasures yield;
But he who seeks the flowers of truth,
Must quit the garden for the field.

'Tis not the plant uprear'd in clothe,
Which beauty shows and sheds perfume;
The flowers which yield the most of both
In Nature's wild luxuriance bloom.

* Only found in the private volume.
† To young Edeline. This poem is only found in the private volume.
ON THE DEATH OF A YOUNG LADY.*
Cousin to the Author, and Very Dear to Him.†

Hush'd are the winds, and still the evening gloom,
Not e'en a zephyr wanders through the grove,
Whilst I return to view my Margaret's tomb,
And scatter flowers on the dust I love.

Within this narrow cell reclines her clay,
That clay where once such animation beam'd;
The King of Terrors seized her as his prey,
Not worth, nor beauty, have her life redeem'd.

Oh! could I that King of Terrors pity feel,
Or Heaven reverse the dread decrees of fate!
Not here the mourner would his grief reveal,
Not here the muse her virtues would relate.

But wherefore weep? her matchless spirit soars
Beyond where splendid shines the orb of day;
And weeping angels lead her to those bowers
Where endless pleasures virtuous deeds repay.

And shall presumptuous mortals heaven arraign,
And, madly, godlike providence accuse?
Ah! no, far fly from me attempts so vain,
I'll ne'er submission to my God refuse.

Yet is remembrance of those virtues dear,
Yet fresh the memory of that beauteous face;
Still they call forth my warm affection's tear,
Still in my heart retain their wonted place.

\[TO EMMAN.\]

\textit{Since now the Lour is come at last,}
\textit{When yez must quit your anxious lover,}
\textit{Since now our dream of bliss is past,}
\textit{One pang, my girl, and all is over}

\textit{Alas! that pang will be severe,}
\textit{Which bids us part to meet no more,}
\textit{Which tears me far from one so dear,}
\textit{Departing for a distant shore.}

\* Miss Parker.
\† To these stanzas, which are from the private volume, the following note was attached: "The author claims the indulgence of the reader more for this piece than, perhaps, any other in the collection; but as it was written at an earlier period than the rest (being composed at the age of fourteen,) and six lines away, he prefers submitting it to the indulgence of his friends in its present state, to making either additions or omissions."

\* This poem is inserted from the private volume.

\begin{quote}
Well: we have pass'd some happy hours,
And joy will mingle with our tears;
When thinking on these ancient towers,
The shelter of our infant years;

Where from the gothic casement's height,
We view'd the lake, the park, the dale,
And still, though tears obstruct our sight,
We lingering look a last farewell.

O'er fields through which we used to run,
And spend the hours in childish play;
O'er shades where when our race was done,
Reposing on my breast you lay;

Whilst I, admiring, too remiss,
Forgot to sear the hovering flies,
Yet envied every fly the kiss
It dared to give your slumbering eyes.

See still the little painted bark,
In which I row'd you o'er the lake;
See there, high waving o'er the park,
The elm I clamber'd for your sake.

These times are past—our joys are gone,
You leave me, leave this happy vale;
These scenes I must retrace alone;
Without thee what will they avail?

Who can conceive, who has not proved,
The anguish of a last embrace?
When, torn from all you fondly loved,
You bid a long adieu to peace.

This is the deepest of our woes,
For this these tears our cheeks bedew;
This is of love the final close,
Oh God, the fondest, last adieu!
\end{quote}

THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE.†

DELIVERED PREVIOUS TO THE PERFORMANCE OF "THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE," AT A PRIVATE THEATRE.

Since the refinement of this polish'd age
Has swept immoral raiment from the stage;
Since taste has now expunged licentious wit,
Which stamp'd disgrace on all an author writ;
Since now to please with purer scenes we seek,
Nor dare to call the blush from Beauty's cheek;
Oh! let the modest Muse some pity claim,
And meet indulgence, though she find not fame.
Still, not for her alone we wish respect,
Others appear more conscious of defect:
To-night no veteran Rosciu you behold,
In all the arts of scenic action old;
No Cooke, no Kemble, can salute you here,
No Siddons draw the sympathetic tear;
To-night you throng to witness the debut
Of embryo actors, to the Drama new:
Here, then, our almost unfledged wings we try.
Clip not our pinions ere the birds can fly.
Falling in this our first attempt to soar,
Drooping, alas! we fall to rise no more.
HOURS OF IDleness.

Not one poor trembler only fear betrays,
Who hopes, yet almost dreads, to meet your praise;
But all our dramatic persons wait
In fond suspense this crisis of our* fate.
No venal views our progress can retard,
Your generous plaudits are our sole reward;
For these, each Hero all his power displays,
Each timid Heroine shrinks before your gaze.
Surely the last will some protection find;
None to the softer sex can prove unkind:
Th’ whilst Youth and Beauty form the female shield,
The sternest Censor to the fair must yield.
Yet, should our feeble efforts nought avail,
Should, after all, our best endeavors fail,
Still let some mercy in your bosoms live,
And, if you can’t applaud, at least forgive.

TO M. S. G.*

When’er I view those lips of thine
Their hue invites my fervent kiss;
Yet I forget that bliss divine
Alas! it were unhallowed bliss.

When’er I dream of that pure breast,
How could I dwell upon its snows?
Yet is the daring wish reprost,
For that,—would banish its repose.

A glance from thy soul-searching eye
Can raise with hope, depress with fear;
Yet I conceal my love, and why?
I would not force a painful tear.

I ne’er have told my love, yet thou
Hast seen my ardent flame too well;
And shall I plead my passion now,
To make thy bosom’s heaven a hell?

No! for thou never canst be mine,
United by the priest’s decree;
By any ties but those divine,
Mine, my beloved, thou ne’er shalt be.

Then let the secret fire consume,
Let it consume, thou shalt not know;
With joy I court a certain doom,
Rather than spread its guilty glow.

I will not ease my tortured heart,
By driving dove-eyed peace from thine
Rather than such a sting impart,
Each thought presumptuous I resign.

Yes! yield those lips, for which I’d brave
More than I here shall dare to tell
Thy innocence and mine to save.
I bid thee now a last farewell.

Yes, yield that breast to seek despair,
And hope no more thy soft embrace,
Which to obtain my soul would dare,
All, all reproach, but thy disgrace.

At least from guilt shalt thou be free,
No matron shall thy shame reprove,
Though curseless pangs may prey or me,
No martyr shalt thou be to love.

TO CAROLINE.†

Think, when I saw thy beauteous eyes,
Suffused in tears implore to stay;
And heard unmoved thy plenteous sighs,
Which said far more than words can say.

Though keen the grief thy tears express,
When love and hope lay both o’erthrown.
Yet still, my girl, this bleeding breast
Throb’d with deep sorrow as thine own.

* Our. In the private volume, their.
† Only printed in the private volume.
BYRON'S WORKS

But when our cheeks with anguish glow'd,
When thy sweet lips were join'd to mine,
The tears that from my eyelids flow'd
Were lost in those which fell from thine.

Thou could'st not feel my burning cheek,
Thy gushing tears had quench'd its flame,
And as thy tongue essay'd to speak,
In sighs alone it breathed my name.

And yet, my girl, we weep in vain,
In vain our fate in sighs deplore;
Remembrance only can remain,—
But that will make us weep the more.

Again, thou best beloved, adieu!
Ah! if thou canst o'ercome regret,
Nor let thy mind past joys review,—
Our only hope is to forget!

TO CAROLINE.∗

WHEN I hear you express an affection so warm,
Ne'er think, my beloved, that I do not believe;
For your lip would the soul of suspicion disarm,
And your eye beams a ray which can never deceive.

Yet still, this fond bosom regrets while adoring,
That love, like the leaf, must fall into the sea,
That age will come on, when remembrance, deploiring,
Contemplates the scenes of her youth with a tear;
That the time must arrive, when no longer retaining
Their emblem, those locks must wave thin to the breeze,
When a few silver hairs of those tresses remaining,
Prove nature a prey to decay and disease.

Tis this, my beloved, which spreads gloom o'er my features,
Though I ne'er shall presume to arraign the decree
Which God has proclaimed, as the fate of his creatures,
In the death which one day will deprive you of me.

Mistake not, sweet skeptic, the cause of emotion,
No doubt can the mind of your lover invade;
He worships each look with such faithful devotion,
A smile can enchant, or a tear can dissuade.

But as death, my beloved, soon or late shall o'er take us,
And our breasts which alive with such sympathy glow,
Will sleep in the grave till the blast shall awake us,
When calling the dead, in earth's bosom laid low:
Oh! then let us drain, while we may, draughts of pleasure,
Which from passion like ours may unceasingly flow;

Let us pass round the cup of love's bliss in due measure,
And quaff the contents as civil nectar below.

1806

TO CAROLINE.∗

Out! when shall the grave hide for ever my sorrow?
Oh! when shall my soul wing her flight from this clay?
The present is hell, and the coming to-morrow
But brings, with new torture, the curse of to-day.

From my eye flows no tear, from my lips fall no curses,
I blast not the fiends who have hurled me from bliss;
For poor is the soul which bewailing rehearses
Its querulous grief, when in anguish like this.

Was my eye 'stead of tears, with red fury flares bright'ning,
Would my lips breathe a flame which no stream could assuage,
On our foes should my glance launch in vengeance its lightning,
With transport my tongue give a loose to its rage.

But now tears and curses, alike unavailing,
Would add to the souls of our tyrants delight,
Could they view us our sad separation bewailing,
Their merciless hearts would rejoice at the sight
Yet still, though we bend with a feign'd resignation,
Life beams not for us with one ray that can cheer;
Love and hope upon earth bring no more consolation,
In the grave is our hope, for in life is our fear.

Oh! when, my adored, in the tomb will they place me,
Since in life, love and friendship for ever are seal'd!
If again in the mansion of death I embrace thee,
Perhaps they will leave unmolested the dead.

1805

STANZAS TO A LADY

WITH THE POEMS OF CAMOENS.

This votive pledge of fond esteem,
Perhaps, dear girl! for me thou'lt prize;
It sings of Love's enchanting dream,
A theme we never can despise.

Who blames it but the envious fool,
The old and disappointed maid?
Or pupil of the prudish school,
In single sorrow doom'd to fade?

* Inserted from the private volume.

* This poem also is reprinted from the private volume.
THE FIRST KISS OF LOVE.*

"A Varhitoz de xerdaiz
'Epwta mou ev xekl."/

Away with your fictions of flimsy romance
† Those tissues of falsehood which folly has wove;
Give me the mild beam of the soul-breathing glance,
Or the rapture which dwells on the first kiss of love.

Ye rhymer's, whose bosoms with phantasy glow
Whose pastoral passions are made for the grove,
From what blest inspirations your sonnets would flow,
Could you ever have tasted the first kiss of love!

If Apollo should e'er his assistance refuse,
Or the Nine be disposed from your service to rove,
Invoke them no more, bid adieu to the muse,
And try the effect of the first kiss of love.

I hate you, ye cold compositions of art,
Though prudes may condemn me, and bigots reprove,
I court the effusions that spring from the heart
Which throbs with delight to the first kiss of love.

Your shepherds, your flocks; those fantastical themes,
Perhaps may amuse, yet they never can move;
Arcadia displays but a region of dreams;
What are visions like these to the first kiss of love?

Oh! cease to affirm that man since his birth,
§ From Adam till now, has with wretchedness strove;
Some portion of paradise still is on earth,
And Eden revives in the first kiss of love.

When age chills the blood, when our pleasures are past—
For years fleet away with the wings of the dove—
The dearest remembrance will still be the last,
Our sweetest memorial the first kiss of love.

* These stanzas were prefixed to the private volume, and in the first edition of Hours of Idleness, but omitted in the second.
† "Those lists of fancy Mirth's has wove." Private volume.
‡ "Your shepherds, your flocks, &c.—Private autograph.
§ "Oh I cease to affirm that man, from his birth," &c.—Private volume.

TO MARY.

Oh! did those eyes, instead of fire,
With bright but mild affection shine,
Though they might kindle less desire,
Love, more than mortal, would be thine.

For thou art form'd so heavenly fair,
Howe'er those orbs may wildly beam,
We must admire, but still despair—
That fatal glance forbids esteem.

When nature stamped thy beauteous birth,
So much perfection in thee shone,
She fear'd that too divine for earth,
The skies might claim thee for their own

Therefore, to guard her dearest work,
Lest angels might dispute the prize
She bade a secret lightning lurk
Within those once celestial eyes.

These might the boldest sylph appall,
When gleaming with meridian blaze,
Thy beauty must enrapture all,
But who can dare thine ardent gaze?

'Tis said that Berenice's hair
In stars adorns the vault of heaven:
But they would ne'er permit thee there,
Thou wouldest so far outshine the seven.

For did those eyes as planets roll,
Thy sister-lights would scarce appear:
E'en suns, which systems now control,
Would twinkle dimly through their sphere

TO WOMAN.

WOMAN! experience might have told me
That all must love thee who behold thee;
Surely experience might have taught
Thy finest promises are bought;
But placed in all thy charms before me,
All I forget but to adore thee.
Oh, Memory thou choosest blessing
When join'd with hope, when still possessing
But how much cursed by every lover
When hope is fled and passion's over.
Woman, that fair and fond deceiver,
How prompt are striplings to believe her
How throbs the pulse when first we view
The eye that rolls in glossy blue,
Or sparkles black, or mildly throws
A beam from under hazel brows!
How quick we eruct every oath,
And hear her plight the willing troth
Fondly we hope 'twill last for aye
When, lo! she changes in a day;
This record will for ever stand,
"Woman, thy vows are traced in sand."*
AWAKE, with it my fancy teems;
In sleep, it smiles in fleeting dreams
The vision charms the hours away,
And bids me curse Aurora's ray
For breaking slumbers of delight
Which make me wish for endless night.
Since, oh! what'er my future fate,
Shall joy or woe my steps await,
Tempted by love, by storms bested,
Thine image I can ne'er forget.

Alas! again no more we meet,
No more our former looks repeat;
Then let me breathe this parting prayer
The dictate of my bosom's care:
"May heaven so guard my lovely Quaker
That anguish never can o'ertake her;
That peace and virtue ne'er forsake her,
But bliss be aye her heart's partaker;
Oh! may the happy mortal, fate
To be my dearest ties, related,
For her each hour new joys discover,
And lose the husband in the lover!
May that fair bosom never know
What 'tis to feel the restless wo
Which stings the soul with vain regret,
Of him who never can forget!"

TO A BEAUTIFUL QUAKER.*

Sweet girl! though only once we met,
That meeting I shall ne'er forget;
And though we ne'er may meet again,
Remembrance will thy form retain.
I would not say, "I love," but still
My senses struggle with my will:
In vain to drive thee from my breast,
My thoughts are more and more represt;
In vain I check the rising sighs,
Another to the last replies;
Perhaps this is not love, but yet
Our meeting I can ne'er forget.

What though we never silence broke,
Our eyes a sweeter language spoke;
The tongue in flattering falsehood deals,
And tells a tale it never feels:
Deceit the guilty lips impart,
And hush the mandates of the heart;
But soul's interpreter, the eyes,
Spurn such restraint, and scorn disguise.
As thus our glances oft conversed,
And all our bosoms felt rehearsed,
No spirit, from within reproved us,
Say rather, "Twas the spirit moved us."
Though what they uttered I repress,
Yet I conceive thou'll partly guess;
For as on thee my memory ponders,
Perchance to me thine also wanders.
This for myself, at least, I'll say,
Thy form appears through night, through day:

SONG.*

When I roved a young Highlander o'er the dark heath,
And climb'd thy steep summit, oh Morven, of snow! †
To gaze on the torrent that thunder'd beneath,
Or the mist of the tempest that gathered below; ‡
Untutor'd by science, a stranger to fear,
And rude as the rocks where my infancy grew,
No feeling, save one, to my bosom was dear;
Need I say, my sweet Mary, 'twas centred in you?

Yet it could not be love, for I knewnot the name,—
What passion can dwell in the heart of a child?
But still I perceive an emotion the same
As I felt, when a boy, on the crag-cover'd wild.
One image alone on my bosom impress'd,
I loved my bleak regions, nor panted for new;
And few were my wants, for my wishes were bless'd;
And pure were my thoughts, for my soul was with you.

I arose with the dawn; with my dog as my guide,
From mountain to mountain I bounded along;
I breasted ‡ the billow of Dee's raging tide,
And heard at a distance the Highlander's song:

* To Mary Duff. First published in the second edition of Hours of Illusion.
† Morven, a lofty mountain in Aberdeenshire: "Gormal of snow," is an expression frequently to be found in Caithness.
‡ This will not appear extraordinary to those who have been accustomed to the mountains; it is by no means uncommon to attain the top of Ben- nie Ben-y-bourd, &c., to perceive between the summit and the valley, clouds pouring down rain, and occasionally accompanied by lightning, while the spectator literally looks down upon the storm, perfectly secure from its effects.
§ Reviving the lofty surge.—Shakespeare.
† The Dee is a beautiful river, which rises near Max Lodge, and falls into the sea at New Aberdeen.

This lines were published in the private volume, and the first edition of poem of illness, but subsequently omitted by the author.
HOURS OF IDleness

At eve, on my hearth-cover'd couch of repose,
No dream save of Mary were spread to my view;
And warm to the skies my devotions arose,
For the first of my prayers was a blessing on you.

I left my bleak home, and my visions are gone;
The mountains are vanish'd, my youth is no more:
As the last of my race, I must wither alone,
And delight but in days I have witness'd before:
Ah! splendor has raised, but embitter'd, my lot:
More dear were the scenes which my infancy knew:
Though my hopes may have fail'd, yet they are not forgot;
Though cold is my heart, still it longs with you.

When I see some dark hill point its crest to the sky,
I think of the rocks that o'ershadow Colbleen;
When I see the soft blue of a love-speaking eye,
I think on those eyes that endear'd the rude scene:
When, haply, some light-waving locks I behold,
That faintly resemble my Mary's in hue,
I think of the long-flowing ringlets of gold,
The locks that were sacred to beauty and you.

Yet the day may arrive when the mountains once more
Shall rise to my sight in their mantles of snow:
But while these soar above me unchanged as before,
Will Mary be there to receive me? ah, no!
Adieu, then, ye hills, where my childhood was bred!
Thou sweet flowing Dee, to thy waters adieu!
No home in the forest shall shelter my head,
Ah! Mary, what home could be mine but with you?

TO ——

Oh! yes, I will own we were dear to each other;
The friendships of childhood, though fleeting, are true;
The love which you felt was the love of a brother,
Nor less the affection I cherish'd for you.

But friendship can vary her gentle dominion,
The attachment of years in a moment expires;
Like love, too, she moves on a swift-waving pinion,
But glows not, like love, with unquenchable fires.

Fall oft have we wander'd through Ida together,
And blest were the scenes of our youth, I allow;
In the spring of our life, how serene is the weather,
As winter's rude tempests are gathering now.

In no more with affection shall memory blending
The wonted delights of our childhood retrace;
When pride steals the bosom, the heart is unbending,
And what would be justice appears a disgrace.

However, dear S——, for I still must esteem you—
The few whom I love I can never upbraid—
The chance which has lost may in future redeem you,
Repentance will cancel the vow you have made.

I will not complain, and though chill'd is affection,
With me no corroding resentment shall live:
My bosom is calm'd by the simple reflection,
That both may be wrong, and that both should forgive.

You knew that my soul, that my heart, my existence
If danger demanded, where wholly your own;
You knew me unstable by years or by distance,
I devoted to love and to friendship alone.

You knew— but away with the vain retrospection
The bond of affection no longer endures:
Too late you may droop o'er the fond recollection
And sigh for the friend who was formerly yours.

For the present, we part—I will hope not for ever,
For time and regret will restore you at last;
To forget our dissertation we both should endeavor,
I ask no atonement but days like the past.

'TO MARY,

ON RECEIVING HER PICTURE

This faint resemblance of thy charms,
Though strong as mortal art could give.
My constant heart of fear disarms,
Revives my hopes, and bids me live.

Here I can trace the looks of gold
Which round thy snowy forehead wave,
The cheeks which sprang from Beauty's mould
The lips which made me Beauty's slave.

Here I can trace—ah! no! that eye
Whose azure floats in liquid fire,
Must all the painter's art defy,
And bid him from the task retire.

Here I behold its beauteous hue,
But where's the beam so sweetly straying
Which gave a lustre to its blue,
Like Luna o'er the ocean playing?

Sweet copy! far more dear to me,
Lifeless, unfeeling as thou art,
Than all the living forms could be,
Save her who placed thee next my heart.

She placed it, sad, with needless fear,
'Lest time might shake my wavering soul,
Unconscious that her image there
Held every sense in fast control.

Through hours, through years, through time
twill cheer;
My hope, in gloomy moments, raise; in life's last conflict 'twill appear,
And meet my fond expiring gaze.

* But where's the beam of soft desire
Which gave a lustre to its blue,
Lows, only love could o'er inspire.

* Children is a mountain near the verge of the Highlands, not far from
the ruins of Jen Castle.
* This poem was first published in the Hours of Idleness.
BYRON'S WORKS.

TO LESBIA.*

LESBIA since far from you I've ranged,
Our souls with fond affection glow not;
You say 'tis I, not you, have changed,
I'd tell why,—but yet I know not.

Your polish'd brow no cares have crest?
And, Lesbia! we are not much older,
Since trembling first my heart I lost,
Cz told my love with hope grown bolder.

Sixteen was then our utmost age,
Two years have lingering past away, love!
And now new thoughts our minds engage
At least I feel disposed to stray, love!

'Tis I that am alone to blame,
I, that am guilty of love's treason;
Since your sweet breast is still the same,
Caprice must be my only reason.

I do not, love! suspect your truth,
With jealous doubt my bosom heaves not;
Warm was the passion of my youth,
One trace of dark deceit it leaves not.

No, no, my flame was not pretended,
For, oh! I loved you most sincerely;
And though our dream at last has ended—
My bosom still esteems you dearly.

No more we meet in ronder bowers;
Absence has made me prone to roving;
But older, firmer hearts than ours
Have found monody in loving.

Your cheek's soft bloom is unimpair'd,
New beauties still are daily bright'ning,
Your eye for conquest beams prepared,
The forge of love's resistless lightning.

Arm'd thus, to make their bosoms bleed,
Many will strong to sigh like me, love!
More constant they may prove indeed;
Fonder, alas! they never can be, love!

* Only printed in the private volume.

LESBIA addressed to a Young Lady.†

In the author was discharging his pistols in a garden, two ladies passing
near the spot were alarmed by the sound of a bullet hissing near them, to
one of whom the following stanzas were addressed the next morning.

Doubtless, sweet girl, the hissing lead,
Wafting destruction o'er thy charms,
And hurling o'er thy lovely head,
Has filled that breast with fond alarms.

Surely some envious demon's force,
Vex'd to behold such beauty here,
Impell'd the bullets' viewless course,
Diverted from its first career.

† These stanzas are only found in the private volume.

This word is used by Grey, in his poem of the First Sisters:—

"Iron steet of arrowy shower
Hurtles through the darkest air."

Yes, in that nearly fatal hour
The ball obey'd some hell-born guides,
But Heaven, with interposing power,
In pity turned the death aside.

Yet, as perchance one trembling tear
Upon that thrilling bosom fell;
Which I, th' unconscious cause of fear
Extracted from its glistening cell.

Say, what penance can atone
For such an outrage done to thee?
Arraign'd before thy beauty's throne,
What punishment wilt thou decree?

Might I perform the judge's part,
The sentence I should scarce deplore,
It only would restore a heart
Which but belonged to thee before.

The least atonement I can make
Is to become no longer free;
Henceforth I breathe but for thy sake,
Thou shalt be all in all to me.

But thou, perhaps, may'st now reject
Such expiation of my guilt:
Come then, some other mode elect;
Let it be death, or what thou wilt:

Choose, then, relentless! and I swear
Nought shall thy dread decree prevent
Yet hold—one little word forbear!
Let it be aught but banishment!

LOVE'S LAST ADIEU.∗

"Asi φυτεύσει."—Anacreon.

The roses of love glad the garden of life,
Though nurtured 'mid weeds dropping pestilent dew,
Till Time crops the leaves with unmerciful knife,
Or prunes them for ever in love's last adieu!

In vain with endearments we soothe the sad heart.
In vain do we vow for an age to be true;
The chance of an hour may command us to part.
Or death disunite us in love's last adieu!

Still Hope, breathing peace through the grief-swolles breast,
Will whisper, "Our meeting we yet may renew;"
With this dream of deceit half our sorrow's repast,
Nor taste we the poison of love's last adieu!

Oh! mark you yon pair: in the sunshine of youth,
Love twined round their childhood his flowers as they grew;
They flourish awhile in the season of truth,
Till chill'd by the winter of love's last adieu:

∗ This poem was omitted in the second edition of 'Hours of Idleness.'
Sweet lady! why thus doth a tear steel its way
Down a cheek which outrivals thy bosom in hue?
Yet why do I ask—to distraction prey,
Thy reason has perish'd with love's last adieu!

Oh! who is yeon misanthrope, shunning mankind?
From cities to caves of the forest he flew:
There, raving, he howls his complaint to the wind;
The mountains reverberate love's last adieu!

Now hate rules a heart which in love's easy chains
Once passion's tumultuous blinding flashes knew;
Despair now infames the dark side of his veins;
He ponders in frenzy on love's last adieu!

How he envies the wretch with a soul wrapt in steel!
His pleasures are scarce, yet his troubles are few,
Who laughs at the pang that he never can feel,
And dreads not the anguish of love's last adieu!

Youth flies, life decays, even hope is o'ercast;
No more with love's former devotion we sue:
He spreads his young wing, he retires with the blast!
The shroud of affection is love's last adieu!

In this life of probation for rapture divine,
Astrea* declares that some penance is due;
From him who has worshipp'd at love's gentle shrine
The atonement is ample in love's last adieu!

Who kneels to the god on his altar of light,
Must myrtle and cypress alternately strew:
His myrtle, an emblem of purest delight;
His cypress, the Garland of love's last adieu!

DAMETAS.

In law an infant,† and in years a boy,
In mind a slave to every vicious joy;
From every sense of shame and virtue wean'd;
In lies an adept, in deceit a fiend;
Versed in hypocrisy while yet a child;
Fickle as wind, of inclinations wild;
Woman his dupe, his heedless friend a tool;
Old in the world, though scarcely broke from school;
Dametar ran through all the maze of sin,
And found the goal when others just begin:
Even still conflicting passions shake his soul,
And bid him drain the drops of pleasure's bowl;
But, palled with vice, he breaks his former chain,
And what was once his bliss appears his bane.

TO MARION.

MARION! why that pensive brow?
What disgust to life hast thou?
Change that discontented air;
Frowns become not one so fair.

' tis not love disturbs thy rest,
Love's a stranger to thy breast;
He in dimpling smiles appears,
Or mourns in sweetly timid tears,
Or bends the languid eyelid down,
But shuns the cold forbidding frown.
Then resume thy former fire,
Some will love, and all admire;
While that eye aspect chills us,
Nought but cool indifference thrills us.
Wouldst thou wandering hearts beguile,
Smile at least, or seem to smile.
Eyes like thine were never meant
To hide their orbs in dark restraint;
Spite of all thou fain wouldst say,
Still in truant beams they play.
Thy lips—but here my modest Muse
Her impulse chaste must needs refuse:
She blushes, curt'sies, frowns,—in short, she
Dreads lest the subject should transport me;
And flying off in search of reason,
Brings prudence back in proper season.
All I shall therefore say (whate'er
I think, is neither here, nor there)
Is, that such lips, of locks endearing,
Were form'd for better things than scening:
Of soothing compliments divested.
Advice at least's disinterested;
Such is my artless song to thee,
From all the flow of flattery free;
Counsel like mine is as a brother's,
My heart is given to some others;
That is to say, unskill'd to azen.
It shares itself among a dozen.
Marion, adieu! oh! pr'ythee slight not
This warning, though it may delight not;
And, lest my precepts be displeasing
To those who think remonstrance teasing.
At once I'll tell thee our opinion
Concerning woman's soft dominion
How'er we gaze with admiration
On eyes of blue or lips carnation,
How'er the flowing locks attract us,
How'er those beauties may distract us,
Still fickle, we are prone to rove,
These cannot fix our souls to love,
It is not too severe a stricture
To say they form a pretty picture:
But wouldst thou see the secret chain,
Which binds us to your humble train,
To hail you queens of all creation,
Know, in a word, 'tis animation.

OSCAR OF ALVA.*

A TALE.†

How sweetly shines, through azure skies,
The lamp of heaven on Lora's shore;
Where Alva's hoary turrets rise,
And hear the din of arms no more.

* This poem was published for the first time in Hours of Idleness.
† The catastrophe of this tale was suggested by the story of "Jerome's and Learner," in the first volume of the "Armenian, or ethnic-banck;" it also bears some resemblance to a scene in the third act of "Moorish."
BYRON'S WORKS.

But often has yon rolling moon
On Alva's casques of silver play'd;
And view'd at midnight's silent noon,
Her chiefs in gleaming mail array'd:

And on the crimson rocks beneath,
Which scroll o'er ocean's sullen flow,
Pale in the scatter'd ranks of death,
She saw the gasping warrior low;

While many an eye which ne'er again
Could mark the rising orb of day,
Turn'd feebly from the gory plain,
Beheld in death her fading ray.

Once, to those eyes the lamp of Love,
They blest her dear propitious light;
But now she glimmer'd from above,
A sad, funereal torch of night.

Faded is Alva's noble race,
And gray her towers are seen afar;
No more her heroes urge the chase,
Or roll the crimson tide of war.

But who was last of Alva's clan?
Why grows the moss on Alva's stone?
Her towers resound no steps of man,
They echo to the gale alone.

And when that gale is fierce and high,
A sound is heard in yonder hall;
It rises hoarsely through the sky,
And vibrates o'er the mouldering wall.

Yes, when the eddying tempest sighs,
It shakes the shield of Oscar brave;
But there no more his banners rise,
No more his plumes of sable wave.

Fair shone the sun on Oscar's birth,
When Angus hail'd his eldest born;
The vassals round their chieftain's hearth
Crowd to applaud the happy morn.

They feast upon the mountain deer,
The pibroch raised its piercing note,
To gladden more their Highland cheer,
The strains in martial numbers float:

And they who heard the war-notes wild,
Hoped that one day the pibroch's strain
Should play before the hero's child,
While he should lead the tartan train.

Another year is quickly past,
And Angus hail's another son;
His natal day is like the last,
Nor soon the jocund feast was done.

Taught by their sire to bend the bow,
On Alva's dusky hills of wind,
The boys in childhood chased the roe,
And left their hounds in speed behind.

But ere their years of youth are o'er,
They mingle in the ranks of war;
They lightly wheel the bright claymore,
And send the whistling arrow far.

Dark was the flow of Oscar's hair,
Wildly it stream'd along the gale;
But Allan's locks were bright and fair,
And pensive seem'd his cheek, and pale.

But Oscar own'd a hero's soul
His dark eye shone through osams of truth
Allan had early learn'd control,
And smooth his words had been from youth.

Both, both were brave; the Saxon spear
Was shiver'd oft beneath their steel;
And Oscar's bosom scorn'd to fear,
But Oscar's bosom knew to feel;

While Allan's soul belis'd his form,
Unworthy with such charms to dwell:
Keen as the lightning of the storm,
On foes his deadly vengeance fell.

From high Southannon's distant tower
Arrived a young and noble dame;
With Kenneth's lands to form her dower,
Glenalvon's blue-eyed daughter came;

And Oscar claim'd the beauteous bride,
And Angus on his Oscar smiled:
It soothe'd the father's feudal pride
Thus to obtain Glenalvon's child.

Hark to the pibroch's pleasing note!
Hark to the swelling nuptial song!
In joyous strains the voices float,
And still the choral peal prolong.

See how the heroes' blood-red plumes
Assembled wave in Alva's hall,
Each youth his varied plaid assumes,
Attending on their chieftain's call.

It is not war their aid demands,
The pibroch. plays the song of peace;
To Oscar's nuptials throng the bands,
Nor yet the sounds of pleasure cease.

But where is Oscar? sure 'tis late:
Is this a bridegroom's ardent flame?
While thronging guests and ladies wait,
Nor Oscar nor his brother came.

At length young Allan join'd the bride:
"Why comes not Oscar?" Angus said;
"Is not he here?" the youth replied;
"With me he roved not o'er the glade.

"Perchance, forgetful of the day,
'Tis his to chase the bounding roe;
Or ocean's waves prolong his stay;
Yet Oscar's bark is seldom slow."

"Oh, no!" the anguish'd sire rejoind,'"Nor chase, nor wave, my boy delay
Would he to Mora seem unkind?
Would sught to her impede his way?"
- Oh! search, ye chiefs! on! search around:
  Allan, with these through Alva fly;
  Till Oscar, till my son is found,
  Haste, haste, nor dare attempt reply."

All is confusion—through the vale
The name of Oscar hoarsely rings,
It rises on the murm'ring gale,
Till night expands her dusky wings;

It breaks the stillness of the night,
But echoes through her shades in vain:
It sounds through morning's misty light,
But Oscar comes not o'er the plain.

Three days, three sleepless nights, the Chief
For Oscar search'd each mountain cave:
Then hope is lost; in boundless grief
His locks in gray-torn ringlets wave.

"Oscar! my son!—thou God of Hear'n
Restore the prop of sinking age!
Or if that hope no more is given,
Yield his assassin to my rage.

"Yes, on some desert rocky shore
My Oscar's whiten'd bones must lie;
Then grant, thou God! I ask no more,
With him his frantic sire may die!

"Yet he may live,—away, despair!
Be calm, my soul! he yet may live;
T'araign my fate, my voice forbear!
O God! my impious prayer forgive!

'What, if he live for me no more,
I sink forgotten in the dust,
The hope of Alva's age is o'er:
Alas! can pangs like these be just?"

Thus did the hapless parent mourn,
Till Time, who soothes severest woe
Had bade serenity return,
And made the tear-drop cease to flow.

For still some latent hope survived,
That Oscar might once more appear;
His hope now droop'd and now revived,
Till Time had told a tedious year.

Days roll'd along, the orb of light
Again had run his destined race;
No Oscar bless'd his father's sight,
And sorrow left a fainter trace.

For youthful Allan still remain'd,
And now his father's only joy:
And Mora's heart was quickly gain'd,
For beauty crown'd the fair-hair'd boy.

She thought that Oscar low was laid,
And Allan's face was wondrous fair;
If Oscar lived, some other maid
Had claim'd his faithless bosom's care.

And Angus said, if one year more
In fruitless hope was pass'd away,
His fondest scruples should be o'er,
And he would name their nuptial day.

Slow roll'd the moons, but bless at last,
Arrived the dearly destined morn;
The year of anxious trembling past,
What similes the lover's cheeks adorn?

Hark to the piproch's pleasing note!
Hark to the swelling nuptial song!
In joyous strains the voices float,
And still the choral peal prolong.

Again the clan, in festive crowd,
Thro' the gate of Alva's he
The songs of mirth reecho loud,
And all their former joy recall.

But who is he, whose darken'd brow
Glooms in the midst of general mirth?
Before his eye's far fiercer glow
The blue flames curl'd o'er the hearth.

Dark is the robe which wraps his form,
And tali his plume of gory red;
His voice is like the rising storm,
But light and trackless is his tread.

'Tis noon of night, the pledge goes round,
The bridegroom's health is deeply quaff'd;
With shouts the vaulted roofs resound,
And all combine to hail the draught.

Sudden the stranger-chief arose,
And all the clamorous crowd are hush'd
And Angus' cheek with wonder glows,
And Mora's tender bosom blush'd.

"Old man!" he cried, "this pledge is done
Thou saw'st twas duly drank by me;
It hail'd the nuptials of thy son:
Now will I claim a pledge from thee.

"While all around is mirth and joy,
To bless thy Allan's happy lot,
Say, had'st thou ne'er another boy?
Say, why should Oscar be forgot?"

"Alas!" the hapless sire replied,
The big tear starting as he spoke,
"When Oscar left my hall, or died,
This aged heart was almost broke.

"Thrice has the earth revolved her course
Since Oscar's form has bless'd my sight;
And Allan is my last resource,
Since martial Oscar's death or flight."

"Tis well," replied the stranger stern,
And fiercely flash'd his rolling eye;
"Thy Oscar's fate I fain would learn;
Perhaps the hero did not die.

"Percance, if those whom he most loved,
Would call, thy Oscar might return;
Percance the chief has only roved;
For him thy Beltane * yet may burn.

"Fill high the bowl the table round,
We will not claim the pledge by stealth;

* Beltane 'Tree, a highland festival on the first of May, held some feats
  behind for the occasion.
With wine let every cup be crown'd;
Pledge me departed Oscar's health."

"With all my soul," old Angus said,
And fill'd his goblet to the brim;
"Here's to my boy! alive or dead,
I ne'er shall find a son like him."

"Bravely, old man, this health has sped
But why does Allan trembling stand?
Come, drink remembrance of the dead,
And raise thy cup with firmer hand."

The crimson glow of Allan's face
Was turn'd at once to ghastly hue;
The drops of death each other chase
Adown in agonizing dew.

Thrice did he raise the goblet high,
And thrice his lips refused to taste;
For thrice he caught the stranger's eye
On his with deadly fury placed.

"And is it thus a brother hails
A brother's fond remembrance here?
If thus affection's strength prevails,
What might we not expect from fear?"

Roused by the sneer, he raised the bowl,
"Would Oscar now could share our mirth"
Internal fear appall'd his soul;
He said, and dash'd the cup to earth.

"That! the! I hear my murderer's voice!"
Loud shrieks a darkly gleaming form;
"A murderer's voice!" the roof replies,
And deeply swells the bursting storm.

The tapers wink, the chieftains shrink,
The stranger's gone,—amidst the crew
A form was seen in tartan green,
And tall the shade terrific grew.

His waist was bound with a broad belt round,
His plume of sable stream'd on high;
But his breast was bare, with the red wounds there,
And fix'd was the glare of his glassy eye.

And thrice he smiled, with his eye so wild,
On Angus' rending low the knee;
And thrice he frown'd on a chief on the ground,
Whom shivering crowds with horror see.

The bolts loud roll, from pole to pole,
The thunders through the welkin ring,
And th'o' gleaming form, through the mist of the storm
Was borne on high by the whirlwind's wing.

Cold was the feast, the revel ceased:
Who lies upon the stony floor?
Oblivion press'd old Angus' breast,*
At length his life-pulse throbs once more

"Away, away! let the leech essay
To pour the light on Allan's eyes;"
His sand is done,—his race is run;
Oh! never more shall Allan rise!

* Old Angus press'd the earth with his breast. First Edition.

But Oscar's breast is cold as clay
His locks are lifted by the gale;
And Allan's barbed arrow lay
With him in dark Glentarnar's vale.

And whence the dreadful stranger came
Or who, no mortal wight can tell;
But no one doubts the form of flame,
For Alva's sons knew Oscar well.

Ambition nerved young Allan's hand,
Exulting demons wing'd his dart;
While Envy waved her burning brand,
And pour'd her venom round his heart.

Swift is the shaft of Allan's bow:
Whose streaming life-blood stains his side
Dark Oscar's sable crest is low,
The dart has drunk his vital tide.

And Mora's eye could Allan move,
She lade his wounded pride rebel;
Alas! that eyes which beam'd with love,
Should urge the soul to deeds of hell!

Lo! seest thou not a lonely tomb,
Which rises o'er a warrior dead?
It glimmers through the twilight gloom;
Oh! that is Allan's nuptial bed.

Far, distant far, the noble grave
Which held his clan's great ashes stood;
And o'er his corse no banners wave,
For they were stain'd with kindred blood.

What minstrel gray, what hoary bard,
Shall Allan's deeds on harp-strings raise?
The song is glory's chief reward,
But who can strike a murderer's praise?

Unstrung, untouch'd, the harp must stand,
No minstrel dare the theme awake;
Guilt would benumb his palsied hand,
His harp in shuddering chords would break.

No lyre of fame, no hallow'd verse,
Shall sound his glory's high in air;
A dying father's bitter curse,
A brother's death groan echoes there.

TO THE DUKE OF DORSET.

In looking over my papers to select a few additional poems for this second edition, I found the following lines, which I had totally forgotten, composed in the summer of 1803, a short time previous to my departure from Italy.

\begin{quote}
They were addressed to a young schoolfellow of high rank, who had been my frequent companion in some rambles through the neighboring country however, he never saw the lines, and most probably never will. As, on a re-reading, I found them not worse than some other pieces in the collection, have now published them, for the first time, after a slight revision.
\end{quote}

DORSET! whose early steps with mine have stray'd,
Exploring every path of Ida's glade,
Whom still affection taught me to defend,
And made me less a tyrant than a friend;
HOURS OF IDLENESS. — Page 429.
HOURS OF IDleness

1. Though the harsh custom, of our youthful band
Bade thee obey, and gave me to command:*
Thee on whose head a few short years will shower
The gifts of riches and the pride of power;
E'en now a name illustrious is thine own,
Kenown's in rank, not far beneath the throne.
Yet Dorset, let not this seduce thy soul
To shun fair science, or evade control;
Though passive tutors, fearful to displease
The titled child, whose future breath may raise,
View ducal errors with indolent eyes,
And wink at faults they tremble to chastise.

Were youthful parasites, who bend the knee
To wealth, their golden idol, not to thee,—
And even in simple boyhood's opening dawn
Some slaves are found to flatter and to fawn.—
When these declare, "That pomp alone should wait
On one by birth predestined to be great;
That books were only meant for drudging fools,
That gallant spirits scorn the common rules,"
Believe them not,—they point the path to shame,
And seek to blast the honors of thy name.

Turn to the few in Ida's early throng,
Whose souls disdain not to condemn the wrong;
Or if, amidst the comrades of thy youth,
None dare to raise the stern voice of truth,
Ask thine own heart; 'twill bid thee, boy, forbear;
For well I know that virtue lingers there.

Yes! I have mark'd thee many a passing day,
But now new scenes invite me far away;
Yes! I have mark'd within that generous mind
A soul, if well matured, to bless mankind.
Ah! though myself by nature haughty, wild,
Whom indiscretion hail'd her favorite child;
Though every error stamps me for her own,
And dooms my fall, I fain would fall alone;
Though my proud heart no precept now can tame,
I love the virtues which I cannot claim.

'Tis not enough, with other sons of power,
To gleam the lambent meteor of an hour.
To swell some peerage page in feeble pride,
With long-drawn names that grace no page beside;
Then share with titled crowds the common lot—
In life just gazed at, in the grave forgot;
While nought divides thee from the vulgar dead,
Except the dull, cold stone that hides thy head,
The moulder 'scutcheon, or the herald's roll,
That well-emblazon'd but neglected scroll,
Where lords, unhon'd, in the tomb may find
One spot, to leave a worthless name behind:
There sleep, unnoticed as the gloomy vaults
† That veil their dust, their follies, and their faults.
A race with old armorial lists o'erspread,
In records destined never to be read.

Pain would I view thee, with prophetic eyes,
Exalted more among the good and wise,
A glorious and a long career pursue,
As first in rank, the first in talent too;
Spare every vice, each little meanness shun;
Not Fortune's minion, but her noblest son.

Turn to the annals of a former day,
Bright are the deeds thine earlier shrines display.
One, though a courtier, lived a man of worth,
And call'd, proud boast! the British drama forth.

Another view, not less renowned for wit;
Alike for courts, and camps, or senates fit;
Bold in the field, and favor'd by the Nine;
In every splendid part ordain'd to shine;
Far, far distinguish'd from the glittering throng,
The pride of princes, and the boast of song.†
Such were thy fathers; thus preserve their name;
Not heir to titles only, but to fame.
The hours draw nigh, a few brief days will close,
To me, this little scene of joys and woes;
Each knell of Time now warns me to resign
Shades where Hope, Peace and Friendship all were mine:

Hope, that could vary like the rainbow's hue,
And gild their pinions as the moments flew;
Peace, that reflection never frown'd away,
By dreams of ill to cloud some future day;
Friendship, whose truth let childhood only tell
Alas! they love not long who love so well.
To these adieu! nor let me linger o'er Scenes hail'd as exiles hail their native shore.
Receding slowly through the dark-blue deep,
Beheld by eyes that mourn, yet cannot weep.

Dorset, farewell! I will not ask one part
Of sad remembrance in so young a heart;
The coming morrow from thy youthful mind
Will sweep my name, nor leave a trace behind.
And yet, perhaps, in some maturer year,
Since chance has thrown us in the self-same sphere
Since the same senate, may the same debate
May one day claim our suffrage for the state,
We hence may meet, and pass each other by
With faint regard, or cold and distant eye.
For me, in future, neither friend nor foe
A stranger to thyself, thy zeal or wo,
With thee no more again I hope to trace
The recollection of our early race:
No more, as once, in social hours rejoice,
Or hear, unless in crowds, thy well-known voice.
Still, if the wishes of a heart untang'd
To veil those feelings which perchance it ought,
If these—but let me cease the lengthen'd strain—
Oh! if these wishes are not breathed in vain,
The guardian seraph who directs thy fate,
Will leave thee glorious as he found thee great.

ADRIAN'S ADDRESS TO HIS SOUL WHEN DYING.

† Animula vagula, blandula,
Rosop, comessque, corporis,
Quem nunc abolis in loca?
Palidulis, rigidas, nudulas,
Nec ut soles, dabis jocos,

* Thomas Beckford, Lord Beckford, created Earl of Ferrers, by James the First, was one of the earliest and brightest ornaments to the poetry of his country, and the first who produced a regular drama.—Anderson's British Poets.

† At every public school the junior boys are completely subservient to the upper class, if they attain a seat in the higher classes. From this state of servitude, every poor boy, no rank is exemp; but after a certain period they were to be turned those who succeed.

† Allow me to explain any personal allusions, even for most distant; I simply mention generally what is too often the weakness of preceptors.

† See the same lines in Lear, stanza 11.
TRANSLATION.

Ah! gentle, fleeting, wav'ring sprite,
Friend and associate of this clay!
To what unknown region borne,
Wilt thou now-wing thy distant flight?
No more with wonted humor gay,
But pallid, cheerless, and forlorn.

TRANSLATION FROM CATULLUS.

"LUCTUS DE MORTE PASSERIBIS"

Ye Cupids, drop each little head,
Nor let your wings with joy be spread;
My Lesbia's favorite bird is dead,
Whom dearer than her eyes she loved
For he was gentle, and so true,
Obedient to her call he flew,
No fear, no wild alarm he knew,
But lightly o'er her bosom moved:

And softly fluttering here and there,
He never sought to clear the air,
But chirrump'd oft, and, free from care,
Tuned to her ear his grateful strain.
Now having passed the gloomy bourn,
His death and Lesbia's grief I mourn,
Who sighs, alas! but sighs in vain.

Oh! curst be thou, devouring grave!
Whose jaws eternal victims crave,

From whom no earthly power can save
For thou hast ta'en the bird away;
From thee my Lesbia's eyes o'erflow,
Her swollen cheeks with weeping glow;
Thou art the cause of all her woe,
Receptacle of life's decay.

IMITATED FROM CATULLUS.

TO ELLEN.

Oh! might I kiss those eyes of fire,
A million scars would quench desire:
Still would I steep my lips in bliss,
And dwell an age on every kiss;
Nor then my soul should sated be;
Still would I kiss and cling to thee:
Naught should my kiss from thine disperse,
Still would we kiss, and kiss for ever;
E'en though the numbers'did exceed
The yellow harvest's countless seed.
To part would be a vain endeavor:
Could I desist?—ah! never—never.

TRANSLATION FROM HORACE.*

ODE 3, LIB. 3

The man of firm and noble soul
No factions clamors can control;
No threatening tyrant's darkling brew
Can swerve him from his just intent;
Gales the warring waves which plough,

By Auster on the billows spent,
To curb the Adriatic main,
Would saw his fix'd determined mind in vain.

* Only printed in the private volume.
**HOURS OF IDleness.**

After and the red right arm of Jove,
Hurtling his lightnings from above,
With all his terrors then unfurl'd,
He would unmoved, unawed behold.
The flames of an expiring world,
Again in crashing chaos roll'd,
In vast promiscuous ruin hurled,
Might light his glorious funeral pile;
Still dauntless, midst the wreck of earth he'd smile.

---

**TRANSLATION FROM ANACREON.**

TO HIS LYRE.

I wish to tune my quivering lyre
To deeds of fame and notes of fire;
To echo, from its rising swell,
How heroes fought and nations fell,
When Atreus' sons advanced to war,
Or Tyrian Cadmus roved afar:
But still, to martial strains unknown,
My lyre recurs to love alone.

Fired with the hope of future fame,
I seek some nobler hero's name:
The dying chords are strung anew,
To war, to war, my harp is due:
With glowing strings, the epic strain
To Jove's great son I raise again;
Alcides and his glorious deeds,
Beneath whose arm the Hydra bleeds,
All, all in vain; my wayward lyre
Wakes silver notes of soft desire.
Adieu, ye chiefs renown'd in arms!
Adieu! the clang of war's alarms!
To other deeds my soul is strung,
And sweeter notes shall now be sung;
My harp shall all its powers reveal,
To tell the tale my heart must feel;
Love, love alone, my lyre shall claim,
In songs of bliss and sighs of shame.

---

**ODE III.**

'Twas now the hour when Night had driven
Her car half round yon sable heaven;
Bootes, only, seem'd to roll
His arctic charge around the pole;
While mortals, lost in gentle sleep,
Forgot to smile, or cease to weep:
At tis a lone hour, the Lapian boy,
Descending from the realms of joy,
Quick to my gate directs his course,
And knockes with all his little force.
My visions fled, alarm'd I rose,—
"What stranger breaks my blest repose?"
"Alas!" replies the wily child,
In faltering accents sweetly mild,
"A hapless infant here I roam,
Far from my dear maternal home.
Oh! shield me from the wintry blast!
The nightly storm is puring fast.

---

No prowling robber lingers here,
A wandering baby who can fear?"
I heard his seeming artless tale,
I heard his sighs upon the gale:
My breast was never pity's foe.
But felt for all the baby's wo.
I drew the bar, and by the light
Young Love, the infant, met my sight:
His bow across his shoulders flung,
And thence his fatal quiver hung,
(Ah! little did I think the dart
Would rankle soon within my heart.)
With care I tend my weary guest,
His little fingers chill my breast;
His glossy curls, his azure wing,
Which drop with nightly showers, I wrung:
His shivering limbs the embers warm;
And now reviving from the storm,
Scarce had he felt his wonted glow,
Than swift he seiz'd his slender bow:
"I fain would know, my gentle host,
He cried, "if this its strength has lost;
I fear, relax'd with midnight dews,
The strings their former aid refuse."
With poison tipt, his arrow flies,
Deep in my tortured heart it lies;
Then loud the joyous urchin laugh'd:
"My bow can still impel the shaft:
'Tis firmly fix'd, thy sighs reveal it;
Say, courteous host, canst thou not feel it?"

---

**FRAGMENTS OF SCHOOL EXERCISES.**

FROM THE PROMETHEUS VINC'TUS OF AESCHYLUS.

**GREAT Jove, to whose almighty throne**
Both gods and mortals homage pay,
Ne'er may my soul thy power disown,
Thy dread behest ne'er disobey.
Oft shall the sacred victim fall
In sea-girt ocean's mossy hall;
My voice shall raise no impious strain
Against him who rules the sky and azure main.

---

How different now thy joyless fate,
Since first Helen's bride,
When placed aloft in godlike state,
The blushing beauty by thy side,
Thou sat'st, while reverend Ocean smiled,
And mirthful strains the hours beguiled,
The Nymphs and Tritons danced around,
Nor yet thy doom was fix'd, nor Jove relentless
frown'd.

**Harrow, Dec. 1, 1804.**

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**THE EPISODE OF NISUS AND EURYALUS.**

A PARAPHRASE FROM THE IENEID, LIB. IX.

Nisus, the guardian of the portal, stood,
Eager to gild his arms with hostile blood;
Well skill'd in fight the quivering lance to wield.
O'er his arrows through the embattled field.
BYRON'S WORKS.

*From Ida torn, he left his sylvan cave,
And sought a foreign home, a distant grave.
To watch the movements of the Daunian host,
With him Euryalus sustains the post;*

No lovelier men adorn'd the ranks of Troy,
And beardless bloom yet graced the gallant boy;
Though few the seasons of his youthful life,
As yet a novice in the martial strife,

Twa's his, with beauty, valor's gifts to share—
A soul heroic, as his form was fair:
These burn with one pure flame of generous love;
In peace, in war, united still they move;
Friendship and glory form their joint reward;
And now combined they hold their nightly guard.

"What god," exclaim'd the first, "instills this fire!
Or, in itself a god, what great desire?
My laboring soul, with anxious thought oppressed,
Abhors this station of inglorious rest;
The love of fame with this can ill accord,
Be 't to pursue the garland of my sword.
Seest thou my camp, with torches twinkling dim,
Where: to:ken slumbers wrap each lazy limb?
Where confidence and ease the watch disdain,
And drowsy Silenice holds her sable reign?
Then hear my thought:—In deep and sullen grief
Our troops and leaders mourn their absent chief:
Now could the gifts and promised prize be thine,
(Thed, the danger, and the fame be mine,) Were this decreed, beneath yon rising mound, Methinks, an easy path perchance were found;
Which past, I speed my way to Pallas' walls,
And lend Enaeas from Invander's halls."

With equal ardor fired, and warlike joy,
His glowing friend address'd the Dardan boy:
"These deeds, my Nisus, shalt thou dare alone?
Must all the fame, the peril, be thine own?
Am I by thee despised, and left afar,
As one unfit to share the toils of war?
Not thus his son the great Ophelles taught;
Not thus my sire in Argive combats fought;
Not thus, when Ilion fell by heavenly hate,
I track'd Enaeas through the walks of fate:
Then how'st my deeds, my breast devoid of fear,
And hostile life-drop dim my gory spear.
Here is a soul with hope immortal burns,
And life, ignoble life, for glory spurns.
Fame, fame is cheaply earn'd by fleeting breath.
The price of honor is the sleep of death."

Then Nisus,—"Calm thy bosom's fond alarms: Thy heart beats fiercely to the din of arms. More dear thy worth and valor than my own,
I swear by him who fills Olympus! throne! So may I triumph, as I speak the truth,
And claim the laurel and thy youth! But shool! I fall,—and he who dares advance
Through hostile regions, must abide by chance,—

---

If some Rutulian arm, with adverse blow,
Should lay the friend who ever loved thee low,
Live thou—such beauties I would fain preserve—
Thy budding years a lengthen'd term deserve.
When humbled in the dust, let some one be,
Whose gentle eyes will shed one tear for me;
Whose manly arm may snatch me back by force
Or wealth redeem from fees my captive bire.
Or, if my destiny these last deny,
If in the speller's power my soul decline,
Thy pious care may raise a simple tomb,
To mark thy love, and signalize my doom.
Why should thy doting wretched mother weep? Her only boy, reclined in endless sleep? Who, for thy sake, the tempest's fury dared,
Who, for thy sake, war's deadly peril shared;
Who braved what woman never braved before,
And left her native for the Latian shore."

"In vain you damp the ardor of my soul,"
Replied Euryalus; "it sears control!
Hence, all your tears and complaints!"—Their brother guards arose
Roused by their call, nor court again repose;
The pair, buoy'd up on Hope's exulting wing,
Their stations leave, and speed to seek the king.

Now o'er the earth a solemn stillness ran,
And lull'd alike the cares of brute and man;
Save where the Dardan leaders nightly hold
Alternate converse, and their plans unfold.
On one great point the council are agreed,
An instant message to their prince decreed; Each lean'd upon the lance he well could wield,
And poised with easy arm his ancient shield;
When Nisus and his friend their leave request
To offer something to their high bequest.
With anxious tremors, yet unawed by fear,
The faithful pair before the throne appear:
Julus greets them; at his kind command,
The elder first address'd the hoary band.

"With patience" (thus Hyrtacides began)
"Attend, nor judge from youth our humble plea.
Where yonder beacons half expiring bear
Our aspiring foes; and future's ancient dream,
Nor heed that we a secret path have traced,
Between the ocean and the portal placed.
Beneath: the covert of the blackening smoke,
Whose shade securely our design will cloak!
If you, ye chiefs, and fortune, will allow,
We'll bend our course to yonder mountain's brow
Where Pallas' walls at distance meet the sight,
Seen o'er the glade, when not obscured by night:
Then shall Æneas in his pride return,
While hostile matrons raise their offspring's urn;
And Latian spoils a prudent heaped of dead,
Shall mark the haven of our hero's tread.
Such is our purpose, not unknown the way;
Where yonder torrent's devious waters stray,
Oft have we seen, when hunting by the stream
The distant spires above the valleys gleam."

Mature in years, for sober wisdom famed,
Moved by the speech, Aethelies here exclaim'd,
"Ye parent gods! who rule the fate of Troy,
Still dwells the Dardan spirit in the boy;
When minds like these in striplings thus ye raise
Yours is the godlike act; be yours the praise;
In gallant youth, my fainting hopes revive,
And Ilion's wonted glories still survive."

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* Him Ida sent, a hunter now no more, To combat foes upon a foreign shore, Near him, the berolent of the Trojan band, Did sile Euryalus, his humble war, stood: Few are the weanes of his youthful life, As yet a novice in the martial arts:—The gods to him unwoed gifts impart, A female's beauty, with a hero's heart. These burn with one pure flame of generous love, to poesy, in war, united still they roose; Friendship and glory form their joint reward, and now combined they own the grace they guard. 

Sach was the original version of this passage, as given in one private ed. in which no more than the above fragment was retained.
The trench is pass'd, and, favor'd by the night,
Through sleeping foes they wheel their wary flight.
When shall the sleep of many a foe be o'er?
Alas! some slumber who shall wake no more!
Chariots and bridles, mix'd with arms, are seen;
And flowing flasks, and scatter'd troops between.
Bacchus and Mars to rule the camp combine;
A mingled chaos this of war and wine.
"Now," cries the first to deeds of blood prepare.
With men the duress and the task, we share:
Here lies our path; lest any hand arise,
Watch thou, while many a dreamy chieftain dies;
I'll carve our passage through the heedless foe,
And clear thy road with many a deadly blow." 
His whisperings accents then the youth repress'd,
And pierced proud Rhamnes through his panting breast;
Stretch'd at his ease, th' incautious king repos'd;
Debauch, and not fatigue, his eyes had closed:
To Turnus dear, a prophet and a prince,
His omens more than augur's skill devise;
But he, who, thus foretold the fate of all,
Could not avert his own untimely fall.
Next Remus' armor-bearer, hapless fell,
And three unhappy slaves the carnage swell.
The charioteer along his coursers' sides
Expires, the steel his sever'd neck divides;
And, last, his lord is number'd with the dead;
Bounding convulsive, flies the gasping head;
From the swell'n veins the blackening torrents pour.
Stain'd is the couch and earth with clotting gore.
Young Lamyrs and Lamus next expire,
And gay Serranus, fell'd with youthful fire.

HOURS OF IDleness.

Then in his warm embrace the boys he press'd,
And, quivering, strain'd them to his aged breast;
With tears the burning cheek of each bedew'd,
And, sobbing, thus his first discourse renew'd:
"What gift, my countrymen, what martial prize
Can we bestow, which you may not despise?
Our deities the first best boon have given—
Internal virtues are the gift of Heaven.
What poor rewards can bless your deeds on earth,
Doubtless await such young, exalted worth.
Æneas and Ascanius shall combine
To yield applause, far, far surpassing mine."
Iulus then:—"By all the powers above!
By those Penates * who my country love!
By hony Vesta's sacred fane, I swear
My hopes are all in you, ye generous pair!
Restore my father to my grateful sight,
And all my sorrows yield to one delight.
Nisus! two silver goblets are thine own,
Saved from Arisha's stately domes o'erthrown!
My sire secured them on that fatal day.
Nor left such bowls an Argive robber's prey:
Two massy tripods, also, shall be thine;
Two talents polished from the glittering mine:
An ancient cup, which Tyrian Dido gave,
While yet our vessels press'd the Punic wave;
But when the hostile chiefs at length bow'd down,
When great Æneas wears Hesperia's crown,
The casque, the buckler, and the fiery steed
Which Turnus guides with more than mortal speed,
Are thine; no envious lot shall then be cast,
I pledge my word, irrevocably past:
May never, twelve slaves, and twice six captive dames,
To soothe thy softer hours with amorous flames,
And all the realms which now the Latins sway,
The labors of to-night shall well repay.
But thou, my generous youth, whose tender years
And near my own, whose worth my heart revere,
Henceforth affection, sweetly thus begun,
Shall join our bosoms and our souls in one;
Without thy aid, nothing shall be mine;
With thy advice, no great design;
Alas! through life esteem'd, thou godlike boy,
In war my bulwark, and in peace my joy." 

To him Euryalus:—"No day shall shame
The rising glories which from this I claim.
Fortune may favor, or the skies may frown,
But valor, spite of fate, obtains renown.
Yet, ere from hence our eager steps depart,
One boon I beg, the nearest to my heart;
My mother, sprung from Priam's royal line,
Like thine ennobled, hardly less divine;
Nor Troy nor king Acestes' realms restrain
Her feeble age from dangers of the main;
Alone she came, all selfish fears above,
A bright example of maternal love,
Unknown the secret enterprise I brave,
Last grief should bend my parent to the grave;
From this alone no fond aidice I seek,
No fainting mother's lips have press'd my cheek;
By gloomy night and thy right hand I vow
Her parted tears would shake my purpose now;
Do thou, my prince, her falling age sustain,
In thee her much-loved child may live again;

* Household gods.  
† "Alone she came." In the first edition, "Rheiue she came."
BYRON'S WORKS.

Half the long night in childish games was pass'd:
Lull'd by the potent grape, he slept at last;
Ah! happier far had he the morn survey'd,
And till Aurora's dawn his skill display'd.

In slaughter'd folds, the keepers lost in sleep,
His hungry fangs a lion thus may steep;
'Mid the sad-dock, at dead of night, he prowls,
With madder glutted, and in carnage rolls;
Insta-rate still, through teeming herds he roams;
In seas of gore the lordly tyrant soams.

Nor less the other's deadly vengeance came,
But falls on feeble crowds without a name:
His wound unconscious Fadus scarce can feel,
Yet wakeful Rhaesus sees the threatening steel;
His coward breast behind a jar he hides,
And vainly in the weak defence confides:
Full in his heart, the falchion searched his veins,
The reeking weapon bears alternate stains;
Through wine and blood, commingling as they flow,
One feeble spirit seeks the shades below.

Now where Messapus dwelt the fear of their way,
Whose fires emit a faint and trembling ray;
There, unconfined, behold each grazing steed,
Unwatch'd, unheed'd, on the herbage feed:
Brave Nisus here arrests his comrade's arm,
Too flush'd with carnage, and with conquest warm:
"Hence let us haste, the dangerous path is pass'd;"
Full foes enough to-night have breath'd their last:
Soon will the day those eastern clouds adorn;
Now let us speed, nor tempt the rising morn."

What silver arms, with various art emboss'd,
What bows and mantles in confusion toss'd,
They leave regardless! yet one glittering prize
Attracts the younger hero's wandering eyes;
The gilded harness Rhamnes' coursers felt,
The gems which studd'd the monarch's golden belt;
This from the pallid corse was quickly torn,
Once by a line of former chieftains worn.
Th' exulting boy the studded girdle wears,
Messapus' helm his head in triumph bears;
Then from the tents their cantious steps they bend
To seek the vale where safer paths extend.

Just at this hour a band of Latian horse
To Turnus' camp pursue their destined course;
While the slow foot their tardy march delay,
The knights, impatient, spur along the way:
Three hundred mail-clad men, by Volscens led,
To Turnus with their master's promise sped;
Now they approach the trench, and view the walls,
When, on the left, a light reflection falls;
The plunder'd helmet through the waning night,
Sheds forth a silver radiance, glancing bright.
Volscens with question loud the pair alarms:—
"Stand, striplings! stand! why early thus in arms? From whence, to whom?"—He meets with no reply:
Trusting the covert of the night, they fly;
The thicket's depth with hurried pace they tread,
While round the wood the hostile squadron spread.

With brakes entangled, scare a path between, "Drearly and dark appeareth the sylvan scene:
Euryalus his heavy spoils impede,
The boughs and winding turns his steps mislead;
But Nisus scourc along the forest's maze
To where Latinus' steeds in safety graze,

Then backward o'er the plain his eyes extend,
On every side they seek his absent friend.
"O God! my boy," he cries, "of me bereft,
In what impending perils art thou left!"
Listening he runs—above the wavy trees,
Tumultuous voices swell the passing breeze;
The war-cry rises, thundering hoofs around
Wake the dark echoes of the trembling ground.
Again he turns, of footsteps hear the noise;
The sound elates, the sight his hope destroys.
The hapless boy a ruffian train surround,
While lengthening shades his weary way confound,
Him with loud shouts the furious knights pursue,
Struggling in vain, a captive to the crew.
What can his friend 'gainst thronging numbers dare!
Ah! must he rush, his comrade's fate to share?
What force, what aid, what stratagem essay,
Back to redeem the Latian spoiler's prey?"
His life a votive ransom nobly give,
Or die with him for whom he wish'd to live;
Poising with strength his lifted lance on high,
On Luna's orb he cast his frenzied eye:
"Goddesse serene, transcending every star!
Queen of the sky, whose beams are seen afar!
By night heaven owns thy sway, by day the grove,
When, as chaste Dian, here thou deign'st to rove;
If e'er myself, or sires, have sought to grace
Thine altars with the produce of the chase,
Speed, speed my dart to pierce yon vaunting crowd,
To free my friend and scatter far the proud."
Thus having said, the hissing dart he flung;
Through parted shades the hurtling weapons sung;
The thristy point in Sulmo's entrails lay,
Transfix'd his heart, and stretch'd him on the clay:
He sob's, he dies,—the troop in wild amaze,
Unconscious whence the death, with horror gaze.
While pale they stare, through Tagus' temple riven,
A second shaft with equal force is driven:
Fierce Volscens rolls around his lowering eyes;
Veil'd by the night, secure the Trojan lies;
Burning with wrath, he viewed his soldiers fall.
"Thou youth accurst, thy life shall pay for all!"
Quick from the sheath his flaming glaive he drew.
And, raging, on the boy defenceless flew.
Nisus no more the blackening shade conceals,
Forth, forth he starts, and all his love reveals,
Aghast, confus'd, his fears to madness rise,
And pour these accents, shrieking as he flies,
"Me, me,—your vengeance hurl on me alone;
Here sheathe the steel, my blood is all your own.
Ye starry spheres! thou conscious Heaven! attest;
He could not—durst not—do! the guile confest;
All, all was mine—his early fate suspend
He only loved too well his hapless friend:
Spare, spare, ye chiefs! from him your rage remove
His fault was friendship, all his crime was love."
He pray'd in vain; the dark assassin's sword
Pierced the fair side, the snowy bosom gored;
Lowly to earth inclines his plume-clad crest,
And sanguine torrents mantle o'er his breast:
As some young rose, whose blossom scents the air,
Languid in death, expires beneath the share;
Or crimson poppy, sinking with the shower.
Declining gently, falls a fading flower;
Thus, sweetly drooping, bends his lovely head,
And lingering beauty hovers round the dead.

But fiery Nisus stems the battle's tide,
Revenge his leader, and despair his guide:
Volscns he seeks amst the gathering host,
Volscns mst soon appose his comrade's ghost;
Steel, flashing, yours on steel, foe crowds on foe;
Rage nerves his arm, fate gleams in every blow;
In vain beneath unnumber'd wounds he bleeds,
Nor wounds, nor death, distracted Nisus heed;
In viewless circles wheel'd, his falchion flies,
Nor quits the hero's grasp till Volscns dies;
Deep in his throat its end the weapon found,
The tyrant's soul fled groaning through the wound.
Thus Nisus all his fond affection proved—
Dying, revenged the fate of him he loved;
Then on his bosom sought his wonted place,
And death was heavenly in his friend's embrace!

Celestial pair! if aught my verse can claim,
Wafted on Time's broad pinion, yours is fame!
Ages on ages shall your fate admire,
Nor future day shall see your names expire,
While stands the Capitol, immortal dome!
And vanquish'd millions hail their empress, Rome!

TRANSLATION FROM THE MEDEA OF EURIPIDES.*

WHEN fierce conflicting passions urge
The breast where love is wont to glow,
What mind can stem the stormy surge,
Which rolls the tide of human wo?
The hope of praise, the dread of shame,
Can rouse the tortured breast no more;
The wild desire, the guilty flame,
Absorbs each wish it felt before.

But if affection gently thrills
The soul by purer dreams possesst,
The pleasing balm of mortal ills
In love can soothe the aching breast:
If thou comest in disguise;†
Fair Venus! from thy native heaven,
What heart unfeeling would despise
The sweetest boon the gods have given?

But never from thy golden bow
May I beneath the shaft expire!
Whose creeping venom, sure and slow,
Awakes an all-consuming fire:
Ye racking doubts! ye jealous fears!
With others wage internal war;
Repentance, source of future tears,
From me be ever distant far!

May no distracting thoughts destroy
The holy calm of sacred love!
May all the hours be winged with joy,
Whichover faithful hearts above!
Fair Venus! on thy myrtle shrine
May I with some fond lover sigh,
Whose heart may mingle pure with mine—
With me to live, with me to die!

My native soil! beloved before,
Now dearer as my peaceful home,
Ne'er may I quit thy rocky shore
A hapless banish'd wretch to roam!
This very day, this very hour,
May I resign this fleeting breath!
Nor quit my silent humble bow;
A doom to me far worse than death

Have I not heard the exile's sigh,
And seen the exile's silent tear,
Through distant climes condemn'd to fly
A pensive weary wanderer here?
Ah! hapless dame! no sire bewails,
No friend thy wretched fate deplores.
No kindred voice with rapture hails
Thy steps within a stranger's doors.

Perish the fiend whose iron heart,
To fair affection's truth unknown,
Bids her he fondly loved depart,
Unpity'd, helpless, and alone:
Who ne'er unlocks with silver key†
The milder treasurers of his soul,—
May such a friend be far from me.

And ocean's storms between us roll.

THOUGHTS

SUGGESTED BY A COLLEGE EXAMINATION.†

HIGH in the midst, surrounded by his peers,
MAONUS his ample front sublime uprears:
Placed on his chair of state, he seems a god,
While Sophs and Freshmen tremble at his nod.
As all around sit wrapt in speechless gloom,
His voice in thunder shakes the sounding dome
Denouncing dire reproach to luckless foot
Unskil'd to plod in mathematical rules.

Happy the youth in Euclid's axioms tried,
Though little versed in any art beside;
Who, scarcely skill'd in English line to pen,
Scans Attic metres with a critic's ken.

What though he knows not how his fathers blest,
When civil discord piled the fields with dead,
When Edward bade his conquering bands advance,
Or Henry trampled on the crest of France;
Though marveling at the name of Magna Charta,
Yet well he recollects the laws of Sparta;
Can tell what edicts sage Lycurgus made,
While Blackstone's on the shelf neglected laid;

Meno, who accompanied Jason to Corinth, was deserbed by him for the daughter of Creon, king of that city. The chorus from this which is taken here addresses Meno; though a considerable library is used with the original, by expanding the idea, as also in some other parts of the translation.

† The original is "Καθαρόν δ' ἐν οἷς εἴληθα γονεῖν"; literally "disclosing the bright key of the mind." 2 No reflection is here intended against the person mentioned under the name of Magnus. He is merely represented as performing an unavoidable function of his office. Indeed, such an attempt could only recur upon myself; as that gentleman is now so much distinguished by his eloquence, and the dignified propriety with which he fills his situation, as he was in his younger days for wit and conversancy.

* The above note was added in the first edition of the Hours of Idleness.

† The above note was added in the first edition of the Hours of Idleness.
Of Grecian dramas vaunts the deathless fame,
Of Avon's bard remembering scarce the name.

Such is the youth whose scientific pate
Class-honors, medals, fellowships, await;
Or even, perhaps, the declamation prize,
If to such glorious height he lifts his eyes
But, lo! no common orator can hope
The envied silver cup within his scope.
Not that our heads much eloquence require,
Th' Athenian's glowing style, or Tully's fire.
A manner clear or warm is useless, since
We do not try by speaking to convince.
Be other orators of pleasing proud:
We speak to please ourselves, not move the crowd:
Our gravity prefers the muttering tone,
A proper mixture of the squeak and groan;
No borrowed grace of action must be seen;
The slightest motion would please the Dean;
Whilst every starving graduate would prate
Against what he could never imitate.

The man who hopes to obtain the promised cup
Must in one posture stand, and ne'er look up;
Nor stop, but rattle over every word—
Not matter what, so it can not be heard.
Thus let him hurry on, nor think to rest;
Who speaks the fastest's sure to speak the best;
Who utters most within the shortest space,
May safely hope to win the wordy race.

The sons of science these, who, thus repaid,
Linger in ease in Granta's sluggish shade;
Where on Cam's sedgy bank supine they lie
Unknown—unhonour'd live, unwept—for die:
Dull as the pictures which adorn their halls,
They think all learning fix'd within their walls:
In manners rude in foolish forms precise,
All modern arts affecting to despise;
Yet prizeing Bentley's, * Brunck's, * or Porson's† note,
More than the verse on which the critic wrote:
† Vain as their honors, heavy as their ale,
Sad as their wit, and tedious as their tale;
To friendship dead, though not untaught to feel,
When Self and Church demand a bigot zeal.
With eager haste they court the lord of power,
Whether 'tis Pitt or Petty rules the hour;‡
‡ To him with suppliant smiles they bend the head,
‡ While distant mitres to their eyes are spread.
But should a storm o'erwhelm him with disgrace,
They'd fly to seek the next who fill'd his place.
Such are the men who learning's treasures guard;
Such is their practice, such is their reward!
This much at least we may presume to say—
The premium can't exceed the price they pay.

* 1806.

TO THE EARL OF——.*

"To asperer aurus
Sic memor, et est collauda ac oblatum ingenio."

Phaonius Pæonius

FRIEND of my youth! when young we roved
Like striplings mutually beloved
With friendship's purest glow,
The bliss which wing'd those rosy hours
Was such as pleasure seldom showers
On mortals here below.

The recollection seems alone
Dearer than all the joys I've known
When distant far from you:
Though pain, 'tis still a pleasing pain,
To trace those days and hours again,
And sigh again adieu!

My pensive memory lingers o'er
Those scenes to be enjoy'd no more,
Those scenes regretted ever:
The measure of our youth is full,
Life's evening dream is dark and dull,
And we may meet—ah! never!

As when one parent spring supplies
Two streams which from one fountain rise,
Together join'd in vain;
How soon, diverging from their source,
Each, murmuring, seeks another course
Till mingled in the main!

Our vital streams of weal or wo,
Though near, alas! distinctly flow,
Nor mingle as before:
Now swift or slow, now black or clear
Till death's unfathom'd gulf appear,
And both shall quit the shore,

Our souls, our friend! which once supplied
One wish, nor breathed a thought beside,
Now flow in different channels:
Disdaining humbler rural sports,
'Tis yours to mix in polish'd courts,
And shine in fashion's annals:

'Tis mine to waste on love my time,
Or vent my reveries in rhyme
Without the aid of reason;
For sense and reason (critics know it)
Have quittd every amorous poet,
Nor left a thought to seize on.

Poor LITTLE! sweet, melodious bard!
Of late esteem'd it monstrous hard
That he who sang before all,
He who the lore of love expanded,
By dire reviewers should be branded
As void of wit and moral.†

And yet, while Beauty's praise is thine,
Harmonious favorite of the Nine!

* These stanzas were first published in the second edition of Hours of Illusion.
† These stanzas were written soon after the appearance of a severe critique, in a northern review, on a new publication of the British Assassin.
Repine not at thy lot:
Yhy soothing rays may still be read,
When Persecution's arm is dead,
And critics are forgot.

Still I must yield those worthies merit
Who chasten, with unsparing spirit,
Bad rhymes, and those who write them;
And though myself may be the next
By critic sarcasm be vex'd,
I really will not fight them.*

Perhaps they would do quite as well
To break the rudely sounding shell
Of such a young beginner.
He who offends at pert nineteen,
Ere thirty may become, I ween,
A very harden'd sinner.

Now, I must return to you;
And sure, apologies are due:
Accept, then, my concession.
In truth, dear ——, in fancy's flight,
I soar along from left to right;
My muse admires digression.

I think I said 'twould be your fate
To add one star to royal state,—
May regal smiles attend you
And should a noble monarch reign,
You will not seek his smiles in vain,
If worth can recommend you.

Yet, since in danger courts abound,
Where specious rivals glitter round,
From shares may saints preserve you
And grant your love nor friendship ne'er
From any claim a kindred care
But those who best deserve you.

Not for a moment may you stray:
From truth's secure unerring way!
May no delights decoy!
O'er roses may your footsteps move!
Your smiles be ever smiles of love!
Your tears be tears of joy!

Oh! if you wish that happiness
Your coming days and years may bless,
And virtues crown your brow,
Be still, as you were wont to be,
Spotless as you've been known to me,—
Be still as you are now.

And though some trifling share of praise,
To cheer my last declining days,
To me were doubly dear;
Whilst blessing your beloved name,
I'd rise at once a poet's fame,
To prove a prophet here.

* A hard (bitter) reference to a specific critic's review of their work.

A MEDLEY.

Oh! could Le Saon's* demon's gift
Be realized at my desire,
This night my trembling form he'd lift
To place it on St. Mary's spire.

Then would, unroof'd, old Grant's halls
Pedantic inmates full display;
Fellows who dream on lawn or stalls,
The price of venal votes to pay.

Then would I view each rival wight,
Petty and Palmerston survey;
Who canvass there with all their might,
Against the next elective day.

Lo! candidates and voters lie;
All hull'd in sleep, a godly number!
A race renown'd for piety.
Whose conscience won't disturb their slumber.

Lord H——, indeed, may not demur;
Fellows are sage reflecting men:
They know preferment can occur
But very seldom, now and then.

They know the chancellor has got
Some pretty livings in disposal:
Each hopes that one may be his lot,
And therefore smiles on his proposal.

Now from the soporific scene
I'll turn mine eye, as night grows later,
To view unheeded and unseen
The studious sons of Alma Mater.

There, in apartments small and damp,
The candidate for college prizes
Sits poring by the midnight lamp;
Goes late to bed, yet early rises.

He surely well deserves to gain them,
With all the honors of his college,
Who, striving hardly to obtain them,
Thus seeks unprofitable knowledge:

Who sacrifices hours of rest
To scan precisely metres Attic;
Or agitates his anxious breast
In solving problems mathematieal:

* The motto was not given in the private volume.

† The Deux Bois of Le Sage, where Asmodeus, the demon, pinn'd
Don Celia to an eternal elusion, and unroof'd the houses for inspection.

‡ Lo! candidates and voters lie, &c. The fourth and fifth stanzas, which
are given here as they were printed in the Hours of Idleness, run as follows
in the private volume:—

"One on his power and place depends,
The other on the Lord knows what;
Each to some eloquence pretends,
Though neither will convince by that.

"The first, indeed, may not demur."

§ From the soporific scene. In the private volume, From convulsion...
Who reads false quantities in Sele,*
Or puzzles o'er the deep triangle;
Deprived of many a wholesome meal,
In barbarous Latin † doom'd to wrangle:
Renouncing every pleasing page
From authors of historic use;
Preferring to the letter'd sage
The square of the hypothenuse.‡
Still, harmless are these occupations,
That hurt none but the hapless student,
Compared with other recreations,
Which bring together the imprudent.
Whose daring revels shock the sight,
When vice and infamy combine,
When drunkenness and dice invite,
As every sense is steep'd in wine.
Not so the methodistic crew,
Who plans of reformation lay;
In humble attitude they sue,
And for the sins of others pray:
Forgetting that their pride of spirit,
Their exultation in their trial,
Detracts most largely from the merit
Of all their boasted self-denial.
'Tis morn: from these I turn my sight:
What scene is this which meets the eye? A numerous crowd, array'd in white,§
Across the green in numbers fly.
Loud rings in air the chapel bell;
'Tis hush'd—what sounds are these I hear? The organ's soft, celestial swell
Rolls deeply on the listen'ing ear.
To this is join'd the sacred song,
The royal minstrel's hallow'd strain; Though he who hears the music long, Will never wish to hear again.
Our choir would scarcely be excused,
Even as a band of raw beginners; All mercy now must be refused To such a set of croaking sinners.
If David, when his toils were ended, Had heard these blockheads sing before him, To us his psalms had ne'er descend'd,— In furious mood he would have tore 'em.
The luckless Israelites, when taken, By some inhuman tyrant's order, Were asked to sing, by joy forsaken On Babylonian river's border.

Oh! had they sung in notes like these, Inspired by strategem or fear, They might have set their hearts at ease The devil a soul had stay'd to hear.
But if I scribble longer * now,
The deuce a soul will stay to read My pen is blunt, my ink is low; 'Tis almost time to stop indeed.
Therefore, farewell, old GRANTA's spires: No more like Cleofas I fly; No more thy theme my muse inspires The reader's tired, and so am I.

1806

ANSWER TO SOME ELEGANT VERSES

SENT BY A FRIEND TO THE AUTHOR, COMPLAINING THAT ONE OF HIS DESCRIPTIONS WAS RATHER TOO WARMLY DRAWN.†

"But if any old lady, knight, priest, or physician, Should condemn me for printing a second edition; If good Muslim Scepticism my work should abuse, May I venture to give her a smack of my muse?"

CANDOUR compels me, BECHER! to commend The verse which blends the censor with the friend. Your strong, yet just, reproofs extorts applause From me, the headless and imprudent † cause. For this wild ‡ error which pervades my strain, I sue for pardon,—must I sue in vain? The wise sometimes from Wisdom's ways depart; Can youth then hush the dictates of the heart? Precepts of prudence curb, but can't control, The fierce emotions of the flowing soul. When love's delirium haunts the glowing mind, Limping Decorum lingers far behind: Vainly the dotard mends her prudish pace, Outstrip and vanquish'd in the mental chase. The young, the old, have worn the chains of love Let those they ne'er confined my lay reprove: Let those whose souls contenm the pleasing power Their censures on the hapless victim shower. Oh! how I hate the nerveless, frigid song, The ceaseless echo of the rhyming throng, Whose laud'rd lines in chilling numbers flow, To paint & pang the author ne'er can know! The artless Helicon I boast in youth;— My lyre, the heart; my muse, the simple truth, Far be't from me the "virgin's mind" to "taint;" Seduction's dread is here no slight restraint. The maid whose virgin breast is void of guile, Whose wishes dimple in a modest smile, Whose downcast eye disdains the wanton leer, Firm in her virtue's strength, yet not severe— She whom a conscious grace shall thus refine, Will ne'er be "tainted" by a strain of mire. But for the nymph whose premature desires Torment the bosom with unanny fires,

* Sele's publication on Greek metrics displays considerable talent and ingenuity, but, as might be expected in so difficult a work, is not remarkable for accuracy.
† The Latin of the schools is of the candius species, and not very intelligible.
‡ The accuracy of Pythagoras, that the square of the hypothenuse is equal to the squares of the other two sides of a right-angled triangle.
§ On a rain's day, the students wear surplices in chapel.

If I scribble longer. In the private volume, if I write much longer.
† Those lines were printed in the private volume, and in the first edition of Hours of silences, but afterwards omitted.
‡ Laughter. In the private volume, anonymous.
§ Book. Private volume, sole.
HOURS OF IDLENESS.

No not to snare her willing heart is spread;  
She would have fallen, though she ne'er had read.  
For me, I fain would please the chosen few,  
Whose souls, to feeling and to nature true,  
Will spare the childish verse, and not destroy  
The light effusions of a heedless boy.  
I seek not glory from the senseless crowd;  
Of fancied laurels I shall ne'er be proud;  
Their warmest plaudits I would scarcely prize,  
*Leah sneers or censures I alike despise.  

November 26, 1806.

LACHIN Y. GAIR.*

Lachin y. Gair, or, as it is pronounced in the Ewe, Loch na Garr, towers proudly prominent in the Northern Highlands, near Inverness. One of our modern tourists mentions it as the highest mountain, perhaps, in Great Britain. By this as it may, it is certainly one of the most sublime and picturesque among our "Caledonian Alps." Its appearance is of a dusky hue, but the summit is the seat of eternal snows. Near Lachin y. Gair I spent some of the early part of my life, the recollection of which has given birth to the following stanzas.

Away, ye gay landscapes, ye gardens of roses!  
In you let the minions of luxury rove;  
Restore me the rocks where the snow-flake repose,  
Though still they are sacred to freedom and love;  
Yet, Caledonia, beloved are your mountains,  
Round their white summits though elements war;  
Though cataraets foam 'stead of smooth-flowing fountains,  
I sigh for the valley of dark Loch na Garr.

Ah! where my young footsteps in infancy wander'd;  
My cap was the bonnet, my cloak was the plaid;  
On chieftains long perish'd my memory ponder'd,  
As daily I strode through the pine-covered glade.  
I sought not my home till the day's dying glory  
Gave place to the rays of the bright polar star;  
For fancy was cheer'd by traditional story,  
Disclosed by the natives of dark Loch na Garr.

"Shades of the dead! have I not heard your voices  
Rise on the night-rolling breath of the gale?"  
Surely the soul of the hero rejoices,  
And rides on the wind o'er his own Highland vale.  
Round Loch na Garr while the stormy mist gathers,  
Winter presides in his cold icy car;  
Mounds there encircle the forms of my fathers;  
They dwell in the tempests of dark Loch na Garr.

"Ill-star'd,"† though brave, did no visions foreboding,  
Tell you that fate had forsaken your cause?"  
Ah! were you destined to die at Culloden?  
Victory crown'd not your fall with applause:

* First published in Hours of Idleness.
† This word is erroneously pronounced glad; the proper pronunciation (according to the Scotch) is known by the botanists.  
‡ I allude here to my maternal ancestors "the Gordons," many of whom fought for the illustrious Prince Charles, better known by the name of the Prince of Wales. This branch was nearly assisted by blood, as well as attachment.  
§ In the Stuart, George, the second son of Haarley, married the Princess Annabella Stuart, daughter of James the First of Scotland. By her he left four sons: the third, Sir William Gordon, I have the honor to claim as one of my progenitors.  
¶ Whether any probate in the battle of Culloden, I am not certain; but, after all is the assumption, I have used the name of the principal action.

TO ROMANCE;†

Parent of golden dreams, Romance!  
Auspicous queen of childish joys,  
Who lead'st along, in airy dance,  
Thy votive train of girls and boys;  
At length, in spells no longer bound,  
I break the fetters of my youth;  
No more I tread thy mystic round,  
But leave thy realms for those of Truth.

And yet 'tis hard to quit the dreams  
Which haunt the unsuspicuous soul,  
Where every nymph a goddess seems,  
Whose eyes through rays immortal roll  
While Fancy holds her boundless reign,  
And all assume a varied hue;  
When virgins seem no longer vain,  
And even woman's smiles are true

And must we own thee but a name,  
And from thy hall of clouds descend?  
Nor find a sylph in every dame,  
A Pylades* in every friend?  
But leave at once thy realms of air  
To mingling hands of fairy elves?  
Confess that woman's face is fair,  
And friends have feeling for themselves?

With shame I own I've felt thy sway;  
Repentent, now thy reign is o'er:  
No more thy precepts I obey,  
No more on fancied pinions soar.  
Fond fool! to love a sparkling eye,  
And think that eye to truth was dear;  
To trust a passing wanton's sigh,  
And melt beneath a wanton's tear.  

Romance - disgusted with deceit,  
Far from thy motley court I fly  
Where Affectation holds her seat,  
And sickly Sensibility;
Whose silly tears can never flow
For any pangs excepting thine;
Who turns aside from real wo,
To steep in dew thy gaudy shrine.

Now join with sable Sympathy,
With cypress crown'd, array'd in weeds,
Who heaves with thee her simple sigh,
Whose breast for every bosom bleeds;
And call thy sylvan female choir,
To mourn a swain for ever gone,
Who once could glow with equal fire,
But bends not now before thy throne.

Ye genial nymphs, whose ready tears
On all occasions swiftly flow;
Whose bosoms heave with fancied fears,
With fancied flames and frenzy glow;
Say, will you mourn my absent name,
Apostate from your gentle train?
An infant bard at least may claim
From you a sympathetic strain.

Adieu, fond race! a long adieu!
The hour of fate is hovering nigh;
E'en now the gulf appears in view,
Where unlimteded you must lie:
Oblivion's blackening lake is seen,
Convulsed by gales you cannot weather;
Where you, and eke your gentle queen,
Alas! must perish altogether.

But not from thee, dark pile! departs the chief;
His feudal realm in other regions lay:
In thee the wounded conscience courts relief
Retiring from the garish blaze of day.

Yes, in thy gloomy cells and shades profound
The monk abjured a world he ne'er could view
Or blood-stain'd guilt repenting solace found.
Or innocence from stern oppression flew.

A monarch bade thee from that wild arise, [prov]
Where Sherwood's outlaws once were wont to
And superstition's crimes, of various dyes,
Sought shelter in the priest's protecting cowl.

Where now the grass exhales a murky dew,
The humid pall of life-extinguish'd clay,
In sainted fame the sacred fathers grew,
Nor raised their pious voices but to pray.

Where now the bats their waving wings extend,
Soon as the gloaming * spreads her waning shade,
The choir did oft their mingling vespers blend,
Or matin orisons to Mary I paid.

Years roll on years; to ages, ages yield;
Abbots to abbots, in a line, succeed;
Religion's charter their protecting shield,
Till royal sacrifice their doom decreed.

One holy HENRY reared the Gothic walls,
And bade the pious inmates rest in peace;
Another HENRY the kind gift recalls,
And bids devotion's hallow'd echoes cease.

Vain is each threat or supplicating prayer;
He drives them exiles from their blest abode,
To roam a dreary world in deep despair —
No friend, no home, no refuge, but their God.

Hark how the hall, resounding to the strain,
Shakes with the martial music's novel din!
The heralds of a warrior's haughty reign,
High crested banners, wave thy walls within.

Of changing sentinels the distant hum,
The mirth of feasts, the clang of burnish'd arms
The braying trumpet and the hoarser drum,
Unite in concert with increased alarms.

An abbey once, a regal fortress I now,
Encircled by insulting rebel powers,
War's dread machines o'erhang thy threat'ning brow,
And dart destruction in sulphurous showers.

Ah vain defence! the hostile traitor's siege,
Though oft repulsed by guile, 'o comes the brave;
His thronging foes oppress the faithful liege,
Rebellion's reeking standards o'er him wave.

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* As one poem on this subject is printed in the beginning, the author had originally, no intention of inserting the following; it is now added at the particular request of some friends. See page 413 of this edition.

† This word is used by Walter Scott in his poem, "The Wild Huntsman," very expressive with a want.

‡ "It is the voice of years that are gone! they roll before me with all their hectic." — Campbell.

NEWSTEAD! fast-falling, once resplendent dome!
Religion's shrine! repentant HENRY's pride!
Of warriors, monks, and dames the cloister'd tomb,
Whose pensive shades around thy ruins glide.

Hast to thy pile! more honor'd in thy fall
Than modern mansions in their pillar'd state;
Proudly majestic frowns thy vaulted hall,
Scowling defiance on the blasts of fate.

No mail-clad serfs, obedient to their lord,
In grim array the crimson cross I demand;
Or gay assemble round the festive board,
Their chief's retainers, an immortal band:

Else might inspiring Fancy's magic eye
Retrace their progress through the lapse of time;
Marking each ardent youth, ordain'd to die,
A votive pilgrim in Judith's clime.

As "gloaming," the Scottish word for twilight, is far more poetical, and has been recommending by many eminent literary men, particularly Mr. Moore in his Letters to Burns, I have ventured to use it on account of its harmony.

* Gloaming spreads her waning shade. In the private volume, Twilight wields a waning shade.

† The Priory was dedicated to the Virgin.

‡ At the dissolution of the monastery, Henry VIII., bestowed Newstead.

Abbot on Sir John Byron.

§ Occasionally maintained a considerable siege in the war between Charles I. and his parliament.
HOURS OF IDleness.

Not unsavaged the raging baron yields;
The blood of traitors smells the purple plain:
Unconqu’rd still, his falchion there he wields,
And days of glory yet for him remain.

still in that hour the warrior wish’d to strew
Self-garter’d laurels on a self-sought grave;
But Charles’ protecting genius hither flew,
The monarch’s friend, the monarch’s hope, to save.

Trembling, she snatch’d him* from th’ unequal
In other fields the torrent to repel; [strife.
For clo’er combats, here, reserved his life,
To lead the band where godlike Falkland† fell.

From thee, poor pike! to lawless plunder given,
While dying groans their painful requiem sound,
Far different incense now ascends to heaven,
Such victims wallow on the gory ground.

There many a pale and ruthless robber’s corse,
Noisome and ghast, defiles thy sacred sod;
’O er mingling man, and horse commix’d with horse,
Corruption’s heap, the savage scowler’s trod.

Graves, long with rank and sighing weeds o’erspread.
Ransack’d, resign perforce their mortal mould.
From ruffian fangs escape not even the dead,
Raked from repose in search for buried gold.

Hush’d is the harp, unstrung the warlike lyre,
The minstrel’s palsied hand reclines in death;
No more he strikes the quivering chords with fire,
Or sings the glories of the martial* wreath.

At length, the sated murderers, gorged with prey,
Retire; the clamor of the fight is o’er;
Silence again resumes her awful sway,
And sable Horror guards the massy door.

tere Desolation holds her dreary court;
What satellites declare her dismal reign!
Shrieking their dirge, ill-omen’d birds resort,
To flit their vigils in the hoary fane.

Soon a new morn’s restoring beams dispel
The clouds of anarchy from Britain’s skies;
The fierce usurper seeks his native hell,
And Nature triumphs as the tyrant dies.

With storms she welcomes his expiring groans;
Winds whirl, responsive, greet his laboring breath;
Earth shudders, as her caves receive his bones,
Lavishing the offering of so dark a death.

The regal ruler* now resumes the helm,
He guides through gentle seas the prow of state.
Hope cheer’s, with wonted smiles, the peaceful calm,
And heals the bleeding wounds of wearied state.

The gloomy tenants, Newstead! of thy cells,
Howling, resign their violated nest.
Again the master on his tenure dwells,
Enjoy’d, from absence, with enrap’tur’d zeal.

Vassals, within thy hospitable pale,
Loudly carousing, bless their lord’s return;
Culture again adorns the gladdening vale,
And matrons, once lamenting, cease to mourn.

A thousand songs on tuneful echo float,
Unwonted foliage mantles o’er the tree.
And hark! the horns proclaim a mellow note
The hunters’ cry hangs lengthening on the breeze.

Beneath their courser’s hoofs the valleys shake;
What fears, what anxious hopes, attend the chase?
The dying stag seeks refuge in the lake;
Exulting shouts announce the finish’d race.

Ah happy days! too happy to endure!
Such sports our plain forefathers knew.
No splendid vices glitter’d to allure;
Their joys were many, as their cares were few.

From these descending, sons to sire’s succeed;
Time steals along, and Death upbraids the past;
Another chief impels the foaming steed,
Another crowd pursue the panting hart.

Newstead! what saddening change of scene is thine!
Thy yawning arch betokens slow decay;
The last and youngest of a noble line
Now holds thy moulderling turrets in his sway.

Deserted now, he scans thy gray worn towers;
Taw vainlets, where dead of feudal ages sleep;
Thy cloisters, perversive to the wintry showers;
These, these he views, and views them but in weep.

Yet are his tears no emblem of regret;
Cheer’d affection only bids them flow.
Pride, hope, and love, forbid him to forget,
But warm his bosom with impasion’d glow.

Yet he prefers thee to the gilded domes
Or gewgaw grottos of the vainly great.
Yet lingers’ mid thy damp and mossy tombs,
Nor breathes a murmur ‘gainst the will of fate.

Haply thy sun, emerging, yet may shine,
Thee to irradiate with meridian ray;
+ Hours splendid as the past may still be thine,
And bless thy future as thy former day.

* Lord Byron and his brother: Sir William held high command in the royal army; the former was generally chief in Ireland, Governor of the Tower, and governor to James, Duke of York, afterwards the unhappy James II.; the latter had a principal share in many serious.—Vide Cheres-
ke, &c. &c.
† Lord Byron, the most accomplished man of his age, was killed at the battle of Newbery, changing in the ranks of Lord Newbury’s regiment of cavalry.
‡ Lord Byron. The private volume reads lature’d.
† Sable Horror, as in the private volume, Horror smiling.
| This is an historical fact. A violent tempest occurred immediately subse-
quent to the death or interment of Cromwell, which occasioned many disputes
| between his partisans and the cavaliers; both interpreted the circumstances
| into divine inspiration; but a better as appreciation or condemnation, we
| err to the credit of that age to decide. I have made such use of the occa-
| sion as will be the subject of my poem.

Fortune may smile upon a future age
And Heaven render an o’er cloudless day.
ON A CHANGE OF MASTERS AT A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL. *

WHERE are those honors, Ida! once your own, When Probust fill'd your magisterial throne? As ancient Rome, fast falling to disgrace, Hail'd a barbarian in her Cæsar's place, So you, degenerate, share as hard a fate, And scat Pompeius, where your Probust sate. Of narrow brain, yet of a narrower soul, Pompeus holds you in his harsh control; Pompeus, by magical virtue sway'd, With florid jargon, and with vain parade; With noisy nonsense, and new-fangled rules, Such as were ne'er before enforced in schools. Mistrusting pedantry for learning's laws, He governs, sanction'd but by self-applause. With him the same dire fate attending Rome, Ill-fated Ida! soon must stamp your doom: Like her o'erthrown, forever lost to fame, No trace of science left you but the name. July, 1805.

CHILDISH RECOLLECTIONS. §

I

WHEN slow Disease, with all her host of pains, Chills the warm tide which flows along the veins;  

* These lines were only printed in the private volume. Lord Byron most severely regretted having written this and the subsequent attack on Dr. Botler, contained in the poem called Childish Recollections. A reconciliation took place between them before Lord Byron's first departure for Greece; and Mr. Moore informs us that, "not content with this private assault on Dr. Botler, it was Lord Byron's intention, had he been published another edition of the Hours of Idleness, to substitute for the offensive verses against that gentleman, frank avowal of the wrong he had been guilty of, in giving vent to them."

† Life of Byron, vol. 1, p. 188.

‡ Pompous, Dr. Botler.

§ This poem was published in the private volume; and, with many additions and corrections, in the first edition of Hours of Idleness; but was afterwards suppressed.

1

If the private volume the poem opened with the following lines:

"Hence! I was an unwary song of varied tunes, Which youth commands, masterly age reproves; Which every reigning bard repeats by rote, By thousands echoed to the solemn mass! Tired of the dull, growing, graces mild, My soul is prating to be free again. Farewell! I ye nymphs propitious to my verse, Some other Damon will your charms assume; Some other poet will his pens, in hope of bliss, Or dwell in rapture on your nectar'd side. Those bosoms, grateful to my absent sight, No more esteem my senses in delight: Those bowers, form'd of animated snow, Allike are business, are offending now. Those to some happier lover I resign— The memory of those joys alone is mine. Content no more shall brand my humble name The child of passion and the feel of fame. Weak of love, of life, deceased with spleen, I rest a perfect Thracian, not elsewhere. World! I renounce thee! all my hope's o'ercast! One sigh I give thee, but that sigh's the last. Friends, foes, and enemies in haste are hale! Would I could add, remembrance of you too! Yet, though the future dark and cheerless gleams, The curse of memory, horrid in my dreams, Deeps with glowing pencil all these years, Ere yet my cup, expans'd, flows with tears; Still rules my sense with tyrannic sway, The past confounding with the present day. Also I in vain I check the musing thought: It'll recur, unkind'd for and unwasteful. My view to Fancy's eye, &c. &c., &c. as in twenty-nine."

When Health, affrighted, spreads her rosy wing And flies with every changing gale of spring; Not to the aching frame alone confined, Unyielding pang's assail the drooping mind: What grisly forms, the spectre-train of wo, Bid shuddering Nature shrink beneath the blow, With Resignation wage relentless strife, While Hope retires appali'd and clings to life. Yet less the pang when through the tedious hom Remembrance sheds around her genial power, Calls back the vanish'd days to rapture given, When love was bliss, and Beauty formed our heaven Or, dear to youth, portrays each childish scene, Those fairy bowers, where all in turn have been. As when through clouds that pour the summer storm

The orb of day unveils his distant form, Gilds with faint beams the crystal dews of rain, And dimly twinkle o'er the watery plain; Thus, while the future dark and cheerless gleams, The sun of memory, glowing through my dreams, Though sunk the radiance of his former blaze, To scenes far distant points his paler rays; Still rules my sense with unbounded sway, The past confounding with the present day.

Oft does my heart indulge the rising thought, Which still recurs, uncon'd for and unsought: My soul to Fancy's fond suggestion yields, And roams romantic o'er her airy fields: Scenes of my youth, developed, crowd to view, To which I long have bade a last adieu! Seats of delight, inspiring youthful fames; Friends lost to me for aye, except in dreams; Some who in marble prematurely sleep, Whose forms I now remember but to weep; Some who yet urge the same scholastic course Of early science, future fame the source; Who, still contending in the studious race, In quick full stop the entire season; These with a thousand visions now unite, To dazzle, though they please, my aching sight.*

IDA! bless'd spot, where Science holds her reign, How joyous once I join'd thy youthful train! Bright in idea gleams thy lofty spire, Again I mingle with thy playful choir; Our tricks of mischief, every childish game, Unchanged by time or distance, seem the same; Through winding paths along the glade, I trace The social smile of every welcome face; My wonted haunts; my scenes of joy and woe. Each early boyish friend, or youthful foe, Our guards dissolved, but not my friendship pass'd: I bless the former, and forgive the last. Hours of my youth! when, nurtured in my breast, To love a stranger, friendship made me bless'd;— Friendship, the dear peculiar bond of youth, When every artless bosom throws with truth; Untaught by worldly wisdom how to reign, And check each impulse with prudential rein; When all we feel, our honest souls disclose— In love to friends, in open hate to foes; No varnish'd tales the lips of youth repeat, No dear-bought knowledge purchased by deceit.

* The next fifty-six lines, to "Here first remember'd be the joyous band," were added in the first edition of Hours of Idleness.
HOURS OF IDleness

443

With him, for years, we search’d the classic page,
And fear’d the master, though we loved the rage.
Retired at last, his small yet peaceful seat
From learning’s labor is the blest retreat.
* Pompous fills his magisterial chair;
Pompous governs,—but, my muse, forbear:
Contempt, in silence, be the pedant’s lot;
His name and precepts be alike forgot:†
No more his mention shall my verse degrade,
To him my tribute is already paid.†

† High, through those elms, with hoary branches crown’d,
Fair Ida’s bower adorns the landscape round;
There Science, from her favor’d seat, surveys
The vale where rural Nature claims her praise;
To her awhile resigns her youthful train,
Who move in joy, and dance along the plain;
In scatter’d groups each favor’d haunt pursues;
Repeat old pastimes, and discover new;
Flush’d with his rays, beneath the noontide sun,
In rival bands between the wickets run,
Drive o’er the sword the ball with active force,
Or chase with nimble feet its rapid course.
But those with slower steps direct their way
Where Bront’s cool waves in limpid current’s stray,
While yonder few search out some green retreat,
And arbors shade them from the summer heat;
Others again, a pert and lively crew,
Some rough and thoughtless stranger placed in view
With frolic quaint their antic jests expose,
And tease the grumbling rustic as he goes;
Nor rest with this, but many a passing fray
Tradition treasures for a future day:
“Twas here the gather’d swains for vengeance fought,
And here we earn’d the conquest dearly bought
Here have we flied before superior might,
And here renew’d the wild tumultuous flight.’
While thus our souls with early passions swell,
In lingering tones resounds the distant bell;
Th’ allotted hour of daily sport is o’er,
And Learning beckons from her temple’s door.
No splendid tables grace her simple hall,
But ruder records fill the dusky wall;

* Pompous fills his magisterial chair;
Pompous governs, &c.

Had Lord Byron published another edition of Hours of Idleness, it was his intention to give the following turn to this passage—

“Another fills his magisterial chair;
Reluctant owns a stranger’s care.
Oh! may the honors crown his future name,—
If such his virtues, each shall be his fame.”

Moore’s Life of Byron, vol. I. p. 188.

† His name, &c. Instead of this fine, the private volume reads,

“Boo! shall his shallow precepts be forg’d.”

† This alludes to a character printed in a former private edition for the persiflage of some friends, which, with many other pieces, is withheld from the present volume. To draw the attention of the public to insignificance, would be deservedly reprehended; and another reason, though not of equal consequence, may be given in the following couplet—

“Satire or sense, alas! can Spence feel I
Who breaks a butterfly upon the wheel!”

POPE.—Prologue to the Satires.

§ The evening hundred and twenty-two lines, to

“Alone I best and dearest of my friends,”
are not found in the private volume, but were introduced in the first edition of Hours of Idleness.

* Those pieces are reprinted in the second edition. The character alluded to is contained in the preceding poem.
I've or each
The one long graved, the other just begun;
These shall survive alike when son and sire
Beneath one common stroke of fate expire:
Perhaps their last memorial these alone,
Denied in death a monumental stone,
Whilst to the gale in mournful cadence wave
The sighing weeds that hide their nameless grave.
And here my name, and many an early friend's,
Along the wall in lengthen'd line extends.
Though still our deeds amuse the youthful race,
Who tread our steps, and fill our former place,
Who young obeys their lords in silent awe,
Whose nod commanded, and whose voice was law,
And now in turn possess the reins of power,
To rule the little tyrants of an hour;
Though sometimes with the tales of ancient day
They pass the dreary winter's eve away
"And thus our former rulers stemm'd the tide,
And thus they dealt the combat side by side;
Just in this place the mouldering walls they scaled,
Nor bolts nor bars against their strength avail'd;
Here Probus came, the rising fray to quell,
And here he falter'd forth his last farewell;
And here one night abroad they dared to roam,
While bold Pompeus bravely stayed at home;"
While others speak, the hour must soon arrive,
When names of these, like ours, alone survive:
Yet a few years, one general wreck will whelm
The faint remembrance of our fairy realm.

Dear honest race, though now we meet no more,
One last long look on what we were before—
Our first kind greetings, and our last adieu—
Drew tears from eyes unused to weep with you.
Through splendid circles, fashion's gaudy world,
Where folly's glaring standard waves unfurl'd,
I plunged to drown in noise my fond regret,
And all I sought or hoped was to forget.
Vain wish! if chance some well-remember'd face,
Some old companion of my early race,
Advanced to claim his friend, with honest joy,
My eyes, my heart proclaim'd me still a boy;
The glittering scene, the fluttering groups around,
Were quite forgotten when my friend was found;
The smiles of beauty—(for, alas! I've known
What 'tis to bend before Love's mighty throne)—
The smiles of beauty, though those smiles were dear,
Could hardly charm me when that friend was near:
My thoughts wilder'd in the fond surprise,
The woods of Ida danced before my eyes;
I saw the sprightly wanderers pour along,
I saw and join'd again the joyous throng;
Panting, again I traced her lofty grove,
And friendship's feelings triumph'd over love.

Yet why should I alone with such delight
Retrace the circuit of my former flight?
Is there no cause beyond the common claim
Endear'd to all in childhood's very name?
Ah! sure some stronger impulse vibrates here,
Which whispers friendship will be doubly dear
To one who thus for kindred hearts must roam,
And seek abroad the love denied at home.
Those hearts, dear Ida, have I found in thee—
A home, a world, a paradise to me.
Stern death forbad my orphan youth to share
The tender guidance of a father's care:
Can rank, or e'en a guardian's name, supply
The love which glister's in a father's eye?
For this can wealth or title's sound alone,
Made by a parent's early loss my own?
What brother springs a brother's love to seek?
What sister's gentle kiss has prest my cheek?
For me how dull the vacant moments rise,
To no fond bosom link'd by kindred ties!
Oft in the progress of some fleeting dream
Fraternals smiles collected round me seem;
While still the visions to my heart are prest,
The voice of love will murmur in my rest:
I hear—I wake—and in the sound rejoice;
I hear again,—but, ah! no brother's voice.
A hermit, 'midst of crowds, I fain must stray
Alone, though thousand pilgrims fill the way;
While these a thousand kindred wreaths entwine
I cannot call on—single blossom mine:
What then remains? in solitude to groan,
To mix in friendship, or to sigh alone?
Thus must I cling to some redeeming hand,
And none more dear than Ida's social band.

* Alonzo! best and dearest of my friends,
Thy name ennobles him who thus commends:
From this fond tribute thou canst gain no praise,
The praise is his who now that tribute pays.
Oh! in the promise of thy early youth,
If hope anticipate the words of truth,
Some loftier bard shall sing thy glorious name,
To build his own upon thy deathless fame.*
Friend of my heart, and foremost of the list
Of those with whom I lived supremely blest,
Oft have we drain'd the font of ancient lore;
Though drinking deeply, thirsting still the more
Yet when confinement's lingering hour was done
Our sports, our studies, and our souls were one:
Together we impell'd the flying ball;
Together waited in our tutor's hall;
Together join'd in cricket's manly toil,
Or shared the produce of the river's spoil;
Or plunging from the green declining shore,
Our pliant* limbs the buoyant billows bore;
In every element, unchanged, the same,
All, that all brothers should be but the name.

Nor yet are you forgot, my jocund boy!—
Dawes, the harbinger of childish joy,
For ever foremost in the ranks of fun,
The laughing herald of the harmless pun;
Yet with a breast of such materials made—
Anxious to please, of pleasing half afraid;
Candid and liberal, with a heart of steel
In danger's path, though not untaught to feel.
Still I remember in the factious strife
The rustic's musket aim'd against my life:
High poise'd in air the massy weapon hung,
A cry of terror burst from every tongue;
Whilst I, in combat with another foe,
Fought on, unconscious of th' impending blow,——

* Alonzo. In the private volume, Johanna.
† The following four lines of the private volumes were omitted in the Hours of Idleness—
"Could aught baffle me with secret fire,
For thee alone I'd strike the hollow'd lyre;
But to some holier hand the task I waive,
Whose strings immortal may soothe the grave."—

* Plaut. Private volume, last.
HOURS OF IDLENESS.

Your arm, brave boy, arrested his career—
Forward you spring, insensible to fear:
Disarm'd and baffled by your courting hand,
The gnarled savage roll'd upon the sand:
* An act like this can simple thanks repay?
Or all the labors of a grateful lay?
Oh no! 'ware'er my breast forgets the deed,
That instant, Davus, it deserves to bleed.

LYCUS! on me thy claims are justly great:
Thy milder virtues could my muse relate,
To thee alone, unrival'd, would belong
The feeble efforts of my lengthen'd song.
Well canst thou boast to lead in senate's fit—
A Spartan firmness with Athenian wit:
Though yet in embryo these perfection shine,
LYCUS' thy father's fame will soon be thine.
Where learning nurtures the superior mind,
What may we hope from genius thus refined!
When time at length matures thy growing years,
How wilt thou tower above thy-fellow peers!
Prudence and sense, a spirit belying fear,
With honor's soul, united beam in thee.

Shall fair EURYALUS pass by unsung?
From ancient lineage, not unworthy, sprung:
What though one sad dissenion bade us part,
That name is yet embalm'd within my heart;
Yet at the mention does that heart rebound,
And palpitate responsive to the sound.
Envy dissolved our ties, and not our will:
We once were friends,—I'll think we are so still.
A form uniting nature's partial mould,
A heart untainted, we in thee behold:
Yet not the senate's thunder thou shalt wield,
Nor seek for glory in the tented field;
To minds of ruder texture these be given—
Thy soul shall nearer soar its native heaven.
Haply in polish'd courts might be thy seat,
But that thy tongue could never forge deceit;
The courtier's supple bow and sneering smile,
The flow of compliment, the slippery wile,
Would make that breast with indignation burn,
And all the glittering snares to tempt thee spurn.

* An act like this, &c. In the private volume, the last four lines of this paragraph were as follows—
"Thus did you save that life I sacred prime—
A life unworthy such a sacrifice:"
Oh! when my breast forgets the generous deed,
That instant, Davus, it deserves to bleed."

† In the private volume, we find the following lines concluding the character of Lycaus: and the remainder of the passage relating to him was originally given as descriptive of a friend entitled CHORUS, of whom no mention is made in the last published copy of the poem:

"For ever to possess a friend in thee was bliss unbroth, though not unsought by me.
Thy soul was form'd for love alone,
To early praises and to have unknown;
Thy mind, in union with thy beauteous form,
Was gentle, but swift to deem the storm;
That face, an index of unflinching worth,
Proclaim'd a heart abstracted from the earth.
Oh, when despair'd with sad foreboding gloom,
I cast my eyes upon our favor'd tomb,
I've seen those sympathetic eyes of sorrow
With kind compassion for thy comrade's wo;
Or, when less mournful subjects form'd our themes,
We tried a thousand fond romantic schemes,
Oft hast thou sworn, in friendship's soothing sway,
Where death was more than mine own.

"The next can boast to lead in steaks flow—
A Spartan firmness with Athenian wit:"
Though yet in embryo these perfection shine,
CHORUS thy father's fame will soon be thine.
When learning, &c., &c. &c.

Domestic happiness will stamp thy fate,
Sacred to love, unclouded e'er by hate;
The world admire thee, and thy friends adore thee.
* Ambition's slave alone would toll for more.

Now last, and nearest of the social band,
See honest, open, generous Cleon stand;
With scarce one speck to cloud the pleasing scene,
No vice degrades that purest soul serene.
On the same day our stolid race begun,
On the same day our stolid race was run;
Thus side by side we pass'd our first career,
Thus side by side we strove for many a year;
At last concluded our scholastic life,
We neither conquer'd in the classic strife;
As speakers, each supports an equal name,
And crowds allow to both a partial fame:
To soothe a youthful rival's early pride,
Though Cleon's candor would the palm divide,
Yet candor's self compels me now to own
Justice awards it to my friend alone."

Oh! friends regretted, scenes for ever dear,
Remembrance hails you with her warmest tear.
Drooping, she bends o'er pensive Fancy's urn
To trace the hours which never can return;
§ Yet with the retrospection loves to dwell,
And soothe the sorrows of her last farewell.
Yet greeats the triumph of my boyish mind,
As infant laurels round my head were twined;
When Probus' praise repaid my lyric song,
Or placed me higher in the studious throng,
Or when my first brave Harangue received applause,
His sage instruction the primeval cause,
What gratitude to him my soul possess,
While hope of dawning honors fill'd my breast!

|| For all my humble fame, to him all;

* "Where is the realms foot would wish for more?"—Private volume.
† This alludes to the public speeches delivered at the school. In the earlier edition, the word was neither.

§ The six concluding lines of this passage were given as follows in the private volume:

"As speakers, each supports a rival name,
Though neither seeks to damn the other's fame.
Pompous sile, monopol to decide:
With youthful courser, we the palm diffuse;
Yet candor's self compels me now to own
Justice awards it to my friend alone."

"Yet in retrospection finds relief
And revives in the luxury of grief."—Private volume.

| From these to the end, the copy of the poem, as printed in the Hours of Idleness, differs entirely from that in the private volume which contains and elucidates this:

"When, yet a novice in the mimic art,
I follow'd the transports of a vengeful heart;
When as the Royal Slave I trod the stage,
To meet in flames more than mortal rage;
The praise of Probus made me feel more proud
Than all the pluralities of the faming crowd.
At 1 a vain endeavor to the childish strain
To soothe the woes of which I thee complaint.
What can avail the falsehood's too late time,
To measure sorrow in a jangling rhyme?
No awful advice from a friend is near,
And heartless strangers drop no feeling tear.
I seek not joy in woman's sparkling eye.
The smiles of beauty cannot check the sigh.
Ah! thou wouldst bear the popularity.
What is the falsehood's too late time,
To measure sorrow in a jangling rhyme?
No awful advice from a friend is near,
And heartless strangers drop no feeling tear.
I seek not joy in woman's sparkling eye.
The smiles of beauty cannot check the sigh.
Ah! thou wouldst bear the popularity.
What is the falsehood's too late time,
To measure sorrow in a jangling rhyme?
No awful advice from a friend is near,
And heartless strangers drop no feeling tear.
I seek not joy in woman's sparkling eye.
The smiles of beauty cannot check the sigh.
Ah! thou wouldst bear the popularity.
What is the falsehood's too late time,
To measure sorrow in a jangling rhyme?
No awful advice from a friend is near,
The praise is due, who made that fame my own.
And, amid stillness, does the song return?
Those young effusions of my early days,
Could I soar above these feeble lays?
The song might perish, but the theme must live.
Yet why for him the needless verse essay?
His honor'd name requires no vain display:
By every son of grateful Ida blest,
It finds an echo in each youthful breast;
A fame beyond the glories of the proud,
Or all the plaudits of the venal crowd.

Ida, not yet exhausted is the theme,
Nor closed the progress of my youthful dream.
How many a friend deserves the grateful strain,
What scenes of childhood still unsung remain,
Yet let me hush this echo of the past.
This parting song, the dearest and the last;
And brood in secret o'er those hours of joy,
To me a silent and a sweet employ,
While, future hope and fear alike unknown,
I think with pleasure on the past alone;
Yes, to the past alone my heart confine,
And chase the phantom of what once was mine.

IDA! still o'er thy hills in joy preside,
And proudly steer through time's eventful tide;
Still may thy blooming sons thy name reverre,
Smile in thy bower, but quit thee with a tear—
That tear perhaps the fondest which will flow
O'er their last scene of happiness below.
Tell me, why hoary few who glide along,
The feeble veterans of some former throng,
Whose friends, like autumn leaves by tempest
whirl'd,
Are swept for ever from this busy world;
Revolv.e the fleeting moments of your youth,
While Care as yet withheld her venom'd tooth,
Say if remembrance days like these endear
Beyond the rapture of succeeding years?
Say can ambition's fever'd dream bestow
So sweet a balm to soothe your hours of woe?
Can treasures, hoarded for some thankless son,
Can royal smiles, or wreaths by slaughter won,
Can stars or ermine, man's maturer toys,
(For glittering baubles are not left to boys,) Recall one scene so much beloved to view
As those where Youth her garland twined for you.

But not that mental sting which stings within,
The dark avenger of unpractis'd sin;
The silent shaft which goads the guilty wretch
Extended on a rack's maddening stretch;
Conscience that sting, that shall to him supplies—
His mind the rack from which he 'rives can die.
For me, who'er my folly or my fear,
One cheerful comfort still is cherish'd here:
No dread internal humour of his rest;
No dreams of injured benevolent labors;
Of hope, of peace, of almost all benes,
Conscience, my last but welcome guest is left.
Shudder's impassion'd breath may blast my name
Every delight in blight the track of fame:
Death may chill the current of my blood,
And froe extinguish'd warmth impress my soul;
Presaging horror darkly every wave—
Even here will consciente be my text defence.
My bosom feels no warm which never can die
(Not crimes I mourn, but happiness gone by,
Thus crawling on with many a reptile vile,
My heart to labor, though my cheek may gape,
No more with former lines my heart is glad;
Hope yielding, anguish, and my soul is out;
From fond regret no future joy can save,
Resurrection thunders only in the grave.

Ah, no! amid the gloomy calm of age
You turn with falttering hand life's varied page;
Peruse the record of your days on earth,
Unsullied only where it marks your birth;
Still lingering pause above each checker'd leaf,
And blot with tears the sable lines of grief;
Where Passion o'er the theme her mantle threw;
Or weeping Virtue sigh'd a faint alid;
But bless the scroll which fairer words adorn,
Traced by the rosy finger of the morn,
When Friendship bow'd before the shrine of truth,
And Love, without his pinion smiled on youth.

ANSWER TO A BEAUTIFUL POETRY.†

WRITTEN BY MONTGOMERY, AUTHOR OF "THE WANDERER IN SWITZERLAND," &C., &C., ENTITLED "THE COMMON LOT."†

MONTGOMERY! true, the common lot
Of mortals lies in Letha's wave:
Yet some shall never be forgot—
Some shall exist beyond the grave.

"Unknown the region of his birth;"
The hero rolls the tide of war;
"Yet not unknown his martial worth,
Which glares a meteor from afar.

His joy or grief, his weal or wo,
Perchance may 'scape the page of fame;
Yet nations now unborn will know
The record of his deathless name.

The patriot's and the poet's frame
Must share the common tomb of all;
Their glory will not sleep the same;
That will arise, though empires fall.

The lustre of a beauty's eye
Assumes the ghastly stare of death;
The fair, the brave, the good must die,
And sink the yawning grave beneath.

Once more the speaking eye revives,
Still beaming through the lover's strain;
For Petrarch's Laura still survives:
She died, but ne'er will die again.

The rolling seasons pass away,
And Time, unerring, waves his wing;
Whilst honor's laurels ne'er decay,
But bloom in fresh unfading spring.

All, all must sleep in grim repose,
Collected in the silent tomb;
The old and young, with friends and foes
Festering alike in shrouds, consume.

* "L'Ami est l'Amour sans allies" is a French proverb.
† Only printed in the private volume.
‡ No particular hint here is alluded to. The exploits of Bayard, Nemours, Edward the Black Prince, and, in more modern times, the name of Mack-
brough, Frederick the Great, Count D'Anne, Charles of Sweden, &c., are
familiar to every historical reader, but the exact place of their birth is known
to a very small proportion of their admirers.
"WRECKS OF PILLAR'D PRIDE." — Page 447.
TO THE REV. J. T. BECHER.

Dear Becher, you tell me to mix with mankind:
I cannot deny such a precept is wise;
But retirement accords with the tone of my mind;
I will not descend to a world I despise.

Did the senate or camp my exertions require,
Ambition might prompt me, at once, to go forth;
When infancy's years of probation expire,
Perchance I may strive to distinguish my birth.

The fire in the cavern of Etna conceal'd,
Still mantles unseen in its secret recess;
At length in a volume terrific reveal'd,
No torrent can quench it, no bounds can repress.

Oh! thus, the desire in my bosom for fame
Bids me live but to hope for prosperity's praise.
Could I soar with the phoenix on pinions of flame,
With him I would wish to expire in the blaze.

For the life of a Fox, of a Chatham the death,
What censure, what danger, what would I brave?
Their lives did not end when they yielded their breath,
Their glory illuminates the gloom of their grave.

Yet why should I mingle in Fashion's full herd?
Why crouch to her leaders, or cringe to her rules?
Why bend to the proud, or applaud the absurd?
Why search for delight in the friendship of fools?

I have tasted the sweets and the bitters of love;
In friendship I early was taught to believe;
My passion the matrons of prudence reprove;
I have found that a friend may profess, yet deceive.

To me what is wealth? it may pass in an hour,
If tyrants prevail, or if Fortune should frown.
To me what is title?—the phantom of power;
To me is fashion—I seek but renown.

Deceit is a stranger as yet to my soul,
I still am unpractised to warnish the truth;
Then why should I live in a hateful control?
Why waste upon folly the days of my youth?*

* Only found in the private volume

THE DEATH OF CALMAR AND ORLA.*

An imitation of Macpherson's Ossian.

Dear are the days of youth! Age dwells on their remembrance through the mist of time.
In the twilight, he recalls the sunny hours of morn.
He lifts his spear with trembling hand. "Not thus feebly did I raise the steel before my fathers!"
Past is the race of heroes! but their fame rises on the harp; their souls ride on the wings of the wind;
they hear the sound through the sighs of the storm, and rejoice in their hall of clouds! Such is Calmar.
The gray stone marks his narrow house. He looks down from eddying tempests; he rolls his form in the whirlwind, and hovers on the blast of the mountain.

In Morven dwelt the chief; a beam of war to Fingal.
His steps in the field were marked in blood! Lochlin's sons had died before his angry spear; but mild was the eye of Calmar: soft was the flow of his yellow locks; they streamed like the meteor of the night. No maid was the sigh of his soul: his thoughts were given to friendship; to dark-haired Orla, destroyer of heroes! Equal were their swords in battle; but fierce was the pride of Orla: gentle alone to Calmar. Together they dwelt in the cave of Oithona.

* From Lochlin, Swaran bounded o'er the blue waves. Erin's sons fell beneath his might. Fingal roused his chiefs to combat. Their ships cover the ocean! Their hosts throng on the green hills. They come to the aid of Erin.

Night rose in clouds. Darkness veils the armies. But the blazing oaks gleam through the valley. The sons of Lochlin slept; their dreams were of blood. They lift the spear in thought, and Fingal flies.

Not so the host of Morven. To watch was the post of Orla. Calmar stood by his side. Their spears were in their hands. Fingal called his chiefs; they stood around. The king was in the midst. Gray were his locks, but strong was the arm of the king. Age withered not his powers. "Sons of Morven," said the hero, "tomorrow we meet the foe: but where is Cuthullin, the shield of Erin? He rests in the halls of Tara; he knows not of our coming. Who will speed through Lochlin to the hero, and call the chief to arms? The path is by the swords of foes, but many are my heroes. They are thunderbolts of war. Speak, ye chiefs! Who will arise?"

"Son of Trenmor! mine be the deed," said dark-haired Orla, "and mine alone. What is death to me? I love the sleep of the mighty, but little is the danger. The sons of Lochlin dream. I will seek Cuthullin. If I fall, raise the song of hards; and lay me by the stream of Lubar."—"And shalt thou fall alone?" said fair-haired Calmar. "Wilt thou leave thy friend afar? Chief of Oithona! not feeble is my arm in fight. Could I see thee die and not lift the spear? No, Orla! ours has been the chas of the roebuck, and the feast of shells. ours be the path of danger: ours has been the cave of Oithona; ours be the narrow dwelling on the..."
banks of Lubar." "Calmar," said the chief of Oithona; "why should thy yellow locks be darkened in the dust of Erin? Leave me not alone. My father dwells in his hail of air: he will rejoice in his son; but the blue-eyed Mora spreads the feast for her son in Morven. She listens to the steps of the hunter on the heath, and thinks it is the tread of Calmar. Let him not say, 'Calmar has fallen by the steel of Lochlin: he died with gloomy Orla, the chief of the dark brow.' Why should tears dim the azure eye of Mora? Why should her voice curse Orla, the destroyer of Calmar? Live, Calmar! Live to raise my stone of moss; live to revenge me in the blood of Lochlin. Join the song of bards above my grave. Sweet will be the song of death to the Orla from the voice of Calmar. My ghost shall smile on the notes of praise." "Orla," said the son of Mora, "could I raise the song of death to my friend? Could I give his fame to the winds? No, my heart would speak in sighs. Paint and broken are the sounds of sorrow. Orla! our souls shall hear the song together. One cloud shall be ours on high. The bards will mingle the names of Orla and Calmar."

They quit the circle of the chiefs. Their steps were to the host of Lochlin. The dying blaze of oak dim twinkles through the night. The northern star points the path to Tura. Swaran, the king, rests on his lonely hill. Here the troops are mixed: they frown in sleep; their shields beneath their heads. Their swords gleam at distance in heaps. The fires are faint; their embers fall in smoke. All is hushed; but the gale sings on the rocks above. Lightly wheel the heroes through the slumbering band. Half the journey is past, when Mathon, resting on his shield, meets the eye of Orla. It rolls in flame, and glints through the shade. His spear is raised on high. "Why dost thou bend thy brow, chief of Oithona?" said fair-haired Calmar. "We are in the midst of foes. Is this a time for delay?" "It is a time for vengeance," said Orla of the gloomy brow. "Mathon of Lochlin sleeps: seest thou his spear? Its point is dim with the gore of my father. The blood of Mathon shall reek on mine; but shall I slay him, sleeping, son of Mora? No! he shall feel his wound: my fame shall not soar on the blood of slumber. Rise! Mathon! rise! the son of Conna calls; thy life is his; rise to combat." Mathon starts from sleep; but did he rise alone? No: the gathering chiefs bound on the plain. "Fly! Calmar! fly!" said dark-haired Orla. "Mathon is mine. I shall die in joy. But Lochlin crowds around. Fly through the shade of night." Orla turns. The helm of Mathon is cleft; his shield falls from his arm: he shudders in his blood. He rolls by the side of the blazing oak. Strumon sees him fall; his wrath rises: his weapon glitters on the head of Orla: but a spear pierced his eye. His brainッシュes through the wound, and foams on the spear of Calmar. As roll the waves of the ocean on two mighty barks of the north, so pour the men of Lochlin on the chiefs. As, breaking the surge in foam, proudly steer the barks of the north, so rise the chiefs of Morven on the scattered crests of Lochlin. The din of arms came to the ear of Fingal. He strikes his shield; his sons throng around; the people pour along the heath. Royal bounds in joy. Ossian stalks in his arms. Oscar shakes his spear. The eagle wing of Fillion floats on the wind. Dreadful is the clang of death! many are the widows of Lochlin. Morven prevails in his strength.

Morn glimmers on the hills; no living foe is seen, but the sleepers are many; grins they lie on Erin. The breeze of ocean lifts their locks; yet they do not awake. The hawks scream above their prey.

Whose yellow locks wave o'er the breast of a chief? Bright as the gold of the stranger, they mingle with the dark hair of his friend. "Tis Calmar: he lies on the bosom of Orla. Theirs is one stream of blood. Fierce is the look of the gloomy Orla. He breathes not; but his eye is still a flame. It glares in death unclosed. His hand is grasped in Calmar's; but Calmar lives! he lives, though low." "Rise," said the king, "rise, son of Mora: tis mine to heal the wounds of heroes. Calmar may yet bound on the hills of Morven.

"Never more shall Calmar chase the deer of Morven with Orla," said the hero. "What were the chase to me alone? Who would share the spoils of battle with Calmar? Orla is at rest! Rough was thy soul, Orla! yet soft to me as the dew of morn. It glared on others in lightning; to me a silver beam of night. Bear my sword to blue-eyed Mora: let it hang in my empty hall. It is not pure from blood: but it could not save Orla. Lay me with my friend. Raise the song when I am dark!"

They are laid by the stream of Lubar. Four gray stones mark the dwelling of Orla and Calmar.

When Swaran was bound, our sails rose on the blue waves. The winds gave our barks to Morven. The bards raised the song.

"What form rises on the roar of clouds? Who seest dark ghost gleams on the red streams of tempests? His voice rolls on the thunder. 'Tis Orla, the brown chief of Oithona. He was unmatched in war. Peace to thy soul, Orla! thy fame will not perish. Nor thine, Calmar! Lovely wast thou, son of blue-eyed Mora; but not harmless was thy sword. It hangs in thy cave. The ghosts of Lochlin shriek around its steel. Hear thy praise, Calmar! It dwells on the voice of the mighty. Thy name shines in the echoes of Morven. Then thy fair locks, son of Mora. Spread them on the arch of the rainbow; and smile through the tears of the storm."

TO E. N. L. ESQ.

"Nil ego consideror fuscus atque incognitus." —Hoc. I.

DEAR L——, in this sequester'd scene, While all around in slumber lie, The joyous days which ours have been Come rolling fresh on Fancy's eye; Thus if amid the gathering storm, While clouds the darken'd noon deform, You heaven assumes a varied glow, I hail the sky's celestial bow, Which spreads the sign of future peace, And bids the war of tempest cease.

*1 four lines of this edition has completely overthrown every hope but Marples'son's Ossian might prove the insulation of a series of poems once In this edition, while the language is discovered, the merits of the work remain undisputed, though not without faults—particularly, in some parts, purple and bombastic dictum. The present edition is undertaken as an attempt, however ill-starred which evinces an attachment to their favorite author.

*J First published in Hours of Idleness.
Ah! though the present brings but pain,
I think those days may come again;
Or if, in melancholy mood,
Some lurking envious fear intrude,
To check my bosom's fondest thought,
And interrupt the golden dream,
I press the fane with malice fraught;
And still indulge my wonted theme.

Although we ne'er again can trace
In Granta's vale, the pedant's lore,
Nor through the groves of Ida chase
Our raptured visions as before,
Though Youth has flown on rosy pinion,
And Manhood claims his stern dominion;
Age will not every hope destroy,
But yield some hours of sober joy.

Yes, I will hope that Time's broad wing
Will shed around some dews of Spring;
But if his scythe must sweep the flowers
Which bloom among the fairy bowers,
Where smiling Youth delights to dwell,
And hearts with early-rapture swell;
If frowning Age, with cold control,
Confines the current of the soul,
Congeals the tear of Pity's eye,
Or checks the sympathetic sigh,
Or hears unmoved Misfortune's groan,
And bids me feel for self alone;
Oh! may my bosom never learn
To soothe its wonted needless flow;
Still, still despise the censor stern,
But ne'er forget another's woe.
Yes, as you knew me in the days
O'er which remembrance yet delays,
Still may I rove, untutor'd, wild,
And even in age at heart a child.

Though now on airy visions borne,
To you my soul is still the same:
Oft has it been my fate to mourn,
And all my former joys are tame.
But, hence! ye hours of sable hue!
Your frowns are gone, my sorrows o'er;
By every bliss my childhood knew,
I'll think upon your shade no more.
Thus, when the whirlwind's rage is past,
And caves their sullen roar enclose,
We heed no more the wintry blast,
When lull'd by zephyr to repose.
Full often has my infant Muse
Attuned to love her languid lyre;
But now, without a theme to choose,
The strains in stolen sighs expire.
My youthful nymphs, alas! are flown;
E—— is a wife, and C—— a mother,
And Carolina sighs alone,
And Mary's given to another;
And Cora's eye, which rolled on me,
Can now no more my love recall;
In truth, dear L——, 'twas time to flee;
For Cora's eye will shine no more.
And though the sun, with genial rays,
His beams all like to all displays,
And every lady's eye a sun,
These last should be confined to one.
The soul's meridian don't become her
Whose sun displays a general summer!
Thus faint is every former flame,
And passion's self is now a name.
As, when the ebbing flames are low,
The aid which once improved their light,
And bade them burn with fiercer glow,
Now quenches all their sparks in night.
Thus has it been with passion's fires,
As many a boy and girl remembers,
With all the force of love expires,
Extinguish'd with the dying embers.
But now, dear L——, 'tis midnight's hush,
And clouds obscure the watery moon,
Whose beauties I shall not rehearse,
Described in every stripling's verse;
For why should I the path go o'er,
Which every bard has trod before?
Yet ere you silver lamp of night
Has thrice perform'd her stated round
Has thrice retraced her path of light,
And chased away the gloom profound,
I trust that we, my gentle friend,
Shall see her rolling orbit wend
Above the dear-loved peaceful seat
Which once contain'd our youth's retreat;
And then with those our childhood knew,
We'll mingle with the festive crew;
While many a tale of former day
Shall wing the laughing hours away,
And all the flow of souls shall pour
The sacred intellectual shower,
Nor cease till Luna's waning horn
Scare glimmers through the mist of morn.

TO——.

Oh! had my fate been join'd with thine,
As once this pledge appear'd a token,
These follies had not then been mine,
For then my peace had not been broken.

To thee these early faults I owe,
To thee, the wise and old reproving:
They know my sins, but do not know
'Twas thine to break the bonds of loving

For once my soul, like thine, was pure,
And all its rising fires could smother;
But now thy vows no more endure,
Bestow'd by thee upon another.

Perhaps his peace I could destroy,
And spoil the blisses that await him;
Yet let my rival smile in joy,
For thy dear sake I cannot hate him.

Ah! since thy angel form is gone,
My heart no more can rest with any,
But what is sought in thee alone,
Attempts, alas! to find in many.

Then fare thee well, deceitful maid,
'Twere vain and fruitless to regret thee;
Nor Hope, nor Memory, yield their aid,
But Pride may teach me to forget thee.
Yet all this giddy waste of years,
This tiresome round of palling pleasures;
These varied loves, these soul's fears, [here;
These thoughtless strains to Passion's meas-

It thou wert mine, had all been hush'd: 
This cheek, now pale from early riot,
With Passion's hectic n'ere had flush'd,
But bloom'd in calm domestic quiet.

Yes, once this rural scene was sweet,
For nature seem'd to smile before thee,
And once my breast ahar'd deceit,
For then it beat but to adore thee.

But now I seek for other joys;
To think would drive my soul to madness;
In thoughtless thongs and empty noise
I conquer half my bosom's sadness.

Yet, even in these a thought will steal,
In spite of every vain endeavor;
And fiends might pity what I feel,
To know that thou art lost for ever.

STANZAS.*

I would I were a careless child,
Still dwelling in my Highland cave,
Or roaming through the dusky wild,
Or bounding o'er the dark-blue wave;
The cumbrous pomp of Saxon* pride
Accords not with the freeborn soul,
Which loves the mountain's craggy side,
And seeks the rocks where billows roll.

Fortune! take back these cultured lands,
Take back this name of splendid sound,
I hate the touch of servile hands,
I hate the slaves that cringe around.
Place me among the rocks I love,
Which sound to Ocean's wildest roar;
I ask but this—anew to rove
Through scenes my youth hath known before.

Few are my years, and yet I feel
The world was ne'er design'd for me:
Ah! why do dark'ning shades conceal
The hour when man must cease to be?
Once I beheld a splendid dream,
A visionary scene of bliss:
Truth!—wherefore did thy hated beam
Awake me to a world like this?

I loved—but those I loved are gone;
Had friends—my early friends are fled:
How cheerless feels the heart alone,
When all its former hopes are dead?
Though gay companions o'er the bowl
Dispel awhile the sense of ill;
Though pleasure stirs the maddening soul,
The heart—the heart is lonely still.

How dull! to hear the voice of those
Whom rank or chance, whom wealth or power,

Have made, though neither friends not foes,
Associates of the festive hour.
Give me again a faithful few,
In years and feelings still the same,
And I will fly the midnight crew,
Where boist'rous joy is but a name.

And woman! lovely woman, thou,
My hope, my comforter, my all!
How cold must be my bosom now,
When e'en thy smiles begin to pall.
Without a sigh would I resign
This busy scene of splendif wo,
To make that calm contentment mine,
Which virtue knows, or seems to know.

Fain would I fly the haunts of men—
I seek to shun, not hate mankind;
My breast requires the sullen glen,
Whose gloom may suit a darken'd mind.
Oh! that to me the wings were given
Which bear the turtle to her nest!
Then would I cleave the vault of heaven,
To flee away, and be at rest.*

LINES†

WRITTEN BENEATH AN ELM IN THE CHURCHYARD
OF HARROW ON THE HILL, SEPTEMBER 2, 1807.

Spot of my youth! whose hoary branches sigh,
Swept by the breeze that fans thy cloudless sky;
Where now alone I muse, who oft have trod,
With those I loved, thy soft and verdant sod;
With those who, scattered far, perchance deplore,
Like me, the happy scenes they knew before:
Oh! as I trace again thy winding hill,
Mine eyes admire, my heart adores thee still,
Then drooping Elm! beneath whose bow'ls I lay,
And frequent mused the twilight hours away;
Where, as they once were wont, my limbs recline,
But, ah! without the thoughts which then were mine.
How do thy branches, moaning to the blast,
Invite the bosom to recall the past,
And seem to whisper, as they gently swell,
"Take, while thou canst, a lingering, last farewell!"

When fate shall chill, at length, this fever'd breast,
And calm its cares and passions into rest.
Oft have I thought 'twould soothe my dying hour,
If aught may soothe when life resigns her power,
To know some hollower grave, some narrow cell,
Would hide my bosom where it loved to dwell:
With this fond dream methinks 'twere sweet to die—
And here it linger'd, here my heart might lie.
Here might I sleep where all my hopes arise,
Scene of my youth, and couch of my repose;
For ever stretch'd beneath this manly shade,
Press'd by the turf where once my childhood play'd,
Wreapt by the soil that veils the spot I loved.
Mix'd with the earth o'er which my footsteps moved;
Blest by the tongues that charm'd my youthful ear,
Mourn'd by the few my soul acknowledged here;
Deplored by those, in early days allied,
And unremember'd by the world beside.

* First published in the second edition of Hours of Illness.
† First published in the second edition of Hours of Illness.
CRITIQUE,

EXTRACTED FROM THE EDINBURGH REVIEW, FOR JANUARY 1808

The poesy of this young lord belongs to the class which neither gods nor men are said to permit. Indeed, we do not recollect to have seen a quantity of verse with so few deviations in either direction from that exact standard. His effusions are spread over a dead flat, and can no more get above or below the level, than if they were so much stagnant water. As an extenuation of this offence, the noble author is peculiarly forward in pleading minority. We have it in the titlepage, and on the very back of the volume; it follows his name like a favorite part of his style. Much stress is laid upon it in the preface; and the poems are connected with this general statement of his case, by particular dates, substantiating the age at which each was written. Now, the law upon the point of minority we hold to be perfectly clear. It is a plea available only to the defendant; no plaintiff can offer it as a supplementary ground of action. Thus, if any suit could be brought against Lord Byron, for the purpose of compelling him to put into court a certain quantity of poetry, and if judgment were given against him, it is highly probable that an exception would be taken, were he to deliver for poetry the contents of this volume. To this he might plead minority; but, as he now makes voluntary tender of the article, he hath no right to sue, on that ground, for the price in good current praise, should the goods be unmarketable. This is our view of the law on the point, and, we dare to say, so will it be ruled. Perhaps, however, in reality, all that he tells us about his youth is rather with a view to increase our wonder than to soften our censures. He possibly means to say, “See how a minor can write! This poem was actually composed by a young man of eighteen, and this by one of only sixteen!”—But, alas! we all remember the poetry of Cowley at ten, and Pope at twelve; and so far from hearing, with any degree of surprise, that very poor verses were written by a youth from his leaving school to his leaving college, inclusive, we really believe this to be the most common of all occurrences; that it happens in the life of nine men in ten who are educated in England; and that the tenth man writes better verse than Lord Byron.

His other plea of privilege our author rather brings forward in order to waive it. He certainly, however, does allude frequently to his famous ancestors—sometimes in poetry, sometimes in notes; and while giving up his claim on the score of rank, he takes care to remember us of Dr. Johnson’s saying, that when a nobleman appears as an author, his merit should be handsomely acknowledged. In truth, it is this consideration only that induces us to give Lord Byron’s poems a place in our review, beside our desire to counsel him, that he do forth with abandon poetry, and turn his talents, which are considerable, and his opportunities, which are great, to better account.

With this view, we must beg leave seriously to assure him, that the mere rhyming of the final syllable, even when accompanied by the presence of a certain number of feet,—nay, although (which does not always happen) those feet should scan regularly, and have been all counted accurately upon the fingers,—is not the whole art of poetry. We would entreat him to believe, that a certain portion of liveliness, somewhat of fancy, is necessary to constitute a poem, and that a poem in the present day, to be read, must contain as least one thought, either in a little degree different from the ideas of former writers, or differently expressed. We put it to his candor, whether there is any thing so deserving the name of poetry in verses like the following, written in 1806; and whether, if a yoist of eighteen could say any thing so uninteresting to his ancestors, a youth of nineteen should publish it

Shades of heroes, farewell! your heroes, art, departing
From the rest of his ancestors, his yea, his nay,
Abroad or at home, your remembrance lingering,
Now courage, he’ll think upon glory and you.

Though a tear dim his eye at this and separation,
To nature, not fear, that exists his regret;
But distant he goes, with the same emulation;
The fame of his father’s he never can forget.

That fame, and that memory, still will he cherish,
He vows that he never will disgrace your renown;
Like you will he live, or like you will be prou’d;
When done’t, may he mingle his dust with your own.

Now we positively do assert, that there is nothing better than these stanzas in the whole compass of the noble minor’s volume.

Lord Byron should also have a care of attempting what the greatest poets have done before him, for comparisons (as he must have had occasion to see at his writing-master’s) are odious.—Gray’s Ode on Eton College should really have kept out the ten hobbling stanzas “On a Distant View of the Village and School of Harrow.”
In like manner, the exquisite lines of Mr. Rogers, "On a Tear," might have warned the noble author of those premises, and spared us a whole dozen such stanzas as the following:

"What Chastity's glow,
To us mortals below,
Shows the soul from lustfully clear;
Compassion will melt
Where this virtue is felt,
And its dew is diffused in a Tear.
"The man doth not to read
With the blast of the gale,
Through hollows Atlantic to sound,
As he bends o'er the wave,
Which may soon be his grave,
The green spangles brighten with a Tear."

And so of instances in which former poets had failed. Thus, we do not think Lord Byron was made for translating, during his nonage, "Adrian's Address to his Soul," when Pope succeeded so indifferently in the attempt. If our readers, however, are of another opinion, they may look at it.

"Ah! gentle, free-bird, waving sprite,
Proud and saunterer of this day!
To what unknown region borne?
Wilt thou now wing thy distant flight?
No more with wonted honor fly,
But padd'll, chere'llis, and foreform."

However, be this as it may, we fear his translations and imitations are great favorites with Lord Byron. We have them of all kinds, from Anacreon to Ossian; and, viewing them as school exercises, they may pass. Only, why print them after they have had their day and served their turn? And why call the thing in p. 79* a translation, where two words (διόδημα λεγειν) of the original are expanded into four lines, and the other thing in p. 81,† where μεσοφωνία ποιτοι δωρείς is rendered by means of six hobbling verses? As to his Ossianic poetry, we are not very good judges, being, in truth, so moderately skilled in the species of composition, that we should, in all probability, be criticizing some bit of the genuine Macpherson itself, were we to express our opinion of Lord Byron's rhapsodies. If, then, the following beginning of a "Song of Bards" is by his his lordship, we venture to object to it, as far as we can comprehend it. "What form rises on the roar of clouds, whose dark ghost gleams on the red stream of tempests? His voice rolls on the thunder; 'tis Orila, the brown chief of Oithona. He was," &c. After detaining this "brown chief" some time, the bards conclude by giving him their advice to "raise his fair locks;" then to "spread them on the arch of the rainbow;" and "to smile through the tears of the storm." Of this kind of thing there are no less than nine pages; and we can so far venture an opinion in their favor, that they look very like Macpherson; and we are positive they are pretty nearly as stupid and tiresome.

It is a sort of privilege of poets to be egotists; but they should "use it as not abusing it;" and particularly one who piques himself (though indeed at the ripe age of nineteen) of being "an infant bard,"—"The artless Helicon I boast is youth ;—should either not know, or should seem not to know, so much about his own ancestry. Besides a poem above cited, on the family seat of the Byrons, we have another of eleven pages, on the self-same subject, introduced with an apology, "he certainly had no intention of inserting it," but really "the particular request of some friends," &c. &c. It concludes with five stanzas on himself, "the last and youngest of a noble line." There is a good deal also about his maternal ancestors, in a poem on Lachin y Gair, a mountain where he spent part of his youth, and might have learned that piroch is not a bagpipe, any more than duct means a fiddle.

As the author has dedicated so large a part of his volume to immortalize his employments at school and at college, we cannot possibly dismiss it without presenting the reader with a specimen of these ingenious effusions. In an ode with a Greek motto, called Granta, we have the following magnificent stanzas:

"There, in apartments small and damp,
The candidate for college prizes
Sits poring by the midnight lamp,
Goes late to bed, yet outstays them.
"Who reads false quantities in sole,
Or passes o'er the deep triangle,
Depriends of many a wholesome meal,
In barbarous Latins doomed to wrangle!
"Renouncing every pleasing page,
From authors of historic use,
Preferring to the better'd sage
The squibs of the lyceumian.
"Still harmless are these compositions,
That hast none but the hapless student,
Compared with other recreations,
Which bring together the important."

We are sorry to hear so bad an account of the college psalmody as is contained in the following Attic stanzas:

"Our choir would hardly be exceeded
Even as a band of raw beginners;
All mercy now must be refused
To such a set of crossing sinners.
"If David, when his folks were ended,
Had heard these blockheads sing before him,
To us his psalms had never descended:
In far better mood he would have said 'em!"

But whatever judgment may be passed on the poems of this noble minor, it seems we must take them as we find them, and be content; for they are the last we shall ever have from him. He is, at best, he says, but an intruder into the groves of Parnassus; he never lived in a garret, like thoroughbred poets; and "though he once roved a careless mountainier in the Highlands of Scotland," he has not of late enjoyed this advantage. Moreover, he expects no profit from his publication; and, whether it succeeds or not, "it is highly improbable, from his situation and pursuits hereafter," that he should again descend to become an author. Therefore, let us take what we get, and be thankful. What right have we poor devils to be nice? We are well off to have got so much from a man of this lord's station, who does not live in a garret, but has the away of Newstead Abbey. Again, we say, let us be thankful; and, with honest Sancho, bid God bless the giver, nor look the gift horse in the mouth.

* See page 491.  † Page 491.
ENGLISH BARDS

AND

SCOTCH REVIEWERS; *

A SATIRE.

* "I had rather be a kitten, and cry new!
    Than one of these same nasty bull-dog-greaves."
    SHAKESPEARE.

"Both absurdities we have; and yet 'tis true,
    There are as mad, abandon'd critics too."
    POPE.

A FIFTH edition of the "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," in which Lord Byron introduced several alterations and corrections, was prepared in 1812, but was, at his desire, destroyed on the eve of publication. One copy of this edition alone escaped, from which the satire has been printed in the present volume. The Author re-perused the poem in the latter part of the summer in 1816, after his final departure from England. He at that time also corrected the text in several places, and added a few notes and observations in the margin, which the reader will find inserted. On the blank leaf preceding the title-page of the copy from which he read, Lord Byron has written: "The binding of this volume is considerably too valuable for the contents; and nothing but the consideration of its being the property of another prevents me from consigning this miserable record of misplaced anger and indiscriminate acrimony to the flames."

PREFACE.†

All my friends, learned and unlearned, have urged me not to publish this satire with my name. If I were to be "turned from the career of my humor by quibbles quick, and paper bullets of the brain," I should have complied with their counsel. But I am not to be terrified by abuse, or bullied by reviewers, with or without arms. I can safely say that I have attacked none personally who did not commence on the offensive. An author's works are public property; he who purchases may judge, and publish his opinion if he pleases; and the authors I have endeavored to commemorate may do by me as I have done by them: I dare say they will succeed better in condemning my scribblings than in mending their own. But my object is not to prove that I can write well, but, if possible, to make others write better.

As the poem has met with far more success than I expected, I have endeavored in this edition to make some additions and alterations, to render it more worthy of public perusal.

In the first edition of this satire, published anonymously, fourteen lines on the subject of Byron's Pope were written by, and inserted at the request of, an ingenious friend of mine, who has now in the press a volume of poetry. In the present edition they are erased, and some of my own substituted in their stead; my only reason for this being that which I conceive would operate with any other person in the same manner, a determination not to publish with my name any production which was not entirely and exclusively my own composition.

With regard to the real talents of many of the poetical persons whose performances are mentioned or alluded to in the following pages, it is presumed by the author that there can be little difference of opinion in the public at large; though, like other sectaries, each has his separate tabernacle of proselytes, by whom his abilities are overrated, his faults

* In the original manuscript, the title was "THE BRITISH BARDS & SATIRE."
† This preface was written for the second edition, and printed with it. The noble author had left this country previous to the publication of that edition, and is not yet returned.—Note to the Fourth edition, 1811.

His la. and gone up's. 1816.—MS. note by Lord Byron.

* The preface to the first edition began here.
BYRON'S WORKS.

overlooked, and his metrical canons received without scruple and without consideration. But the unquestionable possession of considerable genius by several of the writers here censured renders their mental prostitution more to be regretted. Imbecility may be pitied, or, at worst, laughed at and forgotten; perverted powers demand the most decided reprehension. No one can wish more than the author: that some known and able writer had undertaken their exposure; but Mr. Gifford has devoted himself to Massinger, and, in the absence of the regular physician, a country practitioner may, in cases of absolute necessity, be allowed to prescribe his nostrum to prevent the extension of so deplorable an epidemic, provided there be no quackery in his treatment of the malady. A caustic is here offered, as it is to be feared nothing short of actual cautery can recover the numerous patients afflicted with the present prevalent and distressing rabies for rhyming.—As to the Edinburgh Reviewer—it would indeed require an Hercules to crush the Hydra; but if the author succeeds in merely "bruising one of the heads of the serpent," though his own hand should suffer in the encounter, he will be amply satisfied.

STILL must I hear?—shall hoarse Fitzgerald bawl!
His cracking couplets in a tavern hall,
And I not sing, lest, haply, Scotch reviews
Should dub me scribbler, and denounce my muse?
Prepare for rhyme?—I'll publish, right or wrong:
Fools are my theme, let satire be my song.

Oh! n'ature's noblest gift—my gray goose-quill!
Slave of my thoughts, obedient to my will,
Forn from thy parent bird to form a pen,
That mighty instrument of little men!
The pen foredoomed to aid the mental throes
Of brains that labor, big with verse or prose,
Though nymphs forsake, and critics may deride,
The lover's solace, and the author's pride.

What wits! what poets doth thou daily raise!
How frequent is thy use, how small thy praise!
Condemned at length to be forgotten quite,
With all the pages which 'twere thine to write.
But thou, at least, mine own especial pen!
Once laid aside, but now assumed again,
Our task complete, like Hamet's shall be free;
Though spurn'd by others, yet belov'd by me:
Then let us soar to-day; no common theme,
No eastern vision, no distemper'd dream.

---My Jove! Mr. Fitzgerald, too rough for me?
I hear the woe of youth with piteous awe.

IMITATION.

"Sperm ego author nonnam lyrics unparvum fereant,
Vexation timeis sed Theolidae cotit.
"

Mr. Fitzgerald, innocently tormented by Collett the "Small Beer Poet," inflicts his annual tribute of verse on the "Literary Panel;" not content with being a private person, in person, the company have bullied a reasonable quantity of lust, to enable them to sustain the operation.

Old Hamet Bossewell glances exasper to his pen in the last chapter of his Critoine. Oh! that our venomous gruity would follow the example of Old Hamet Bossewell.

"No scatae stetere, no distemper'd dream. —This must have been written in the spirit of prophecy—MS. note by Lord Byron.

"Inspirès—our path though full of thorns, is plain:
Smooth be the verse, and easy be the strain.

When Vice triumphant holds her sov'reign sway,
Obey'd by all who nought beside obey;
When Folly, frequent harbinger of crime,
Bedecks her cap with bells of every clime;
When knaves and fools combined o'er all prevail,
And weigh their justice in a golden scale;
'E'er then the boldest start from public snares.
Afraid of shame, unknown to other fears,
More darkly sin, by satire kept in awe.
And shrink from ridicule, though not from law

Such is the force of wit! but not belong
To me the arrows of satiric song;
The royal vices of our age demand
A keener weapon, and a mightier hand.
Still there are follies, 'en for me to chase,
And yield at least amusement in the race:
Laugh when I laugh, I seek no other fame.
The cry is up, and scribblers are my game.
Speed, Pegasus!—ye strains of great and small.
Ode, epic, elegy, have at you all!
I too can scrawl, and once upon a time
I pour'd along the town a flood of rhyme,
A schoolboy freak, unworthy praise or blame;
I printed—older children do the same.
'Tis pleasant, sure, to see one's name in print;
A book's a book, although there's nothing in't.
Not that a title's sounding charm can save
Or scrawl or scribbler from an equal grave:
This Lambe must own,—since his patron's name
Pail'd to preserve the spurious face from shame.
No matter, George continues still to write,
Though now the name is veiled from public sight.
Moved by the great example, I pursue
The self-same road, but make my own review:
Not seek great Jeffrey's, yet, like him, will be
Self-constituted judge of poesy.

A man must serve his time to ev'ry trade
Save censure—critics all are ready made.
Take hackney'd jokes from Miller, got by rote,
With just enough of learning to misquote;
A mind and skill would to find or forge a fault;
A turn for punning, call it Attic salt;
To Jeffrey go, be silent and discreet,
His pay is just ten sterling pounds per sheet;
Fears not to lie, 'twill seem a sharper hit;
Shrink not from blasphemy, 'twill pass for wit;
Care not for feeling—pass your proper jest,
And stand a critic, hated yet caress'd.

And shall we own such judgment? no—amend.
Seek roses in December—ice in June;
Hope constancy in wind, or corn in chaff;
Believe a woman or an epitaph,
Or any other thing that's false, before
You trust in critics, who themselves a e r u e,
Or yield one single thought to be mi'r'd.
By Jeffrey's heart or Lambe's Boceian head.

---This Lambe must own. —He's a very good fellow, a f except his mother and sisters, the rest of the set, to my mind—MS. note by Lord Byron.

"The ingenious youth is mentioned more particularly, with his position, in another place.

1 In the Edinburgh Review.

5 By Jeffrey's heart or Lambe's Boceian head. —This was not but.
Neither the heart nor the head of these gentlemen are as what they are...
To these young tyrants, by themselves misplaced,
Combined usurpers on the throne of taste;
To those, when authors bend in humble awe,
And hail their voice as truth, their word as law—
While these are censors, 'twould be sin to spare;
While such are critics, why should I forbear?
But yet, so near all modern worthies run,
'Tis doubtful whom to seek, or whom to shun;
Nor know we when to spare, or where to strike,
Our bars and censors are so much alike.

†Then should you ask me, why I venture o'er
That path which Pope and Gifford trod before;
If not yet sicken'd, you can still proceed:
Go on; my rhyme will tell you as you read.
But hold! † exclaims a friend,—here's some neglect:
This—that—and 't other line seem incorrect.
What then? the self-same blunder Pope has got,
And careless Dryden—oh—but Fye has not,—
Indeed!—'tis granted, faith!—but what care I?
Better to err with Pope, than shine with Fye.

Time was, ere yet in these degenerate days,
Ignoble themes obtain'd mistaken praise,
When sense and wit with poetry allied.
No fabled graces, flourish'd side by side;
From the same fount their inspiration drew,
And, rear'd by taste, bloom'd fairer as they grew.
Then, in this happy isle, a Pope's pure strain
Sought the rapt soul to charm, nor sought in vain;
A polish'd nation's praise aspired to claim,
And raised the people's, as the poet's fame.
Like him great Dryden pour'd the tide of song,
In stream less smooth, indeed, yet doubly strong.
Then Congreve's scenes could cheer, or Otway's melt—
For nature then an English audience felt.
But why these names, or greater still, retrace,
When all to feebler bards resign their place?
Yet to such times our lingering looks are cast,
When taste and reason with those times are past.
Now look around, and turn each tripping page,
Survey the precious works that please the age;
This truth at least let nature's self allow,
No dearth of bards can be complain'd of now:
The loaded press beneath her labor groans,
And printers' devils shake their weary bones;
While Sortheny's epics cram the creaking shelves,
And Little's lyrics shine in hot-presse'd twelves.

†Thus saith the preacher: † "Nought beneath the sun;
Is new," yet still from change to change we run:
What varied wonders tempt us as they pass?
The cow-pox, tractors, galvanism, and gas,

[Note: The text continues with a poem, the first stanza of which is as follows:]

"For these young tyrants, by themselves misplaced,
Combined usurpers on the throne of taste;
To those, when authors bend in humble awe,
And hail their voice as truth, their word as law—
While these are censors, 'twould be sin to spare;
While such are critics, why should I forbear?
But yet, so near all modern worthies run,
'Tis doubtful whom to seek, or whom to shun;
Nor know we when to spare, or where to strike,
Our bars and censors are so much alike.

†Then should you ask me, why I venture o'er
That path which Pope and Gifford trod before;
If not yet sicken'd, you can still proceed:
Go on; my rhyme will tell you as you read.
But hold! † exclaims a friend,—here's some neglect:
This—that—and 't other line seem incorrect.
What then? the self-same blunder Pope has got,
And careless Dryden—oh—but Fye has not,—
Indeed!—'tis granted, faith!—but what care I?
Better to err with Pope, than shine with Fye.

Time was, ere yet in these degenerate days,
Ignoble themes obtain'd mistaken praise,
When sense and wit with poetry allied.
No fabled graces, flourish'd side by side;
From the same fount their inspiration drew,
And, rear'd by taste, bloom'd fairer as they grew.
Then, in this happy isle, a Pope's pure strain
Sought the rapt soul to charm, nor sought in vain;
A polish'd nation's praise aspired to claim,
And raised the people's, as the poet's fame.
Like him great Dryden pour'd the tide of song,
In stream less smooth, indeed, yet doubly strong.
Then Congreve's scenes could cheer, or Otway's melt—
For nature then an English audience felt.
But why these names, or greater still, retrace,
When all to feebler bards resign their place?
Yet to such times our lingering looks are cast,
When taste and reason with those times are past.
Now look around, and turn each tripping page,
Survey the precious works that please the age;
This truth at least let nature's self allow,
No dearth of bards can be complain'd of now:
The loaded press beneath her labor groans,
And printers' devils shake their weary bones;
While Sortheny's epics cram the creaking shelves,
And Little's lyrics shine in hot-presse'd twelves.

†Thus saith the preacher: † "Nought beneath the sun;
Is new," yet still from change to change we run:
What varied wonders tempt us as they pass?
The cow-pox, tractors, galvanism, and gas,
BYRON'S WORKS.

And think'st thou, Scott! by vain conceit per chance,
On public taste to fey ist thy stale romance,
Though Murray with his Miller may combine
To yield thy muse just half-a-crown per line?
No! when the sons of song descend to trade,
Their bays are, their former laurels fade.
Let such forgo the poet's sacred name,
Who rack their brains for hire, not for fame:
Still for stern Mammon may they toil in vain,
And sadly gaze on gold they cannot gain!
Such be their heed, such still the just reward
Of prostituted muse and hireling bard!
For this we spurn Apollo's venal son,
And bid a long "good night to Marmion."*

These are the themes that claim our plundrous now;
These are the bards to whom the muse must bow;
While Milton, Dryden, Pope, alike forgot,
Resign their hallow'd bays to Walter Scott.

The time has been, when yet the muse was young,
When Homer swept the lyre, and Maro sung,
An epic scarce ten centuries could claim,
While awe-struck nations hail'd the magic name!
The work of each immortal bard appears.
The single wonder of a thousand years.†
Empires have mouldered from the face of earth,
Tongues have expired with those who gave them birth.
Without the glory such a strain can give,
As even in ruin bids the language live.
Not so with us, though minor bards content,
On one great work a life of labor spent:
With eagle pinions soaring to the skies,
Behold the bard-magnet Southey rise!
To him let Camps, Milton, Tasso yield,
Whose annual strains, like armies, take the field.
First in the ranks see Joan of Arc advance,
The scourge of England and the boast of France!
Though burnt by wicked Bedford for a witch,
Behold her statue placed in glory's niche;
Her fetters burst, and just released from prison,
A virgin phrenia from her ashes risen.
Next see tremendous Thalaba come on,‡
Arabia's monstrous, wild and wondrous son;
Domdaniel's dread destroyer, who o'ертrew
More mad magicians than the world e'er knew.
Immortal hero! all thy foes o'ercome,
For ever reign—the rival of Tom Thumb!
Since startled metre fled before thy face,
Well worth thou doom'd the last of all thy race!
Well might triumphant genius bear thee hence,
Illustrious conqueror of common sense!
Now, last and greatest Madoc spreads his sails,
Cacique in Mexico and prince in Wales:
Tells us strange tales, as other travellers do,
More old than Mandeville's and not so true.

* "Good night to Marmion" — the pathetic and prophetic exclamation of Sydney Elmez, Episcopal, on the death of his brother, Marmion.
† As the Odyssey is so closely connected with the story of the Iliad, they may almost be classed as one great historical poem. In alluding to Milton and Tasso, we consider the "Paradise Lost," and "G iammon zum Liberno," as their standard efforts, since either the "Iliadem Compendium" of the Italian, or the "Paradise Regained" of the English, obtained a proportionate celebrity to their former poems. Quirky: Which of Mr. Southey's will survive?
‡ Thalaba, Mr. Brougham's second poem, is written in open defiance of precedent and poetry. Mr. B. wished to produce something novel, and succeeded in a miserable manner. The fact of Arc was marvellously enough, but Thalaba was one of those poems "which, in the words of Press, "will be read when Homer and Virgil" are forgotten, but "not till then."
The first page of the document contains a mixture of English and Latin text, as well as some handwritten notes. The text appears to be a review or evaluation of some work, possibly a book or a play, given the use of terms like "reviewer," "theatrical," and "Audare". The language is dense and complex, with references to various themes and characters, suggesting it might be a literary review or critical piece.

The text includes references to "The Plays of Mr. Shakespeare," "The Barbers of Venice," "As You Like It," and "Hamlet," among others. It also mentions "Barbauld," "Mr. Pope," and "Mr. Johnson." The reviewer seems to be discussing the merits of the works, possibly critiquing them or comparing them to other works.

The text is written in a formal and scholarly style, with references to literary figures and historical events. It appears to be a critical piece, possibly from a literary journal or a collection of reviews.

Overall, the document is a dense and intricate piece of writing, likely intended for an audience familiar with the works being reviewed and the literary conventions of the time.
BYRON'S WORKS.

Where all discoveries jumbled from the flood
Since first the leaky ark reposed in mud,
By more or less, are sung in every book,
From Captain Noah down to Captain Cook.
Nor this alone; but, passing on the road,
The bard sighs forth a gentle episode; *
And gravely tells—attend, each beantous miss!—
When first Madeira trembled to a kiss.
Bowles! in thy memory let this precept dwell,
Stick to thy sonnets, man! at least they sell.†
But to be some tow-born whim, or larger tribe,
Prompt thy crude brain, and clasp thee for a scriber.
If chance some bard, though once by dunces fear'd,
Now, prone in dust, can only be revered;
If Pope whose fame and genius from the first
Have foil'd the best of critics, needs the worst,
To do thou essay; each fault, each failing scan;
The first of poets was, alas! but man.
Rake from each ancient dunghill ev'ry pearl,
Consult Lord Fanny, and confide in Curl;‡
Let all the scandals of a former age
Perch on thy pen, and flutter o'er thy page;
Affect a candor which thou canst not feel,
Clothe envy in the garb of honest zeal;
Write, as if St. John's soul could still inspire,
And do for hate what Mallet did for hire.
Oh! hadst thou lived in that congenial time,
To rave with Dennis, and with Ralph to rhyme;¶
Throng'd with the rest around his living head,
Not raised thy hoof against the lion dead;
A meet reward would crown'd thy glorious gains,
And link'd thee to the Dunciad for thy pains.**

† Another epic! Who infects again
More books of blank upon the sons of men?

* The episode above alluded to is the story of "Robert a Machin" and "Anne d'Arfret," a pair of constant lovers, who performed the kiss above mentioned, that startled the vapours of Medici.
† "Stick to thy sonnets, man!—at least they sell:
Or take the only path that open lies
For modern worthies who would hope to rise;
Fix on some well-known name, and, bit by bit,
Pore out the merits of his worth and wit;
On each alike employ the critic's whip,
And when a comment fails, prefix a lieu;
Hit certain failings, faults before unknown,
As Heaven forgives lines, and adds your own;
Let no objection, let no maidsfoot's scope,
And print, if hurriedly deformed, his shape:
Thus shall the world, quite undeserved at last,
Clear to their present wins, and quit their past:
Birds once revered no more with favor view,
But give the modern sonnetters their due:
Thus with the dead may living merit cope,
Thus Bowles may triumph o'er the shade of Pope."

‡ The first edition, the observations on Bowles ended with these lines, which were written by a friend of Lord Byron, and omitted when the entire work was published under the author's name. The following fifty-five verses, containing the conclusion of the passage on Bowles, and the notice of Cottle and Macready, were then printed for the first time.

¶ Curll is one of the heroes of the Dunciad, and was a bookseller. Lord Fanny is the poetical name of Lord Harvey, author of "Lines to the Inventor of the Horse."

†† Lord Bolingbroke hired Mallet to advance Pope after his decease, because the poet had received some copies of a work by Lord Bolingbroke, (the "Political" of which he spoliéed, his malignant genius, and ordered to be burnt."

††† The critic, and Ralph the rhymester.
"Silence, ye wolves! while Hallo to Cynthia howle,
Making nightbies Silence, answer him, ye owle!"

** And link'd thee to the Dunciad for thy pains.—Too savage all this on Bowles.—MS. note by Lord Byron. 1816.

†††† See Bowles's 1st edition of Pope's works, for which he received three thousand pounds. The "Lyrical Sonnets" to each other is so profuse of repetitions of another ditty to elevate his own.

††† Another epic!—Opposite this passage on Joseph and Anne Coast, Lord Byron's letter is written, "All right.

Hobhouse.

Boetian Cottle, rich Bristow's box,
Imports old stories from the Cambrian coast
And sends his goods to market—all alive!
Lines forty thousand, cantos twenty-five!
Fresh fish from Helicon! * who'll buy! who'll buy!
The precious bargain's cheap—in faith not I.
† Your turtle-feeder's verse must needs be flat,
Though Bristol bloat him with the verdant fat;
If Commerce fills the purse, she clogs the brain
And Amos Cottle strikes the lyre in vain.
In him an author's luckless lot beheld,
To make Condor's dream, to make the books which once he sold
Oh, Amos Cottle!—Phaebus! what a name
To fill the speaking trumpet of future fame!
Oh, Amos Cottle! for a moment think
What meagre profits spring from pen and ink.
When thus devoted to poetical dreams,
Who will peruse thy pampered reams?
Oh pen perverted! paper misappliced!
Had Cottle § still adorn'd the counter's side,
Bent o'er the desk, or, born to useful toils,
Been taught to make the paper which he soils,
Plough'd, delved, or plied the ear with lusty limb,
He had not sung of Wales, nor I of him.

As Siéyès against the infernal steep
Rolls the huge rock whose motions ne'er may sleep
So up thy hill, ambrosial Richmond, heaves
Dull Maurice § all his granite weight of leaves:
Smooth solid monuments of mental pain!
The petrifications of a plodding brain, again
That, ere they reach the top, fall lumbering back.

With broken lyre, and check serenely pale
Lo! said Alcimus wanders down the vale;
Though fair they rose, and might have bloom'd at last,
His hopes have perish'd by the northern blast:
Nipp'd in the bud by Caledonian gailes,
His blossoms wither as the blast prevails!
O'er his lost works let classic Sheffield weep!
May no rude hand disturb their early sleep!

Yet say! why should the bard at once resign
His claim to favor from the sacred nine?
For ever started by the mangled hew
Of northern wolves, that still in darkness prow;
A coward brood, which mangle as they prey,
By hellish instinct, all that cross their way;

* Fresh fish from Helicon! — "Helicon" is a mountain, and not a fishing-pond. It should have been "Hippocrene."—MS. note by Lord Byron, 1816.
† Your turtle-feeder's verse, &c.—This couplet was altered in the fifth edition. It originally stood:

"Too much o'er bowls of sack prolonging the night."

Mr. Cottle, Amos, Joseph, I don't know which, but one or both, once sellers of books they did not write, and now writers of books that do not sell, have published a pair of epics.

"Aldred," (poor Alfred I hope has been at him too) "Aldred," and the "Fall of Cambria."

§ He had not sung of Wales, nor I of him.—I saw some letters of this fellow (Joseph Cottle) to an unfortunate poet, whose productions, which the poor woman by no means thought vainly of, he attacked so mostily and bitterly, that I could hardly resist sending him, even were it unjust, which it is not, to the literary (or rather literary) and the theatrical (or rather theatrical) and the dramatic (or rather dramatic) and the musical (or rather musical) draughtsman, and the poet's adjournment.

§§ Poor Montgomery I thought praised by every English reviewer, has been bitterly reviled by every English reviewer, to whom he has expressed himself. He has experienced much or at least as much as many other authors who live.

|| Another epic!—Opposite this passage on Richard and Anne Coast, Lord Byron's letter is written, "June 18, 1818, volume 2.
aged or young, the living or the dead,  
No mercy find—these harpies must be fled.  
Why do he injured unresisting yield  
The calm possession of their native field?  
Why 'tame thus before their fangs retreat,  
Nor hunt the bloodhounds back to Arthur's Seat?  

Health to immortal Jeffrey! once, in name,  
England could boast a judge almost the same;  
In soul so like, so merciful, yet just,  
Some think that Satan has resign'd his trust,  
And given the spirit to the world again,  
To sentence letters, as he sentenced men.  
With hand less mighty, but with heart as black,  
With voice as willing to decree the rack;  
Bird in the courts betimes, though all that law  
As yet hath taught him is to find a flaw;  
Sirce well instructed in the patriot school  
To rail at party, though a party tool,  
Who knows, if chance his patrons should restore  
Back to the sway they forfeited before,  
His scribbling toils some recompense may meet,  
And raise this Daniel to the judgment seat?  
Let Jeffrey's shade indulge the pious hope,  
And greeting thus, present him with a rope:  
"Heer to my virtues! man of equal mind!  
Skill'd to condemn as to traduce mankind,  
This cord receive, for thee reserved with care,  
To wield in judgment, and at length to wear."

Health to great Jeffrey! Heaven preserve his life,  
To flourish on the fertile shores of Fife,  
And guard it sacred in its future war;  
Since authors sometimes seek the field of Mars.  
Can none remember, that eventful day;  
That ever glorious, almost fatal fray,  
When Little's leadless pistol met his eye,  
And Bow-street myrmidons stood laughing by?  
Oh, day of disasters! on her firm-seat rock,  
Dunedin's castle felt a secret shock:  
Dark roll'd the sympathetic waves of Forth,  
Loud rang'd the startled whirrwind of the north;  
Tweed ruffled half his wave to form a tear,  
The other half pursued its calm career;  
Arthur's steep summit nodded to its base,  
The surly Tolbooth scarcely kept her place.  
The Tolbooth fell—for marble sometimes can,  
On such occasions, feel as much as man—  
The Tolbooth fell defrauded of its charms,  
If Jeffery died, except within her arms!  

Nay last, not least, on that portentous morn,  
The sixteenth story, where himself was born,  
His patrimonial garret, fell to ground,  
And pale Edina shudder'd at the sound:  
Strew'd were the streets around with milk-white  
Reams,  
Flow'd were the Canongate with inky streams;  
This of his canon seem'd the sable dew,  
That of his valor show'd the bloodless hue;  
And all with justice deem'd the two combined  
The mingled emblems of his mighty mind.  
But Caledonia's goddess hover'd o'er  
The field, and save him from the wrath of Mor'd,  
From either pistol snatch'd the verdant lead,  
And straight restored it to her favorite's head:  
That head, with greater than magentie pow'r,  
Caught it, as Danae caught the golden shower,  
And, though the thickening dross will scarce refine,  
Augments its ore, and is itself a mine.  
"My son," she cried, "ne'er thrust for gone again,  
Resign the pistol, and resume the pen;  
O'er politics and poesy preside,  
Boast of thy country, and Britannia's guide?  
For long as Albion's heedless sons submit  
Or Scottish taste decides on English wit,  
So long shall last thine un molested reign.  
Nor any dare to take thy name in vain.  
Behold, a chosen band shall aid thy plan,  
And own thee chiefest of the critie clan.  
First in the oat-fed phalanx shall be seen  
The trusty four! Thane, Athienan Aberdeen.†  
Herbert shall wield Thor's hammer, and sometimes  
In gratitude, thou'lt praise his rugged rhymes  
Smug Sydney, to thy bitter page shall seek,  
And classic Hallam, so renown'd for Greek;  
Scott may perchance his name and influence lend,  
And paltry Pilians shall trade his friend;  
While gay Thalia's luckless votary, Lambe,  
Damn'd like the devil, devil-like will damn;†  
Known be thy name, unbounded be thy sway!  
Thy Holland's banquets shall each toll repay;  

† Outward phalanx—so altered in the fifth edition. The original reading was, "ranks illustrated.
† His lordship has been much absurd, in a member of the Athenian Society, an reviewer of "Mr. Gold's Topography of."  
† Mr. Herbert is a translator of Icelandic and set in poetry. One of its principal pieces is a "Song on the Recovery of his late Hammer;" the translation is a pleasant chust in the vulgar tongue, and worth the cost of.  
"Instead of money and rings, I was,  
The hammer's blows were her lot,  
Thus Old's son his hammer gave."  
† The Rev. Sydney Smith, the reputed author of Peter Plymley's Lament, and snesty criticisms.  
† Mr. Hallam reviewed Payne Knight's "Taste," and was exceedingly severe on some lines versus theirs: it was not discovered that the lines were Platon's all were removed & impossible to cancel the critique, which still stands an everlasting monument of Hallam's ingenuity.  
"The said Hallam is licensed because he is falsely accused, seeing that he never diverts at Holland Houses. If this be true, I am sorry—not for having said so, but on his account, as I understand his lordship's fronts are preferable to his compositions."—He did not review Lord Holland's performances, I am chief, because it must have been painful to read, and Intimate to praise it.  
I Mr. Hallam will tell me who did review it, the real name shall find a place in the text; provided, nevertheless, the said name of two other cronies musical celebrities, will come into the verse: till then, Hallam must stand for a better.  
† Pilians is a tutor at Exton.  
** The Rev. Mrs. Lambe reviewed "Beresford's Miscellany," and was accused of a force armed with much applause at the Broyer, Stannary, and damned with great expression at the last theatre, Corrin Gentilum. It was entitled, "The Deed," and in 4 editions before the fifth.  
†† Damn'd like the devil, devil-like will damn.  
The line stood, in 4 editions before the fifth,  
"As he himself " wasn't damn'd shall try to damn."  
Hallam's ingenuity.—The verse ended here in the first edition.
While grateful Britain yields the praise she owes
To Holland's heralds and to learning's foes.
Yet mark one caution, ere thy next Review
Spread its light wings of saffron and of blue,
Beware lest blundering Brougham destroy the sale,
Turn beef to bannocks, cauliflower to kail.  
Thus having said, the kilted goddess ksat
Her sson, and vanished in a Scottish mist.†

Then prosper, Jeffrey!† pertest of the train
'Thom Scotland pampers with her fiery gain!
'Whate'ver blessing waits a genius Scot,
In double portion swells thy glorious lot;
For these Edina calls her evening sweets,
And showers their odors on thy candid sheaths,
Whose hue and fragrance to thy work adhere—
This scents its pages, and that gilds its rear.‡
Lo! blushing Ith, coy nymph, enam'rd grown,
Forsakes the rest, and cleaves to thee alone;
And, too unjust to other Pictish men,
Enjoys thy person, and inspires thy pen!  
Illustrious Holland!‡ hard would be his lot,
His hirelings mention'd, and himself forgot!
Holland, with Henry Petty at his back,
The whiper-in and huntsman of the pack.
Blest are the banquet spread at Holland House,
Where Scottie men feed, and critics may carouse!
Long, long beneath that hospitable roof
Shall Grub street dine, while duns are kept aloof.

See honest Hallam lay aside his fork,
And, review his Lordship's work,
And, grateful for the dainties on his plate,
Declare his lordship can at least translate!‡
Dunedin! view thy children with delight,
They write for food—and feed because they write;
And lest, when heated with the unusual grape,
Some glowing thoughts should to the press escape,
And tinge with the female reader's cheek,
My lady skims the cream of each critique;

Breathe o'er the page her purity of soul,
Reforms each error, and refines the whole.‡
Now to the drama turn—oh! motley sight!
What precious scenes the wondering eyes invite!
Puns, and a prince within a barrel pent,†
And Dibdin's nonsense yield complete content.
Though now, thank Heaven! the Rosciomania's o'er,
And full-grown actors are endured once more;
Yet what avail their vain attempts to please,
While British critics suffer scenes like these?
While Reynolds vents his "dammes!" "poohs!" and "zounds!"†
And common-place and common sense confounds!
While Kenny's "World"—ah! where is Kenny's wit?
Tires the sad gallery, lulls the listless pit; §
And Beaumont's pilfer'd Caractach affords
A tragedy complete in all but words? ||
Who but muse* mourn, while these are all the rage,
The degradation of our vanted stage.
Heavens! is all sense of shame and talent gone?
Have we no living bard of merit?—none!
Awake, George Colman! Cumberland, awake!
Ring th' alarum bell! let folly quake!
Oh, Sheridan! if aught can move thy pen,
Let Comedy assume her throne again;
Abjure the mummery of German schools;
Leave new Pizarros to translating fools;
Give, as thy last memorial to the age,
One classic drama, and reform the stage.
Gods! o'er those boards shall Polly rear her head,
While Garrick trod, and Siddons lives to tread?‡
On those shall Farce display buffoon'ry's mask,
And Hook conceal his heroes in a cask?
Shall sapient managers new scenes produce
From Cherry, Skeffington, and Mother Goose,
While Shakespeare, Otway, Massinger, forgot,
On stalls must moulder, or in closets rot?
Lo! with what pomp the daily prints proclaim
The rival candidates for Attic fame!
In grim array though Lewis's spectres rise,
Still Skeffington and Goode divide the prize.
And sure great Skeffington must claim our praise,
For skirrless casts and skeleton of plays
Remov'd alike; whose genius ne'er confines
Her flight to garnish Greenwood's gay designs; **
Nor sleeps with "Sleeping Beauties," but anon
In five facettious acts comes thundering on,††

* Mr. Brougham, in No. XXXV. of the Edinburgh Review, throughout
his article concerning Don Pedro de Cevallos, has displayed more politics
than policy; many of the worthy burgesses of Edinburgh being so infatuated
at the infamous principles it avises, as to have withdrawn their subscription.

† It seems that Mr. Brougham is not a Plt, as I supposed, but a Borderer,
and his name is pronounced Broom, from Trent to Tug—the isto be it.

‡ I ought to apologise to the worthy dedites for introducing a new goddess
with short petition to their notice; but alas! what was to be done? I could
not call Colden's goddess; it being well known there is no such genius to be
found from Clockman to Candence; yet without supernatural agency, how
was Jeffrey to be saved? The national "kittens" are too unpolished, and the
"cronies," and "pipe neighbors" (spoils of a good disposition) re
fused to extricate him. A goddess, therefore, has been called for the purpose;
and, guess, ought to be the gratitude of Jeffrey, seeing it is the only consent
he can ever hold, or is likely to hold, with any thing heavenly.

§ Then prosper, Jeffrey! &c.—This paragraph was introduced in the fifth
edition.

¶ See the color of the back binding of the Edinburgh Review.

** Insulting Holland! hard would be his lot,
As hirelings woundish'd, and himself forgot!

†† Lord Holland has translated some specimens of Lope de Vega, inserted
in his life of the author; both are beprised by his disinterested genius.

†* Their surrenders.—Here followed in the first edition, "The name of
his personage is pronounced Broom in the south, but the truly northern and
parochial pronunciation is Brougham, in two syllables."

†† The conclusion of the note was substituted for the above in the second
edition.

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‡ Certain it is, her ladyship is averse to having displayed her matchless
wit in the Edinburgh Review. However that may be, we know, from good
authority, that the manuscripts are submitted to her personal—no doubt, for
our use.

§ In the melodrama of Tekeli, that heroic prince is shipped into a barrel as
the stage; a new sawyer for discriminating heroes.

|| All these are favorite expressions of Mr. Reynolds, and prominent in his
comedies, living and defunct.

‡‡ While Kenny's "World," ash! where is Kenny's wit?
Thus the sad gallery, lulls the listless pit.
Thus once more in the fifth edition.

§§ While Kenny's "World," just suffered to proceed,
Proclaims the audience very kind indeed.

†† Sir T. Sheridan, the new manager of Drury-lane theatre, stripped the
tragedy of Brougham's dialogue, and exhibited the scenes as the spectacle
of Corneille.—Was this worthy of his aim, or of himself?

¶¶ Sheridan leaves to tread.—In all editions previous to the fifth, "Kemble
was to tread."

** Mr. Greenwood I, we believe, some-painter to Drury-lane theatre or
such, Mr. Skeffington is much beloved by him.

†† Mr. Skeffington is the illustrious author of the "Sleeping Beauties,"
and some comedies, particularly "Muu and Bachelors!" Brilliant has
celebrated the same laurel dignit.
Then let Ausonia, skill'd in every art
To softer manners, but corrupt the heart,
Pour her exotic follies o'er the town,
To sanction vice, and hunt decorum down:
Let wedded strumpets languish o'er Deshayes,
And bless the promise which his form displays;
While Gayton bounds before th' enraptured looks
Of hoary marquises and striping dukes:
Let high-born lectors eye the lively Presle
Twirl her light limbs, that spurn the needless veil;
Let Angolind bare her breast of snow,
Wave the white arm, and point the pliant toe;
Colonna trill her love-inspiring song,
Strain her fair neck, and charm the listening throng.
What? not your sycthe, suppressors of our vice!
Reforming saints? too delicately nice!
By whose decrees, our sinful souls to save,
No Sunday tankards foam, no barbers shave;
And beer undrunk, and beards unmown, display
Your holy reverence for the Sabbath-day.

Or hail at once the patron and the pile
Of vice and folly, Greville and Argyle!:
Where you proud palace, Fashion's hallow'd lane,
Spreads wide her portals for the motley train,
Behold the new Petronias? of the day,
Our arbiter of pleasure and of play;
There the hired eunuch, the Hesperian choir,
The melting lute, the soft lascivious lyre,

The song from Italy, the step from France,
The midnight orgy, and the mazy dance,
The smile of beauty and the fluid of wine, [line
For fops, fools, gamblers, knaves, and lords com
Each to his humor—Comus all allows;
Champagne, dice, music, or your neighbor's spouse
Talk not to us, ye starving sons of trade!
Of piteous ruin, which yourselves have made;
In Plenty's sunshine Fortune's minnows bank,
Nor think of poverty, except "en masque,"
When for the night some lately titled ass
Appears the beggar which his grandsire was.
The curtain dropt, the gay burletta o'er,
The audience take their turn upon the floor;
Now round the room the circling dow'gers sweep,
Now in loose waists the thin-clad daughters leap;
The first in lengthen'd line majestic swim,
The last display the free unfetter'd limb!
Those for Hibernia's lusty sons repair
With art the charms which nature could not spare
These after husbands win their eager flight,
Nor leave much mystery for the nuptial night.

Oh! blest retreats of infamy and ease,
Where, all forgotten but the power to please,
Each maid may give a loose to genial thought,
Each swain may teach new systems, or be taught;
There the blithe youngster, just return'd from Spain,
Cuts the light pack, or calls the ratting main;
The jovial caster 's set, and seven 's the nick,
Or—done!—a thousand on the coming trick!
If, mad with loss, existence 'gins to tire,
And all your hope or wish is to expire,
Here's Powell's pistol ready for your life,
And, kinder still, two Pagets for your wife: Flit consumption of an earthly race
Begun in folly, ended in disgrace;
While none but menials o'er the bed of death,
Wash thy red wounds, or watch thy wavering breath:
Traduced by liars, and forgot by all,
The mangld victim of a drunken brawl,
To live like Clodius, and like Falkland fall.

Truth! rouse some genuine bard, and guide his bard
To drive this pestilence from out the land.
Even I—least thinking of a thoughtless throng,
Just skill'd to know the right and choose the wrong
Frood at that age when reason's shield is lost,
To fight my course through passion's countless host,
Whom every path of pleasure's flow'ry way
Has lured in turn, and all have led astray—
E'en I must raise my voice, e'en I must feel
Such scenes, such men, destroy the publ. weal,
Although some kind, censorious friend will say,
"What art thou better, meddling fool, than they?"

"Two Pages for your wife."—Thus altered in the 15th edition. The original reading was, "a Fight for your wife/"
Monasto nomee de in Fiddle name.
I knew the late Lord Falkland well. On Sunday night I beheld him presiding at his own table, in all the honest pride of hospitality; on Wednesday morning, at three o'clock, I saw stretched before me all that remained of his honest, good nature, feeling, and society. He was a gentleman and converse officers: his faults were the faults of a statesman—such as Britons will forgive. He died like a brave man in a better cause: for had he fallen in lesser matters on the deck of the figure to which he was just appointed, his last moments would have been held up by his countrymen as an example to succeeding heroes.
To fight my course through passion's countless host.—Fes and previous clauses they led me—MS. note by Lord Byron. 1816.
What art thou better, meddling fool?—Poor enough, certainly them and o'wise none.—MS. note by Lord Byron. 1816.
And every brother rake will smile to see
That miracle, a moralist in me.
No matter—when some bard in virtuous
Gifford perchance, shall raise the chastening song,
Then sleep my pen for ever! and my voice
Be only heard to hail him, and rejoice;
Rejoice, and yield my feeble praise, though I
May feel the lash that Virtue must apply.

As for the smaller fry, who swarm in shoals
From silly Haifa* up to simple Bowles,
Why should we call them from their dark abode,
In broad St. Giles's or in Tottenham-road?
Or (since some men of fashion nobly dare
To scrawl in verse) from Bond-street or the Square?
If things of ton their harmless lays indite,
Most wisely doomed to shun the public sight,
What harm? In spite of every critical elf,
Sir T. may read his stanzas to himself;
Miles Andrews still his strength in couples try,
And live in prologues, though his dramas die;
Lord too are bards, such things at times befall,
And 'tis some praise in peers to write at all.
Yet, did or taste or reason sway the times,
Ah! who would take their titles for their rhymes?†
Roscommon! Sheffield! with your spirits fled,
No future laurels deck a noble head;
†No muse will cheer, with renovating smile,
The paretic puling of Carlisle.
The puny schoolboy and his early lay
Men, pardon, if his folly's pass away,
But who forgives the senior's ceaseless verse,
Whose hairs grow hoary as his rhymes grow worse?
What heterogenous honors deck the peer!
Lord, rhymester, petit-maitre, pamphleter!‡
So dull in youth, so drivelling in his age,
His scenes alone had dam'd our sinking stage,
But managers for once cried, "Hold, enough!"
Nor drugged their audience with the tragic stuff.
Yet at their judgment let his lordship laugh,
And case his volumes in comenial calf;

*What would be the sentiments of the Persian Amancon, Hafiz, could he
*be from his splendid script to Shehera, where he reproves with Fenwick
*and Sadie, the oriental Homer and Carlisia; and bend his name assumed
*by one of those of Dromen, the most impudent and exuberant of literary
*peasants, for the daily print.
†Here followed in the original manuscript,
*On one alone Apollo deigns to smile,
*And crowns a new Roscommon in Carlisia.

The protestation alluded to in Lord Byron's note, page 393, took place
while the action was in press. These lines were erased in consequence, and
all these done over, "With you, ye Druids," &c., substituted in their place.
The following additional lines were written, but suppressed before publication:

In these our times, with daily wonders sig-
A lettered peer is like a lettered pig;
Both know their alphabet, but who, from hence,
Lovers that peers or pigs have mainly seen?
Still less is such should wear the grateful loin?
Parnassus was not made for lords and swine.
No muse will cheer, with renovating smile,
The paretic piling of Carlisia.

This couplet stood in the first edition,
"Nor e'en a hatman's muse will deign to smile,
On minor Byron, or master Carlisia.

Opposed these lines on Lord Carlisia, Lord Byron has written, in the
note which he prefixed in 1816, "Wrong also—protestation was not
sufficient to justify the suspicion."
‡The Earl of Carlisia has lately published an eighteen-penny pamphlet
on the state of the stage, and offers his plan of building a new theatre. It is
to be hoped his lordship will be permitted to bring forward any thing for the
stage, except his own tragedie.

Yes! doff that covering, where morocco shins,
And hang a calf-skin on those recrnet lines.

With you, ye Druids! rich in native lead,
Who daily scribble for your daily bread;
With you I war not: Gifford's heavy hand
Has crush'd, without remorse, your numerous bard
On "all the talents" vent your venal spleen;
Want is your plea, let pity be your screen.
Let monodies on Fox regale your crew,
And Melville's Mantle prove a blanket too!
One common Lethe waits each hapless bard,
And, peace be with you! 'tis your best reward.
Such damning fame as Duncieads only give
Could bid your lines beyond a morning live;
But now at once your fleeting labors close,
With names of greater note in blent repose.
Far be 't from me seditiously to upbraid
The lovely Rosa's prose in masquerade,
Whose strains, the faithful echoes of her mind,
Leave wondering comprehension far behind.‡
Though Crusca's bards no more our journals fill,
Some stragglers skirmish round the columns still.
Last of the howling host which once was Bell's,‡
Matilda snivels yet, and Haifa yells;
And Mercy's metaphors appear anew,
Chains'd to the signature of O. P. Q.‖

‡When some brisk youth, the tenant of a stall,
Employs a pen less pointed than his awl,
Leaves his snig shop, forsakes his store of shoes,
St. Crispin quits, and cobbles for the muse
Heavens! how the vulgar stare! how crowds app
plaud!
How ladies read, and literati laud!
If chance some wicked wag should pass his jest,
"Tis sheer ill-nature—don't the world know best?
Genius must guide when wits-admire the rhyme,
And Capel Loff* declares 'tis quite sublime.
Hear then, ye happy sons of needless trade
Swaine! quite the rough, resign the useless spade Lo!
Burns and Bloomfield, say, a greater far,
Gibbon was born beneath an adverse star,
Forsook the labors of a servile state,
Stemm'd the rude storm and triumph'd over fate:

"Doff that lion's hide,
And hang a calf-skin on those recrnet lines."
Shak. King John.

Lord Carlisia's works, most meagrely bound, form a companion-
ornament to his booklets:
"The rest is all but brother and prudence."
‡ This lovely little Oxen, the daughter of the noted Jew K——, seems to
be a follower of the Della Crusca school, and has published two volumes
of very respectable abstractions from after times; but don't marry novels in
the style of the first edition of the Black.
To the above, Lord Byron added, in 1816: "She since marked the Morning Post—an exceeding good match—and in same death—which is better."

‡ From this line the poem — In the first edition stood thus:
Though Bell has "his nightingales and owls, Matsin etc., etc., and Hafiz bowels,
And Crusca's spits, raising from the dead,
Review in Loans, Quick, and X. Y. Z.

† These are the signatures of various worthies who figure in the political
departments of the newspapers.
‡ When some brisk youth, &c.—The following paragraph was inserted in
the second edition.
This was meant for poor Blackett, who was then punished by A. J. J. M.
but that I did not know, or this would not have been written, at least I should
— MS. note by Lord Byron. 1816.
§ Capel Loff, Eqy, the Museums of showmen, and prepose-write-gen
eral to distressed revenue; a kind of genteel accommodation to those who wish to
be delivered of rhyme, but do not know how to bring forth.
Then why no more? if Phæbus smile on you, Bloomfield! why not on brother Nathan too?

Him too the mania, not the muse has seized;
Not inspiration, but a rainy season;
And now no bard can seek his last abode,
No common be enclosed, without an ode.
Oh! since increased refinement deigns to smile
On Britain's sons, and bless our genial isle,
Let poesy go forth, pervade the whole,
Alas the rustic, and mechanic soul!
Ye tuneful cobblers! still your notes prolong,
Compose at once a slipper and a song;
So shal, the fair your handiwork peruse;
Your sons' sure shall please,—perhaps your shoes.

May Moorland's weavers boast Fandick skill,
And tailors' lays be longer than their bill!
While punctual beaux reward the grateful notes,
And pay for poems,—when they pay for coats.
To the famed thron now paid the tribute due,
Neglected genius! let me turn to you.

Come forth, oh Campbell! give thy talents scope;
Who dares aspire if thou must cease to hope?
And thou, melodious Rogers! rise at last,
Recall the pleasing memory of the past;
Arise! let blest remembrance still inspire,
And strike to wond'rous tones thy hallow'd lyre;
Restore Apollo to his vacant throne,
Asser thy country's honor and thine own.
What! must deserted Poesy still weep
Where her last hopes with pious Cowper sleep?
Unless, perhance, from his cold bier she turns,
To deck the turf that wraps her minstrel, Burns!
No! though contempt hath mark'd the spurious
The race who rhyme from folly, or for food, [brood].
Yet still some genuine sons 'tis hers to boast,
Who 'vast affecting, still affect the most:
Feel as they write, add write as they feel—
Dear witness Gifford, Sothey, Manuell.

Why slumbers Gifford? once was ask'd in vain;
Why slumbers Gifford? let us ask again.
Are there no fellows for his pen to purge?
Are there no fools whose bad demand the scourge?
Are there no sins for satire's bard to greet?
Stalks not gigantic Vice in every street?

shall peers or princes tread pollution's path,
And 'scape alike the law's and muse's wrath?
Nor blaze with guilty glare through future time
Eternal beacons of consummate crime?
Arouse thee, Gifford! be thy promise claim'd,
Make bad men better, or at least ashamed.

Unhappy White! while life was in its spring,
And thy young muse just waved her joyous wing,
† The spoiler swept that soaring lyre away,
Which else had sounded an immortal lay.
Oh! what a noble heart was here undone,
When Science! self destroyed her favorite son;
Yes, she too imposed thy fond pursuit,
She sow'd the seeds, but death has reaped the fruit
'Twas thine own genius gave the final blow,
And help'd to plant the wound that laid thee low
So the struck eagle, stretch'd upon the plain,
No more through rolling clouds to soar again,
View'd his own feather on the fatal dart,
And wing'd the shaft that quiver'd in his heart;
Keen were his pangs, but keener far to feel,
He nursed the pinion which impell'd the steel;
While the same plumage that had warm'd his nest
Drank the last life-drop of his bleeding breast.

There be, who say, in these enlighten'd days,
That splendid lies are all the poet's praise;
That strain'd invention, ever on the wing,
Alone impels the modern bard to sing:
'Tis true, that all who rhyme, nay, all who write,
Shrink from that fat... word to genius—trite;
Yet Truth sometimes will lend her noblest fires,
And decorate the verse herself inspires:
This fact in V. true's name let Crabbe! attest;
Though nature's sternest painter, he was the best.
*And here let Shee! and genius find a place,
Whose pen and pencil yield an equal grace;
To guide whose hand the sister arts combine,
And trace the poet's or the painter's line;
Whose magic touch can bid the canvas glow,
Or pour the easy rhyme's harmonious flow,
While honors, doubly merited, attend
The poet's rival, but the painter's friend.

Blest is the man who dares approach the bower
Where dwelt the muses at their natal hour:
Whose steps have press'd, whose eye has mark'd afar,
The clime that nursed the songs of song and war,
The scenes which glory still must hover o'er,
Her place of birth, her own Achaian shore.

—Henry Kirke White died at Cambridge, in October, 1816, in consequence of too much exertion in the pursuit of studies which would have made a mind which disease and poverty could not impair, and which death and despondency rather than a minute. His poems shone in his hand as with beams of the sun on the finest plate glass; as soon as the readerwill be well refresh'd in not a short a period was sufficient to mould what would have dignified even the sacred functions he was destined to assume.

† The spoiler swept that soaring lyre away,
Which else had sounded an immortal lay.
So altered by Lord Byron on reproving the artist in 1816. In reply to a sonnet, the lines stood,

"The spoiler came; and all thy promise fair
Dissipates, the page, to sleep for ever more,"

† Crabbe.† co-author "Shelley and Coleridge as the first of these to rise to power and genius—1817, not Lord Byron, 1818.

And Are we led Shad, &c.—The ensuing twenty-one lines were invented by
the word "Willen"
† The Shakspearean sonnet of "Rhymes on Art," and "Elements of Art,"
But doubly blest is he whose heart expands
With hallow'd feelings for those classic lands;
Who rends the veil of ages long gone by,
And views their remnants with a poet's eye!
Wright! twas thy happy lot at once to view
Those shores of glory, and to sing them too;
And sure no common muse inspired thy pen
To hail the land of gods and godlike men.

And you, associate bards! who snatch'd to light
Those gems too long witheld from modern sight:
Whose mingling tastes combined to hurl the wreath
Where Attic flowers Aonian odors breathe,
And all their renovated fragrance flung,
To grace the beauties of your native tongue:
Now let those minds, that nobly could transmute
The glorious spirit of the Grecian muse,
Though soft the echo, scorn a borrowed tone:
Resign Achala's lyre, and strike your own.

Let these or such as these, with just applause,
Restore the muse's violated laws:
But not in flimsy Darwin's pomposous chime,
That mighty master of unmeaning rhyme,
Whose gilded symbols, more adorn'd than clear,
The eye delighted, but fatigued the ear;
In show the simple lyre could once surpass,
But now, worn down, appear in native brass;
While all his train of hoary sylphs around
Emerge in similes and sound:
He let them shun, with him let tiisel die:
False glare attracts, but more offends the eye.‡

Yet let them not to vulgar Wordsworth stoop,
The meanest object of the lowly group,
Whose verse, of all but childish prattle void,
Seems blessed harmony to Lamb and Lloyd;
Let them—but hold, my muse, nor dare to teach
A strain far, far beyond thy humble reach:
The native genius with their being given
Will point the path, and peal their notes to heaven.

And thou, too, Scott![⁵] resign to minstrels rude
The wilder Slogan of a border feud:
Let others spin the meagre lines for hire;
Enough for genius if itself inspire!
Let Southey sing, although his teeming muse,
Prolific every spring, be too profuse;
 Let simple Wordsworth chime his childish verse,
And brother Coleridge hail the babbles at nurse;
Let spectre-mongering Lewis aim, at most,
To raise the galleries, or to raise a ghost: [Moore,‡
**Let Moore still sigh; let Strangford steal from
And swear that Canoens sang such notes of yore;
Let Hayley hobble on, Montgomery rave,
And godly Grahame chant a stupid stave;

* Mr. Wright, late consol.-general for the Iveron islands, is author of a very beauteous poem just published: it is entitled "Heraeion," and is descriptive of the island and the surrounding coast of Greece.

† The translators of the Archylogi, Blund and Merivale, have inserted separate poems, which entice genius that only requires opportunity to obtain eminence.

‡ The neglect of the "Botanic Garden" is some proof of returning taste; the scenery is in -to-recommendation.

§ Misses. Lamb and Lloyd, the most ignoble followers of Southey and Co., in the by, I hope that to Mr. Scott's next poem his hero or heroine will be less addicted to "Graemarye," and more to grammar, than the Lady of the Ley and her brave, William of Dambless.

¶ According to passages on Wordsworth, and the following line on Coleridge's, Lord Byron has written, "out of,"

** Let Moore still sigh.—Fifth edition. The original reading was, "Let Moore bewail!"

Let sonneteering Bowles his strains refine
And whine and whimper to the fourteenth line,
Let Scott, Carlisle, Matilda and the rest
Of Grub-street and of Grosvenor-place the best,
Scrawl on, 'till death release us from the strain,
Or Common Sense assert her rights again.
But thou, with powers that mock the aid of praise
Should leave to humbler bards ignoble lays,
Thy country's voice, the voice of all the nine,
Demand that moral'd harp—that hearse-borne thine.
Say! will not Caledonia's annals yield
The glorious record of some nobler field,
Than the vile foray of a plundering clan,
Whose proudest deeds disgrace the name of man?
Or Marmon's acts of darkness, fitter food
† For Sherwood's outland tales of Robin Hood,
Scotland! still proudly claim thy native bard,
And be thy praise his first, his best reward!
Yet not with thee alone his name should live,
But own the vast renown a world can give;
Be known, perchance, when Albion is no more,
And tell the tale of what she was before;
To future times her future fame recall
And save her glory, though his country fall.

† Yet what avails the sanguine poet's hope,
To conquer ages and with time to cope?
New eras spread their wings, new nations rise,
And other victors fill the applauding skies;
A few brief generations fleet along,
Whose sons forget the poet and his song;
E'en now, what once-loved minstrels scarce may claim
The transient mention of a dubious name!
When Famine's loud trump hath blown its noblest blast,
Though long the sound, the echo sleeps at last;
And glory like the phoenix midst her fires,
Exhales her odors, blazes, and expires
Shall hoary Granta call her sable sons,
Expert in science, more expert at puns?"
Shall these approach the muse? ah, no! she flies,
Even from the tempting ore of Seaton's prize;
Though printers condescend the press to soil
With rhymes by Hoare, and epic blank by Hoyle:
Not him whose page, if still upheld by whist,
Requires no sacred theme to bid us list.
Ye. who in Granta's honors would surpass,
Must mount her Pegasus, a full-grown ass;
A soul well worthy of her ancient dam,
Whose Helicon is duller than her Carus.

There Clarke, still striving piteously "to please,"
Forgetting doggerel leads not to degrees,
A would-be satirist, a hired buffoon,
A monthly scribbler of some low lampoon,
Condemned to drudge, the meanest of the meaz,
And furnish falsehoods for a magazine,
Devotes to scandal his congenial mind;
Himself a living libel on mankind.

Oh! dark asylum of a Vandal race!
At once the boant of learning and disgrace;
So lost to Phæbus, that nor Hodgson's†† verse
Can make thee better, or poor Hewson's†† worse.
But where fair Isis rolls her purer wave,
The partial muse delighted loves to live;
On her green banks a greener wreath she's†† wove,
To crown the bards that haunt her classic grove;
Where Richards wakes a genuine poet's fires,
And modern Britons glory in their sires.]

* Even from the tempting ore of Seaton's prize—Thus corrected, In 1808, by Lox. Byron. In former editions:

"And even spurns the great Heptameron prize."†† Thus in the original manuscript.

† With odes by Brough, and epic songs by Hoyle;
Hoyle's whose learned page if still upheld by whist,
Required no sacred theme to bid us list.

† The "Game of Hoyle," well known to the vocables of wit, clever, etc. are not to be superseded by the vagaries of the poetical manuscripts, whose poems composed, as expressly stated in the advertisement, all the "plays of Egypt."

†† There Clarke's, still striving, etc. These eight lines were added in the second edition.

Great enough; this was well deserved, and well told on...of. note by Lord Byron. 1816.

†† This person, who has lately betrayed the most odious symptoms of confirmed lewdness, is writer of a poem denominated the "Art of Pleasing," as "books a monimento," containing little sententious and low poetry. The learned of this passage, or modesty and common-sense of the "critic." If this unfortunate young man would exchange the magazines for the mathematics, and endeavor to take a decent degree in his university, it might eventually prove more security to his present safety.

†† Into Cambridgeshire the Empress Freida transported a considerable body of Vyand; whose Decline and Fall, p. 80, vol. II. There is no reason to doubt the truth of this assertion; the breed is still in high perfection.

These four lines were substituted for the following in the original manuscript:

Yet held—se when by Heaven's supreme behest,
If found, ten righteous had preserved the rose,
In Sodom's fated town, for vicious' sake
Let Hodgson's genius plead, and save her fame.

** So lost to Phæbus, that, etc.—This couplet, thus altered in the fifth edition, was originally printed,

So sunk in dulness, and so lost in shame,
That Hoyle and Hodgson scarce redeem thy fame.

††† This gentleman's name is well known to the press; the man who in translation displays unparalleled genius may well be expected to excel in original composition, of which it is to be hoped we shall soon see a splendid specimen.

††† [Hewson Clarke, Esq., as it is written.

†††† In the first edition.

†††† The "Adlington Briton," an excellent poem, by Richards.

The breed is still in Mâge perfection—in the first edition. "There is no reason to doubt the truth of this assertion, as a large stock of the same breed 'be found there at this day.'"
And make their grand saloons a general mart
For all the mutilated blocks of art:
Of Dardan tours let dilettant hunt,
I leave typography to rapid* Gell†
And, quite on intent, no more shall interpose
To stun th. public ear—at least with prose.

Thus far J. ye held my undisturb'd career,
Prepared for rancor, steel'd 'gainst selfish fear:
This thing of rhyme I ne'er disdained to own—
Though not obtrusive, yet not quite unknown:
My voice was heard again, though not so loud,
My page, though nameless, never disavow'd;—
And now at once I tear the veil away:—
Cheer on the pack! the quarry stands at bay,
Uncared by all the din of Melbourne house,†
By Lambe's resentment, or by Holland's spouse.

By Jeffrey's harmless pistol, Hallam's rage
Edina's brazen sons and brimstone page.
Our men in buckram shall have blows enough,
And feel they too are "penetrable stuff!":
And though I hope not hence unsathed to go,
Who conquers me shall find a stubborn foe.
The time hath been, when no harsh sound would fall
From lips that now may seem imbued with gill,
Nor foils nor follies tempt me to despire
The meanest thing that craw'd beneath my eyes;
But now so callous grown, so changed since youth,
I've learn'd to think, and sternly speak the truth:
Learn'd to deride the critic's stale decree,
And break him on the wheel he meant for me;
To spurn the rod a scribbler bids me kiss,
Nor care if courts and crowd's applaud or hiss;
Nay more, though all my rival rhymsters frown,
I too can hunt a poetaster down;
And, arm'd in proof, the gauntlet cast at once
To Scotch marauder, and to southern dune.
Thus much I've dared; if my indecent lay* Hath wrong'd these righteous times, let others say:
This, let the world, which knows not how to spare,
Yet rarely blames unjustly, now declare.†

† Rapid. Thus altered in the 5th edition. In all previous editions "classic."
† Rapd., indeed. He superimposed and typographed King Pelops' decisions in three days—I called him "classical" before I saw the Troj. but since have learned better than to task his name with what don't belong to it.—Note to the 4th edition.
Mr. Gell's Topography of Troy * and Thucy † cannot fail to ensure the approbation of every man possessed of classical taste, as well as for the information Mr. Gell conveys to the mind of the reader, as for the ability and research the respective works display.—Note to all the earlier editions. Since seeing the plans of Troy, my opinions are somewhat changed as to the above note. Gell's survey was hasty and superficial.—MS. note by Lord Byron. 1816.
† — Din of Melbourne house.— Singular enough, and din enough, God knows.—MS. note by Lord Byron. 1816.

* Troy. Visited both in 1810 and 1811.—MS. note by Lord Byron. 1816.
† Abdon. Traced first in 1809.—MS. note by Lord Byron. 1816.

THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENT INTENDED FOR THE SATIRE WAS IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT, BUT NOT PUBLISHED.

The post considerable times past and their prosey—make a sudden transition to times present—is assailed against book-makers—rev. W. Scott for impudence and illogical mongering, with notable remarks on Mr. Mason.—Holland—complains that Master Scottie hath infected those poems epic and otherwise on the public—struggle against Wm. Wordsworth; but lest both Mr. Coletidge and his elegy be a young era—disposes to vigorously Mr. Lewis—so greatly rebuff Thomas L. (the late), and the Lord Strengman—recommendeth Mr. Klug to turn his attention to prose—exhorts the Monarchs to glory Mr. Graham—assiduously with the err. — Bowles—deprives and deprives the melancholy line of Montgomery—breaks out into invective against the Edinburgh Reviewers—catches them hard names, heres, and the like—praises Jeffrey and panegyric.—Epistle of Jeffrey and Moun, their jealousy and deliverance; portraits on the course of combat; the Tweed, Tureen, Pity, etc.—courageously struck down; decent of a goddess to save Jeffrey; incorporation of the patient with his sheet and sceptre—Edinburgh Review, on nature—Lord Aberd., Herbert, Scott, Hallam, PILKIN, Leiper, Sydney Smith, Beith, W.—The Lord Holland applauded for dinners and transla.

† The Dramas; Shaffington, Hook, Reynolds, Kenney, Cherry, &c.—Sheridan, Cohen, and Cambrose called upon to write—renew the scathing of scre tletters of all sorts—Lord's sometimes rhymes; much better not—Haf, Ross, Melville, and X. Y. Z.—Rogers, Campbell, Gilfillan, &c. was post—translation of the Greek Anthology—Cowper—Drake's eye—Cambridge—Botanizer Prize—Smyth—Hogge—Oxford—Radcliffe Post—nonsense—conclusion.
I have been informed, since the present edition went to press, that my trusty and well-beloved cousins, the Edinburgh Reviewers, are preparing a most vehement critique on my poor, gentle, unresisting Muse, whom they have already so bedevilled with their ungodly ribaldry:

"Tantum animis aequalibus fin."

I suppose I must say of Jeffrey as Sir Andrew Aguecheek saith, "an' I had known he was so cunning of fence, I had seen him damned ere I had taught him." What a pity it is that I shall be beyond the Bosphorus before the next number has passed the Tweed! But I yet hope to light my pipe with it in Persia.

My northern friends have accused me, with justice, of personality towards their great literary anthropophagus, Jeffrey; but what else was to be done with him and his dirty pack, who feed by "lying and slandering," and slake their thirst by "evil speaking?" I have added facts already well known, and of Jeffrey's mind I have stated my free opinion, nor has he thence sustained any injury;—what scavenger was ever soiled by being pelted with mud? It may be said that I quit England because I have censured there "persons of honor and wit about town," but I am coming back again, and their vengeance will keep hot till my return. Those who know me can testify that my motives for leaving England are very different from fears, literary or personal: those who do not, may one day be convinced. Since the publication of this thing my name has not been concealed; I have been mostly in London, ready to answer for my transgressions, and in daily expectation of sundry cartels; but alas, "the age of chivalry is over," or, in the vulgar tongue, there is no spirit new-days.

There is a youth ycleped Hewson Clarke (Suidand Esquire), a sizer of Emmanuel College, and, I believe, a denizen of Berwick-upon-Tweed, whom I have introduced in these pages to much better company than he has been accustomed to meet; he is, notwithstanding, a very sad dog, and for no reason that I can discover, except a personal quarrel with a bear, kept by me at Cambridge to sit for a fellow ship, and whom the jealousy of his Trinity contem poraries prevented from success, has been abusing me, and what is worse, the defenceless innocent above mentioned, in "The Satirist" for one year and some months. I am utterly unconscious of having given him any provocation; indeed, I am guiltless of having heard his name till coupled with "The Satirist." He has therefore no reason to complain, and I dare say that, like Sir Fretful Pi
giary, he is rather pleased than otherwise. I have now mentioned all who have done me the honor to notice me and mine, that is, my bear and my book except the editor of "The Satirist," who, it seems is a gentleman—God wit! I wish he could impart a little of his gentility to his subordinate scribblers. I hear that Mr. Jerningham is about to take up the cudgels for his Maecenas, Lord Carlisle: I hope not: he was one of the few, who, in the very short intercourse I had with him, treated me with kind ness when a boy, and whatever he may say or do "pour on, I will endure." I have nothing to add, save a general note of thanks to readers, purchasers, and publishers, and, in the words of Scott, I wish

*To all who teach a task good night,*

and pray dinner and chivalrous light.\footnote{This is a note.}
HINTS FROM HORACE:

BEING AN ALLUSION IN ENGLISH VERSE TO THE EPISTLE "AD PISONES, DE ARTE POETICA," AND INTENDED AS A SEQUEL TO "ENGLISH BARDs AND SCOTCH REVIEWERS."

"- Ergo fungus vice cock acutum
Raddres quae serratum vales, eaque luna secundum."  
HOR. De Arte Poet.

"Rhymes are difficult things—these are stropthorn things, etc."

FIELDING'S Amuse.

A labor'd, loing exordium, sometimes tends
(Like patriot speeches) but to paltry ends:
And nonsense in a lofty note goes down,
As pertness passes with a legal gown:
Thus many a bard describes in pompous strain
The clear brook babbling through the goodly plain.
The groves of Grants, and her gothic halls,
King's Coll., Cam's stream, stain'd windows, and
.. old walls:
Or in advent'rous numbers, neatly aims
To pain a rainbow or the river Thames.

You sketch a tree, and so perhaps may shine—
But daub a shipwreck like an alehouse sign;
You plan a vase—it dwindles to a pot;
Then glide down Grub-street—fasting and forgot—
Laugh'd into Lethe by some quint review,
Whose wit is never troublesome till true.

In fine, to whatsoever you aspire,
Let it at least be simple and entire.

Inceptis gravibus plerumque et magna profect;
Purpureus, late qui splendet, unus et alter
Assuitur pannus; cum lucus et ara Diana,
Et propteratis aquis peo amados ambitus agros,
Aut flumen Rhonum, aut pluvius describitur areus
Sed nune non erat his luctus: et fortasse cupressus
Seis simulare: qui duc huc, si fractis estat expese
Navibus, areae dato qui pingitur? amnora capitis
Instituit: currente rotai cur arises exit?
Denique sit quod vis, simplices duntaxat et unum
Maxima pars vatum, pater, et juvenae patri digna,
Decipinnar specie recti. Brovis esse laboro,
Obscurus fio: sectantem levia, nervi
Deicient animique: professus grandia, turget:
Serpit humi tutius nimium timidusque procella.
Quo variare cupit rem prodigaliter unam,
Delphimum sylvia appingit, fluctibus aprum.

* In an English newspaper, which finds its way abroad wherever there
are Englishmen, I read an account of the dirty dealer's ancestor of Mr.
N—. and the convergent action, &c. The subject is probably too well
known to require further comment.

"Or where pure description held the place of verse."—Pope.
HINTS FROM HORACE.

"The greater portion of the rhyming tribe
(Give ear, my friend, for thou hast been a scribe)
Are led astray by some peculiar lure.
I labor to be brief—become obscure;
One falls while following elegance too fast;
Another soars, infatuated with bombast:"

"Too low a third crawls on, afraid to fly;
He plies his subject to satisfy;
Absurdly varying, he at last engraves
Fish in the woods, and boars beneath the waves!"

"Unless your care's exact, your judgment nice
The flight from folly leads but to vice;
None are complete, all wanting in some part,
Like certain tailors, limited in art.
For galligansus Slowhears is your man,
But coats must claim another artist."

"Now this to me, I own, seems much the same
As Vulcan's feet to bear Apollo's frame;
Or, with a fair complexion, to expose
Black eyes, black ringlets, but—a bottle nose;"

Dear authors! suit your topics to your strength,
And ponder well your subject, and its length;
Nor lift your look, 'tis quite invisible
What weight your shoulders will, or will not bear.
But lucid Order, and a wise clear voice,
Await the poet skillful in his choice;
With native elegance he soars along.
Grace in his verse, as music in his song.

Let judgment teach him wisely to combine
With future parts the now omitted line;
This shall the author choose, or that reject,
Precise in style, and cautious to select.
Nor slight applause will candid pens afford
To him who furnishes a wanting word.
Then fear not if 'tis needful to produce
Some term unknown, or obsolete in use,
(As Pitt has furnished us a word or two,
Which let scribes declined to find by foibles,
So you incl'd, with care,—but be content
To take th'l licence rarely)—may invent.

In vitam ductet culpa fugax, si caret arte.
Sempiternum circa ludum faber imus et unguem
Exprimet, et molles imitatur zere capillos.
Infelix otris summus, quis ponere totum
Nescit. Et ego me, si quid componere curnem
Non magis esse vidim, quam pravo vivere naso.
Spectandum magis oculis nigroque capillo.
Sumite nectarum voceis, qui scribitis, aquam
Viribus; et versate diu quid ferre recusent.
Quid talia? nimmer. Cui lecta potenter erit res,
 Nec facer disserere hunc, nec ludere ordo.
Ordinis hanc vetus erit et versus, aut ego fallor,
Ut jam nune dicat, jam nune debant dici.
Plerque differat, et prasens in tempus omissa.
Hoc amet, hoc sperat promissi carminis auctor.

In verbis etiam tenuis cunctusque serendis;
Dicere egregie, non si calidis verbum
Reducider junctura novum. Si forte necesse est
Indiciis monstrare recentibus addita rerum,
Ungere euctibus non exadita Cethegis
Contingent; dabiturque licuita sumptu, pudenter,
Est nova actaque nuper habebunt verba idem, si

"New words find credit in these latter days,
If neatly grafted on a Gallic phrase.
What Chaucer, Spencer did, we scarce refuse
To Dryden's or to Pope's mature muse.
If you can add a little, say why not,
As well, as William Pitt and Walter Scott?

Since they, by force of rhyme and force of lungs
Enrich'd our island's ill-united tongues;
'Tis then—and shall be—lawful to present
Reform in writing, as in parliament.

As forests shed their foliage by degrees,
So fade expressions which in season please.
And we and ours, alas! are due to fate,
And works and words but dwindle to a date.
Though as a monarch nods, and commerce calls,
Impetuous rivers stagnate in canals;
Though swamps subdue, and marshes drain'd sustains
The heavy ploughshare and the yellow grain,
And rising ports along the busy shore
Proceed: the vessel from old ocean's roar,
All, ill must perish: but, surviving last,
The love of letters half preserves the past.
True, some decay, yet not a few revive;
Though those shall sink, which now appear to thrive.
As custom arbitrates, whose shifting sway
Our life and language must alike obey
The immortal wars which gods and angels wage
Are they not shown in Milton's sacred page?
His strain will teach what names best belong
To themes celestial told in epic song.

The slow, sad stanza will correctly paint
The lover's anguish or the friend's complaint.
But which deserves the laurel, rhyme or blank?
Which holds on Helicon the higher rank?
Let equalling critics by themselves dispute
This point, as puzzling as a Chancery suit.

Satiric rhyme first sprang from selfish spleen.
You doubt—see Dryden, Pope, St. Patrick's dean.

Graceo fonte cadant, parce detorta. Quid autem
Caelico Plautique dabit Romanus aedem?
Virgilio Varioque? ego cur, acquirere pauca
Si possimus, invidet, cur linguis Catanni et Enni
Senescem patriam diuvers, et nova rerum
Nomina propter ilia. Licit, semperque licet,
Signatum presente nota producere nomen.
Ut silva f. l. pronos mutatur in annos;
Prima cadunt: in verborum vetus interit atus,
Vatum riu florent modo nata, vigentque
Debecurn morti nos tostraeque: sine receptis
Terra Neptunus: classis aliquotibus accur,
Rigis opus, sternisse diu palus, aptumque remis,
Vicis umbles at, et grave sentit aratum:
Seu cursum univitiqui iniquum fugrhis annis,
Ducet iter melius; mortalissi facta peribunt;
Nunc amnisciam stat homos, et gratia vivax.
Multa renascentur, quae jam ceedere; ocidentque
Quae nunc sunt in honore vocabula, si violet usus,
Quem penes arbitrium est et justa et norma loquendi
Res gesta regnumque duclumque et tristia bella,

* * *

"Old folks, old plays, and old women's stories, are at present in such request as old wine or new speeches. In fact this is the millennium of black letters; thanks to our Heber, Wike, and Siora; *

* Mr. Flecknoe, the Dunciad, and all Spirit's lampooning bulks. Whatever their other works may be, these originated in personal feelings, and angry return on worthy rivals; and though the ability of these authors deserves the portal, their pollygamy decrete from the personal character of the writers.

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Bia k verse is now, with one consent, allied
To Tragedy, and rarely quits her side.
Though mad Almanzor rhymed in Dryden's days
No sing-song hero rants in modern plays;
While modest Comedy her verse foregoes
For jest and pam* in very middling prose.
Not that our Beins or Beaumonts show the worse,
Or lose one point, because they wrote in verse;
But so Thalia pleases to appear,
Poor virgin! damn'd some twenty times a year.

Whate'er the scene, let this advice have weight:
Adapt your language to your hero's state.
At times Melpomene forgets to groan,
And brisk Thalia takes a serious tone;
Nor unregarded will the act pass by
Where angry Townly lifts his voice on high
Again our Shakspeare limits verse to kings,
When commo prosse will serve for common things;
And live Hal resigns heroic ire,
To "hollowing Hotspur"† and the sceptred sire.

'Tis not en ugh, ye bards,' with all your art,
To polish poems; they must touch the heart:
Where'er the scene be laid, whate'er the song,
Still let it bear the hearer's soul along;
Command your audience or to smile or weep,
Which' er may please you—any thing but sleep.
The poet claims our tears; but, by his leave,
Before I shed them, let me see him grieve.

If banish'd R muco feign'd nor sigh nor tear,
Lull'd by his languor, I should sleep 8 sneer.
Sad words, no doubt, become a serious face,
And men lo'k angry in the proper place.
At double meanings folks seem wondrous sly,
And sentiment prescribes a pensive eye;
For nature form'd at first the inward man,
And actors copy nature—when they can.

Quo scribi possent numero monstravit Homerus.
Versibus impariter junctis querimonia primum;
Post etiam inclusa est voto sententia copos.
Quis tamen exiguis elegos emiserit auocos,
Grammatici errant, et adhuc sub judice lis est.
Archilochum proprio rabies armavit imabo.
Hunc soci cepere pedem, grandesque othurni,
Alternis aptum sernonibus, et populares
Vincentem strequisit, et nutum robus agenda.
Musae dedit fabulos, puerseque decorum,
Et pugilem victorem, et eumque certaine primum,
Et juvenum curas, et libera vina referre.

Descriptas servare vices operunque colors,
Cur ego, si nqueo ignoroque poeta salutor?
Cur nescire, id dens prave, quam discere male?
Versibus ex, tamen tragicis res conclam non vult,
Indignatur item privatis, et pugnare socco
Digna carminibus nacta, esse lypsesta.
Singular que locum teneant sortita decenter
Interdum tamen et vocem commedia tollit,
Itaque C. echems tumido deligtit ore.
Et tragicos plenissim delect sermone pedestri.
Telepous et Peleus, cum pauper et exul, eterque
Projectum ampullas et sesquipedalia verba,
Si curat cor spectantis teligisse querela.
[sunto, Macbeth est pulchra esse poenam;]
delicia
Et, quocumque volent, animam auditoris agunt.
Ut ridentibus arridet, ita fientibus adiunct.

* With all the vulgar applause and critical abhorrence of poets, they have resided on their side, who persuade them to cotise, and give them成型.

† As in the our Pil bylow. Mortimer!—I, Henry IV.

She bids the beating heart with rapture bound,
Raised to the stars, or level'd with the ground;
And for expression's aid, 'tis said, or sung,
She gave our mind's interpreter—the tongue,
Who, worn with use, of late would fain disperse
(At least in theatres) with common sense;
O'erwhelm with sound the boxes, gallery, pit,
And raige a laugh with any thing but wit.

To skilful writers it will much import,
Whence spring their scenes, from common life and court;
Whether they seek applause by smile or tear,
To draw a "Lying Valet," or a "Lear,"
A sage, or rakish youngster wild from school
A wandering "Peregrine," or plain "John Bull;"
All persons please, when nature's voice prevails,
Scottish or Irish, born in Wilts or Wales.

Or follow common fame, or forge a plot:
Who cares if mimic heroes lived or not?
One precept serves to regulate the scene:
Make it appear as if it might have been.

If some Drawenair you aspire to draw,
Present him raving, and above all law:
If female furies in your scheme are plann'd,
Macbeth's fierce dame is ready to your hand;
For tears and treachery, for good or evil,
Constance, King Richard, Hamlet, and the Devil
But if a new design you dare essay,
And freely wander from the beaten way,
True to your characters, till all be past,
Preserve consistency from first to last.

'Tis hard to venture where we better's fail,
Or lend fresh interest to a twice-told tale;
And yet, perchance, 'tis wiser to prefer
A hackney'd plot, than choose a new, and err;

Humani vultus: si vis me flere, dolendum est.
Primam ipsi tibi; tone tua me infortunia laedent.
Telephe: vel Peleu, male si mandata loquers,
Ant dare labes, nos abhorrere: tristia mecum
Vultur ventris decent; iratam, plena xinarum,
Ludentem, lasciva; severum, sera dictu.
Format enim natura pruis nos intus ad omnem
Fortunam habuit; juvat, aut impellit ad iam
Ant ad humum morore gravdi ducet, et angit;
Post effert animo motus interprete lingua.
Si dicentis erunt fortunis absa obdata,
Romani tollent equites pedesque cæsinum.
Interreti nutrum, Davusse licuquit an hero;
Maturum senex, ad an frameborderer juventa
Fervidus: an matrona potens, et sedula nutrix;
Mearstorne vagus, cultorne viridescit agelli;
Colenus an Assyrius; Thesif nutritius, an Aig's
Ant famam sequere, ant sibi convenientia.
Singer honoratum si forte reponis Achileum;
Impiger, incredus, inexorabilis, acer,
Jura neget sibi nata, nihil non arrogant aruis.
Sit Medea herex invitentis: Belliss fuso
Perfidus Lxion; Io vaga; tristis Orestes;
Si quid inexpertum scene committis, et anudes
Personam formare novam; servetur ad imum
Qualis ab incepto processerit, et sibi constet;
Difficile est property communissi dicere;

Ructius llaciam curam deducus in actus,
Quam si proferret ignota inditaequa primus
Publica materies privati juris erit,
Nec circum villam patutumque minoribus orbem
Nec verbum verbo curabiss reddere sidus
Interpres, nec des'illes imitator in arctum
Yet copy not too closely, but record,
More justly, thought for thought than word for word;
Nor trace your prototype through narrow ways,
But thy where he merits praise.

For you, young bard! whom luckless fate may lead
To tremble on the four all who read,
Ere your first score of cantos time unrolls,
Beware—God's sake, don't begin like Bowies
"Awake a louder and a loftier strain,
And pray, what follows from his boiling brain?—
"Of man's first disobedience and the fruit"
He speaks, but as his subject swells along,
Earth, heaven, and He in the song.
Stirred to the midst of things he hastens on,
As if we witnessed all already done;
Leaves on his path whatever seems too mean
To raise the subject, or adorn the scene;
Gives, as each page improves upon the sight, [light; Not smoke from brightness, but from darkness—
And truth and fiction with such art compounds,
We know not where to fix their several bounds.
If you would please the public, deign to hear
What soothes the many-headed monster's ear;
If your heart triumph when the hands of all
Applaud in thunder at the curve, content;
Deserve the plaudits—study nature's page,
And sketch the striking traits of every age;
While varying man and varying years unfold
Life's little tale so oft, so vainly told.

Unde pedem proferre pudor vetet, aut operis lex.

Nee sic incepies, ut scriptor Ciceronis olim:
"Fortunam Primi cantabo, et nobilis bellum."
Quid dignum tanto ferit su primam huius Pariturint montes: nascatur ridiculus mus.
Quanto rectius hic, qui nil mollitur inepte?
"Die mihi, Musi, virum captae tecta tempora
Qui more hominum mulitum virtud, et urbes.

Non fumum ex fulguro, sed ex funo dare lucem Cogitat, ut speciosae defincire magna promot.

*About two years ago a young man, named Townsend, was announced by Mr. Coleridge (in a review since destroyed) as being engaged in an epic poem to be entitled "Armageddon." This plan and specimen promise much; but I hope neither to offend Mr. Townsend nor his friends, by recommending to his attention the lines of Horace to which those stanzas allude. If Mr. Townsend succeeds in his undertaking, as there is reason to hope, how much the world will be indebted to Mr. Coleridge for being the first to publish such a poem! But till that eventful day arrives, it may be deemed whether the premature display of his plan (sublime as the idea confessedly is) has not, by raising expectation too high, or diminishing curiosity, by destroying our interest, rather incurred the hazard of injuring Mr. Townsend's future prospects. Mr. Coleridge (whose talents I shall not deprecate) is the humble tribute of my praise) and Mr. Townsend must not suppose me actuated by unworthy motives in this suggestion. I wish the author all the success he can wish himself; and shall be truly happy to see poetry weighed up from the ashes where it lies smouldering with Soundly, Cowley (Mrs. or Albraham), Gertrude, Wilde, Pye, and all the dead of past and present days. Even if he is not a Milton, he may be better than Blakesmore; if not an Homer, an Aeneidsurus. I should despise myself presented with an offering worthy the last of these, and not addressed to one still younger. Mr. Townsend has the greatest difficulties to encounter; yet in conquering them he will find employment: in having conquered them, he will have gained so much. I am not a child, nor am I afraid to teach. I know with certainty, and am afraid only that Mr. Townsend will know too well. Those who succeed and those who do not must bear this silks, and it is hard to say which is most of it. I trust that Mr. Townsend's shine will be from away the "I will know mankind well enough not to attribute this expression to silence.

The above note was written before the author was apprised of Mr. Constable's death.

Observe his simple childhood's dawning days,
His pranks, his prate, his playmates, and his plays
Till time at length the mannish tyro weans,
And prurient vice outstrips his tardy teens!

Behold him freshman! force no more to groan
"O'er Virgil's devilish verses and his own,
Prayers are too tedious, lectures too abstruse,
He flies from Tavell's form to "Forlorn Mews:"
(Uneakly Tavell! doom'd to daily cares
By pugilistic pupils and by bears.)
Fines, tutors, tasks, conventions threat in vain,
Before hounds, hunters, and Newmarket plain.
Rough with his elders, with his equals rash,
Civil to sharpers, prodigal of cash;
Constant to nought—save hazard and a whore,
Yet cursing both—for both have made him sore;
Unread (unless, since books beguile disease,
The p-x becomes his passage to degrees)
Fool'd, plighted, dunn'd, he wastes his term away
And, unexpell'd perhaps, retires M. A.;
Master of arts! as helle and clubz proclaim,
Where scarce a blackleg bears a brighter name!

Launch'd into life, extinct his early fire,
He apes the selfish prudence of his sire;
Marries for money, chooses friends for rank,
Buys land, and shrewdly trusts not to the Bank;
Sits in the senate; gets a son and heir;
Sends him to Harrow, for himself was there.
Mute, though he votes, unless when call'd to cheer
His son's so sharp—he'll see the dog a peer.

Manhood declines—age pails every limb,
He quits the scene—or else the scene quits him.

Antiphates, Scyllamque, et cum Cyclope Charyb-Nec reditum Diomedis ab iteritu Meleagri, [It Nee gumino bellum Trojanum orditur ab ovo. Semper ad eventum festinat; et in medias res Non secus ac notas, auditorem rapit, et quae Desperat tractata nitescere posse, relinquit:
Atque ita mitigatur, sie vers falsa remisum, Primo ne medium, medio ne discerpetimum. Tu, qu'i e' o populus mecum desiderat, audir, Si pluorius ages ulnita manentis, et usque Susuri, donec cantor, vos plaudite, dicta Atitas cujusque notandis sunt tibi mores, Mobiliaribus decoratur natura standus et annxus. Reddere qui voce jam scit puer, et pede certo Signat humum; gestit paribus colludere, et iram Calligt at pocit temere, et mututur in horas. Imberbis juvenis, tandem custode remoto, Gaudet equis, canibusque, et apicu gramine campi; Cereus in vitium flecti, monitoribus asper, "Jitium tardus prorsus, prodigus eris, Sublimis, cupidusque, et amata relinquere pernae Convexus studium, atque alius clavis in viribus Quaurit opes et amictias, inservit honor; Commississe cavet quod mox mutare laboret.

Harvey, the director of the circulation of the blood, used to fly away Virgil in his ecstasy of admiration, and say, "the book had a devil." Now, such a character as I am copying would probably fly it away also, Mr. Ogilvy, the deceased, did not wish it, for he could not bear to have my slights to the post, but a well-founded horror of hexameters. Indeed the public school goes a "long and short" is enough to begin an end to poetry for the residue of a man's life, and, perhaps, for me may be an advantage.

"If infundam, region, jubes renovare dijum?"
I dare say Mr. Tavell (to whom I mean no affront) will understand me; and it is no matter whether I am wise, I am so wise, or foolishness takes the place of sense and sense bears testimony.

"Hell," a grinding-house so called, where you risk little, and are cheated a good deal. "Club," a pleasant purgatory, where you lose more, and are supposed to be cheated as ill.
With their triumphs and their trophies gone,

And their laurels on their brows no more,

They now weep and wail the loss of fame,

And the laurel now is withered and gone.

Weep, weep, weep, weep, weep, weep, weep, weep,

And the laurel is withered and gone.

When their triumphs and their trophies gone,

And their laurels on their brows no more,

They now weep and wail the loss of fame,

And the laurel now is withered and gone.

The laurel, you know, is withered and gone,

And the laurel, my dear, is withered and gone.

When their triumphs and their trophies gone,

And their laurels on their brows no more,

They now weep and wail the loss of fame,

And the laurel now is withered and gone.

Weep, weep, weep, weep, weep, weep, weep,

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When their triumphs and their trophies gone,

And their laurels on their brows no more,

They now weep and wail the loss of fame,

And the laurel now is withered and gone.

Weep, weep, weep, weep, weep, weep, weep,

And the laurel is withered and gone.
Then may Euphrosyne, who sped the past,
See the thy life's scene's nor leave thee in the last;
But find in thine, like pagan* Plato's bed,
Some sorry manuscript of mimes, when dead.

Now to the Drama let us bond our eyes,
Where petter'd by whig Walpole low 'she lies;
Corruption foil'd her, for she fear'd her glance;
Decorum left her for an opera dance!
Yet *Chesterfield, whose polish'd pen inveighs
Against laughter, fought for freedom to our plays;
Uncheck'd by megrim of patriotic brains,
And damning dulness of lord chamberlains.
Repeal that act! again let Humor roam
Wild or the stage—we're time for tears at home;
Let "Archer" plant the horns on "Sullen" s bows,
And "Estafania" gull her "Copper"'s spouse;
The moral's scant—but that may be excused,
Men go not to be lectured, but amused.
He whom our plays dispose to good or ill
Must wear a head in want of Willis' skill;
Ay, but Macbeth's example—psha!—no more!
It form'd no thieves—the thief was form'd before,
And spite of puritans and Collier's curse,
Plays make mankind no better, and no worse.
Then spare our stage, ye methodistic men!
Nor burn dam'd Drury if it rise again.
But why to brain-score'd bigots thus appeal?
Can heavenly mercy dwell with earthly zeal?
For times of fire and fagot let them hope:
Times dear alike to puritan or pope.
As pious Calvin saw Sercutus-blaze,
So would new sects on newer victims gaze.
E'en now the songs of Solyma begin;
Faith chants, perplex'd apostol of sin!
While the Lord's servant chastens whom he loves,
And Simeon kicls, where *Baxtry only "shoves."

Whom nature guides, so writes, that every dunce
Encaps'd, thinks is do the same at once;
But after inky thumbs and bitten nails
And twenty scatler'd quires, the cocxom fails.

Let pastoral be dumb; for who can hope
To match the youthful elocution of our Pope?
Yet his and Phillips' faults, of different kind,
For art too rude, for nature too refined,

Ex noto fictum carmen sequar, ut sibi quivis
Speret idem: sedet multum frustraque laboret
Audax idem; tandem series juncturit polce
Tantum de medio sumtis accedit honestis.

Ne vis dedit cavat, me judice, Pausini,
Ne, velit inlati trivis ac pene forenses,
Ad unum teneris juvenescet versibus unquam,
At immunda crepent, ignominiosae dicta, *res: Offendatur enim, quibus est equus, et pater,
Ne, si quid frici ciceris probat et nescius ector.

Instruct how hard the medium 'tit to hit
'Twixt too much polish and too coarse a wit
A vulgar scribbler, certes, stands disgraced
In this nice age; when all aspire to taste;
The dirty language, and the noisy jest,
Which pleased in Swift of yore, we now detest;
Proscribed not only in the world polite,
But even too nasty for a city knight!

Peace to Swift's faults, his wit hath made them pass
Unmatched by all, save matchless Hudibras!
Whose author is perhaps the first we meet,
Who from our couplet lopp'd two final feet;
Nor less in merit than the longer line,
This measure moves a favorite of the Nine.
Though at first view eight feet may seem in vain
Form'd, save in ode, to bear a serious strain,
Yet Scott has shown our wondering isle of late,
This measure shrinks not from a theme of weight
And, varied skillfully, surpasses far
Heroic rhyme, but most in love and war,
Whose fluctuations, tender or sublime,
Are curb'd too much by long-recurring rhyme

But many a skilful judge abhors to see,
What few admire—irregularity.
This some vouchsafe to pardon; but 'tis hard,
When such a word contents a British bard.

And must the bard his glowing thoughts confine,
Lest censure hover o'er some faulty line?
Remove whate'er a critic may suspect
To gain the paltry suffrage of "correct:"
Or prune the spirit of each daring phrase,
To fly from error, not to merit praise?

Ye who seek finish'd models, never cease,
By day and night, to read the works of Greece.
But our good fathers never bent their brains
To heathen Greek, content with native strains.
The few who read a page, or used a pen,
Were satisfied with Chaucer and old Ben;
The jokes and numbers suited to their taste
Were quaint and careless, any thing but chaste
Yet whether right or wrong the ancient rules,
It will not do to call our fathers fools!

* Aquis acipiens aninis, donantve et rona.
Syllaba longa brevi subiecta vocatur lambus,
Pex cursus unde etiam trimumeres acroscoro jussit
Nomen iambico, cum senos redderet ictus,
Primus ad extremum similis sibi: non ita pridem
Tardior ut paulo graviorque veniret ad aures,
Spondeos stabiles in jure patera receptis
Commodas et patiens: non ut de scelere secundâ
Cedere aut quarta socialiter. Hie et in Ael.
Nonnullis trinitem apparat rarus, et Enni.
In scenam missos magno cum ponderare versus,
At operae celeris olim curiae caretis,
Aut ignorantae premit artis crimine turpi.
Non quivis videt inmodulata poemata judex;
Et data Romanis vena est indigna poetis.
Hic erat vagis, scribansque lector, ut omeras
Vivas voces peccata patem mea, tutus, et intra
Spem venias cautos? vitavi denique culpam,
Non lardem merui. Vos exemplaria Graec.
Nocturna versata manu, versata diurna.
At vestri proavi! Plantos et numeros et
Laudavere sales; nimiumpatienter utrumque.
Ne dieam stulte, miranti: si modo ego et vos
Seimis inurbanos lepido sequor dicto.
With little rhyme, less reason, if you please
The name of poet may be got with ease,
So that no turns of helleborie juice
Shall ever turn your head to any use;
Write but like Wordsworth, live beside a lake,
And keep your bushy locks a year from Blake.*

Then put your present book, once more return to town
And boys shall hunt your bardship up and down.

Am I not wise, if such some poets' plight,
To purge in spring (like Bayes) before I write?
If this precaution soften'd not my bile,
I know no scribbler, with a madder style;
But since (perhaps my feelings are too nice),
I cannot purchase fame at such a price,
I'll labor gratis as a grinder's wheel,
And, blunt myself, give edge to others' steel,
Nor write at all, unless to teach the art,
To those rehearsing for the poet's part;
From Horace show the pleasing paths of song
And from my own example, what is wrong.

Though modern practice sometimes differs quite,
'Tis just as well to think before you write;
Let every book that suits your theme be read,
So shall you trace it to the fountain-head.

He who has learnt the duty which he owes
To friend and country, and to pardon foes;
Who models his deportment as may best
Accord with brother, sire, or stranger guest;
Who takes our laws and worship as they are,
Nor roars reform for senate, church, and bar;
In practice, rather than loud precept, wise,
Bids not his tongue, but heart, philosophy:
Such is the man the poet should rehearse,
As joint exemplar of his life and verse.

Sometimes a sprightly wit and tale well told,
Without much grace, or weight, or art, willold
A longer empire o'er the public mind
Than sounding trifles, empty, though refined.

Unhappy Greece! thy sons of ancient days,
The muse may celebrate with perfect praise,
Qui purgor blem sub verni temporis horam!
Non alius faceret meliora poema;
Verum
Nili tanti est: ergo fungar vice cotis, acutum
Reddere que ferrum valet, exsors ipsa secondi:
Manus et officium, nil scribens ipsa, docebo;
Unde parentur opes: quid alat formaet poemat
Quid decet, quid non: quod virtus, quod fater eros
Scrivendi recte sapere est primum et foro
Rem tibi Socraticis poterunt ostendere chartae:
Verbaque provariam rem non invita sequuntur.
Quid dedit patriae quid debet, et quid amicis;
Quo sit a natura parentes, quo frater amandus, et
hospes;
Quod sit conscripti, quod judicia officium;

Partes in bellum missi duces: ille profecto
Reddere personae selt convenientia cuique.
Respiciere exemplar vitis morumque judice
Doctum imitatorum, et vivas hinc duceve voces.
Interdum speciosa locis moraturque recte
Fabula, nullius veneris, sine pondere est arte,
Vallius oblectat puerum, meliusque moratus;
Quam, versus inopes rerum, nugeque canores.
Grails inegenium, Grails dedit ore rotundo
Musa loqui, praeter laudem nullius avaris.

* As famous a tener as Nicias himself, and better paid, and may, like
him, be one day a senator, having a better qualification than one half of his
hands be cropt, &c.—independence.
HINTS FROM HORACE.

Through three long weeks the taste of London lead
And cross St, George's Channel and the Tweed.

But every thing has faults, nor is't unknown
That harps and fiddles often lose their tune,
And wayward voices, at their owner's call,
With all his best endeavors, only squall;
Dogs blink their cover, flints withhold their spark,
And double-barrels (damn them!) miss their mark.

Where frequent beauties strike the reader's view
We must not quarrel for a blot or two;
But pardon equally to books or men,
The slips of human nature, and the pen.

Yet if an author, spite of foe or friend,
Despises all advice too much to mend,
But ever twangs the same discordant string,
Give him no quarter, howsoe'er he sing.
Let Haward's fate o'ertake him, who for once
Produced a play too dashing for a dune:
At first none deem'd it his, but when his name
Announced the fact—what then?—it lost its fame
Though all deplore when Milton деigns to doze,
In a long work 'tis fair to steal repose.

As pictures, so shall poems be; some stand
The critic eye, and please, when near at hand;
But others at a distance strike the sight;
This seeks the shade, but that demands the light;
Nor dreads the connoisseur's fastidious view,
But, ten times scrutinized, is ten times new.

Parnassian pilgrims! ye whom change or choice
Hath led to listen to the muse's voice,
Receive this counsel, and be timely wise;
Few reach the summit which before you lies.
Our church and state, our courts and camps, con-cede
Reward to very moderate heads indeed!
In these plain common sense will travel far;
All are not Erskines who mislead the bar.

Lectorem delactando pariterque monendo.
Hie meret ara liber Sosias; hic et mare transit,
Et longum noto scriptorpi prorogat annum.
Sunt delicia tamen, quibus ignovisse velimus;
Nam neque chorda sonum reddid quem vulgus
manus et mens,
Poscentique gravem perspexit actum;
Nec semper feriet quodque unum minabatur arcus.
Verum ubi plura atinet in carmine, non ego pauci
Offendat malefici, quasi aurica fit;
Aut humana parum cavit natura. Quid ergo est?
Ut scriptor si peccat idem librarium usque,
Quamvis est montus, vennia caret; et cithareus
Ridetur, chorda qui saper obernorem cadem:
Sic milhi, qui multum cessat, sibi Ciceronis ille,
Quem bis terque bonum cum risum miror; et idem
Indiginar, quandoque bonum dormitiur Homerus.
Verum operi longo fas est uberepere somnum.
Ut pictura, poesia: eit quae, si propius stes,
Te capiet magis; et quadam, si longius abstes:
Hac amat obscurn; veloc habet sub luce videri,
Judicis argutum qui non formidat acumen:

As Mr. Pope took the liberty of stanzing Homer, to whom he was under
great obligation—"And Homer (damos him) etsi!"—it may be presumed that
any body or any thing may be damned in verse by poetical Homer; and,
in case of accident, I beg leave to plead as Homer's proprietor.
"For the story of Bilby Havis's tragedy, see Davies's Life of Gask.
"I believe it is "Regulus," or "Claudia the Fine." The moment it
was known to be the theatre played, and the bookbes refuted to give
the customary sum for the copyright.

Whose generos children narrow'd not their hearts
With commerce, given alone to arms and arts.
Our boys (save those whom public schools compel)
To "long and short" before they're taught to spell,
Froze: frugal fathers soon imbibe by rote,
A penny saved, my lad's, a penny got.
Babe of a'ck'birth! from sixpence take
Two thirds how rich will the remainder make?
"A great."—"Ah, brave! Dick hath done the sum;
He'll swell my fifty thousand to a plume."
Theys whose young souls receive this rust betimes,
'Tis clear, are fit for any thing but rhymes;
And Locke will tell ye, that the father's right
Who hides all verses from his children's sight.
For poets (says this sage, and many more),
Make sad mechanics with their lyre lore;
And Delphi now, however rich of old,
Discovers little silver and less gold,
Because Parnassus, though a mount divine,
Is poor as Iris, & an Irish wine.

Two objects always should the poet move,
Or one or both,—to please or to improve.
Whate'er you teach, be brief, if you design
For our remembrance your didactic line;
Redundance places memory on the rack,
For brains may be o'eloaded, like the back.

Fiction does best when taught to look like truth,
And fairy fables bubble none but youth;
Expect no credit for too wondrous tales,
Since Jonas only springs alive from whales!

Young men with aught but elegance dispense,
Maturer years require a little sense.
To end at once—that bard for all is fit
Who mingles well instruction with his wit;
For him reviews shall smile, for him o'erflow
The patronage of Paternostero-row;
His book, with Longman's liberal aid, shall pass,
(Who ne'er despises books that bring him brass.)

Romani paeci longis rationibus assem
Discent in partes centum dividere; dicit
Filius Albini, Si de quincunciae remotus est
Uncia, quid superat? poterat dixisse—Triens.

Ea! Rem poteris servare tuam. Redit uncinia: quid fit?
Smis. An hae animos argeo et cura peculi
Cuncta semem imbuerit, speramus carmina angii
Poesis limenda cordo, et levi servanda cupresso?
Aut professe volunt; aut delactare poetae;
Aut simul et jucunda et idonea dicer verum.
Quidquid principes, esto brevis: ut cito dicta
Periplanum animi decencies, teneantque fidèles.
Ommine supervacuum pleno de pectore manat.
Et dicta volvatis causa sint proxima veris;
Fecit, quodque unum, poscat sibi fabula credi:
Ne pranse Lantim vivum puerum extraehat alvo.

Cunctum gerentium agitant expertin frugis:
Celsi praetereunt austa poesma Rhamnes.
Omnis tulit punctum, qui missit utile dulci,

* I have not the original by me, but the Italian translation runs as follows:—
"E' uno, cosa un mio crudele modo, vastran duo, che un pedocrescendo, c'imezzo,
e possa, che un figliolo caxito e perfetto quasi bioks."
* A little further on:
"Si graccerno dito nelle Parnasse le macerie d'oro e d'argento."—\Edizione del Poesia dell Signor Lucas. Seconda edition.

* An apparent error:—"This is the same beggar who walked with Ulysses for
a pound of kid's l'ire, which he lost, and half a dozen teeth besides."—See
Odyssey, p. 353.

* The gilded mines of Wilkie, which yields just once enough to redeem
a or gold in a month.

* As Mr. Pope took the liberty of stanzing Homer, to whom he was under
great obligation—"And Homer (damos him) etsi!"—it may be presumed that
any body or any thing may be damned in verse by poetical Homer; and,
in case of accident, I beg leave to plead as Homer's proprietor.
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was known to be the theatre played, and the bookbes refuted to give
the customary sum for the copyright.
What then?—Edina starves some lanker son,
To write an article thou canst not shun:
Some less fastidious Scotchman shall be found,
As bold in Billingsgate, though less renoun'd.

As if at table some discordant dish
Should shock our optics, such as frogs for fish;
As oil in lieu of butter men decry,
And poppies please not in a modern pie;
If all such mixtures then be half a crime,
We must have excellence to relish rhyme.
Mere roast and boil'd'd no epicure invites;
Thus poetry disgusts, or else delights.

Who shoot not flying rarely touch a gun;
Who he swins not to the river run?
And men unpractis'd in exchanging knocks
Must go to Jackson ere they dare to box.
What'er the broom, cudgel, flint, or spear,
None reach expertness without years of toil;
But fifty dunces can, with perfect ease,
Tag twenty thousand couples when they please.

Why not?—shall I, thus qualified to sit
For rotten bowers, never show my wit?
Shall I, whose fathers with the quorum sate,
And lived in freedom on a fair estate;
Who left me heir, with stable's, kennels, packs,
To all their income; and to twice its tax;
Whose form and pedigree have scarce a fault,
Shall I, I say, suppress my attic salt?

Thus think "the mob of gentlemen;" but you,
Besides all this, must have some genius too.
Be this your sober judgment, and a rule,
And print not piping hot from Southey's school,
Who (ere another Thalaba appears),
I trust will spare us for at least nine years.
And hark'ye, Southey! pray—but don't be next
Burn all your last three works—and half the next.

Ut gratas inter mensas symphonia discors,
Et crassum ungentum, et Sardo cum belle papaver
Offendunt, poterat duca quia cena sine istoris; Sacra animis natum inventumque poema juvandis,
Si parvi translatione decessit, venerationem.

Ludere qui nescit, campiaterius abstinet arma,
Indocuitque pila, discive, troviche, quiescit,
Ne spissae rium tollat impune coronae:
Qui nescit, versus tamen audet fingere!—Quidam
Liber et ingeniosus praesertim census equestrem
Summanum nunnumorum, vitique remotus ab omni.

Tu nihil invita dices faciesina Masura:
Id tibi judicium est, ex mensis; si quid tamen olim
Scipionem, in Metili desendat judices aurem,
Et patris, et nostras, nonunque prematur in annum
Memorabitis intus positis. Delero licebit Quod
Non edibis; nescis vox missa reverti?
Sylvestres homines sacra interpresque decum

To the Eclectic or Christian Reviewers I have to return thanks for the favor of that charity which in 1809 induced them to express a hope, that a thing then published by me might lead to certain consequences, which, all English natural, surely came not ready from reverend lips. I refer them to their own pages, where they condescended themselves on the pro- pect of a slight between Mr. Jeffrey and myself, from which some great good was to spring, provided one or both were knocked on the head. Having received two pages and a half of those "Eligens" which they were kindly prepar'd to review, I have no peculiar genus to give them "so joyful a custody," except, indeed, "upon composition, Hut," but if, Mr. Jeffrey says in the "Rivista," it should come to "bleeding and gun fighting," we "won't run, will we"? I do not know what had gone to those Eclectic gentlemen; my works are their lawful property, to be worn in the pieces as Agar, if she should seem meet unto them; but why should they be thus a议论 to kill off their author, I was ignorant.
'Tis the race is not always to the swiftest but to the strong: and now, as those Eclectic Reviewers 'amn me on one side,' I hold them up the other; and in return for their good wishes, give them an opportunity of repeating them. Had any other sort of men expressed such sensations, they would have audited, and lent them to the "pointing angel," but from the phrenesis of Christianity docility might be expected. I can name these brethren, that, politicians and shamer I am, I would not have mine dog dance. To see them the superiority of my brutality lives, if ever the Reverend Muses Simon or Hannah should be engaged in such a conflict as that in which they requested me to fall, I hope they may escape with being "winded" only, and that Havreble may be all safe to extract the boll.

[ supplementary album, at the bishop's, Alcabin,]
Orpheus, we learn from Ovid and Lempriere, led all wild beasts but women by the ear; and had he fiiled at the present hour, We'd seen the lions Waltzing in the Tower: And old Amphiicon, such were must have been then, Had built St. Paul's without the aid of Wren. Verse too was justice, and the bands of Greece Did more than constables to keep the peace; Abolish'd cuckoldom with much applause, Cal'd county meetings, and enforced the laws, Cut down crown influence with reforming sectaries, And served the church without demanding tithes; And hence, throughout all Hellas and the East, Each poet was a prophet and a priest, Whose old-establish'd beard of joint controls Included kingdom: in the cure of souls.

Next rose the martial Homer, epic prince, And fighting's been in fashion ever since; And old Tyrtaeus, when the Spartan's war'd, (A limping leader, but a lofty bard,) Though wall'd I'thome had resisted long, Reduced the fortress by the force of song.

When oracles prevail'd, in times of old, In song alone Apollo's will was told. Then if your verse is what all verse should be, And gods were not ashamed on't, why should we?

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HINTS FROM HORACE.

But why this vain advice? O once published, books Can never be recall'd—from pastry cooks! Though "Madoc," with "Pucelle," instead of punk, May travel back to Quito—on a trunk! ♦

The muse, like mortal females, may be w. o'd; In turns she'll seem a Paphian or a prude; Fierce as a bride when first she sees affright, Mild as the same upon the second night; Wild as the wife of alderman or peer, Now for his grace, and now a grenadier! Her eyes beseech, her heart belies, her zone, Ice in a crowd, and lava when alone.

If verse be studied with some show of art, Kind nature always will perform her part. Though without genius, and a native vein Of wit, we loathe an artificial strain; Yet art and nature join'd will win the prize, Unless they act like us and our allies.

The youth who trains to ride or run a race Must bear privation with unruuffled face, Be call'd to labor when he thinks to dine, And, harder still, leave wenching and his wine. Ladies who sing, at least who sing at sight, Have follow'd music through her farthest flight; But rhymer tell you neither more nor less, "I've got a pretty poem for the press!" And that's enough; then write and print so fast— If Satan take the hindmost, who'd be last? They storm the types, they publish; one and all. They leap the counter, and they leave the stall. Provincial maidens, men of high command, Yea, baronet's have ink'd the bloody hand! Cash cannot quell them; Pollio play'd this prank. (Then Phæbus first found credit in a bank!) Not all the living only, but the dead, Fool on, as thouent an as an Orpheus' head; ♦

Cedibus et victis facio deterruit Orpheus: Dictus ob hoc leniere tigris, rabidosaque leones: Dictus et Amphiicon, Thébanum conqueritur acres, Saxa movere non testudinis, et prece blanda Duce, quo valeret: fuit hactenus sapientiam quandam, Publica prattis secernere: sacra profanis; Concupit prohibere vago: dare jura maritis; Oppida melfrit: leges inciderit ligno. Sic honor et nomen divinis vatibus atque Carminibus venit. Post hos insignis Museorum Tyrtaeusque mares animos in Martia bella Versibus exsecut; dicit per carminia sortes, Et vitae monstrata est: et gratia regnum Pieris tentantis modus: ludisque repertum, Et longorurn operum finis: ne forte pudor, Sis tibi Musa lyrae solae, et cantor Apollo. Natura fieret laudabile carmen, an arte, Quaesitum est: ego nec studior sine divite vena, Nec rude quid proposit video ingenium; alterius si Altera poscit open res, et conjurat amice. Qui studet optatam cursu contingere metam, Multa tult fitque puer; sudavit et alsit; Abstinuit Venere et vino: qui Pythiae cantat Thibeen, difcit primus, extimatasque magistrum. Nunc satis est diissixe: Ego mira poenata, pango; Occupet extreminum scabies: nihil turpe reliquum Et quod on dicit, sane non fit multo.

Si carmina condes, Nunquam te fallant animi sub vulpe latenties. Quintillo si quid recitatas, Corrige, sodes Hoc (alebat) et hoc: melius te posse negares.

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* "Num quosque moenstros exspect et cervos rursum, Georgico sea manmodis Ovidius etiam. Georgico sea manmodis Ovidius etiam. Virgilius Eburneus vos tauce, et frigidi linguas, Ab, miserum Virgilium in animis fragore vocalis; Epyllion into referentur iussse nonnullos.—Georgico, 1. 288
BYRON'S WORKS.

Some fancied slight has roused his lurking hate.
Some folly cross'd, some jest, or some debate;
Up to his den Sir Scribbler bies, and soon
The gather'd gall is voided in lampoon.
Perhaps at some pert speech you've dared to frown
Perhaps y'ur poem may have pleased the town:
If so, alas, 'tis nature in the man—
May heaven forgive you, for he never can!
Then be it so; and may his withering bays
Bloom fresh in satire, though they fade in praise!
While his lost songs to more shall steep and stick
The dullest, fattest wocks on Lethes's brink,
But springing upwards from the sluggish mold,
Be (what they never were before)—be sold!
Should some rich bard, (but such a monster now,
In modern physics, we can scarce allow,) Should some pretending scribbler of the court,
Some rhyming peer—there's plenty of the sort—
All but one poor dependent priest withdrawn,
(Ah! too regardless of his chaplain's yawn!) Condemn that unmemory, lend to recite
Their last dramatic work by candle-light,
How would the preacher turn each rueful leaf,
Dull as his sermons, but not half so brief!
Yet, since 'tis promised at the rector's death,
He'll risk no living for a little breath.

Quin sine rivali toque et tua solus amares.
Vir bonus et prudentius versus reprehendit inertes
Culpa tribuit sine pensibus allinenum
Transverso calamo signum; ambitio recidet
Ornamenta; parum claris lucem dare coget;

There lives a druid who prepares in time
'Gainst future feuds his poor revenge of rhyme;
Racks thousands, and his diller muses,
To publish faultings which friendship should excuse.
But what is shame, or what is aught, to him? He
Vents his spleen or gratifies his whim.

Bia terque expertum frustra, delere jubebat,
Et male tumultos incendi reddere versus.
Si dignis delicias, utcanuntus aliis stramus,
Nullum ultra verbum, aut operam insumebant

"I beg Nathaniel's pardon; he is not a cobbler; he is a tailor, but begged
Capell Loft to sink the profession in his praise to two pair of paste—pads of canvas, which he wished the public to try on; but the slave of a saxon let it
out, and so for saved the expense of an advertisement to his country com-
mongers.——Mr. "Morality" s white's was nothing to all this. The "Della Crusca," were people of some distinction, and no profession; but these Ar-
nodus ("Arionus obus"—bumpkins both) sold out their native miserers
without the smallest alloy, and leave all the shoes and smallclothes in the
path unshod, to pick up Elgesiers on Roscmun and Presia powder.
Sitting up a shoemaker, they describe diffici of battle, when the only
blood they ever saw was shed from the finger; and an "Essay on War" is
produced by the ninth part of a "past.""

"And own that wise poet wrote a "Tune."

Did Nathan ever read that line of Pope? and if he did, why not take it as
his motto?

! This well-meaning gentleman has spoiled some excellent shoemakers,
and been accessory to the poetical unlamenting of many of the instructious poor.
Nathaniel Boofield and his brother Bobby have set all Romerumans singing
long; nor has the melody confused itself so much. Poetess too, (who
once was wise,) has caught the contage of plagiarize, and decyred a poor
fellow named Illison into poetry; but he had during the operation, inhered
seen child and two volumes of "Remains" lately deviutan. The girl, if she
don't take a poetical twist, and come forth as a shortmaking Sophpa, may do
well; but the "exigens" are as richly as if they had been the offspring of an
Enol or a Samsonian prize poete. The patrons of this poor lad are certainly
unwarrantable for his mould, and it ought to be an indicible offence. But
this is the least they have done for, by a refinement of baseness, they have
made the (same) man posthumous ridiculous, by printing what he would
have had some enough to keep himself honest. Corus these rangers of "Remains"
more under the statute against "recreation men." What does it signify
when on a poor, poor, dead, dead verses he is stuck up in "Bragman's" or "Ruffman's"
"Bed? Is it so bad to mourn his bones as his blunderers? Is it not better to
gobble his body on a heap, than his soul in an octave? "We know what we
are, but we know not what we may be; " and it is to be hoped we never shall
know, if a man who has passed through life with a sort of edict, is to find
himself a mountebank on the other side of Sty, and made, like poor Joe
Blackett, the laugher of publications. This tale of publics is to prove-
ly for the child; now, might not some of this "Sister ultra Cribbens's" friends
and seducers have done a decent action without inveigling Prius into
biography? And then his licentiousness, and his real confidence! To the
Duchess of Somerset, the Right Hon. So-and-So, and Mrs. and Miss
Somebody; these volumes are, the, etc., etc.,—why, this is doing out the '"soft
milk of dedication's' in gills,—there is but a word or two divides it to a great
degree. Why, Priest, but thou not a puff-top? Dost thou think six families
of Biblemen can share this in quiet?—there's a child, a book, and a dedication;
read the girl in the grave, the yawn to the grocer, and the dedication to the
lady.

* Here will Mr. Gifford allow me to introduce once more to his notice the sole survivor of the "ultimae Romanorum, the last of the "Crusca"?—
"Edwin," the "professor," by our Lady of Parliament! here he is as
lively as in the days of "well said! Babelic the Correct." I thought Plutus
had been the tail of poetry, but, alas! he is only the penultimate.

A FAMILAR EPISTLE TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING
CHRONICLE.

"What means of paper, floods of ink,
Do some men spoil, who never think!
And so perhaps you'll say of me,
In which your readers may agree.
Tell me, why not, and tell you why?
Nothing's so bad, you don't deny,
But may laureate or entertain,
Without the risk of giving pain.
And should you dare to doubt me, I,
The same of Camden I Swett,
Who nows read, and all volunteer'd
Here be and some share some gaud's gal'd
Then why not I indulge my pen,
Though I au fame or profit gain,
Yet may serve your little men!
Of whom, though some may be severe,
Others may read without a tear!
Such must remain; I next proceed
To give you what I feel my creed,
And in what follows to display
Some branches of the poisoning lay.

ON SOME MODERN QUICKS AND REFORMISTS.

In tracing of the human mind
Through all its various courses,
Though strange, 'tis true, we often find
It know not its resources
And men through life assume a part
For which so seldom they possesss,
Yet wonder that, with all their art,
They meet no better with success.
'Tis thus we see, through life's career,
So few excel in their profession;
Whereas, would each man but appear
To what's within his own powers,
Hints from Horace.

Then spouts and foams and cries at every line,
(Th3 Lord forgive him.) "Bravo! grand! divine!"
Hearse with those prayers, (which, by flat'ry fed,
Dependence barter for her bitter bread,)
He strides and stamps along with breaking foot,
Till the door echoes his emphatic foot;
Then sits again, then rolls his pious eye,
As the dying viceroy will not die!
Nor feels, forsooth, emotion at his heart; —
But all dissenters overact their part.

Ye who aspire to build the lofty rhyme,
Believe not all who had your false "sublime,"
But if some friend shall hear your work, and say,
"Expunge that stanza, lop that line away."
And, after fruitless efforts, you return
Without amendment, and he answers "Burn!"
That instant throw your paper in the fire,
Ask not his thoughts, or follow his desire;
But if (true bard!) you scorn to descend,
And will not alter what you can't defend,
If you will breed this bastard of your brains,—
We'll have no words—I've only lost my pains.

Yet, if you only prize your favorite thought
As critics kindly do, and authors ought;
If your cool friend annoy you now and then,
And cross whole pages with his pugil pen;
No matter, throw your ornaments aside—
Better let him than all the world persuade.
Give light to passages too much in shade,
Nor let a doubt obscure one verse you've made;
Your friend's "a Johnson," not to leave one word,
However trifling, which may seem absurd;
Such erring trifles lead to serious ills,
And furnish food for critics, or their quills.

Argut ambiguous dictum: mutanda notabit;
Fiet Aristarchus: nec dicet, Cur ego amicum
Offendam in mugis? Nee nunc semper ducent
In mala deruam semel exceptunque sinistre.
Ut mala quem scabiei aut morbus regius urges,
As the Scotch fiddle, with its touching tune,
Or the sad influence of the angry moon,
All men avoid bad writers' ready tongue;
As yawning waiters fly* Pitascribile's lungs;
Yet on he mouths—ten minutes—cudgel each
As prelate's homily or placeman's speech;
Long as the last years of a lingering lease,
When riot pauses until rents increase.
While such a minstrel, muttering fustian, strays
O'er hedge and ditch, through unfrequented ways.
If by some chance he walks into a well,
And shouts for succor with stentorian yell,
"A rope! help, Christians, as ye hope for grace!"
Nor woman, man, nor child will stir a pace;—
For there his carcass he might freely dig,
From frenty, or the humor of the thing;
Though this has hap'ned to more hard's than one,
I'll tell you Budgell's story and have done.

Budgell a rogue and rhymer for no good.
(Unless his case be much misunderstood,)
When teased with creditors' continual claims,
"To die like Catob,"* leap into the Thames—
And therefore be it lawful through the town
For any bard to poison, hang or drown.
Who saves the intended suicide receives
Small thanks from him who loathes the life he leaves;
And, sooth to say, mad poets must not lose
The glory of that death they freely choose.

Nor is it certain that some sort of verse
Prick not the poets conscience as a curse;
Dosed with vile dramas on Sunday he was found,
Or got a child on consecrated ground!

Aut fanaticus error et iraena Dina,
Vesanum tegitae timet fugitae sequuntur.
Hic dam sublines versus ructurat, et errat,
Si velitur merita decidunt aequae.
In putem, favesuan: licet, Succurritte, longum
Clanet, Io cives! non sit qui tollere curet.
Si quis curet opem ferre, et demittire funem,
Qui sci an pars hae se dejicerit, atque
Serravi nolit? Diram: Silique poeta
Narrabo interitum. Deus immortalis haberi
Dun cupit Empedocles, ardentem frigidus.
Insiluit: sit jus, licetique perire poetis:
Invidia qui servat, idem facit occidenti.
Nec semel hoc fecit; nec, si retractus erit, jam
Fiet homo, et ponet famosae mortis amorem
Nec satis apparat cur versus factetis: utrum
Minervit in patriis cineres, an triste bidental
Moverit incertes: certe furit, ac velit unus.

* And the "walkers" are the only fortunate people who can "fly" through all the rest, viz., the by-standers who are compelled, by courtesy, to sit out the redactions, without a hope of excusing:
"Sie (that is, by clacking Fitz, with bad wine or worse poetry) ist von servitu Apollo!"

* On his table were found these words: What Cato said and Addison approved cannot be wrong. But Addison did not "approve," and if he had, it would not have mended the matter. He had invited his daughter on the same sort of party, but Miss Budgell, by some accident, escaped the noted attraction. Thus fell the synonym of "Achilles," and the enemy of Pope.

* If "dosed with," etc., be considered as low, I beg leave to refer to the medical for something will lower; and if any reader will translate "Miss e. patriae cineres," etc., into a decent couplet, I will accept said couplet in lieu of the nephew.

* For each man is who either appears to be what he is not, or strives to be what he is not.
And hence is haunted with a rhyming rage—
Fear'd like a bear just bursting from his cage.
If free, all fly his vertiginous fit,
Fatal at once to simpleton or wit:

Objectos caevea valuit si fragare clathros,
Indoctum doctunqua fugat recitator acerbus.

* D'Occie est propre commissia divina.—Mile. Dacier, Mile. de Berville, Boulain, and others, have left their dispute on the meaning of this passage in a treat considerably longer than the poem of Horace. It is printed at the close of the eleventh volume of Madame de Berville's Lettres, edited by Gravelot, Paris, 1786. Assuming that all who ever concern may venture an opinion on such subjects, particularly as so many who can not have taken the same liberty, I should have held my "fluttering candle" as awkwardly as another, had not my respect for the wit of Lucile the Genevoise's Augustan style inclin'd me to subjoin these illustrous authorities. [M. Boulain:] "Il est difficile de traiter des sujets qui sont à la portée de tout le monde d'une manière qui vous les rende propres, en qui s'appelle s'approprier un sujet par le tiers qu'on y donne." [M. Dacier:] "Mais il est bien difficile de dresser des traîts propres et intéressans aux éditeurs puramente possibles." [M. Dacier:] "Il est difficile de traiter convenablement ces caractères que tout le monde veut inventer." [M. de Berville's opinion and translation, consisting of

THE CURSE OF MINERVA.

"Pallas te hos vulnera, Pallas
Immalis, et param sorcerum ex angusta sumit,"

Athena, Cephalon Covenv, March 17, 1811.

Slow sinks, more lovely ere his race be run,
Along Morea's hills the setting sun;
Not, as in northern climes, obscurely bright,
But one unclouded blaze of living light;
O'er the hush'd deep the yellow beam he throws,
Gilds the green wave that trembles as it glows;
On old Argina's rock and Hydra's isle
The god of gladness sheds his parting smile;
O'er his own regions lingering loves to shine,
Though there his altars are no more divine.
Descending fast, the mountain-shadows kiss
Thy glorious gulf, unconqu'd Salamis!
Their azure arches through the long expanse,
More deeply purified, meet his mellowing glance,
And tenderest tints, along their summits driven,
Mark his gay course, and own the hues of heaven;
Till, darkly shaded from the land and deep,
Behind his Delphian rock he sinks to sleep.

On such an o've his palest beam he cast
When, Athens! here thy wisest look'd his last.

And how watch'd thy better sons his farewell ray,
That closed their murder'd sage's* latest day.
Not yet—not yet—Sol pauses on the hill,
The precious hour of parting lingers still;
But sad his light to agonizing eyes,
And dark the mountain's once delightful dyes
Gloom o'er the lovely land he seem'd to pour,
The land where Phoebus never frown'd before;
But ere he sunk below Citharion's head,
The cup of wo was quaff'd—the spirit fled;
The soul of him that scorn'd to fear or fly,
Who lived and died as none can live or die.

But, lo! from high Hymentus to the plain
The queen of night asserts her silent reign;†
No murky vapor, herald of the storm,
Hides her fair face, or gilds her glowing form.
With cornice glittering as the moonbeams play,
There the white column greets her grateful ray,

* Source's drunk the hemlock: a short time before sunset, (the hour of exeption), I notwithstanding the entreaties of his disciples to wait till the sun went down.
† The twilight in Greece is much shorter than in our own country; by day's in winter are longer, but in summer less duration.

WORKS.
THE CURSE OF MINERVA.

481

England, though here,
In Hi>
From "sixteen thy
No Caledonia’s
Look

The groves of olive scatter’d dark and wide,
Near Cephisus shods his scanty tide,
The cypress saddening by the sacred mosque,
The glimmering turret of the gay kiosk,*
Sad and sombre mid the holy calm,
Near Theseus' fane, von solitary plain;
All, tinged with varied hues, arrest the eye;
And dull were his that pass’d them heir lies by.

Again the Ægean, heard no more afar,
Lul’s his chafed breast from elemental war;
Again his waves in milder tints unfold
Their long expanse of sapphire and of gold,
Mix’d with the shades of many a distant isle,
That frown, where gentler ocean doigns to smile.

As thus within the walls of Pallas’ face,
I mark’d the beauties of the land and hill,
Alone, and friendless, on the magic saire,
Whose arts and arms but live in poets’ lore:
Oft as the matchless dome I turn’d to scan,
Sacred to gods, but not secure from man,
The past return’d, the present seem’d to cease,
And Glory knew no clime beyond her Greece!

Hours roll’d along, and Dian’s orb on high
Had gain’d the centre of her softest sky;
And yet unwearied still my footsteps trod
O’er the vain shrines of many a vanish’d god:
But chiefly, Pallas! thine; when Hecate’s glare,
Check’d by thy columns, fell more sadly fair
O’er the cill marble, where the starting tred
Thrills the lone heart like echoes from the dead.
Long had I mused, and treasured every trace
The wreck of Greece recorded of her race,
When, lo! a giant form before me strode,
And Pallas hail’d me in her own abode!

Yes, ’twas Minerva’s self; but, ah! how changed
Since o’er the Dardan field in arms she raged!
Not such as erst, by her divine command,
Hers form appeared from Phidias’ plastic hand;
Gone were the terrors of her awful brow,
Her idle agis bore no Gorgon now;
Her helm was dinted, and the broken lance
Seem’d weak and shaftless e’en to mortal glance;
The olive branch, which still she deign’d to clasp,
Shrunk from her touch, and wither’d in her grasp;
And, ah! though still the brightest of the sky,
Celestia’ tears bedim’d her large blue eye;
Bound the rent casque her owlet circled slow,
And mourn’d his mistress with a shriek of wo!

"Mortal!" ’twas thus she spake—"that blush of shame
Proclaims thee Briton, once a noble name;
First of the mighty, foremost of the free,
Now honor’ less by all, and least by me:
Chief of thy foes shall Pallas still be found.
Ask st thou the cause of loathing?—look around.
... here, despite of war and wasting fire,
I saw successive tyrannies expire.

And bright around, with quivering beams beset,
Her emblem sparkled o’er the minaret,
The groves of olive scatter’d dark and wide,
Where meek Cephisus shods his scanty tide,
The cypress saddening by the sacred mosque,
The glimmering turret of the gay kiosk,*
Sad and sombre mid the holy calm,
Near Theseus’ fane, von solitary plain;
All, tinged with varied hues, arrest the eye;
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... here, despite of war and wasting fire,
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* This is spoken of the city in general, and not of the Acropolis in particular; the temple of Jupiter Olympus, by some supposed the Parthenon, was finished by Hadrian; sixteen columns are standing, of the most beautiful marble and architecture.

* His thirteenth name, and that of one who no longer bears it, are carved on a stele on the Parthenon: above, in a part not far distant, are the bent remnants of the brazen figure destroyed in a wild attempt to remove them.

"Irish大湾区," acc. to Sir Colville O’Brilligae.
As once, of yore, in some obnoxious place,  
I can names (if found) had saved a wretched race."

"Mortal!" the blue-eyed maid resumed, "once  
Bear back my mandate to thy native shore. Yet  
Though fallen, alas! this vengeance yet is mine,  
To turn my counsels far from lands like thine.  
Fear then in silence Pallas' stern bohèst;  
And fear and believe, for time will tell the rest."

"First on the head of him who did this deed  
My curse shall light, on him and all his seed:  
Without one spark of intellectual fire,  
Be all the sons as senseless as the sire:  
If one with wit the parent brood disgrace,  
Believe him a bastard of a brighter race:  
Still with his hirpling artists let him prate  
And Folly's praise repay for Wisdom's hate;  
Long of their patron's gusto let them tell,  
Whose noblest, native gusto is—to sell:  
To sell, and make—may Shamo record the day!  
The state receiver of his pilder'd prey.  
Meantime, the flatterimg, feeble dotard, West,  
Europe's worst dauber, and poor Britain's best,  
With pecked hand shall turn each model o'er,  
And own himself an infant of fourscore.  
Be all the bruisee cull'd from all St. Gile's,  
That art and nature may compare their styles;  
While brawny brutes in stupid wonder stare,  
And marvel at his lordship's 'stone shop'† there.  
Round the throng'd gate shall sauntering coxcombs creep,  
To lunge and luaborate, to prate and peep;  
While many a languid maid, with longing sigh,  
On giant statues casts the curious eye:  
The room with transient glance appears to skim,  
Yet marks the mighty back and length of limb;  
Mourns o'er the difference of now and then:  
Exclaims, 'These Greeks indeed were proper men!  
Draws sly comparisons of these and those,  
And envies Lais all her Attic beaux.  
When shall a modern maid have swains like these!  
Alas! Sir Harry is no Hercules!  
And last of all, amidst the gaping crew,  
Some calm spectator, as he takes his view,  
In silent indignation mix'd with grief,  
Advises the plunder, but abhors the thief.  
Oh, loathed in life, nor pardon'd in the dust,  
May hate pursue, his sacrilegious lust!  
Link'd with the fool that fired the Ephesian dome,  
Shall vengeance follow far beyond the tomb,  
And Eratostratus and Elgin shine  
In many a banding page and burning line;  
Alas reserved for aye to stand accurst,  
Perchance the second blacker than the first.

"So let him stand, through ages yet unborn,  
Fix'd statue on the pedestal of Scorn;  
Though not for him alone revenge shall wait,  
But fits thy country for her coming fate:  
Hers were the deeds that taught her lawless son  
To do to what oft Britannia's self had done.  
Lock to the Baltic—blazing from afar,  
Your old ally yet mourns perilous war,  
Not to such deeds did Pallas lend her aid,  
Or break the compact which herself hath made,  
Far from such counsels, from the faithless field,  
She fled—but left behind her Gorgon shield:  
A fatal gift, that turn'd your friends to stone,  
And left lost Albion hated and alone.

"Look to the East, where Ganges' swarthy race  
Shall shake your tyrant empire to its base;  
Lo! there Rebellion rears her ghastly head,  
And glares the Nemesis of native dead;  
Till Indus rolls a deep purpureal flood,  
And claims his long arrear of northern blood  
So may ye perish—Pallas, when she gave  
Your free-born rights, forbode ye to enslave.

"Look on your Spain!—she claps the hand of hate,  
But boldly claps, and thrusts you from her gates  
Bear witness, bright Barossa! thon canst tell  
Whose were the sons that bravely fought and fell.  
But Lusitania, kind and dear ally,  
Can spare a few to fight, and sometimes fly.  
Oh glorious field! by Famine fiercely won,  
The Gaul retreats for once, and all is done!  
But when did Pallas teach that one retreat  
Retrieved three long olympiads of defeat?

"Look last at home—ye love not to look there  
On the grim smile of comfortless despair:  
Your city saddens; loud though Revel howls,  
Here Famine faints, and yonder Rapine prowls.  
See all alike of more or less bereft;  
No misers tremble when there's nothing left.  
'Dlest paper credit,'* who shall dare to sing?  
It clogs like lead Corruption's weary wing.  
Yet Pallas pluck'd each premier by the ear,  
Who gods and men alike disdain'd to hear;  
But one, repentant o'er a bankrupt state,  
On Pallas calls, but calls, alas! too late:  
Then raves for **; to that Mentor bends,  
Though he and Pallas never yet were friends.  
Him senators hear, whom never yet they heard,  
Contemptuous o'er, and now no less absurd.  
So once of yore, each reasonable frog  
Sware faith and fealty to his sovereign 'log.'  
Thus hail'd your rulers their patron clod,  
As Egypt chose an onion for a god."

"Now fare ye well! enjoy your little hour;  
Go, grasp the shadow of your vanish'd power;  
Gloss o'er the failure of each fondest scheme;  
Your strength a name, your bloated wealth a dream  
Gone is that gold, the marvel of mankind,  
And pirates barter all that's left behind.†  
No more the hirelings, purchased near and far,  
Crowd to the ranks of mercenary war.  
The idle merchant on the useless quay,  
Droops o'er the bales no bark may bear away!  
Or, back returning, sees rejected stores,  
Rut piece.Ceal on his own encumber'd shores:  
The starved mechanic breaks his rusting loan  
And desperate mans him 'gainst the common doom  
Then in the senate of your sinking state,  
Show me the man whose counsels may have weight  
† Poor Cobb was sadly puzzled when exhibited at E.—House: he  
was told if it was not a stone shop?—'He was right, it is a shop.

* "Blest paper credit! how sad but supply,  
That binds Corruption lighter who's to fly?"—Page 8.  
† The D'Eal and Dover thriftless in store.
Vain is each voice where tones could once command;  
E'en factions cease to charm a factious land;  
Yet jarring sects converse a sister isle,  
And light with maddening hands the mutual pile.

"Tis done, 'tis past, since Pallas warns in vain,  
The furies seize her abdicated reign:  
Wid' o'er the realm they wave their kindling brands,  
And wring her vitals with their fiery hands.  
But one convulsive struggle still remains,  
And Gaul shall weep ere Albion wears her chains.  
The banner'd pomp of war, the glittering files,  
O'er whose gay trappings stern Bellona smiles;  
The frozen trump, the spirit-stirring drum,  
That bid the foe defiance ere they come;  
The hero bounding at his country's call,  
The glorious death that decorates his fall,  
Swell the young heart with visionary charms,  
And bids it antedote the joys of arms.

But know a lesson you may yet be taught,  
With death alone are laurels cheaply bought:  
Not in the conflict Havoc seeks delight,  
His day of mercy is the day of light.  
But when the field is fought, the battle won,  
Though drench'd with gore, his woes are but beg in  
His deeper deeds as yet ye know by name;  
The slaughter'd peasant and the ravish'd dame,  
The rifled mansion and the foe-reap'd field,  
Ill suit with souls at home, untaught to yield.  
Say with what eye along the distant down  
Would flyingburghers mark the blazing town?  
How view the column of ascending flames  
Shake his red shadow o'er the startled Thames?  
Nay, frown not, Albion! for the torch was thine  
That lit such pyres from Tagus to the Rhine.  
Now should they burst on thy devoted coast,  
Go, ask thy bosom who deserves them most.  
The law of heaven and earth is life for life.  
And she who raised, in vain regrets the strife."

THE WALTZ:

AN APOSTROPHIC HYMN.

"Quam in Europa spie sui per Iuga Cyndhi,  
Exercite Diana choros."

VIRGIL.

"Such on Europa's beams, or Cythis's height,  
Diana moves; and so she shines the night,  
When in the dance the glorious goddess-led  
The queen of nymphs, and overspreads their nupts."

DRYDEN.

THE WALTZ:

AN APOSTROPHIC HYMN.

Sir,  
I am a country gentleman of a midland county, I might have been a parliament-man for a certain borough, having had the offer of as many votes as General T. at the general election in 1812.* But I was all for domestic happiness; as, fifteen years ago, on a visit to London, I married a middle-aged maid of honor. We lived happily at Hornem Hall till last season, when my wife and I were invited by the Countess of Walsawey (a distant relation of my spouse) to pass the winter in town. Thinking no harm, and our girls being come to a marriageable (or as they call it, marketable) age, and having besides a Chancery suit inveritable entailed upon the family estate, we came up in our old chariot, of which by the by, my wife grew so much ashamed in less than a week, that I was obliged to buy a second-hand barouche, of which I might mount the box, Mrs. H. says, if I could drive, but never see the inside—that place being reserved for the Honorable Augustus Uptoe, her partner-general and opera-knight. Hear.

* State of the poll, first day, 5.

* My Lady is all forgotten, if a man can be said to have forgotten what he never remembered; but I bought my talent-paper notes of a Catholic priest for a shilling blind token, after much buggling for the same obloge. I grogged the money to a couple, being all for the memory of Terrence; and "No popery," and quite regretting the downfall of the popes, because we can't burn him any more.
YORKS.

for, his too d, and imported

Thy Far And Dance Terpsichore Are M.USE

laat

you see they are valtzing! or valtzing, (I forget which;) and then up she got, and her mother and sister, and away they went, and round-abouted it till supper-time. Now that I know what it is, I like it of all things, and so does Mrs. H. (though I have broken my shins, and four times overturned Mrs. Hornem's maid, in practising the preliminary steps in a morning.) Indeed, so much do I like it, that having a turn for rhyme, tastily displayed in some election ballads, and songs in honor of all the victories, (but till lately I have had little practice in that way,) I sat down, and with the aid of W. F. Esg, and a few hints from Dr. B. (whose recitations I attend, and am monstrous fond of Master B.'s manner of delivering his father's late successful "D. L. Address," I composed the following hymn, wherewithal to make my sentiments known to the public, whom, nevertheless, I heartily despise as well as the critics.

I am, Sir, yours, &c. &c. HORACE HORNEM.

Muse of the many-twinkling feet * whose charms Are now extended up from legs to arms; Terpsichore!—too long misdeem'd a maid— Reproachful term—bestowed but to upraid— Henceforth in all the bronze of brightness shine, The least a vestal of the virgin Nine. Far be from thee and the name of pride; Mock'd, yet triumphant; sneer'd at, unadjudged— Thy legs must move to conquer as they fly, If but thy feet are reasonably dry.

Thy breast—if bare enough—requires no shield— Dance forth—sans armour thou shalt take the field. And own—impregnable to most assaults Thy not too lawfully begotten "Waltz."

* "Glance at their many-twinkling feet."—Gray.

† To rival Lord W. F., or his nephew A., as the reader please;—the one gained a pretty woman, whom he desired, by fighting for; and the other has been fighting in the Peninsula many a long day, "by shrewd garter clock," without gaining anything in that country but the title of "the Great Lord," I say, and the Lord, whose reasons of applying, having been hinted at, applied only to that Being to whom "To Deume" for carnage are the rankest blasphemy,—it is presumed the general will one day return to his Shakespear turn; more To tome the genius of the stubborn plain, Almost as perhaps he conquer'd Spain!"

The I and Peterborough corresponded comments in a summer we do more countries both to conquer and lose them in a shorter season. If the great Lord's "Concentration progress in agriculture be no speedier than the proper Great average of time in Pope's copied, it will, according to the farmer's provost, be "pounding with dogs."

By the by—one of these illusorium person's new titles is forgotten—it be however, worth remembering—"Whidower did mankind!!" credulous, posterity! which the paymasters have been induced to induce as the habitations of the Peninsulars is, as name of a man who has not yet ascertained them—query—are they worth saving, even in this world? For, according to the minute mutilations of any Christian crown, those three words make the whole much against them in the next. "Bourbiers of the world," quotes J—were to be wished that he, or any other, could save a corner of r.-u. country. Yet this stupid, unimaginative, although it was the near connection between associations and longevity, so he has his use, that it proves there can be little to dread from those Catholics (in parochial Catholic too) who can confer such an appellation on a Preceptor. I suppose that year he will be entitled the "Virgin Mary!" if so Lord George Gordon himself would have nothing to object to such liberal extracts of our Lady of Lightfield.

Hail, nimble nymph! to whom the young hussar. The whiskey'd-vortany of waltz and war, His night devotes, despite of spur and boots; A sight unmatch'd since Orpheus and his brute:

Hail, spirit-stirring Waltz!—beneath whose bare and Modern a hero fought for modest manners; On Hounslow's heath to rival Wellesley's fame Cock'd—Fred and mis'd his name but gain'd his aim;

Hail moving muse! to whom the fair one's breast
gives all it can, and bids us take the rest.

Oh! for the flow of Busby, or of Fitz,
The latter's loyalty, the former's wit,
To "energize the object I pursue;"
And give both Belial and his dance their due!

Imperial Waltz! imported from the Rhine,
(Famed for the growth of pedigrees and wine,) Long be thine import from all duty free,
And if itself be less esteem'd than thee;
In some few qualities alike—for hook
Improves our cellar—thou our living stock.
The head to hawk belongs—thy subtler art
Intoxicates alone the heedless heart;
Through the full veins thy gentler poison swims,
And wakes to wantonness the willing limbs.

Oh Germany! how much to thee we owe,
As heaven-born Pitt can testify below,
Ere cursed confederation made thee France's,
And only left us thy d—d debts and dances! Of subsidies and Hanover berte,
We bless thee still—for George the Third is left!
Of kings the best—and last, not least in worth,
For graciously begetting George the Fourth.
To Germany, and highnesses serene,
Who owe us millions—don't we owe the queen?
To Germany, what owe we not besides?
So oft bestowing Brunswickers and bridles;
Who paid for vulgar, with her royal blood,
Drawn from the stem of each Teutonic stud:
Who sent us—so be pardon'd all her faults—
A dozen dukes—some kings—a queen—and Waltz.

But peace to her—her emperor and diet,
Though now transferred to Buonaparte's "flat!"
Back to my theme—O Muse of motion say,
How first to Albion found thy Waltz her way?

Borne on the breath of Hyperborean gales,
From Hamburg's port, (while Hamburg yet had mails.)

Ere yet un lucky Fame—compell'd to creep
To snowy Gottingham—was chill'd to sleep;
Or starting from her slumbers, deign'd arise,
Heligoland! to stock thy mart with lies;
While unburnt Moscow yet had news to send,
Nor owed her fiery exult to a friend,

* The patriotic motto of our enslaved allies cannot be sufficiently commended to American emigration. Among other details omitted in the various descriptions of our eloquent ambassador, he did not state, (being too much occupied with the explorations of Col. C, in swimming river from, and grappling over mails impassable,) that one entire province petitioned by families in the most melancholy manner, as follows—In General Haukolin's communication with the consumption of tobacco and tea was so great, that the market was inadequate to the demand, and that one hundred and thirty thousand persons were starved to death, by being reduced in some series diet? The lamplighters of London have since obtained a just price for each piece, and the tailor-coughs have unanimously wished a quantity of better models (four to the pound) to the relief of the sufferingSubjects by scarcity will soon, by such exertions, and a proper attention to the sale-
THE WALTZ.

She came—Waltz came—and with her certain sets
Of true despatches, and as true gazettes;
Then famed of Austerlitz the blest despatch,
Whi.b Moniteur or Morning Post can match:
And—almost crush'd beneath the glorious news—
Ten plays, and forty tales of Kotzebue's;
One envoy's letters, six composers' airs,
And loads from Frankfort and from Leipzig fairs;
Neimer's four volumes upon woman-kind,
Like Lapland witches to ensure a wind;
Brunck's heaviest tome for ballast, and, to back it
Of Heyne, such as should not sink the packet.
Fraught with this cargo—and her fairest freight,
Delightful Waltz, on tiptoe for a mate,
The welcome vessel reach'd the genial strand,
And round her flock'd the daughters of the land.
Not decent David, when, before the ark,
His grand pas-seul excited some remark;
Not love-born Quixote, when his Sancho thought
The knight's fandango, friskier than it ought;
Not soft Herodias, when with winning tread
Her nimble feet danced of another's head;
Not Cleopatra on her galley's deck,
Display'd so much of leg, or more of neck,
Than thou, ambrosial Waltz, when first the moon
Beheld thee twirling to a Saxon tune!

To you, ye husbands of ten years! whose brows
Ache with the annual tributes of a spouse;
To you of nine years less, who only bear
The budding sprouts of those that you shall wear,
With added ornaments roll'd
Of native brass, or law-awarded gold;
To you, ye matrons, ever on the watch
To mar a son's, or make a daughter's match:
To you, ye children of whom chance accords—
Always the ladies, and sometimes their lords;
To you, ye single gentlemen, who seek
Torments for life, or pleasures for a week;
As Love or Hymen your endeavors guide,
To gain your own, or snatch another's bride—
To one and all the lovely stranger came,
And every ball-room echoes with her name.

Endearing Waltz—! to thy more melting tone
Bow Irish jig and ancient rigadoon.
Scotch reels, avaint! and country-dance, forgo
Your future claims to each fantastic toe!
Waltz—Waltz alone—both legs and arms demand
Liberal of feet, and lavish of her hands;
Hands which may freely range in public sight
Where never before—but—pray put out the light.
Methinks the glare of yonder chandelier
Shines much too far—or I am much too near:
And true, though strange—Waltz whispers this remark,
"My slippery steps are, safest in the dark!
"But here the muse with due decorum falls,
And lends her longest petticoat to Waltz.

Observant travellers of every time!
Ye quartos publish'd upon every clime!
O say, shall dull Romaika's heavy round,
Fandango's wriggle, or Bolero's bound;
Can Egypt's Almas—tantalizing group—
Columbia's capers to the warlike whom

Can aught from cold Kamasekta to Cape Horn
With Waltz compare, or after Waltz be borne?
Ah no! from Morier's pages down to Galt's,
Each tourist pens a paragraph for "Waltz."

Shades of those belles whose reign began of yore,
With George the Third's—and ended long before!
—Though in your daughters' daughters yet you thrive
Burst from your lead, and be yourselves alive.
Back to the ball-room sped your spectred host;
Fool's Paradise is dull to that you lost.
No treacherous powder bids conjecture quak;
No stifl-starch'd stays make meddling fingers ache
(Transfer'd to those ambigous things that ape
Goats in their visage,* women in their shape;)
No damask fanteins when rather closely press'd,
But more carressing seems when most care'sd
Superfluous harts horn, and reviving salts,
Both banish'd by the sovereign cordial "Waltz."

Seductive Waltz!—though on thy native shore
Even Werter's self proclaim'd thee half a whore;
Werter—to decent vice though much inclined,
Yet war, not wanton; dazzled, but not blind—
Though gentle Genius, in her striph with Stael,
Would even prescribe thee from a Paris ball;
The fashion hails—from courtesses to queens
And maids and valets Waltz behind the scenes
Wide and more wide thy witching circle spread.
And turns—if nothing else—at least our heads;
With thee even clumsy cats attempt to bounce,
And cockneys practice what they can't pronounce.
Gods! how the glorious theme my strain excites,
And rhyme and partner rhyme in praise of "Waltz."

Blest was the time Waltz chose for her d-but
The court, the Regent, like herself were new;
New face for friends, for foes some new rewards,
New ornaments for black and royal guards;
New laws to hang the rogues that roard for base
New coins (most new) to follow those that fled
New victories—nor can we prize them less,
Though Jenky wonders at his own success;
New wars, because the old succeed so well,
That most survivors envy those who fell;

* It cannot be complained now, as in the Lady Beaufrem's time, a 26 "Sieur de la Cruz," that there be "no whiskers;" but now for these are indications of valor in the field, or elsewhere, may still be questionable. Much may be and has been avouched on tech sides. In the older wise philosophers had whiskers; and squires none.—Siege of Calabar taught his howe eye backwoods without a beard; but Adrian, the emperor, wore a bound (having war's on his chin, which neither the emperor holds nor even the priests could subdue.)—Treguren had whiskers, Marlowe's not.—Besanose is unwhiskered, the Regent whiskered;—"argal" greatness of mind and whiskers may or may not go together—but certain the different occurrences, since the growth of the last mentioned, go farther in behalf of whiskers than the anthem of Anselm did against long hair in the reigns of Henry I.

Formerly red was a forlorn color. See Ledward Barry's comedy of Ham Aley, 1661, Act i. Scene 1.

"Taffeta. Now, for a wage.—What colored head comes next by the window?"

"Adrianus, A black man's, I think."

"Taffeta. I think not so; I thik a red, for that is most in fashion"

There is "nothing new under the sun;" but red, then a taffeta, has now ousted into a fashionable color.

† An incendiary—Waltz and the battle of Austerlitz are before sold to have opened the ball together; the hand means, (if he means any thing, Waltz was not so much in vogue at all the Regent and the soul of his popularity, Waltz, the comet, whiskers, and the new government, illuminated heavens and earth, in all their glory, much about the same time of the comet only has disappeared; the other three continue to astonish us still.

† Among others was a new grapevine—a creditable vote now forthcoming worth a pound, in paper, at the fairest calculation.
New mistresses—no, old—and yet 'tis true,
Though they be old, the thing is something new;
Each new, quite new—(except some ancient tricks,)*
New white-sticks, gold-sticks, broom-sticks, all new sticks!
With vests or ribbands—deck'd alike in hue,
New troopers strut, new turncoats blush in blue:
So saith the muse—my—,† what say you?
Such was the time when Waltz might best maintain
Her new preferments in this novel reign;
Such was the time, nor ever yet was such;
Hoops are no more, and petticoats saf wash;
Morals and minuets, virtue and her stays,
And tell-tale powder—all have had their days.
The ball begins—the honors of the house
First duly done by daughter or by spouse,
Some potentate—or royal or serene—[men.
With Kent's gay grace, or saucy Gloucester's
Leads forth the ready dame, whose rising flush
Might once have been mistaken for a blush.
From where the garb just leaves the bosom free,
That spot where hearts were once supposed to be;
Round all the confines of the yielded waist,
The strangest hand may wander undisplaced;
The lady's in return may grasp as much
As princely panaches offer to her touch.
Pleased round the chalky floor how well they trip,
One hand reposing on the royal hip:
The other to the shoulder no less royal
Ascending with affection truly loyal!
Thus front to front the partners move or stand,
The foot may rest, but none withdraw the hand;
And all in turn may follow in their rank,
The Earl of—Asterisk—and Lady—Blank;
Sir Such-a-one—with those of fashion's host,
For whose heirs surnames—vide "Morning Post;"
(Or if for that impartial print too late, [date,]
Search Doctors' Commons six months from my
Thus all and each, in movemont soft or slow,
The genial countess gently undergo;

Till some might marvel with the modest Turk,
If "nothing follows all this palming work?"†
True, honest-Mirza!—you may trust my rhyme—
Something does follow at a litter time;
The breast thus publicly resign'd to man,
In private may resist him—if it can.

O ye who loved our grandmothers of yore,
Fitzpatrick, Sheridan, and many more!
And thou, my prince! whose sovereign taste was
will
It is to love the lovely beldames still!
Thou ghost of Queensbury! whose judging sprite
Satan may spare to peep a single night,
Pronounce—if ever in your days of bliss
Asmodeus struck so bright a stroke as this;
To teach the young ideas how to rise,
Flush in the cheek and languish in the eyes,
Rush to the heart and lighten through the frame,
With half-told wish and ill-dissembled flame;
For prurient nature still will storm the breast—
Who, tempted thus, can answer for the rest?

But ye—who never felt a single thought
For what our morals are to be or ought;
Who wisely wish the charms you view to reap,
Say—would you make those beauties quite so cheap;
Hot from the hands promiscuously applied,
Round the slight waist, or down the glowing side,
Where were the rapture then to clasp the form
From this lowd grasp and lawless contact warm?
At once love's most endearing thought resign,
To press the hand so press'd by none but thine;
To gaze upon that eye which never met
Another's ardent look without regret;
Approach the lip which all, without restraint,
Come near enough—if not to touch—to kiss:
If such thou loves—love her then no more,
Or give—like her—careasses to a score;
Her mind with these is gone, and With it go
The little left behind it to bestow.

Voluptuous Waltz! and dare I thus blaspheme?!
Thy hard forgot thy praises were his theme.
Terpsichore, forgive!—at every ball
My wife now waltzes—and my daughters shall;
My son—(or stop)—tis needless to inquire—
Those little accidents should ne'er transpire;
Some ages hence our genealogic tree
Will wear as green a bough for him as me)—
Waltzing shall rear, to make our name anned,
Grandsons for me—in heirs to all his friends.

* In Turkey a prominent, here an impertinent and superfluous question literally put, as in the text, by a Persian to MIIer on seeing a waltz.—See Mr. Morier's Travels.
† In Turkey a pretended, here an important and superfluous question literally put, as in the text, by a Persian to MIIer on seeing a waltz.—See Mr. Morier's Travels.
THE AGE OF BRONZE;

OR,

CARMEN SECULARE ET ANNUS HAUD MIRABILIS

"Imus Congressus Absibilis!"

I.

THE "good old times"—all times when old are good—
Are gone; the present might be if they would; 
Great things have been, and are, and greater still 
Want little of mere mortals but their will; 
A wider space, a greener field, is given 
To those who play their "tricks before high heaven."
I know not if the angels weep, but men 
Have wept enough—for what?—to weep again.

II.

All is exploded—be it good or bad, 
Reader! remember when thou wert a lad, 
Then Pitt was all; or, if not all, so much, 
His very rival almost deem'd him such. 
We, we have seen the intellectual race 
Of giants stand, like Titans, face to face— 
Athos and Ida, with a dashing sea 
Of eloquence between, which flow'd all free, 
As the deep billows of the Ægean roar 
Betwixt the Hellenic and the Phrygian shore; 
But where are they—the rivals?—a few feet 
Of sullen earth divide each winding sheet. 
How peaceful and how powerful is the grave 
Which hushes all! a calm, unstormy wave 
Which oversweeps the world. The theme is old 
Of "Dust to dust;" but half its tale untold: 
Time tempers not its terrors—still the worm 
Winds its cold folds, the tomb preserves its form, 
Varied above, but still alike below; 
The urn may shine, the ashes will not glow, 
Though Cleopatra's mummy cross the sea 
O'er which from empire she lured Antony; 
Though Alexander's urn a show be grown, 
On shores he wept to conquer, though unknown— 
How vain, how worse than vain, at length appear 
The madman's wish, the Macedonian's tear! 
He wept for worlds to conquer—half the earth 

dknew not his name, or but his death, and birth, 
And desolation; while his native Greece 
Hath all of desolation save its peace. 
He "wept for worlds to conquer!" he who ne'er 
Conceived the globe, he panted not to spare! 
With even the busy Northern Isle unknown, 
Which holds his urn, and never knew his throne.

III.

But where is he, the modern, mightier far, 
Who, born no king, made monarchs draw his car; 
The new Sesostris, whose unharried's kings, 
Freed from the bit, believe themselves with wings, 
And spurn the dust o'er which they crawl'd of late, 
Chain'd to the chariot of the chieftain's state? 
Yes! where is he, the champion and the child 
Of all that's great or little, wise or wild? 
Whose game was empires, and whose stakes were 

thrones? 
Whose table earth—whose dice were human bones! 
Behold the grand result in yon lone isle, 
And, as thy nature urges, weep or smile 
Sigh to behold the eagle's lofty rage 
Reduced to nibble at his narrow cage; 
Smile to survey the queller of the nations 
Now daily squabbling o'er disputed rations; 
Weep to perceive him mourning, as he dines, 
O'er curtail'd dishes and o'er stinted wines; 
O'er petty quarrels upon petty things. 
Is this the man who scourged or feasted kings? 
Behold the scales in which his fortune hangs, 
A surgeon's statement, and an earl's harangues 
A bust delay'd, a book refused, can shake 
The sleep of him who kept the world awake. 
Is this indeed the tamer of the great, 
Now slave of all could tease or irritate— 

The pauly jailer and the prying spy, 
The staring stranger with his note-book ne'rh! 
Plunged in a dungeon, he had still been great 
How low, how little was this middle state, 
Between a prison and a palace, where 

How few could feel for what he had to bear!
Vain his complaint, —my lord presents his bill,
His food and wine were doled out duly still:
Vain was his sickness, never was a clime
So free from homicide—to doubt's a crime;
And the stiff surgeon, who maintains'd his cause,
Had lost his place, and gained the world's applause.
But smile—though all the pangs of brain and heart
Disdain, defy, the tardy aid of art:
Though, save the few fond friends, and imaged face
Of that fair boy his sire shall ne'er embrace,
None stand by his low bed—though even the mind
Be wavering, which long swed and awes mankind;
Smile—for theetter'd eagle breaks his chain,
And higher worlds than this are his again.

IV.
How, if that soaring spirit still retain
A conscious twilight of his blazing reign,
How must he smile, on looking down, to see
The little that he was and sought to be?
What though his name a wider empire found
Than his ambition, though with scarce a bound;
Though first in glory, deepest in reverse,
He tasted empire's blessings and its curse;
Though kings, rejoicing in their late escape
From chains, would gladly be their tyrant's ape:
How must he smile, and turn to you lone grave,
The proudest sea-mark that o'ertops the wave!
What though his jailer, duteous to the last,
Scarce deem'd the coffin's lead could keep him fast,
Refusing one poor line along the lid,
To date the birth and death of all it hid;
That name shall hallow the ignoble shore,
A tombstone to all save him who bore
The fleets that sweep before the eastern blast
Shall hear their sea-boys hail it from the mast;
When Victory's Gallie column shall but rise,
Like Pomp'y's pillar, in a desert's skies,
The rocky isle that holds or held his dust
Shall crown the Atlantic like the hero's bust,
And mighty nature o'er his obsequies
Do more than niggard envy still denies,
But what are these to him? Can glory's lust
Touch the freed spirit or the fetter'd dust?
Small care hath he of what his tomb consists;
Nought if he sleeps—or more if he exists;
Allike the better-seeing Shade will smile
On the rude cavern of the rocky isle,
As if his ashes found their latest home
In Rome's Pantheon or Gaul's mimic dome.
He wants not this; but France shall feel the want
Of his last consolation, though so scant;
Her honor, fame, and faith demand his bones,
To rear above a pyramid of thrones;
Or carried onward in the battle's van,
To form, like Geselin's* dust, his tallisman.
But be it as it is—the time may come
His name shall beat the alarm, like Ziska's drum.

V.
Oh heaven! of which he was in power a feature,
Oh earth! of which he was a noble creature;
Thou isle! to be remember'd long and well,
That saw'st the ungod'd eagle chip his shell!

Ye Alps, which view'd him in his dawning flights
Hover, the victor of a hundred fights!
Thou Rome, who sawst thy Caesar's deeds outside
Alas! why past he too the Rubicon—
The Rubicon of man's awaken'd rights,
To herd with vulgar kings and parasites?
Egypt! from whose all dateless toms arose
Forgotten Pharaohs from their long repose,
And shook within their pyramids to hear
A new Cambyses thundering in their ear;
While the dark heart of forty ages stood
Like startled giants by NRe's famous flood;
Or from the pyramid's tall pinnacle
Behold the desert peoples, as from hell,
With clashing hosts, who stew'd the barren sand
To re-man to the unwatered land!
Spain! which, a moment mindless of the Cid,
Behold his banner flouting thy Madrid!
Austria! which saw thy twice-ta'en citadel
Twice spared, to be the traitress of his fall?
Ye race of Frederic! Frederic but in name
And falsehood—heirs to all except his fame;
Who, crush'd at Jena, crouch'd at Berlin, fell
First, and but rose to follow! Ye who dwell
Where Kosciusko dwelt, remembering yet
The unpaid amount of Catherine's bloody debt
Poland! o'er which the swelling angel pass,
But left thee as he found thee, still a waste,
Forgetting all thy still enduring claim,
Thy lofted people and extinguish'd name,
Thy sigh for freedom, thy long-flowing tear,
That sound that crashes in the tyrant's ear.
Kosciusko! On—on—on—the thrust of war
Gasps for the gore of serfs, and of their car.
The half barbaric Moscow's minarets
Gleam in the sun, but 'tis a sun that sets!
Moscow! thou limit of his long career,
For which rude Charles had kept his frozen tear
To see in vain—se saw thee—how? with spire
And palace fuel to one common fire.
To this, the soldier lent his kindling match,
To this the peasant gave his cottage thatch,
To this the merchant flung his hoarded store.
The prince his hall—and Moscow was no more!
Sublimest of volcanos! Etna's flame
Pales before thine, and quenchless Hecla's tame.
Velevusv shows his blaze, anusual sight
For gaping tourists, from his horizon's height:
Thou stand'st alone unrivall'd, till the fire
To come, in which all empires shall expire!
Thou other element! as strong and stern,
To teach a lesson conquerors will not learn
Whose icy wing flapp'd o'er the faltering fire,
Till fell a hero with each flake of snow;
How did thy mumbling beak and silent fang
Pierce, till hosts perish'd with a single pang;
In vain shall Seine look up along his banks
For the gay thousands of his dashing ranks.
In vain shall France recall beneath her vines
Her youth—then's dawn awaken'd 2nd faster than set
wines;
Or stagnant in their human ice remains
In frozen mummies on the Polar plains.
In vain will Italy's broad sun awaken
Her offspring chill'd; its beams are now forsaken
Of all the trophies gather'd from the war,
What shall return?—the conqueror's broken car;
The conqueror's yet unbroken heart! Again
The horn of Roland sounds, and not in vain.

* Geselin died during the siege of a city; it surrendered, and one key was brought and laid upon his head, so that the place might appear rendered his own.
THE AGE OF BRONZE.

483

Lutzen, where fell the Swede of victory,
Behold's him conquer, but, alas! not die;
Dresden surveys three deserts fly once more
Before their sovereign,—sovereign as before;
But there exhausted Fortune quits the field,
And Leipsin's treason bids the unvanquish'd yield;
The Saxon jackal leaves the lion's side
To turn the bear's, and wolf's, and fox's, guide;
And backward to the den of his despair
The forest monarch shrinks, but finds no air!
Oh ye! and each, and all! Oh France! who found
Thy long fair fields, plough'd up as hostile ground,
Dispar'd foot by foot, till treason, still
His only victor, from Montmartre's hill
Look'd down o'er trampled Paris! and thou Isle,
Which seest Etruria from thy ramparts smile,
Thou momentary shelter of his pride,
Till woe'd by danger, this yet weeping bride!
Oh France! retaken by a single march,
Whose path was through one long triumphal arch!
Oh bloody and most boastless Waterloo!
Which proves how fools may have their fortune too,
Won half by blunder, half by treachery:
Oh dull Saint Helen! with thy jalter nigh—
Hear! hear Prometheus' from his rock appeal
To earth, air, ocean, all that felt or feel
His power and glory, all who yet shall hear
A name eternal as the rolling year;
He teaches them the lesson taught so long,
So oft, so vainly—learn to do no wrong!
A single step into the right had made
This man the Washington of worlds betray'd:
A single step into the wrong has given
His name a doubt to all the winds of heaven;
The reed of Fortune, and of thrones the rod,
Of fame the Moloch or the demigod;
His country's Cesar, Europe's Hannibal,
Without their door it dignity of fall.
Yet Vanity herself had better taught
A surer path even to the fame he sought,
By pointing out on history's fruitless page
Ten thousand conquerors for a single sage.
While Franklin's quiet memory climbs to heaven,
Calming the lightning which he thence hath riven,
Or drawing from the no less kindled earth
Freedom and peace to that which honors his birth;
While Washington's a watchword such as ne'er
Shall sink while there's an echo left to air:
While even the Spaniard's thirst of gold and war
Forgets Pizarro to shout Bolivar!
Alas! why must the same Atlantic wave
Which wafted freedom gird a tyrant's grave—
The king of kings, and yet of slaves the slave,
Who bursts the chains of millions to renew
The very fetters which his arm broke through,
And crush'd the rights of Europe and his own,
To sit between a dungeon and a throne?

VI.

But 'twil not be—the spark's awaken'd—lo!
The swarthy Spaniard feels his former glow;
The same high spirit which beat back the Moor
Through eight long ages of alternate gore
Revives—and where? in that avenging clime
Where Spain was once synonymous with crime,
Where Cortes' and Pizarro's banner flour,
The infant world redeems her name of "New."
The old aspiration breathed afresh,
To kindle souls within degraded flesh,
Such as repulsed the Persian from the shore
Where Greece was—No! she still is Greece no more.
One common cause makes myriads of one breast,
Slaves of the east, or helots of the west;
On Andes' and on Athos' peaks unfurl'd,
The self-same standard streams o'er each world;
The Athenian weans again Harmodius' sword;
The Chilli chief abjures his foreign lord;
The Spartan vows himself once more a Greek,
Youth Freedom plumes the crest of each cacique;
Debating despotisms, hemm'd on either shore,
Shrink vainly from the roused Atlantic's roar;
Through Calpe's strait the rolling tides advance,
Swept lightly by the half-tamed land of France,
Dash o'er the old Spaniard's cradle, and would fail
Unite Ausonia to the mighty main:
But driven from thence awhile, yet not for s'e,
Break o'er th' Igean, mindful of the day
Of Salamis!—there, there the waves arise,
Not to be lull'd by tyrant victories,
Lone, lost, abandoned in their utmost need
By Christians, unto whom they gave their creed.
The desolated lands, the ravaged isle,
The foster'd feud encouraged to beguile,
The aid evaded, and the cold delay,
Prolong'd but in the hope to make a prey:—
These, these shall tell the tale, and Greece can show
The false friend worse than the infuriate foe,
But this is well: Greeks only should free Greece
Not the Barbarian: with his mask of peace,
How should the autocrat of bondage be
The king of serfs, and set the nations free?
Better still serve the haughty Mussulman,
Than swell the Cossack's prowling caravan;
Better still toil for master's, than await,
The slave of slaves, before a Russian gate,—
Number'd by hordes, a human capital,
A live estate, existing but for thrall,
Lotted by thousands, as a meet reward
For the first courtier in the czar's regard;
While their immediate owner never tastes
His sleep, amid dreaming of Siberia's wastes;
Better succumb even to their own despair,
And drive the camel than purvey the bear.

VII.

but not alone within the hoariest clime
Where Freedom dates her birth with that of Time
And not alone, where, plunged in night, a crowd
Of Incas darken to a dubious cloud,
The dawn revives: renown'd, romantic Spain
Holds back the invader from her soil again.
Not now the Roman tribe nor Punic horde
Demand her fields as lists to prove the sword;
Not now the Vandal or the Visigoth
Pollute the plains, alike abhorring both;
Nor old Peluyo on his mountain rears,
The warlike fathers of a thousand years.
That seed is sown and reap'd, as oft the Moor
Signs to remember on his dusky shore.
Long in the peasant's song or poet's page
Has dwelt the memory of Abencerrage;
The Zegri, and the captive victors, flung
Back to the barbarous realm from whence they

I refer the reader to the first address of Prometheus in Aeschylus, where
he is left alone to his torments, and before the arrival of the Chorus of Sighs.
But these are gone— their faith, their swords, their sway,
Yet left more antichristian foes than they;
The bigot monarch and the butcher priest,
The inquisition, with her burning founts,
The faith's red "auto," fed with human fuel,
While sate the Catholic Moloch, calmly cruel,
Enjoying, with inexorable eye,
That fiery festival of agony!
The stern or feeble sovereign, one or both;
By turns; the haughtiness whose pride was sloth;
The long degenerate noble; the debased
Hidalgo, and the peasant less disgraced,
But mer: degraded; the unpeopled realm
The once proud navy which forgot the helm;
The once impervious phalanx disarray'd;
The idle forge that form'd Toledo's blade;
The foreign wealth that flow'd on ev'ry shore,
Save hers who earned it with the natives' gore;
The very language which might vie with Rome's,
And once was known to nations like their home's,
Neglected or forgotten;—such was Spain;
But such she is not, nor shall be again.
These worst, these home invaders, felt and feel
The new Numantine soul of old Castile.
Up! up again! undaunted Tauridor!
The bull of Phalaris roars his roar;
Mount, chivalrous Hidalgo! not in vain
Revive the cry—"Iago! and close Spain!" *
Yes, close her with your armed bosoms round,
And form the barrier which Napoleon found,—
The exterminating war, the desert plain,
The streets without a tenant, save the slain;
The wild sierra, with its wilder troop
Of vulture-plumed guerrillas, on the stump
For their incessant prey; the desperate wall
Of Saragossa, mightiest in her fall;
The man nerved to a spirit, and the maid
Waving her more than Amazonian blade,
The knife of Aragon,† Toledo's steel;
The famous lance of chivalrous Castile;
The unerring rifle of the Catalon;
The Andalusian courser in the van;
The torch to make a Moscow of Madrid;
And in each heart the spirit of the Cid:—
Such have been, such shall be, such are. Advance,
And win—not Spain, but thine own freedom, France!

VIII.
But lo! a Congress! What! that hallow'd name
Which freed the Atlantic? May we hope the same
For outworn Europe? With the sound arise,
Like Samuel's shade to Saul's monarchical eyes,
The prophets: young Freedom, summon'd far
From climes 't Washington and Bolivar,
Henry, the forest-born Demosthenes,
Whose thunder shook the hilt of the e.x.u;
And stolic Franklin's energetic shade,
Robed in the lightnings which his hand allay'd;
And Washington, the tyrant-tamer, wake,
To bid us blush for these old chains, or break.
But who compose this senate of the few
That should redeem the many? Who renew
This consecrated name, till now assign'd
To councils held to benefit mankind!

* "Iago! and close Spain!" the old Spanish war-cry.
† The Array, whose peculiarly destructive in the use of idle weapon, and
deployed "perpendicularly to it were French wars.

Who now assemble at the holy call:
The best Alliance, which says three are all
An earthly trinity! which wears the shape
Of heaven's, as man is mimick'd by the ape.
A pious unity! in purpose one,
To melt three fools to a Napoleon.
Why, Egypt's gods were rational to these;
Their dogs and oxen knew their own degrees,
And, quiet in their kennel or their shed,
Cared little, so that they were duly fed;
But these, more hungry, must have something more
The power to bark and bite, a toss and gore.
Ah! how much happier were good Esop's frogs
Than we! for ours are animated logs,
With ponderous malice swaying to and fro,
And crushing nations with a stupid blow;
All duly anxious to leave little work
Unto the revolutionary stock.

IX.
Thrice blest Verona! since the holy three
With their imperial presence shine on thee;
Honor'd by them, thy treacherous site forgets
The vaunted tomb of "all the Capulets;"
Thy Scaligers—for what was "Dog the Great,
"Can Grande," (which I venture to translate,) To these sublimier juggs? Than poet too,
Cattius, whose old tunnel yield to new,
Tuine amphitheatres, where Romans sat;
And Dante's exile shelter'd by thy gate:
Thy good ol' man,* whose world was all within
Thy wall, nor knew the country held him in:
Would that the royal guests it girds about
Were so far like, as never to get out!
Ay, shout! inscribe! rear monuments of shame,
To tell Oppression that the world is tame!
Crowd to the theatre with loyal rage,
The comedy is not upon the stage;
The show is rich in ribandry and stars,
Then gaze upon it through thy dungeon bars:
Clap thy permitted palus, kind Italy,
For thus much still thy fettered hands are free.

X.
Res; lenoifit sight! Behold the coxcomb czar,
The autocrat of waltzes and of war!
As eager for a plaudit as a realm,
And just as fit for flirting as the helm;
A Calmuck beauty with a Cossack wit,
And generous spirit, when 'tis not frost-bit;
Now half dissolving to a liberal thaw,
But harden'd back when'er the morning's raw,
With no objection to true liberty,
Except that it would make the nations free
How well the imperial dandy prates of peace,
How fain, if Greeks would be his slaves, free
Greece!
How nobly gave he back the Poles their Diet
Then told pugnacious Poland to be quiet!
How kindly would he send the mild Ukraina,
With all her pleasant pulks, to lecture Spain!
How royally show off in proud Madrid
His goodly person, from the South long lid!
A blessing cheaply purchased, the world knows,
By having Muscovites for friends or foes.
Proceed, thou namesake of great Philip's son!
La Harpe, thine Aristotle, beckons on:

* The surnames of old men of Verona.
The Age of Bronze.

And that which Scythia was to him of yore
Find with thy Scythians on Iberia's shore.
Yet think upon, thou somewhat aged youth,
Thy predecessor on the banks of Pruth:
Thou hast to aid thee, should his lot be thine,
Many an old woman: o! no Catherine.
Spain too hath rocks, and rivers, and desiles—
The bear may rush int' the lion's toils.
Fateful to Goths are Xeres' sunny fields;
Think'st thou to the e Napoleon's victor yields?
Let her reclaim thy deserts, turn thy swords
To ploughshares, shave and wash thy Bashkir hordes,
Redeem thy realms from slavery and the knout,
Than follow headlong in the fatal route,
To infest the cline whose skies and laws are pure
With thy foul legion. Spain wants no manure;
Her soil is fertile, but she feeds no foe;
Her vultures, too, were gorged not long ago;
And wouldst thou furnish them with fresher prey?
Alas! thou wilt not conquer, but purvey.
I am Diogenes, though Russ and Hun
Stand between mine and many a myriad's sun;
But were I not Diogenes, I'd wander
Rather a worm than such an Alexander!
Be slaves who will, the cynic shall be free;
His tub hath tougher walls than Sinope:
Still will he hold his lantern up to scan
The face of monarchs for an "honest man."

XI.

And what doth Gaul, the all-prolific land
Of ne plus ultra ultras and their band
Of mercenaries? and her noisy chambers
And tribune, which each orator first clambers
Before he finds a voice, and when 'tis found,
Hears "the lie" echo for his answer round!
Our British commons sometimes deign to "hear!"—
A Gallic senate hath more tongue than ear;
Even Constant, their sole master of debate,
Must fight next day his speech to vindicate.
But this costs little to true Franks, who had rather
Combat than listen, were it to their father.
What is the simple standing of a shot,
To listening long, and interrupting not?
Though this was not the method of old Rome,
When Tully fulfilled o'er each vocal dome,
Demaethenes had sanction'd the transaction,
In saying eloquence meant "Action, action!"

XII.

But where's the monarch? hath he dined? or yet
Groans beneath indigestion's heavy debt?
Have revolutionary pates risen,
And turn'd the royal entrails to a prison?
His discontented movements stir'd the troops;
Or have no movements follow'd traitorous soups?
Have Carbonaro cooks not carbonaded
His predecessor on the banks of Pruth?
Each course enough? or doctors dire dissuaded
Repletion? Ah! in thy dejected looks
I read all France's treason in her cooks!
Good classic Louis I is it, cannot thou say,
Desirable to be the "Desire?"
Wouldst thou leave calm Hartwell's green abode,
Apician table, and Horatian ode,
To rule a people who will not be ruled,
And love much rather to be scourged than a school'd?
Ah! thine was not the temper or the taste
For thrones; the table sees thee better placed:
A mild Epicurean, form'd, at best,
To be a kind host and as good a guest,
To talk of letters, and to know by heart
One half the poet's, all the gourmand's art.
A scholar always, now and then a wit,
And gentle when digestion may permit:—
But not to govern lands enslaved or free;
The gout was martyrdom enough for thee.

XIII.

Shall noble Albion pass without a phrase
From a bold Briton in her wonted praise?
"Arts—arms—and George—and glory—and the isles—
And happy Britain—wealth—and freedom's smiles—
White cliffs, that held invaslop far afoar—
Contented subjects, all alike tax-proof—
Proud Wellington, with Eagle beak so curl'd,
That nose, the hook where he suspends the world!
And Waterloo—and trade,—and—(shush! not yet
A syllable of impostors or of debt)—
And ne'er (enough) lamented Castlereagh,
Whose penknife slit a goose-quill o'ther day—
And 'pilots who have weather'd every storm'—
(But, no, not even for rhyme's sake, name reform."
These are the themes thus sung so off before,
Methinks we need not sing them any more;
Found in so many volumes far and near,
There's no occasion you should find them i.e.
Yet something may remain perchance to chime
With reason, and, what's stranger still, with rhyme
Even this thy genius, Canning! may permit,
Who, bred a statesman, still was born a wit,
And never, even in that dull house could'st amate,
To unavailing 'prose thine own poetic face;
Our last, our best, our only orator,
Even I can praise thee—tories do no more;
Nay, not so much;—they hate thee, me, because
Thy spirit less upheals them than it awes;
The hounds will follow to the huntsman's holo,
And where he leads the duteous pe.k will follow;
But not for love mistake their yelping cry;
Their yelp for game is not an eulogy;
Less faithful far than the fourfooted pack,
A dubious scent would lure the bipeds back.
Thy saddle-girths are not yet quite secure,
Nor royal stallion's feet extremely sure;
The unwieldy old white horse is apt at last
To stumble, kick, and now and then stick fast
With his great self and rider in the mud;
But what of that? the animal shows blood.

XIV.

Alas, the country! how shall tongue or pen
Bewail her now once country gentlemen?
The last to bid the cry of warfare cease,
The first to make a malady of peace.
For what were all these country patriots born?
To hunt, and vote, and raise the price of corn t
But corn, like every mortal thing, must fall,
Kings, conquerors, and markets most of all
And must ye fall with every ear of grain?
Why would you trouble Bonaparte's reign?
He was your great Triptolemus; his vices [prices];
Destroy'd but realms, and still maintain'd your
He amplified to every lord's content
The grand agrarian alchymy, hight rent.
Why did the tyrant stumble on the Tartars,
And lower wheat to such desponding quarters?
Why did you chain him on your isle so lone?
The man was worth much more than his throne.
True, blood and treasure boundlessly were spilt;
But what of that? the Gaul may bear the guilt;
But bread was high, the farmer paid his way,
And acres told upon the appointed day.
But where is now the godly audit ale?
The purse proud tenant, never known to fail?
The farm which never yet was left on hand?
The marsh reclaim'd to most improving land?
The impatient hope of the expiring lease?
The doubling rental? What an evil's peace!
I'm vain the prize excites the ploughman's skill,
In vain the Commons pass their patriot bill;
The landed interest—(you may understand)
The phrase much better leaving out the land—
The land self-interest groans from shore to shore,
For fear that plenty should attain the poor.
Up, up again, ye rents! exult your notes,
Or else the ministry will lose their votes,
And patriotism, so delicately nice,
Her loaves will lower to the market price;
For ah! "the loaves and fishes," once so high,
Are gone—their even closed, their ocean dry.
And ought remains of all the millions spent,
Excepting to grow moderate and content.
They who are not so, had their turn—and turn
About still flows from Fortune's equal urn;
Now let their virtue be its own reward,
And share the blessing which themselves prepared.
See these inglorious Cincinnati swarm,
Farmers of war, dictators of the farm;
Their ploughshare was the sword in hireling hands,
Their fields manured by gore of other lands;
Safe in their barns, these Saratogians sent
Their brethren out to battle—why? for rent!
Year after year they voted cent. per cent.,
Blood sweat, and tear-wrung millions—why? for rent!
They roor'd, they dined, they drank, they swore.
...they meant
To die for England—why then live? for rent!
The peace has made one general malecontent
Of these high-market patrons; war was rent.
Their love of country, millions all misspent,
How reconcile? by reconciling rent?
And will they not repay the treasures lent?
No; down with every thing, and up with rent!
Their good, ill, hea.th, wealth, joy, or discontent,
Being, end, aim, religion—rent, rent, rent!
I thou sold'st thy birthright, Esau! for a mess;
Thou should'st have gotten more, or eaten less;
Now thou hast swill'd thy potage, thy demands Are idle; Israel says the bargain stands.
Such, landlords! was your appetite for war,
And, gorged with blood, you grumble at a scar!
What! would they spread their earl'squake even
or cash?
And when land crumbles, bid farm pa or crash?
To rent may rise, bid bank and nation fall,
And found on 'Change a Fundling Hospital.

Lo, Mother Church, while all religion withres, Like Niobe, weeps o'er her offspring, Tithes;
The prelates go to—where the saints have gone,
And proud pluralities subside to one;
Church, state, and faction wrestle in the dark,
Toss'd by the deluge in their common ark.

"Go to these ants, thou sluggard, and be wise!"
Admire their patience through each sacrifice,
Till taught to feel the lesson or their pride,
The price of taxes and of homicide;
Admire their justice, which would fain deny
The debt of nations: pray who made it high?

XV.
Or turn to sail between those shifting rocks,
The new Symplegades—the crushing Stocks,
Where Midas might again his wish behold
In real paper or imagined gold.
That magic palace of Aëra shows
More wealth than Britain ever had to lose,
Were all her atoms of unlev'n'd ore,
And all her pebbles from Pactus' shore.
There Fortune plays, while Rumar holds the stake
And the world trembles to bid brokers break.
How rich is Britain! not indeed in mines,
Or peace or plenty, corn or oil, or wines;
Jo land of Canaan, full of milk and honey,
Nor (save in paper shekels) ready money: But let us not to own the truth refuse,
Was ever Christian land so rich in Jews?
Those parted with their teeth to good King John,
"A'st now, ye kings! they kindly draw your own;
In states, all things, all sovereigns they control,
Waft a loan "from Indus to the pole."
The banker—broker—baron—brethren, speed
To aid these bankrupt tyrants in their need.
Nor these alone: Columbia feels no less.
Fresh speculations follow each success;
And philanthropic Israel &c. to drain Her mild percentage from exhausted Spain.
Not without Abraham's seed can Russia march;
"Tis gold, not stone, that bears the conqueror's arch.
Two Jews, a chosen people, can command
in every realm their scripture-promised land:—
Two Jews keep down the L.mans, and uphold
The accursed Hun, more brutal than of old.
Two Jews—but not Samaritan's—direct
The world, with all the spirit of their sect.
A congress forms their "New Jerusalem,"
Where baronies and orders both invite—
Oh, holy Abraham! dost thou see the sight?
Thy followers mingling with these royal swine,
Who spit not "on their Jewish gaberdine;"—
But honor them as portion of the show—
(Where now, oh pope! is thy forsaken toe?
Could it not favor Judah with some kicks? Or has it ceased to "kick against the pricks?"
On Shylock's shore behold them stand afresh,
To cut from nations' hearts their "pound of flesh."

XVI.
Strange sight this Congress! destined to unite
All that's incongruous, all that's opposite.
speak of: the sovereigns—t'ey're alike,  

A common coin, as ever mind could strike:  

But those who sway the puppet, pull the strings,  

Have more of motley than the jolly kings.  

Jews, authors, generals, charlatans, combine,  

While Europe wonders at the vast design:  

There: Metternich, power's foremost parasite,  

Cajoles; there Wellington forgets to fight;  

There Chateaubriand forms new books of martyr's;  

And subtle Greeks intrigue for stupid Tartars;  

There Montmorenci, the sworn foe to charters,  

Turns a diplomatist of great eclat,  

To furnish articles for "the Debates;"  

Of war so certain—yet not so sure  

As his dismissal in the "Moniteur."  

Alas! how could his cabinet thus err?  

Can peace be worth an ultra-minister?  

He falls indeed, perhaps to rise again  

"Almost as quickly as he conquered Spain."  

XVII.  

Enough of this—a sight more mournful woos  

The averted eye of the reluctant muse,  

The imperial daughter, the imperial bride,  

The imperial victim—sacrifice to pride,  

The mother of the hero's hope, the boy,  

The young Astyanax of modern Troy;  

T'is stale pale shadow of the loftiest queen  

That earth has yet to see, or e'er hath seen;  

&c. fits amid the phantoms of the hour,  

Lo! theme of pity, and the wreck of power.  

Oh, cruel mockery! Could not Austria spare  

A daughter? What did France's widow there?  

Her fitter prince was by St. Helen's wave,  

Her only throne is in Napoleon's grave.  

But, no,—she still must hold a petty reign,  

Flank'd by her formidable chamberlain;  

The martial Argus, whose not hundred eyes  

Must watch her through these paltry pageantries.  

What though she share no more, and shared in vain  

A sway surpassing that of Charlemagne,  

Which swept from Moscow to the southern seas;  

Yet still she rules the pastoral realm of cheese,  

Where Parma views the traveller resort  

To note the trappings of her mimic court.  

But she appears! Verona sees her shorn  

Of all her beams—while nations gaze and mourn  

Ere yet her husband's ashes have had time  

To chill in their inhospitable eulogies;  

(If e'er those awful ashes can grow cold;  

But no,—their embers soon will burst the mould;)  

She comes!—the Andromache (but not Racine's),  

Nor Homer's)—Lo! on Pyrrhus' arm she leans!  

Yes! the right arm, yet red from Waterloo,  

Which cut her lord's half-shatter'd sceptre through.  

Is offer'd and accepted! Could a slave  

Do more? or less?—and he in his new grave!  

Her eye, her cheek, betray no inward strife,  

And he ex-empress grows as ex a wife!  

So much for human ties in royal breasts!  

Why spare men's feelings, when their own are Jesus;  

XVIII.  

But, tired of foreign follies, I turn home,  

And sketch the group—the picture's yet to come  

My muse 'gan weep, but ere a tear was spilt,  

She caught Sir William Curtis in a kilt!  

While throng'd the chiefs of every highland clan  

To hail their brother, Vich Ian Alderman!  

Guildhall grows Gael, and echoes with Erin roar,  

While all the Common Council cry "Claymore!"  

To see proud Albyn's tartan's as a belt  

Gird the gross sirloin of a city Celt,  

She burst into a laughter so extreme,  

That I awoke—and lo! 'twas no dream!  

Here, reader, will we pause:—if there's no harm is  

First—you'll have perhaps, a second "Carmen."
THE VISION OF JUDGMENT
BY QUEVEDO REDIVIVUS.

SUGGESTED BY THE COMPOSITION SO ENTITLED BY THE AUTHOR OF "WAT TYLER."

"A Daniel come to judgment! yes, a Daniel!
I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word."

3dly. Was he not entitled by William Smith, in full parliament, "a rancorous renegade?"

4thly. Is he not poet laureate, with his own lines on Martin the regicide staring him in the face?

And 5thly. Putting the four preceding items together, with what conscience dare he call the attention of the laws to the publication of others, be they what they may?

I say nothing of the cowardice of such a proceeding; its meanness speaks for itself; but I wish to touch upon the motive, which is neither more nor less than that Mr. S. has been laughed at a little in some recent publications, as he was of yore in the "Arti-jacobin" by his present patrons. Hence all this "skimble-scamble stuff" about "Satanic," and so forth. However, it is worthy of him—"Qualis ab incepto."

If there is any thing obnoxious to the political opinions of a portion of the public in the following poem, they may thank Mr. Southey. He might have written hexameters, as he has written every thing else, for aught that the writer cared—had they been upon another subject. But to attempt to canonize a monarch, who, whatever were his household virtues, was neither a successful nor a patriotic king—inasmuch as several years of his reign passed in war with America and Ireland, to say nothing of the aggressions upon France,—like all other exag- geration, necessarily begets opposition. In whatever manner he may be spoken of in this new "Vision," his public career will not be more favorably transmitted by history. Of his private virtues (although a little expensive to the nation) there can be no doubt.

With regard to the supernatural personages treated of, I can only say, that I know as much about them, and (as an honest man) have a better right to talk of them than Robert Southey. I have also treated them more tolerantly. The way in which that poor insane creature, the laureate, deals about

PREFACE.

Is hath been wisely said, that "One fool makes many;" and it hath been poetically observed,

"That fools rush in where angels fear to tread."—Pope.

If Mr. Southey had not rushed in where he had no business, and where he never was before, and never will be again, the following poem would not have been written. It is not impossible that it may be as good as his own, seeing that it cannot, by any species of stupidity, natural or acquired, be worse.

The gross flattery, the dull impudence, the renegade intolerance, and impious cant of the poem by the author of Wat Tyler, are something so stupendous as to form the sublime of himself—containing the quintessence of his own attributes.

So much for his poem—a word on his preface. In this preface it has pleased the magnanimous laureate to draw the picture of a supposed "Satanic School," the which he doth recommend to the notice of the legislature; thereby adding to his other laurels the addition of those of an informer. If there exists any where, excepting in his imagination, such a school, is he not sufficiently armed against it by his own intense vanity? The truth is, that there are certain writers whom Mr. S. imagines, like Scrub, to have "talked of him; for they laughed consumenedly."

I think I know enough of most of the writers to whom he is supposed to allude, to assever, that they in their individual capacities, have done more good in the charities of life to their fellow-creatures in any one year, than Mr. Southey has done harm to himself by his absurdities in his whole life; and this is saying a great deal. But I have a few questions to ask.

1stly. Is Mr. Southey the author of Wat Tyler?
2dly. Was he not refused a remedy at law by the highest judge of his beloved England, because it was a blasphemous and seditious publication?

Mrs. Siddons, "Arthur," and "Thorn," were not produced but at the instance of Mr. Southey. She raises the subject as a favorite child. All the pictures are intended to bring him into Mr. S.'s closet, and to show his passion for "written hexameters."
his judgment in the next world, is like his own judgment in this. If it was not completely ludicrous, it would be something worse. I don't think that there is much more to say at present.

**QUEVEDO REDITIVUS.**

"It is possible that some readers may object, in these objectionable times, to the freedom with which saints, angels, and spiritual persons discourse in this 'Vision.' But for precedents upon such points I must refer him to Fielding's 'Journey from this World to the Next,' and to the Visions of myself, the said Quevedo, in Spanish or translated. The reader is also requested to observe, that no doctrinal tenets are insisted upon or discussed; that the person of the Deity is carefully withheld from sight, which is more than can be said for the laureate, who hath thought proper to make him talk, not "like a school divine," but like the unscholarlike Mr. Southey. The whole action passes on the outside of heaven; and Chaucer's Wife of Bath, Pulci's Morgante Maggiore, Swift's Tale of a Tub, and the other works above referred to, are cases in point of the freedom with which saints, &c., may be permitted to converse in works not intended to be so serious.

Q. R.

* * * Mr. Southey, being, as he says, a good Christian and vindictive, threatens, I understand, a reply to this answer. It is to be hoped that his visionary faculties will in the meantime have acquired a little more judgment, properly so called; otherwise he will get himself into new dilemmas. These apostate Jacobins furnish rich rejoinders. Let him take a specimen. Mr. Southey laudeth grievously "one Mr. Landor," who cultivates much private renown in the shape of Latin verses; and not long ago, the poet laureate dedicated to him, it appeareth, one of his fugitive lyrics, upon the strength of a poem called Gebr. Who could suppose that in this same Gebr the aforesaid Savage Landor (for such is his grim cognomen) putterth into the infernal regions no less a person than the hero of his friend Mr. Southey's heaven.—yes, even George the Third! See also how personal Savage becometh, when he hath a mind. The following is his portrait of our late gracious sovereign:

(Prison Garth having descended into the infernal regions, the reader of his royal ancestor are, at his request, called up to his view, and he exclaims to his ghastly guide—)

"Ahoy, what worthy soul present! what wretch
Is that with eyewhite white and standing brow?
Less I him yeander, who, bound down super.
Writhe yelie from yon, with that, engine-thein.
He too among my predecessors I hate
The deponent, but the stained I disdain.
Who is our emperor?"

"Alas, O king!
Beard beauteous, but the beard accost
Insolent words, rude and blustering from northeast.
"He was a vilesst then, nor fared the god?"

Gebr, he face'd the demons, not the gods,
Though them indeed his deadly face accorded;
And was no warrior, yet the thousand did
Evander's, as stances to exercise a ding,
And the more cruelly and cold expostute—
On behove of mankind! adnion's, adored: "--\fr. 10, x."

I cannot noticing some edifying Ithyllalics of Savagius, wishing to keep the proper veil over them, if his grave but somewhat indiscreet worshipper will suffer it; but certainly these teachers of "great moral lessons" are apt to be found in strange company.

**TIR VISION OF JUDGMENT.**

I.

**SAINT PETER sat by the celestial gate;**
His keys were rusty, and the lock was dull;
So little trouble had been given of late;
Not that the place by any means was full,
But since the Gallic era "eighty-eight;"
The devils had taken a longer, stronger pull
And "a pull altogether," as they say.
At sea—which drew most souls another way.

II.

The angels all were singing out of tune,
And hoarse with having little else to do.
Excepting to wind up the sun and moon,
Or curb a runaway young star or two.
Or wild coll of a comet, which too soon
Broke out of bounds o'er the ethereal blue,
Splitting some planet with its playful tail.
As boats are sometimes by a wanton whale.

III.

The guardian seraphs had retired on higa,
Finding their charges past all care below;
Terrestrial business fill'd nought in the sky.
Save the recording angel's black bureau;
Who found, indeed, the facts to multiply.
With such rapidity of vice and wo,
That he had strip'd off both his wings in quirks.
And yet was in arrear of human ill.

IV.

His business so augmented of late years,
That he was forced, against his will, no doubt.
(Just like those churls, earthly ministers.)
For some resource to turn himself about.
And claim the help of his celestial peers,
To aid him ere he should be quite worn out
By the increased demand for his remarks:
Six angels and twelve saints were named his clerks.

V.

This was a handsome board—at least for heaven.
And yet they had even then enough to do.
So many conquerors' cars were daily driven,
So many kingdoms fitted up anew;
Each day too slew its thousands six or seven;
Till at the crowning carnage, Waterloo,
They threw their pens down in divine disgust—
The page was so besmeared with blood and dust.

VI.

This by the way: 'tis not mine to record
What angels shrink from: even the very devil.
On this occasion his own work abhor'd,
So surfeited with the infernal revel,
Though he himself had sharpen'd every scrow,
It almost quench'd his innate thirst of evil.
(Here Satan's sole good work deserves insertion—
'Tis, that he hath both generals in reversion.)

VII.

Let's skip a few short years of hollow peace,
Which people earth no better, hell as went.
And heaven none—then form'd they the tyrant's lease.
With nothing but now names subscrib'd upon;
'Twill one day finish: meantime they increase,
"With seven heads and ten horns," and all in front.
Like Saint John's foretold beast: but ours are born
Less formidable in the head than horn.
VIII.
In the first year of freedom's second dawn
Died George the Third; although no tyrant, one
Who shielded tyrants, till each sense withdrawn
Left him nor mental nor external sun:
A better farmer ne'er brush'd dew from lawn.
A worse king never left a realm undone!
He died—but left his subjects still behind,
One half as mad—and 'tother no less blind.

IX.
He died!—his death made no great stir on earth,
His burial made some pomp; there was profusion
Of velvet, gliding, brass, and no great dearth
Of ought but tears—save those shed by exultation,
For these things may be bought at their true worth;
Of elegy there was the due infusion—
 Bought also; and the torches, eloqns, and ha.ner.s,
Heralds, and relics of old Gothic manners,
Form'd a sepulchral melodrama.

X.
So mix his body with the dust! It might
Return to what it must far sooner, were
The natural compound left alone to fight
Its way back into earth, and fire, and air;
But the unnatural balsams merely blight
What nature made him at his birth, as bare
As the mere millions' base unmummied clay—
Yet all his spices but prolong decay.

XI.
He s dead—and upper earth with him has done:
He's buried; save the undertaker's lill,
Or lapidary scrolli, the world is gone
For him, unless he left a German will;
But where's the proctor who will ask his son?
In whom his qualities are reigning still,
Except that household virtue, most unequal-moon,
Of constancy to a bad, ugly Woman.

XII.
"God save the king!" It is a large economy
In God to save the like; but if he will
Be saving all the better; for not one am I
Of those who think damnation better still:
I hardly know too if not quite alone am I
In this small hope of bettering future ill
By circumcising, with some slight restriction,
The eternity of hell's hot jurisdiction.

XIII.
I know: this is unpopular; I know
'Tis blasphemous; I know one may be damn'd
For hoping no one else may e'er be so;
I know my catechism; I know we are cram'd
With the best doctrines till we quite overflown;
I know that all save England's church have shamm'd,
And that the other twice two hundred churches
And synagogues have made a damn'd bad purchase.

XV.
God help us all! God help me too! I am,
God knows, as helpless as the devil can wish.
And not a whit more difficult to damn
Than is to bring to land a late-hock'd fish,
Or to the butcher to purvey the lound:
Not that I'm fit for such a noble dish
As one day will be that immortal fry
Of almost every body born to die.

XVI.
Saint Peter sat by the celestial gate,
And nodded o'er his keys; when lo! there came
A wond'rous noise he had not heard of late—
A rushing sound of wind, and stream, and flame—
In short, a roar of things extremely great, [claim
Which would have made ought save a saint ex
But he, with first a start and then a wink,
Said, "There's another star gone out, I think!"

XVII.
But ere he could return to his repose,
A cherub flapp'd his right wing o'er his eyes—
At which Saint Peter yawn'd, and rubb'd his nose;
"Saint porter," said the angel, "prithee rise!"
Waving a goodly wing, which glow'd, as glows
An earthly peacock's tail, with heavenly dyes,
To which the saint replied, "Well, what's the matter?
Is Lucifer come back with all this clatter?"

XVIII.
"No," quoth the cherub; "George the Third is
dead."
[apostle:
"And who is George the Third?" replied the
"What George isat Third?" "The king of
England," said
The angel. "Well! he won't find kings to jostle
Him on his way; but does he wear his head?
Because the last we saw here had a tussle,
And ne'er would have got into heaven's good
Had he not flung his head in all our faces. [graces

XIX.
"He was, if I remember, king of France;
That head of his, which could not keep a crown
On earth, yet ventured in my face to advance
A claim to those of martyrs—like my own:
If I had had my sword, as I had once
When I cut ears off, I had cut him down;
But having but my keys, and not my brand,
I only knock'd his head from out his hand.

XX.
"And then he set up such a headless howl,
That all the saints came out and took him in,
And there he sits by St. Paul, check by jowl;
That fellow Paul—the par excellence! The skin
Of Saint Bartholomew, which makes his cowl
In heaven, and upon earth redeemed his sin,
So as to make a martyr, never spied
Better than did this weak and woollen head.

XXI.
"But had it come up here upon its shoulders,
There would have been a different tale to tell:
The fellow feeling in the saints' beholders
Seems to have acted on them like a spell;
And so this very foolish head heaven solders
Back on its trunk: it may be very well,
And seems the custom here to overthrow
Whatever has been wisely done below"
THE VISION
OF JUDGMENT.

XXII.
The angel answer'd, "Peter! I do not pout:
The king who comes has head and all entire,
And never knew much what it was about—
He did as doth the puppet—by its wire,
And will be judged like all the rest, no doubt,
My business and your own is not to inquire
Into such matters, but to mind our cue—
Which is to act as we are bid to do."

XXIII.
While thus they spake, the angelic caravan,
Arriving like a rush of mighty wind,
Cleaving the fields of space, as doth the swan
Some silver stream, (say Ganges, Nile, or Inde,
Or Thames, or Tweed,) and 'mid them, an old man
With an old soul, and both extremely blind,
Halted before the gate, and in his shroud
Seated their fellow-traveller on a cloud.

XXIV.
But bringing up the rear of this might host
A Spirit of a different aspect waved
His wings, like thunder-clouds above some coast
Whose barren beach with frequent wrecks is paved;
His brow was like the deep when tempest-tost,
Fierce and unfathomable thoughts engraved
Eternal wrath on his immortal face,
And where he gazed a gloom pervaded space.

XXV.
As he drew near, he gazed upon the gate
Never to be entered more by him or sin,
With such a glance of supernatural hate,
As made Saint Peter wish himself within;
He patted with his keys at a great rate,
And sweated through his apostolic skin,
Of course his perspiration was but ichor,
Or some such other spiritual liquor.

XXVI.
The very cherubs huddled altogether,
Like birds when soars the falcon; and they felt
A tingling to the tip of every feather,
And form'd a circle like Orion's belt [whither
Around their poor old charge; who scarce knew
His guards had led him, though they gently dealt
With royal manes, (for by many stories,
And true, we learn the angels all are tories.)

XXVII.
As things were in this posture, the gate flew
Asunder, and the flashing of its hinges
Flung over space an universal hue
Of many-color'd flame, until its tinges
Reach'd even our speck of earth, and made a new
Aurora borealis spread its fringes [bound,
O'er the North Pole; the same seen, when see-
By Captain Parry's crews, in "Majestic's Sound."

XXVIII.
And from the gate thrown open issued beaming
A beautiful and mighty Thing of Light,
Radiant with glory, like a banner streaming
Victorious from some world-o'erthrowing fight:
My poor comparisons must needs be teeming
With earthly likenesses, for her the night
Of clay obscures our best conceptions, saving
Johanna Southcote, or Bob Southey raving.

XXIX.
"Twas the archangel Michael; all men know
The make of angels and archangels, since
There's scarce a scribbler has not one to show,
From the fiends' leader to the angels' prince.
There also are some altar-pieces, though
I really can't say that they much evince
One's inner notions of immortal spirits;
But let the connoisseurs explain their merits

XXX.
Michael flew forth in glory and in good;
A goodly work of him from whom all glory
And good arise; the portal past—he stood;
Before him the young cherubs and saint hoary,
(I say young, begging to be understood
By looks, not years; and should be very sorry
To state they were not older than Saint Peter,
But merely that they seem'd a little sweeter.)

XXXI.
The cherubs and the saints bowed down before
That archangelic hierarch, the first
Of essences angelical, who wore
The aspect of a god; but this ne'er bust
Pride in his heavenly bosom, in whose core
No thought, save for his Maker's service, durst
Intrude, however glorified and high;
He knew him but the viceroy of the sky

XXXII.
He and the sombre silent Spirit met—
They knew each other both for good and ill;
Such was their power, that neither could forget
His former friend and future foe; but still
There was a high, immortal, proud regret
In either's eye, as if 'twere less their will
Than destiny to make the eternal years
Their date of war, and their "champ clos" the spheres.

XXXIII.
But nere they were in neutral space: we know
From Job, that Satan hath the power to pay
A heavenly visit thrice a year or so;
And that "the sons of God," like those of clay;
Must keep him company; and we might show,
From the same book, in how polite a way
The dialogue is held between the Powers
Of Good and Evil—but 'twould take up hours

XXXIV.
And this is not a theologic tract,
To prove with Hebrew and with Arabic
If Job be allegory or a fact,
But a true narrative; and thus I pick
From out the whole but such and such an act
As sets aside the slightest thought of trick.
'Tis every title true, beyond suspicion,
And accurate as any other vision.

XXXV.
The spirits were in neutral space, before
The gate of heaven; like eastern thresholds is
The place where Death's grand cause is argued o'er
And souls despatch'd to that world or to this;
And therefore Michael and the other wore
A civil aspect: though they did not kiss,
Yet still between his Darkness and his Brightness
There pass'd a mutual glance of great po'ience
XXXVI.
The Archangel bow'd, not like a modern beau,  
But with a graceful Oriental bend,  
Pressing one radiant arm just where below  
The heart in good men is supposed to tend.  
He turn'd as to an equal, not too low,  
But kindly; Satan met his ancient friend  
With more hauteur, as might an old Castilian  
Poor noble meet a mushroom rich civilian.

XXXVII.
He merely bent his diabolic brow  
An instant; and then raising it, he stood  
In act to assert his right or wrong, and show  
Cause why King George by no means could or  
Make out a case to be exempt from wo  
[should Eternal, more than other kings, endued] [ions,  
With better sense and hearts, whom history men-

Who long have "paved hell with their good inten-
tions."

XXXVIII.
Michael began: "What wouldst thou with this man,  
Now dead, and brought before the Lord? What ill  
Hath he wrought since his mortal race began,  
That thou can'st claim him? Speak! and do thy  
If it be just: if in this earthly span  
[will,  
He hath been greatly failing to fulfil  
His duties as a king and mortal, say,  
And he is thine; if not, let him have way."

XXXIX.
"Michael!" replied the Prince of Air, "even here,  
Before the gate of thou servest, must  
I claim my subject; and will make appear  
That as he was my worshipper in dust,  
So shall he be in spirit, although dear  
To thee and thine, because nor wine nor lust  
Were of his weaknesses; yet on the throne  
He reign'd o'er millions to serve me alone.

XL.
"Look to our earth, or rather mine; it was,  
One, more thy master's: but I triumph not  
In this poor pikmen's conquest; nor, alas!  
Need thou servest envy me my lot:  
With all the myriads of bright worlds which pass  
In worship round him, he may have forgot  
Yon weak creation of such paltry things:  
I think few worth damnation save their kings."

XLI.
"And these but as a kind of quitrent, to  
Assert my right as lord; and even bad  
I such an inclination, 'twere (as you  
Well know) superfluous; they are grown so bad,  
That hell has nothing left to do  
[mad]  
Than leave them to themselves: so much more  
And evil by their own internal curse,  
 Heaven cannot make them better, nor I worse.

XLII.
"Look to the earth, I said, and say again:  
When this old, blind, mad, helpless, weak, poor  
worm  
Began in youth's first bloom and flush to reign,  
The world and he both wore a different form,  
And much of earth and all the watery plain  
Of ocean call'd him king: through many a storm  
His isles had floated on the abyss of time;  
For the rough virtues chose them for their cline.

XLIII.
"He came to his sceptor young; he leaves it old  
Look to the state in which he found his realm,  
And left it; and his annals too behold,  
How to a minion first he gave the helm:  
How grew uppn his heart a thirst for gold,  
The beggar's vice, which can but overwhelm  
The meanest hearts; and for the rest, but glance  
Thine eye along America and France.

XLIV.
"Tis true, he was a tool from first to last,  
(I have the workmen safe;) but as a tool  
So let him be consumed. For out the past  
Of ages, since mankind have known the rule  
Of monarchs—from the bloody rolls annas'd  
Of sin and slaughter—from the Cæsars' school,  
Take the worst pupil; and produce a reign  
More drench'd with gore, more cumber'd with th  
slain.

XLV.
"He ever warr'd with freedom and the free:  
Nations as men, home subjects, foreign foes,  
So that they utter'd the word 'Liberty!'  
[Whose Found George the Third their first opponent.  
History was ever stain'd as his will be  
With national and individual woes?  
I grant his household abstinence; I grant  
His neutral virtues, which most monarchs want;  

XLVI.
"I know he was a constant consort; own  
He was a decent sire, and middling lord.  
All this is much, and most upon a throne;  
As temperance, if at Apiclus' board,  
Is more than at an anchorite's supper shown.  
I grant him all the kindest can accord;  
And this was well for him, but not for those  
Millions who found him what oppression chose.

XLVII.
"The New World shook him off; the Old yet  
Beneath what he and his prepared, if not  
Completed: he leaves his heirs on many thrones  
To all his vices, without what begot  
Compassion for him—his tame virtues; drones  
Who sleep, or despots who have now forgot  
A lesson which shall be re-taught them, wake  
Upon the thrones of earth; but let them quake!

XLVIII.
"Five millions of the primitive, who hold  
The faith which makes ye great on earth, explored  
A part of that vast all they held of old,—  
Freedom to worship—not alone your Lord,  
Michael, but you, and you, Saint Peter! Cold  
Must be your souls, if you have not abhor'd  
The foe to Catholic participation  
In all the license of a Christian nation.

XLIX.
"True! he allow'd them to pray God; but as  
A consequence of prayer, refused the law  
Which would have placed them upon the same base  
With those who did not hold the saints in awe."  
But here Saint Peter started from his pace,  
And cried, "You may the prisoner withdraw:  
Ere heaven shall ope her portals to this Guelph,  
While I am guard may I be damn'd myself!"
THE VISION OF JUDGMENT.

L.

'Sooner will I with Cerberus exchange
My office (and his is no sincere)
Than see this royal Bedlam bigot range
The azure fields of heaven, of that be sure!'

'Saint!' replied Satan, 'you do well to avenge
The wrongs he made your satellites endure;
And if to this exchange you should be given,
I'll try to coax our Cerberus up to heaven.'

II.

Here Michael interposed: "Good saint! and devil!
Pray, not so fast; you both outrun discretion.
Saint Peter! you were wont to be more civil:
Satan! excuse this warmth of his expression,
And condescension to the vulgar's level: [sion.
Even saints sometimes forget themselves in seas-
Have you got more to say?"—"No."—"If you
I'll trouble you to call your witnesses." [please,

III.

Then Satan turn'd and waved his swarthy hand,
Which stirr'd with its electric qualities
Clouds farther off than we can understand,
Although we find him sometimes in our skies;
Infernal thunder shook both sea and land
In all the planets, and hell's batteries
Let off the artillery, which Milton mentions
As one of Satan's most sublime inventions.

IV.

They are proud of this—as very well they may,
It being a sort of knighthood, or gilt key
Stuck in their loins; or like an "entré"
Up the back stairs, or such free-masonry.
I borrow my comparisons from clay,
Being clay myself. Let not those spirits be
Offended with such base low likenesses;
We know their posts are nobler far than these.

V.

When the great signal ran from heaven to hell—
About ten million times the distance reckon'd
From our sun to its earth, as we can tell
How much time it takes up, even to a second,
For every ray that travels to dispel
The fogs of London, through which, dimly bea-
The weathercocks are gilt some thrice a year,
If that the summer is not too severe:—

VI.

I say that I can tell—'twas half a minute:
I know the solar beams take up more time
Ere, pack'd up for their journey, they begin it;
But then their telegraph is less sublime,
And if they ran a race, they would not win it
'Gainst Satan's couriers bound for their own clime;
The sun takes up some years, for every ray
To reach its goal—the devil not half a day.

VII.

Upon the verge of space, about the size
Of half-a-crown, a little speck appear'd,
(‘I’ve seen a something like it in the skyes
In the Egean, ere a squall; it near'd,
And, growing bigger, took another guise;
Like an aerial ship it tack'd, and steer'd.
Or was steer'd, (I am doubtful of the grammar
Of the last phrase, which makes the stanza stem:-

But take your choice;) and then it grew a cloud,
And so it was—a cloud of witnesses.

No such a cloud! No land e'er saw a crown
Of locusts numerous as the heavens saw these;
They shadow'd with their myriads space; their lord
And varied cries were like those of wild geese,
(If nations may be liken'd to a goose,)
And realized the phrase of "hell broke loose"

Here crash'd a sturdy oath of stout John Bull,
Who damn'd away his eyes as heretofore: [wull?]
There Paddy brogued "By Jesus!"—"What's your
The temperate Scot exclaim'd: the French ghost
In certain terms I shan't translate in full, [awore
As the first coachman will; and 'mid the war.
The voice of Jonathan was heard to express
"Our President is going to war, I guess."'

Besides, there were the Spaniard, Dutch, and Dane:
In short, an universal showal of shades,
From Otahite's isle to Salisbury Plain,
Of all climes and professions, years, and trades,
Ready to swear against the good king's reign,
Bitter as clubs in cards are against spades—
All summon'd by this grand "subpoena," to
Try if kings mayn't be damn'd like me or you.

When Michael saw this host, he first grew pale,
As angels can; next, like Italian twilight,
He turn'd all colors—as a peacock's tail,
Or sunset streaming through a gothic skylight
In some old abbey, or a trout not stale,
Or distant lightning on the horizon by night,
Or a fresh rainbow, or a grand review
Of thirty regiments in red, green, and blue

Then he address'd himself to Satan: "Why—
My good old friend, for such I deem you, though
Our different parties makes us fight so shy,
I ne'er mistake you for a personal loc;
Our difference is political, and I
Trust that, whatever may occur below,
You know my great respect for you; and this
Makes me regret whate'er you do amiss—

"Why, my dear Lucifer, would you abuse
Like the rake, you're always in the sun;
Type even superfluous, since two honest clean.
True testimonials are enough: we lose
Our time, nay, our eternity, between
The accusation and defense: if we
Hear both, 'twill stretch our immortality"
LXIV.

Satan replied, "To me the matter is
Indifferent, in a personal point of view:
I can have fifty better souls than this
With far less trouble than we have gone through
Already; and I merely argued his
Late majesty of Britain's case with you
Upon a point of form: you may dispose
Of him; I've kings enough below, God knows!"

LXV.

This spoke the Demon, (late call'd "multifaced"
By mutlo-scribbling Southey.) "Then we'll call
One or two persons of the myriads placed
Around our congress, and dispense with all
The rest," quoth Michael: "Who may be so grac'd
As to speak first? there's choice enough—who shall
It be?" Then Satan answer'd, "There are many;
But you may choose Jack Wilkes as well as any."

LXVI.

A merry, cock-eyed, curious-looking sprite,
Upon the instant started from the throng,
Drest in a fashion now forgotten quite;
For all the fashions of the flesh stick long
By people in the next world; where unite
All the costumes since Adam's, right or wrong,
From Eve's fig-leaf down to the petticoat,
Almost as scanty, of days less remote.

LXVII.

The spirit look'd around upon the crowds
Assembled, and exclaim'd, "My friends of all
The spheres, we shall catch cold among these clouds;
So let's to business: why this general call?
If those are freethinkers I see in throngs,
And 'tis for an election that they bawl,
Behold a candidate with unturnd' coat!
Saint Peter, may I count upon your vote?"

LXVIII.

"Sir," replied Michael, "you mistake: these things
Are of a former life, and what we do
Above is more august; to judge of kings
Is the tribunal met: so now you know.
"Then I presume those gentlemen with wings,"
Said Wilkes, "are cherubs; and that soul below
Looks much like George the Third, but to my mind
A good deal older—Bless me! is he blind?"

LXIX.

'He is what you behold him, and his doom
Depends upon his deeds," the Angel said
'If you have ought to arraign in him, the tomb
Gives licence to the humblest beggar's head
To lift itself against the loftiest."—"Some,"
Said Wilkes, "don't wait to see them laid in lead,
For such a liberty—and I, for one,
Have told them what I thought beneath the sun."

LXX.

"Above the sun repeat, then, what thou hast
To urge against him," said the Archangel. "Why,
Replied the spirit, "since old scores are past,
Must I turn evidence! In faith, not I.
Besides, I bent him hollow at the last,
With all his Lords and Commons: in the sky
I don't like ripping up old stories, since
His conduct was but natural in a prince.
LXXXVIII.
The moment that you had pronounced him one,
Fredot! his face changed, and he was anc her,
And when that change was hardly well put on,
It varied, till I don't think his own mother
(If that he had a mother) would her son
Have known, he shifted so from one to t'other.
Till guessing from a pleasure grew a task,
At this epistolary "Iron Mask."

LXXXIX.
For sometimes he like Cerberus would seem—
"Three gentlemen at once," (as sagely says
Good Mrs. Malaprop) then you might deem
That he was not even one; now many "a's
Were flashing round him; and now a thick steam
Hid him from sight—like fogs on London days;
Now Burke, now Tooke, he grew to people's fancies,
And certes often like Sir Philip Francis.

LXXX.
I've an hypothesis—'tis quite my own;
I never let it out till now, for fear
Of doing people harm about the throne,
And injuring some minister or peer,
On whom the stigma might perhaps be blown.
It is—my gentle public, lend thine ear!
'Tis, that what Junius we are wont to call
Was sally, truly, nobody at all.

LXXXI.
I don't see wherefore letters should not be
Written without hands, since we daily view
Them written without heads; and books, we see,
Are fill'd as well without the latter too;
And really till we fix on somebody
For certain sure to claim them as his due,
Their author, like the Niger's mouth, will bother
The world to say if there be mouth or author.

LXXXII.
"And who and what art thou?" the Archangel said.
"For that you may consult my title page;"
Replied this mighty shadow of a shade:
"If I have kept my secret half an age,
I scarce shall tell it now."—"Canst thou upbraid,
Continued Michael, "George Rex, or allege
Aught further?" Junius answer'd, "You had better
First ask him for his answer to my letter:"

LXXXIII.
"My charges upon record will outlast
The brass of both his epitaph and tomb."
Repe'tst thou not," said Michael, "of some past
Exaggeration? something which may doom
Myself if false, as him if true? Thou wast
Too bitter—is it not so?—in thy gloom
Of passion?"—"Passion!" cried the phantom dim,
I loved my country, and I hated him.

LXXXIV.
"What I have written, I have written: let
The rest be on his head or mine!" So spoke
Old "Nominis Umbra;" and while speaking yet,
Away he melted in celestial smoke.
Then Satan said to Michael, "Don't forget Tooke,
To call George Washington, and John Horne
And Franklin":—but at this time there was heard
A crack for room, though not a phantom stir'd.

LXXXV.
At length with jesting, elbowing, and he aid
Of cherubim appointed to that post,
The devil Asmodeus to the circle made
His way, and look'd as if his journey cost
Some trouble; when his burden down he laid,
"What's this?" cried Michael; "'why, 'tis not
"I know it, " quoth the innumera, but he [ghost?]
Shall be one, if you leave the affair to me.

LXXXVI.
"Confound the renegade! I have spain'd
My left wing, he's so heavy; one would think
Some of his works about his neck were chain'd.
But to the point: while hovering o'er the Brink
Of Skiddaw, (where as usual it still rain'd),
I saw a taper, far below me, wink,
And stooping, caught this fellow at a libel—
No less on history than the Holy Bible.

LXXXVII.
"The former is the devil's scripture, and—
The latter yours, good Michael; so the affair
Belongs to all of us, you understand.
I snatch'd him up just as you see him there,
And brought him off for sentence out of hand.
I've scarcely been ten minutes in the air—
At least a quarter it cap hardly be:
I dare say that his wife is still at tea!

LXXXVIII.
Here Satan said, "I know this man of old,
And have expected him for some time here;
A siller fellow you will scarce behold,
Or more conceited in his petty sphere:
But surely it was not worth while to fold
Such trash below your wing, Asmodeus dear:
We had the poor wretch safe (without being bored
With carriage) coming of his own accord.

LXXXIX.
"But since he's here, let's see what he has done."
"Done!" cried Asmodeus, "he anticipates
The very business you are now upon,
And scribbles as if head clerk to the Fates.
Who knows to what his ribaldry may run,
When such an ass as this, like Balaam's, prates?
"Let's hear," quoth Michael, "what he has to say.
You know we're bound to that in every way."

XC.
Now the bard, glad to get an audience which
By no means often was his case below,
Began to cough, and hawk, and hem, and pitch
His voice into that awful note of wo
To all unhappy hearers within reach
Of poets when the tide of rhyme's in flow,
But stuck fast with his first hexameter,
Not one of all whose gouty feet would stir.

XCI.
But ere the spavin'd dactyl could be spurr'd
Into recitative, in great dismay
Both cherubin and seraphim were heard
To murmur loudly through their long array
And Michael rose ere he could get a word
Of all his founder'd verses under way,
And cried, "For God's sake stop, my friend: 't were
Non Di, non homines—'t know the rest."
Fed, paid, and pamper'd by the very men
By whom his muse and morals had been maul'd
He had written much blank verse, and blanker prose
And more of both than any body knows.

XCIII.
He had written Wesley's life—here, turning round
To Satan, "Sir, I'm ready to write yours,
In two octavo volumes, so nicely bound,
With notes and preface, all that most allures
The pious purchaser; and there's no ground
For fear, for I can choose my own reviewers:
So let me have the proper documents,
That I may add you to my other saints."

C.
Satan bow'd, and was silent. "Well, if you,
With amiable modesty, decline
My offer, what says Michael? There are few
Whose memoirs could be render'd more divine.
Mine is a pen of all work; not so new
As it was once, but I would make you shine
Like your own trumpet. By the way, my own
Has more of brass in it, and is as well blown.

CI.
"But talking about trumpets, here's my Vision
Now you shall judge, all people; yes, you shall
Judge with my judgment, and by my decision
Be guided who shall enter heaven or fall.
I settle all these things by intuition,
Times present, past, to come, heaven, hell, and all
Like King Alfonso.* When I thus see double
I save the Deity some words of trouble."

CII.
He ceased, and drew forth an MS.; and no
Persuasion on the part of devils, or saints,
Or angels, now could stop the torrent; so
He read the first three lines of the contents;
But at the fourth, the whole spiritual show
Had vanished, with variety of scents,
Ambrosial and sulphureous, as they sprang,
Like lightning, off from his "melodious twang."†

CIII.
Those grand heroes acted as a spell:
The angels stop'd their ears and plied their pluon
The devils ran howling, deafen'd, down to hell;
The ghosts fled, gibbering, for their own dominion,
(For 'tis not yet deci'd where they dwell,
And I leave every man to his own opinion;) Michael took refuge in his trump—but lo!
His teeth were set on edge, he could not blow;

CIV.
Saint Peter, who has hitherto been known
For an impetuous saint, upraised his keys,
And at the fifth line knock'd the poet down;
Who fell like Phaeton, but more at ease,
Into his lake, for there he did not drown,
A different web being by the Destinies
Woven for the laureate's final wraith, whence'er
Reform shall happen either here or there.

* King Alfonso, speaking of the Puckernom system, said, that "had he been consulted at the creation of the world, he would have spared the Maker some absurdities."
† See Aubrey's account of the apparition which disappeared, with a savour of perfume and a melodious twang; it was the Antiparvus, vol. 2.
CV.

He first sank to the bottom—like his works,
But soon rose to the surface—like himself;
For all corrupted things are buoy'd, like corks,
By their own rottenness, light as an elf,
Or wish that fits o'er a morass: he lurks,
It may be, still, like dull books on a shelf,
In his own den, to scrawl some "Life," or "Vision."
As Welborn says—"the devil turn'd precocious."

A drowned body lies at the bottom till rotten; it then riseth, as most pain-

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Morgante Maggiore, of the first canto of
which this translation is offered, divides with the
Orlando Innamorato the honor of having formed
and suggested the style and story of Ariosto. The
great defects of Boiardo, were his treating too seri-
ously the narratives of chivalry, and his harsh style.
Ariosto, in his continuation, by a judicious mixture
of the gayety of Pulci, has avoided the one; and
Berni, in his reformers of Boiardo's poem, has
corrected the other. Pulci may considered as the
precursor and model of Berni altogether, as he has
partly been to Ariosto, however inferior to both his
copists. He is no less the founder of a new style
of poetry very lately sprung up in England. I
allude to that of the ingenious Whistlercraft. The
serious poems on Roncevalles in the same lan-
guage, and more particularly the excellent one
of Mr. Meivale, are to be traced to the same
source.

It has never yet been decided entirely whether
Pulci's intention was or was not to deride the
religion which is one of his favorite topics. It
appears to me, that such an intention would have
been no less hazardous to the poet than to the
priest, particularly in that age and country;
and the permission to publish the poem, and its
reception among the classes of Italy, prove that it
neither was nor is so interpreted. That he intended
to ridicule the monastic life, and suffered his imagi-
nation to play with the simple dulness of his
converted giant, seems evident enough; but surely
it were as unjust to accuse him of irreligion
on this account, as to denounce Fielding for his

the Ordinary in Jonathan Wild—or Scott, for the
exquisite use of his Covenanters in the "Tales of
my Landlord."

In the following translation I have used the
liberty of the original with the proper names;
as Pulci uses Gan. Gannelon; or Gannelone; Carlo,
Carliomagno, or Carliomano; Rondel, or Rondelle,
&c., as it suits his convenience; so has the trans-
lator. In other respects the version is faithful to
the best of the translator's ability in combining his
interpretation of the one language with the not
very easy task of reducing it to the same verifica-
tion in the other. The reader, on comparing it
with the original, is requested to remember that
the antiquated language of Pulci, however pure,
is not easy to the generality of Italians themselves,
from its great mixture of Tuscan proverbs; and
he may therefore be more indulgent to the present
attempt. How far the translator has succeeded,
and whether or no he shall continue the work, are
questions which the public will decide. He was
induced to make the experiment partly by his love
for, and partial intercourse with, the Italian lan-
guage, of which it is so easy to acquire a slight
knowledge, and with which it is so nearly impos-
sible for a foreigner to become accurately conversant.
The Italian language is like a capricious beauty
who accords her smiles to all, her favors to few,
and sometimes least to those who have courted her
longest. The translator wished also to present in
an English dress a part at least of a poem never yet
rendered into a northern language; at the same
time that it has been the original of some of the
most celebrated productions on this side of the
Alps, as well of those recent experiments in poetry

Parson Adams, Barnabas, Twhackum, Supple, and
in England which have been already mentioned.
CANTO I.

I.
In the beginning was the Word next God;
God was the word, the word no less was he:
This was in the beginning, to my mode
Of thinking, and without him naught could be;
Therefore, just Lord! from out thy high abode,
Benign and pious, bid an angel rise,
One only, to be my companion, who
Shall help my famous, worthy, old song through,

II.
And thou, oh Virgin! daughter, mother, pride,
Of the same Lord, who gave to you each key
Of heaven, and hell, and every thing beside,
The day cy Gabriel said "All hail!" to thee,
Since to thy servants pity's ne'er denied,
With flowing rhymes, a pleasant style and free,
Be to my verses then benignly kind.
And to the end illuminate my mind.

III.
'Twas in the season when said Philomel
Weeps with her sister, who remembers and
Deplores the ancient woes which both befell,
And makes the nymphs enamor'd, to the hand
Of Phaeton by Phoebe loved so well
His car (but temper'd by his sire's command)
Was given, and on the horizon's verge just now
Appeard', so that Tithonus scratch'd his brow;

IV.
When I prepared my bark first to obey,
As it should still obey, the helm, my mind,
And carry prose or rhyme, and this my lay
Of Charles the Emperor, whom you will find
By several pena already praised; but they
Who to diffuse his glory were inclined,
For all that I can see in prose or verse,
Have understood Charles badly—and wrote worse.

V.
Leonardo Arctino said already,
That if, like Pepin, Charles had had a writer
Of genius quick, and diligently steady,
No hero would in history look brighter,
He in the cabinet being always ready,
And in the field a most victorious fighter,
Who for the church and Christian faith had wrought
Certs far more than yet is said or thought.

VI.
You still may see at Saint Liberatore
The abbey, no great way from Manopoli,
Erected in the Abruzzi to his glory,
Because of the great battle in which fell
A pagan king, according to the story,
And felon people whom Charles sent to hell;
And there are bones so many, and so many,
Near them Giussaffa's would seem few, if any.

VII.
But the world, blind and ignorant, don't prize
His virtues as I wish to see them; thou,
Florence, by his great bounty don't arise
And hast, and may have, if thou wilt allow.
All proper customs and true courtesies:
Whate'er thou hast acquired from then till now
With knightly courage, treasure, or the lance,
Is sprung from out the noble blood of France.

VIII.
Twelve paladins had Charles in court, of whom
The wisest and most famous was Orlando;
Him traitor Gan conducted to the tomb
In Ronesvalles, as the villain plann'd too,
While the horn rang so loud, and knoll'd the doom
Of their sad rout, though he did all knight can do.
And Dante in his comedy has given
To him a happy seat with Charles in heaven.

IX.
'Twas Christmas-day; in Paris all his court
Charles held; the chief, I say, Orlando was,
The Dane; Astolfo there too did reside
Also Ansuigi, the gay time to pass
In festival and in triumphal sport,
The much-renown'd St. Dennis being the cause;
Angiolin of Bayonne, and Oliver,
And gentle Belinghiere too came there:

X.
Avallo, and Arino, and Othone
Of Normandy, and Richard Paladini,
Wise Hamo, and the ancient Salamone,
Walter of Lion's Mount, and Baldovin,
Who was the son of the sad Ganellone,
Were there, exciting too much gladness in
The son of Pepin:—when his knights came hither
He groan'd with joy to see them altogether.

XI.
But watchful Fortune, lurking, takes good heed
Ever some bar 'gainst our intents to bring.
While Charles repose him thus, in word and deed
Orlando ruled court Charles, and every thing;
Curst Gan, with envy bursting had such need
To vent his spite, that thus with Charles the king
One day he openly began to say,
"Orlando must we always then obey?"

XII.
"A thousand times I've been about to say,
Orlando too presumptuously goes on;
Here are we, counts, kings, dukes, to own thy sway
Hamo, and Otho, Ogier, Solomon,
Each have to honor thee and to obey;
But he has too much credit near the throne,
Which we won't suffer, but are quite decided,
By such a boy to be no longer guided.

XIII.
"And even at Aspramont thou didst begin
To let him know he was a gallant knight,
And by the fount did much the day to win;
But I know who that day had won the fight,
If it had not for good Gherardo been;
The victory was Almonte's else; his sight
He kept upon the standard, and the laurels
In fact and fairness are his earning, Charles
XIV.

"If thou rememberest being in Gascony,
When there advanced the nations out of Spain,
The Christian cause had suffer'd shamefully,
Had not his valor driven them back again.
Best speak the truth when there's a reason why:
Know then, oh emperor! that all complaint:
As for myself, I shall repass the mounts
O'er which I cross'd with two and sixty counts.

XV.

"Tis fit thy grandeur should dispense relief,
So that each here may have his proper part,
For the whole court is more or less in grief:
Perhaps thou deem'st this lad a Mars in heart?"

Orlando one day heard this speech in brief,
As by himself it chanced he sate apart:
Displeased he was with Gan because he said it,
But much more still that Charles should give him credit.

XVI.

And with the sword he would have murder'd Gan,
But Oliver thrust in between the pair,
And from his hand extracted Durfandain,
And thus at length they separated were.

Orlando, sterry too with Carlonain,
Wanted but little to have slain him there;
Then forth alone from Paris went the chief,
And burst and madden'd with disdain and grief.

XVII.

From Ermellina, consort of the Dane,
He took Cortana, and then took Rondell,
And on towards Barra prick'd him o'er the plain;
And when she saw him coming, Alidadell
Stretch'd forth her arms to clasp her lord again.

Orlando, in whose brain all was not well,
As "Welcome, my Orlando, home," she said,
Raised up his sword to smite her on the head.

XVIII.

Like him a fury counsels; his revenge
On Gan in that rash act he seem'd to take,
Which Alidadell thought extremely strange;
But soon Orlando found himself awake;
And his spouse took his bridle on this change,
And he dismounted from his horse, and spake
Of every thing which pass'd without demur,
And then repos'd himself some days with her.

XIX.

Then full of wrath departed from the place,
As far as pagan countries roam'd astray;
And while he rode, yet still at every pace
The traitor Gan remember'd by the way;
And wandering on in error a long space,
An abbey which in a lone desert lay,
Mid glens obscure, and distant lands he found,
Which form'd the Christians and the pagan's bound.

XX.

The abbot was call'd Clermont, and by blood
Descended from Anglante; under cover
Of a great mountain's brow the abbey stood,
But certain savage giants look'd him over;
One Passamont was foremost of the brood,
And Alabaster and Morgante hover
Second and third, with certain slings, and throw
In daily jet pardy the place below.

XXI.

The monks could pass the convent gate no more,
Nor leave their cells for water or for wood;
Orlando knock'd, but none would ope, before
Unto the prior it at length seem'd good;
Entered, he said that he was taught to adore
Him who was born of Mary's holiest blood,
And was baptized a Christian; and then show'd
How to the abbey he had found his road.

XXII.

Said the abbot, "You are welcome; what is mine
We give you freely, since that you believe
With us in Mary Mother's Son divine;
And that you may not, cavalier, conceive
The cause of our delay to let you in
To be rusticity, you shall receive
The reason why our gate was barr'd to you:
Thus those who in suspicion live must do.

XXIII.

"When hither to inhabit first we came
These mountains, albeit that they are obscure
As you perceive, yet without fear or blame
They seem'd to promise an asylum sure.
From savage brutes alone, too fierce to tame,
'Twas fit our quiet dwelling to secure;
But now, if here we stay, we needs must guard
Against domestic beasts with watch and ward.

XXIV.

"These make us stand, in fact, upon the watch;
For late there have appear'd three g'nte rough;
What nation or what kingdom bore the batch
I know not, but they are all of savage stuff.
When force and malice with some genius match,
You know, they can do all— we are not enough;
And these so much our orisons derange,
I know not what to do, till matters chang'd.

XXV.

"Our ancient fathers living the desert in,
For just and holy works were duly fed;
Think not they lived on locusts sole, 'tis certain
That manna was rain'd down from heaven instead
But here 'tis fit we keep on the alert in [bread
Our bounds, or taste the stones shower'd down for
From off you mountain daily raining faster,
And flung by Passamont and Alabaster.

XXVI.

"The third, Morgante, 's savagest by far; he
Plucks up pines, beeches, poplar-trees, and oaks,
And flings them, our community to bury;
And all that I can do but more provokes."
While thus they parley in the cemetery,
A stone from one of their gigantic strokes,
Which nearly crush'd Rondell, came tumbling over
So that he took a long leap under cover.

XXVII.

"For God sake, cavalier, come in with speed;
The manna's falling now," the rbot cried.
"This fellow does not wish my horse should feed,
Dear abbot," Roland unto him reply'd.
"Of restiveness he'd cure him had he need;
That stone seems with good will and aln applied
The holy father said, "I don't deceiv'e;
They'll one day fling the mountain, I believe."
XXVIII
Orlando had the Argemone take care of Rondelovo,
And also made a breakfast of his own.
"Abbot," he said, "I want to find that fellow
Who flung at my good horse yon corner-stone.
Said the abbot, "Let not my advice seem shallow;
As to a brother dear I speak alone;
I would dissuade you, baron, from this strife,
As knowing sure that you will lose your life.

XXX.
"Then go you with God's benison and mine;"
Orlando, after he had scaled the mount,
As the abbot had directed, kept the line
Right to the usual haunt of Passamont;
Who, seeing him alone in this design,
Survey'd his fore and aft with eyes observant,
Then said, "If he wish'd to stay as servant?"

XXXI.
And promised him an office of great ease.
But, said Orlando, "Saracen insane!
I come to kill you, if it shall so please
God, not to serve as footboy in your train;
You with your monks so oft have broke the peace—
Vile dog! 'tis past his patience to sustain."
The giant ran to fetch his arms, quite furious,
When he received an answer so injurious.

XXXII.
And being returned to where Orlando stood,
Said, "I will go, and while he lies alone,
Disarm me: why such avarice did I fight?"
But Christ his servants never abandons long,
Especially Orlando, such a knight,
As so devout would almost be a wrong.
While the giant goes to put off his defences,
Orlando has recall'd his force and senses:

XXXIII.
And loud he shouted, 'Giant, where dost go?
Thou thought'st me doubtless for the bier outlaid;
To the right about—without wings thou'rt too slow
To fly my vengeance—curry renegade!
Twas but by treachery thou laidst me low.
The giant astonishment betray'd,
And turn'd about, and stopp'd his journey on,
And then he stopp'd to pick up a great stone.

XXXV.
Orlando had the Cortana bare in hand,
To split the head in twain was what he schemed
Cortana clave the skull like a true brand,
And pagan Passamont died unredeem'd.
Yet harsh and haughty, as he lay he bann'd,
And most devoutly Macon still blasphemed;
Yet while his crude, rude blasphemies he heard,
Orlando thank'd the Father and the Word.

XXXVI.
"Abbot," said, "What grace to thee thou'rt given!
And to thee, oh Lord! I am ever bound.
I know my life was saved by thee from heaven
Since by thy giant I was fairly down'd.
All things by thee are measured just and even;
Our power without thine aid would have been
I pray thee take heed of me, till I can
At least return once more to Carlonman."

XXXVII.
And having said thus much, he went his way;
And Alabaster found out below,
Doing the very best that in him lay
To root from out a bank a rock or two.
Orlando, when he reach'd him, loud 'gan say,
"How think'st thou, glutton, such a stone to throw?"
When Alabaster heard his deep voice ring,
He suddenly betook him to his sling.

XXXVIII.
And hurl'd a fragment of a size so large,
That if it had in fact fulfill'd its mission,
And Roland not avail'd him of his targe,
There would have been no need of a physician.
Orlando set himself in turn to charge,
And in his bulky bosom made incision
With all his sword. The lout fell, but, o'erthrown, he
However by no means forgot Macone.

XXXIX.
Morgante had a palace in his mode,
Composed of branches, logs of wood, and earth,
And stretch'd himself at ease on this abode,
And shut himself at night within his berth.
Orlando knock'd, and knock'd again, to good
The giant from his sleep; and he came forth,
The door to open, like a crazy thing,
For a rough dream had shook him slumbering.

XL.
He thought that a fierce serpent had attack'd him,
And Mahomet he call'd; but Mahomet
Is nothing worth, and not an instant back'd him;
But praying blessed Jesu, he was set
At liberty from all the fears which rack'd him;
And to the gate he came with great regret—[be.
"Who knockes here?" grumbling all the while, said
That," said Orlando, "you will quickly see.

XLI.
"I come to preach to you, as o your brothers,
Sent by the miserable monks—repenance;
For Providence divine, in you and others,
Condemns the evil done by new acquaintance.
'Tis writ c h high—your wrong must pay another's
From heaven itself is issued out this sentence.
Know then, that colder now than a plaster
I left your Passamont and Alabaster."
XLII.

Morgante said, "Oh, gentle cavalier!
Now by thy God say me no villain;
The favor of your name I fain would hear,
And, if a Christian, speak for courtesy."

Replied Orlando, "So much to your ear,
I by my faith disclose contentedly;
Christ I adore, who is the genuine Lord,
And, if you please, by you may be adored."

XLIII.

The Saracen rejoin'd in humble tone,
"I have had an extraordinary vision;
A savage serpent fell on me about,
And Macon would not pity my condition;
Hence to thy God, who for ye did alone
Upon the cross, preferr'd my petition;
His timely succor set me safe and free,
And I a Christian am disposed to be."

XLIV.

Orlando answer'd, "Baron just and pious,
If this good wish your heart can really move
To the true God, who will not then deny us
Eternal honor, you I will go show,
And, if you please, as friends we will ally us,
And I will love you with a perfect love.
Your idols are vain liars, full of fraud;
The only true God is the Christian's God."

XLV.

"The Lord descended to the virgin breast
Of Mary Mother, sinless and divine;
If you acknowledge the Redeemer blest,
Without whom neither sun nor star can shine,
Abjure bad Macon's false and felon test,
Your renegade god, and worship mine,—
Baptize yourself with zeal, since you repent.
To which Morgante answer'd, "I'm content."

XLVI.

And then Orlando to embrace him flew,
And made much of his convert, as he cried,
"To the abbey I will gladly marshal you."
To whom Morgante, "Let us go," replied;
"I to the triars have for peace to sue."
Which thing Orlando heard with inward pride,
Saying, "My brother, so devout and good,
Ask the Abbot pardon, as I wish you would."

XLVII.

"Since God has granted your illumination,
Accepting you in mercy for his own,
Humility should be your first obligation." [known—
Morgante said, "For goodness' sake, make
Since that your God is to be mine—your station,
And let your name in verity be shown;
Then will I every thing at your command do."
On which the other said, he was Orlando.

XLVIII.

"Then," quoth the giant, "blessed be Jesus
A thousand times with gratitude and praise!
Oft, perfect baron! have I heard of you
Through all the different periods of my days:
And, as I said, to be your vassal too
I wish, for your great gallantry always."
Thus reasoning, they continued much to say,
And onwards to the abbey went their way.
Orlando, seeing him thus agitated,
Said quickly, "Abbot, be thou of good cheer;
He Christ believes, as Christian must be rated,
And hath renounced his Mason false;" which here
Morgante with the hands corroborated,
A proof of both the giants' fate quite clear
Thence, with due thanks, the abbot God adored,
Saying, "Thou hast contented me, oh Lord!"

He gazed; Morgante's height he calculated,
And more than once contemplated his size;
And then he said, "Oh giant celebrated!
Know that no more my wonder will arise,
How could you tear and fling the trees you late did,
When I behold your form with my own eyes,
You now a true and perfect friend will show
Yourself to Christ, as once you were a foe.

"And one of our apostles, Saul once named,
Long persecuted sore the faith of Christ,
Till one day, by the Spirit being inflamed,
"Why dost thou persecute me thus!" said Christ;
And then from his offence he was reclaim'd,
And went for ever after preaching Christ,
And of the faith became a trump, whose sounding
O'er the whole earth is echoing and rebounding.

"So, my Morgante, you may do likewise;
He who repents—thus writes the Evangelist,
Occasions more rejoicing in the skies
Than ninety-nine of the celestial list.
You may be sure, should each desire arise
With just zeal for the Lord, that you'll exist
Among the happy saints for evermore;
But you were lost and damnd't to hell before!"

And thus great honor to Morgante paid
The abbot: many days they did repose.
One day, as with Orlando they both stray'd,
And saunter'd here and there, where'er they chose,
The abbots shaw'd a chamber, where array'd
Much armor was, and hung up certain bows;
And one of these Morgante for a whim
Girt on, though useless, he believed to him.

There being a want of water in the place,
Orlando, like a worthy brother, said,
"Morgante, I could wish you in this case
To go for water, " You shall be obey'd,
In all commands," was the reply, "straightways."
Upon his shoulder a great tub he laid,
And went out on his way unto a fountain,
Where he was wont to drink below the mountain.

Arrived there, a prodigious noise he hears,
Which suddenly along the forest spread;
Whereat from out his quiver he prepares
An arrow for his bow, and lifts his head;
And lo! a monstrous herd of swine appears,
And onward rushes with tempestuous tread,
And to the fountain's brink precisely pours;
So that the giant's join'd by all the boars.

Morgante at a venture shot an arrow,
Which pierced a pig precisely in the ear
And pass'd unto the other side quite thorongh.
So that the giant, defunct, lay trip'd up near
Another, to revenge his fellow frawor,
Against the giant rush'd in fierce career,
And reach'd the passage with so swift a foot,
Morgante was not now in time to shoot.

The ten was on one shoulder, and there were
The hogs on t'other, and he brash'd apace
On to the abbey, though by no means near,
Nor split one drop of water in his race.
Orlando, seeing him so soon appear
With the dead boars, and with that brimful vase,
Marye'll to see his strength so very great;
So did the abbot, and set wide the gate.

The monks, who saw the water fresh and good,
Rejoiced, but more much to perceive the pork:
All animals are glad at sight of food:
They lay their brevities to sleep, and work
With greedy pleasure, and in such a mood,
That the flesh needs no salt beneath their fork.
Of rankness and of rot there is no fear,
For all the fasts are now left in arrear.

As though they wish'd to burst at once, they ate;
And gorged so that, as if the bones had been
In water, sorely grieved the dog and cat,
Perceiving that they all were pick'd too clean.
The abbot, who to all did honor great,
A few days after this convivial scene,
Gave to Morgante a fine horse, well train'd,
Which he long time had for himself maintain'd.

The horse Morgante to a meadow led,
To gallop, and to put him to the proof,
Thinking that he a back of iron had,
Or to skim eggs unbroke was light enough;
But the horse, sinking with the pain, fell dead,
And burst, while cold on earth lay head and hoof,
Morgante said, "Get up, thou sulky cur!"
And still continued prickling with the spur.

"Oh dette in eu in teas un grand punzone." It strange that Pule
should have literally translated the sublaced terms of my old friend and
masn, Jackson, and the art which he has coveted to its highest pitch. "A punch
on the head," or "a punch on the head,"" un punzone in eu in teas," is
the exact and frequent phrase of our best pagliate, who little dream that they
are taking the poet's Thoason.
LAIX.

But finally he thought fit to dismount,
And said, "I am as light as any feather,
And he has burst;—to this what say you, count?"
Orlando answered, "Like a ship's mast rather
You seem to me, and with the truck for front:—
Let him go; Fortune willed that we together
Should march, but you on foot Morgante still."
To which the giant answered, "So I will.

LXX.

"When there shall be occasion, you will see
How I approve my courage in the fight."
Orlando said, "I really think you'll be,
If it should prove God's will, a goodly knight;
Nor will you napping there discover me,
But never mind your horse, though out of sight
"I were best to carry him into some wood,
If but the means or way I understood."

LXXI.

The giant said, "Then carry him I will,
Since that to carry me he was so slack—
To render, as the gods do, good for ill;
But lend a hand to place him on my back."
Orlando answered, "If my counsel still
May weigh, Morgante, do not undertake
To lift or carry this dead courier, who,
As you have done to him, will do to you.

LXXII.

"Take care he don't revenge himself, though dead,
As Nessus did of old beyond all cure.
I don't know if the fact you've heard or read;
But he will make you burst, you may be sure."
"But help him on my back," Morgante said;
"And you shall see what weight I can endure.
In place, my gentle Roland, of this pallet,
With all the belts, I'd carry yonder belfry."

LXXIII.

The abbot said, "The steeple may do well,
But, for the walls you've broken them, I wot."
Morgante answered, "Let them pay in hell
The penalty who lie dead in your groat;"
And hoisting up the horse from where he fell,
"He said, "Now look if I the gout have got,
Orlando, in the legs—or if I have force;"—
And then he made two gambols with the horse.

LXXIV

Morgante was like any mountain framed;
So if he did this, 'tis no prodigy;
But secretly himself Orlando blamed,
Because he was one of his family;
And fearing that he might be hurt or maim'd,
Once more he bade him lay his burden by:
"Put down, nor bear him further the desert in."
Morgante said, "I'll carry him for certain."

LXXV.

He did; and stow'd him in some nook away,
And to the abbey then return'd with speed.
Orlando said, "Why longer do we stay?"
Morgante, here is nought to do indeed."
The abbot by the hand he took one day,
And said, with great respect, he had agreed
To leave his reverence; but for this decision
He wish'd to have his pardon and permission.

LXXVI.

The honors they continued to receive
Perhaps exceeded what his merits claim'd
He said, "I mean, and quickly, to retrieve
The lost days of time past, which may be blanched.
Some days ago I should have ask'd your leave,
Kind father, but I really was ashamed,
And knew not how to show my sentiment,
So much I see you with our stay content

LXXVII.

"But in my heart I bear through every clime
The abbot, abbey, and this solitude—
So much I love you in so short a time;
For me, from heaven reward you with all good
The God so true, the eternal Lord sublime!
Whose kingdom at the last hath open stood.
Meantime we stand expectant of your blessing,
And recommend us to your prayers with pressing."

LXXVIII.

Now when the abbot Count Orlando heard,
His heart grew soft with inner tenderness
Such favor in his bosom bred each word;
And "Cavaller," he said, "if I have less
Courteous and kind to your great worth appear'd
Than fits me for such gentle blood to express.
I know I've done too little in this case;
But blame our ignorance, and this poor place

LXXIX.

"We can indeed but honor you with masses,
And sermons, thanksgivings, and pater-nosters,
Hot suppers, dinners, (fitting other places
In verity much rather than the cloisters);
But such a love for you my heart embraces,
For thousand virtues which your bosom fosters.
That whereas'er you go I too shall be,
And, on the other part, you rest with me

LXXX.

"This may involve a seeming contradiction;
But you I know are sage, and feel, and taste,
And understand my speech with full conviction,
For your just pious deeds may you be graced
With the Lord's great reward and benediction,
By whom you were directed to this waste:
To his high mercy is our freedom due,
For which we render thanks to him and you.

LXXXI.

"You saved at once our life and soul: such fear
The giants caused us, that the way was lost
By which we could pursue a fit career
In search of Jesus and the saintly host.
And your departure breeds such sorrow here,
That comfortless we all are to our cost;
But months and years you could not stay in sloth
Nor are you form'd to wear our sober cloth:

LXXXII.

"But to bear arms, and wield the lance; indeed,
With these as much is done as with this cowl;
In proof of which the Scripture you may read.
This giant up to heaven may bear his soul
By your compassion: now in peace proceed.
Your state and name I seek not to unroll;
But, if I'm ask'd, this answer shall be given,
That here an angel was sent down from heaven
THE PROPHECY OF DANTE.

"If the accent of life gives me mystical love,
And coming events cast their shadows before.”

CAMPBELL.

DEDICATION.

LADY! if for the cold and cloudy clime,
Where was I born, but where I would not die,
Of the great Poet-Sire of Italy
I dare to build the imitative rhyme,
Harsh Banic copy of the South’s sublime,
Though art the cause; and howsoever I
Fall short of his immortal harmony,
Thy gentle heart will pardon me the crime.
Then, in the pride of Beauty and of Youth,
Spak’st; and for thee to speak and be obey’d
Are one; but only in the sunny South
Such sounds are utter’d, and such charms display’d.
So sweet a language from so fair a mouth—
Aye! to what effect would it not persuade?
   Ravenna, June 21, 1819.

PREFACE.

In the course of a visit to the city of Ravenna in the summer of 1819, it was suggested to the author that having composed something on the subject of Tasso’s confinement, he should do the same on Dante’s exile—the tomb of the poet forming one of the principal objects of interest in that city, both to the native and to the stranger.

"On this hint I spake," and the result has been the following four cantos, in terza rima, now offered to the reader. If they are understood and approved, it is my purpose to continue the poem in various other cantos to its natural conclusion in the present age. The reader is requested to suppose that Dante addresses him in the interval between the conclusion of his Divina Commedia and his death, and shortly before the latter event, foretelling the fortunes of Italy in general in the ensuing centuries. In adopting this plan I have had in my mind the Cassandra of Lycophron, and the Prophecy of Nereus by Horace, as well as the Prophecies of Holy Writ. The measure adopted is the terza rima of Dante, which I am not aware to have seen hitherto tried in our language except it may be by Mr. Hayley, of whose translation I never saw but one extract, quoted in the notes to Caliph Vathek; so that—if I do not err—this poem may be considered as a metrical experiment. The cantos are short, and about the same length of those of the poet whose name I have borrowed, and most probably taken in vain.

Among the inconveniences of authors in the present day, it is difficult for any one who have a name, good or bad, to escape translation. I have had the fortune to see the fourth canto of Childe Harold translated into Italian versi scioliti that is, a poem written in Spenserian stanza into blank verse, with out regard to the natural divisions of the stanzas, or of the sense. If the present poem, being on
national topic should chance to undergo the same fate, I would request the Italian reader to remember that when I have failed in the imitation of his great "Padre Alighier," I have failed in imitating that which all study and few understand, since to this day it is not yet settled what was the meaning of the allegory in the first canto of the Inferno, unless Count Marchetti's ingenious and probable conjecture may be considered as having decided the question.

He may also pardon my failure the more, as I am not quite sure that he would be pleased with my success, since the Italians, with a pardonable nationality, are particularly jealous of all that is left them as a nation—their literature; and in the present bitterness of the classic and romantic war, are but ill disposed to permit a foreigner even to approve or imitate them without finding fault with his ultramontane presumption. I can easily enter into this all, knowing what would be thought in England of an Italian imitator of Milton, or if a translation of Monti, or Pindemonte, or Arieti, should be held up to the rising generation as a model for their future poetical essays. But I perceive that I am deviating into an address to the Italian reader, when my business is with the English one, and be they few or many, I must take my leave of both.

CANTO I.

ONCE more in man's frail world! which I had left
So long that 'twas forgotten; and I feel
The weight of clay again,—too soon bereft
Of the immortal vision which could heal
My earthly sorrows, and to God's own skies
Lift me from that deep gulf without repeal,
Where late my ears rung with the damned cries
Of souls in hopeless bale; and from that place
Of lesser torment, whence men may arise
Pure from the fire to join the angelic race;
Mist whom my own bright Beatrice bless'd
My spirit with her light; and to the base
Of the eternal Triad! first, last, best,
Mysterious, three, sole, infinite, great God!
Soul universal! led the mortal guest,
Unblasted by the glory, though he trod
From star to star to reach the almighty throne.
Oh Beatrice! whose sweet limbs the sod
So long hath prest, and the cold marble stone,
Thou sole pure scraph of my earliest love,
Love so ineffable, and so alone,
That nought on earth could more my bosom move,
And meeting thee in heaven was but to meet
That without which my soul, like the arksless dove,
Had wander'd still in search of, nor her feet
Relieved her wing till found; without thy light
My paradise had still been incomplete.
Since my tenth sun gave summer to my sight
Thou wert my life, the essence of my thought,
Loved ere I knew the name of love, and bright
Still in these dim old eyes, now overwrought
With the world's war, and years, and banishment,
And tears for thee, by other woes untaught;
For mine is not's nature to be bent
By tyrannous faction, and the brawling crowd;
And though the long, long conflict hath been spent
In vain, and never more, save when the cloud
Which overhangs the Apennine, my mind's eye
Pierces to fancy Florence, once so proud
Of me, can I return, though but to die,
Unto my native soil, they have not yet
Quench'd the old exile's spirit, stern and high
But the sun, though not overcast, must set,
And the night cometh; I am old in days,
And deeds, and contemplation, and have met
Destruction face to face in all his ways.
The world hath left me, what it found me, pure,
And if I have not gather'd yet its praise,
I sought it not by any baser lure;
Man wrongs, and Time avenge, and my name
May form a monument not all obscure,
Though such was not my ambition's end or aim.
To add to the vain-glorious list of those
Who dabble in the pettiness of fame,
And make men's fickle breath the wind that blows
Their sail, and deem it glory to be class'd
With conquerors, and virtue's other foes,
In bloody chronicles of ages past.
I would have had my Florence great and free;
Oh Florence! Florence! unto me thou wast
Like that Jerusalem which the Almighty He
Wept over, 'but thou would'st not;' as the bird
Gathers its young, I would have gather'd thee
Beneath a parent pinion, badst thou heard
My voice; but as the adder, deaf and fierce,
Against the breast that cherished thee was stirr'd
Thy venom, and my state thou didst amerce
And doom this body forfeit to the fire.
Alas! how bitter is his country's curse
To him who for that country would expire,
But did not merit to expire by her,
And loves her, loves her even in her ire.
The day may come when she will cease to err,
The day may come she would be proud to have
The dust she dooms to scatter, and transfer
Of him whom she denied a home, the grave.
But this shall not be granted; let my dust
Lie where it falls; nor shall the soil which gave
Me breath, but in her sudden fury thrust
Me forth to breathe elsewhere, so reassure
My indignant bones, because her angry gust
Forsooth is over, and repeal'd her doom;
No,—she denied me what was mine—my roof,
And shall not have, what is not here—my tomb.
Too long her armed wrath hath kept aloof
The breast which would have bled for her, the heart
That beat, the mind that was temptation proof,
The man who fought, told'd, travelled, and each part
Of a true citizen fulfill'd, and saw
For his reward the Guelf's ascendent art
Pass his destruction even into a law.
These things are not made for forgetfulness
Florence shall be forgotten first; too raw
The wound, too deep the wrong, and the distress
Of such endurance too prolong'd to make
My pardon greater, her injustice less,
Though late repented; yet—yet for her sake
I feel some tender yearnings, and for thine
My own Beatrice, I would hardly take
Vengeance upon the land which once was mine,
And still is hallow'd by thy dust's return,
Which would protect the murderers like a shrine
And save ten thousand foes by thy sole urn.
BYRON'S WORKS.

Though, like old Marius from Minturno's marsh
And Carthage ruins, my lone breast may burn
At times with evil feelings hot and harsh,
And sometimes the last pangs of a vile foe
Writhe in a dream before me, and o'erarch
My brow with hopes of triumph,—let them go!
Such are the last infirmities of those
Who long have suffer'd more than mortal wo,
And yet being mortal still, have no repose,
But on the pillow of Revenge—Revenge,
Who sleeps to dream of blood, and waking glows
With the off-bailed, slaveless heart of change,
When we shall mount again, and they that trod
Be trampled on, while Death and At' range
O'er humbled heads and sever'd necks—Great God!
Take these thoughts from me—to thy hands I yield
My many wrongs, and thine almighty rod
Will fall on those who smote me,—be my shield!
As thou hast been in peril, and in pain,
In turbulent cities, and the tented field—
In toil, and many troubles borne in vain
For Florence,—I appeal from her to Thee!
Thee, whom I late saw in thy loftiest reign,
Even in that glorious vision, which to see
And live was never granted until now,
And yet thou hast permitted this to me.
Alas! with what a weight upon my brow
The sense of earth and earthly things come back,
Corrosive passions, feelings dull and bare,
The heart's quick throb upon the mental rock,
Long day, and dreary night; the retrospect
Of half a century bloody and black,
And the frail few years I may yet expect
Hasty and hopeless, but less hard to bear,
For I have been too long and deeply wear'd
On the lone rock of desolate Despair
To lift my eyes more to the passing sail
Which shuns that reef so horrible and bare,
Nor raise my voice—for who would heed my wail?
I am not of this people, nor this age,
And yet my harpings will unfold a tale
Which shall preserve these times when not a page
Of their perturbed annals could attract
An eye to gaze upon their civil rage,
Did not my verse emblaze full many an act
 Worthless as they who wrought it: 'tis the doom Of spirits, my order to be rack'd
In life, to wear their hearts out, and consume
Their days in endless strife, and die alone;
Then future thousands crowd around their tomb,
And pilgrims come from climes where they have known
The name of him—who now is but a name,
And wasting homage o'er the sullen stone,
Spread his,—by him unheard, unheeded—fame;
And mine at least hath cost me dear: to die
Is nothing, but to wither thus—to tame
My mind down from its own infinity—
To live in narrow ways with little men,
A common sight to every common eye,
A wanderer, while even wolves can find a den,
Ripp'd from all kindred, from all home, all things
That make communion sweet, and softer pain—
To feel me in the solitude of kings
Without the power that makes them bear a crown—
To envy every dove his nest and wings
Which waft him where the Apennine looks down
On Arno, till he perches, it may be,
Within my all inexorable town,

Where yet my boys are, and that fatal she:
Their mother, the cold partner who hath brought
 Destruction for a dowry—this to see
And feel, and know without repair, hath taught
A bitter lesson; but it leaves me free:
I have not vilely found, nor basely sought,
They made an exile—not a slave of me.

CANTO II.

The Spirit of the fervent days of Old,
When words were things that came to pass, and thought
Flash'd o'er the future, bidding men behold
Their children's children's doom already brought
Forth from the abyss of time which is to be,
The chaos of events, where lie half-wrought Shapes that must undergo mortality;
What the great Seers of Israel wore within,
That spirit was on them, and is on me,
And if Cassandra-like, amidst the din
Of conflict none will hear, or heaving head
This voice from out the Wilderness, the sin
Be theirs, and my own feelings be my meed,
The only guerdon I have ever known.
Hast thou not bled? and hast thou still to bleed
Italia? Ah! to me such things, foreshown
With dim sepulchral light, bid me forget
In thine irreparable wrongs my own;
We can have but one country, and even yet
Thou'rt mine—my bones shall be within thy breast,
My soul within thy language, which once set
With our old Roman sway in the wide West,
But I will make another tongue arise
As lofty and more sweet, in which express
The hero's ardor, or the lover's sighs,
Shall find alike such sounds for every theme
That every word, as brilliant as thy skies,
Shall realize a poet's proudest dream,
And make thee Europe's nightingale of song,
So that all present speech to thine shall seem
The note of meaner birds, and every tongue
Confess its barbarism, when compared with thine
This shalt thou owe to him thou didst so wrong,
Thy Tuscan Bard, the banish'd Ghibelline.
Woe! woe! the veil of coming centuries
Is rent,—a thousand years which yet supine
Lie like the ocean waves ere winds arise,
Heaving in dark and sullen undulation,
Float from eternity into these eyes;
The storms yet sleep, the clouds still keep their station,
The unborn earthquake yet is in the womb,
The bloody chaos yet expects creation,
But all things are disposing for thy doom;
The elements await but for the word,
"Let there be darkness!" and thou grow'st a tomb!

Yes! thou so beautiful, shall feel the sword,
Thou, Italy! so fair that Paradise,
Revived in thee, blooms forth to man restored;
Ah! must the sons of Adam lose it twice
Thou, Italy! whose ever golden fields,
Flush'd by the sunbeams solely, would suffice...
THE PROPHECY OF DANTE.

For the world's granary; thou, whose sky heaven gilds
With brighter stars, and robes with deeper blue;
Thou, in whose pleasant places Summer builds
Her palace, in whose cradle Empire grew,
And form'd the Eternal City's ornaments
From spoils of kings whom freemen overthrew;
Birthplace of heroes, sanctuary of saints,
Where earthly first, then heavenly glory made
Her home; thou, all which fondest fancy paints,
And finds her prior vision but portray'd
In feebler colors, when the eye—from the Alp
Of horrid snow, and rock, and shaggy shade
Of desert-loving pine, whose emerald scalp
Nods to the storm—dilates and dotes o'er thee,
And wistfully implores, as 'twere, for help
To see thy sunny fields, my Italy,
Nearer and nearer yet, and nearer still
The more approach'd, and dearest were they free,
Thou—Thou must wither to each tyrant's will;
The Goth hath been,—the German, Frank and Hun
Are yet to come,—and on the imperial hill
Ruin, already proud of the deeds done
By the old barbarians, there awaits the new,
Throned on the Palatine, while lost and won
Rome at her feet lies bleeding; and the hue
Of human sacrifice and Roman slaughter,
Troubles the clotted air, of late so blue,
And deepens into red the saffron water
Of Tiber, thick with dead; the helpless priest,
And still more helpless nor less holy daughter,
Wov'd to their God, have shrieking fled, and ceased
Their ministry; the nations take their prey,
Iberian, Almain, Lombard, and the beast
And bird, wolf, vulture, more humane than they
Are; these but gorge the flesh and lap the gore
Of the departed, and then go their way;
But those, the human savages, explore
All paths of torture, and insatiate yet,
With Ugolino hunger prowl for more.
Nine moons shall rise o'er scenes like this and set;
The chiefless army of the dead, which late
Beneath the traitor Prince's banner met,
Hath left its leader's ashes at the gate;
Had but the royal Rebel lived, perchance
Thou hadst been spared, but his involved thy fate.
Oh! Rome, the spoiler or the spoil of France,
From Brennus to the Bourbon, never, never
Shall foreign standard to thy walls advance
But Tiber shall become a mournful river.
Oh! when the strangers pass the Alps and Po,
Crush them, ye rocks! fixéd whelm them, and
for ever!
Why sleeps the idle avalanches so,
To topple on the lonely pilgrim's head?
Why doth Eridanus but overflow
The peasant's harvest from his turbid bed?
Were not each barbarous horder a nobler prey?
Over Cambyses' host the desert spread
Her sandy ocean, and the sea waves' sway
Roll'd over Pharaoh and his thousands,—why
Mountains and waters, do ye not as they?
And you, ye men! It means, who dare not die,
Sons of the conquerors who overthrew
"those who overthrew proud Xerxes, where yet lie
The dead whose tomb Oblivion never knew,
Are the Alps weaker than Thermopylas?
Their paws more alluring to the view
Of an invader? is it they, or ye,
That to each host the mountain-gate unbar,
And leave the march in peace, the passage free?
Why, Nature's self detains the victor's car,
And makes your land impregnable, if earth
Could be so; but alone she will not war,
Yet aids the warrior worthy of his birth
In a soil where the mothers bring forth men:
Not so with those whose souls are little worth;
For them no fortress can avoid,—the den
Of the poor reptile which preserves its sting
Is more secure than walls of adamant, when
The hearts of those within are quivering.
Are ye not brave? Yes, yet the Ausonian soil
Hath hearts, and hands, and arms, and hosts to bring
Against Oppression; but how vain the toil,
While still Division sows the seeds of woe.
And weakness, till the stranger reaps the spoil
Oh! my own beauteous land! so long laid low,
So long the grave of thy own children's hopes,
When there is but required a single blow.
To break the chain, yet—yet the Avenger stops,
And Doubt and Discord stop 'twixt thine and thee,
And join their strength to that which with thee copes;
What is there wanting then to set thee free,
And show thy beauty in its fullest light?
To make the Alps impassable; and we,
Her sons, may do this with one deed—Unite.

CANTO III.

FROM out the mass of never-dying ill,
The Plague, the Prince, the Stranger, and the Sword,
Vials of wrath but emptied to reful!
And flow again, I cannot all record
That crowds on my prophetic eye the earth
And ocean written o'er would not afford
Space for the annal, yet it shall go forth;
Yes, all, though not by human pen, is graven,
There where the farthest suns and stars have birth
Spread like a banner at the gate of heaven,
The bloody scroll of our millennial wrongs
Waves, and the echo of our groans is driven
Awith the sounds of archangelic songs,
And Italy, the martyr'd nation's gore,
Will not in vain arise to where belongs
Omnipotence and mercy evermore.
Like to a harpstring stricken by the wind,
The sound of her lament shall, rising o'er
The seraph voices, touch the Almighty Mind.
Meantime I, humblest of thy sons, and of
Earth's dust by immortality refined
To sense and suffering, though the vain may scoff,
And tyrants threat, and meeker victims bow
Before the storm because its breath is rough,
To thee, my country! whom before, as now,
I loved and love, devote the mournful lyre
And melancholy gift high powers allow
To read the future; and if now my fire
Is not as once it shone o'er thee, forgive!
I but foretell thy fortunes—then expire;
Think not that I would look on them and live
A spirit forces me to see and speak,
And for my guerdon grants not to survive;
My heart shall be pour’d over thee and break:
Yet for a moment, ere I must resume
Thy sable web of sorrow, let me take
Over the gleams that flash athwart thy gloom
A softer glimpse; some stars shine through thy night,
And many meteors, and above thy tomb

Leans sculptured Beauty, which Death cannot blight;
And from thine ashes soundless spirits rise
To give thee honor, and the earth delight.
Thy soil shall still be pregnant with the wise,
The gay, the learn’d, the generous, and the brave,
Native to thee as summer to thy skies,
Conquerors on foreign shores, and the far wave?
Discoverers of new worlds, which take their name;
For thee alone they have no arm to save,
And all thy recompense is in their fame,
A noble one to them, but not to thee—
Shall they be glorious, and thou still the same?
Oh! more than these illustrious far shall be
The being—and even yet he may be born—
The mortal saviour who shall set thee free,
And see thy diadem so changed and worn
By fresh barbarians, on thy brow replaced;
And the sweet sun replenishing thy morn,
Thy moral morn, too long with clouds defaced
And noxious vapors from Avernus risen.
Such as all they must breathe who are debased
By servitude, and have the mind in prison.
Yet through this century’d eclipse of wo
Some voices shall be heard, and earth shall listen;
Poets shall follow in the path I show,
And make it broader; the same brilliant sky
Which cheers the birds to song shall bid them glow,
And raise their notes as natural and high;
Tuneful shall be their numbers; they shall sing
Many of love, and some of liberty,
But few shall soar upon that eagle’s wing,
And look in the sun’s face with eagle’s gaze,
All free and fearless as the feather’d king,
But fly more near the earth; how many a phrase
Sublime shall lavish’d be on some small prince
In all the prodigality of praise!
And language, eloquently false, evince
The harlotry of genius, which, like beauty,
Too oft forgets its own self-reverence,
And looks on prostitution as a duty.
*He who once enters in a tyrant’s hall
As guest is slave, his thoughts become a boasty,
And the first lay which sees the chain enthrall
A captive, sees his half of manhood gone—!
The soul’s emasculation saddens all
His spirit; thus the Bard too near the throne
Quails from his inspiration, bound to please—,
How servile is the task to please alone!
To smooth the verse to suit his sovereign’s ease
And royal leisure, nor too much prolong
Aught save his eulogy, and find, and seize,
Or force, or forge his argument of song?
Thus trampe’d, thus condemn’d to Flattery’s trebles,
As tolls through all, still trembling to be wrong:
For fear some noble thoughts, like heavenly rebels,
Should rise up in high tresson to his brain,
He sings, as the Athenian spoke, with pebbles

In mouth, lest truth should stammer through his strain,
But out of the long file of sonneaters
There shall be some who will not sing in vain,
And he, their prince shall rank among my peers
And love shall be his torment; but his grief
Shall make an immortality of tears,
And Italy shall hail him as the Chief
Of poet-lovers, and his higher song
Of Freedom wreath him with as green a leaf.
But in a farther age shall rise along
The banks of Po two greater still than he;
The world which smiled on him shall laugh wrong
Till they are ashes, and repose with me.
The first will make an epoch with his lyre
And fill the earth with feats of chivalry;
His fancy like a rainbow, and his fire
Like that of Heaven, immortal, and his thought
Borne onward with a wing that cannot tire:
Pleasure shall, like a butterfly new caught
Flutter her lovely pinions o’er his theme,
And Art itself seem into Nature wrought
By the transparency of his bright dream—
The second, of a tenderer, sadder mood,
Shall pour his soul out o’er Jerusalem;
He, too, shall sing of arms, and Christian blood
Shed where Christ bled for man; and his high harp
Shall, by the willow over Jordan’s flood,
Revive a song of Sion, and the sharp
Conflict, and final triumph of the brave
And plious, and the strife of hell to warp
Their hearts from their great purpose, until wave
The red-cross banners where the first red Cross
Was crinsomed’ from his veins who died to save
Shall be his sacred argument; the loss
Of years, of favor, freedom, even of fame
Contested for a time, while the smooth gloss
Of courts would slide o’er his forgotten name,
And call captivity a kindness, meant
To shield him from insanity or shame.
Such shall be his meet guerdon! who was sent
To be Christ’s Laureat—they reward him well!
Florence dooms me but death or banishment,
Ferrara him a pittance and a cell,
Harder to bear and less deserved, for I
Had stung the factions which I strove to quell;
But this meek man, who with a lover’s eye
Will look on earth and heaven, and who will deign
To embalm with his celestial flattery,
As poor a thing as e’er was spaw’d to reign,
What will he do to merit such a doom?
Perhaps he’ll love,—and is not love in vain,
Torture enough without a living tomb?
Yet it will be so—he and his compeer,
The Bard of Chivalry, will both consume
In penury and pain too many a year,
And, dying in despondency, bequeath
To the kind world, which scarce will yield a tear
A heritage enriching all who breathe
With the wealth of a genuine poet’s soul,
And to their country a redoubled wreath,
Unmatch’d by time; not Hellas can unroll
Through her Olympiads such names, though one
Of hers be mighty;—and is this the whole
Of such men’s destiny beneath the sun?
Must all the finer thoughts, the thrilling sense,
The electric blood with which their arteries run
Their body’s self-tune soul with the intense
Feeling of that which is, and fancy of
That which should be, to such a recompense
Conduct? shall their bright plumage on the rough
Storm be still scattered? Yes, and it must be;
For, form'd of far too penetrable stuff,
These birds of Paradise but long to flee
Back to their native mansion, soon they find
Earth's mist with their pure pinions not agree,
And die or are degraded, for the mind
Succumbs to long infection, and despair,
And vulture passions flying close behind,
Await the moment to assail and tear;
And when at length the winged wanderers stoop,
Then is the grey-lord's triumph, then they share
The spoil, o'erpower'd at length by one fell swoop.
Yet some have been untouch'd who learn'd to bear,
Some whom no power could ever force to droop,
Who could resist themselves even, hardest care!
And task most hopeless; but some such have been,
And if my name among the number were,
That destiny austere, and yet serene,
Were prouder than more dazzling fame unblest;
The Alp's snow summit nearer heaven is seen,
Than the volcano's fierce eruptive crest,
Where splendor from the black abyss is sprung,
While the scorch'd mountain, from whose burning
A temporary torturing flame is wrung, [breath
Shines for a night of terror, then repels
Its fire back to the hell from whence it sprung,
The hell which in its entails ever dwells.

CANTO IV.

Many are poets who have never penn'd
Their inspiration, and perchance the best:
They felt, and loved, and died, but would not lend
Their thoughts to meaner beings; they compress'd
The god within them, and rejoin'd the stars
Unlaurell'd upon earth, but far more blest
Than those who are degraded by the jars
Of passion, and their frailties link'd to fame,
Conquerors of high renown, but full of scars.
Many are poets, but without the fame,
For what is poet but to create
From overfeeling good or ill; and aim
At an eternal life beyond our fate,
And be the new Prometheus of new men,
Bestowing fire from heaven, and then, too late,
Finding the pleasure given repaid with pain,
And vultures to the heart of the bestower,
Who having lavish'd his high gift in vain,
Lies chain'd to his lone rock by the sea-shore? So be it: we can bear.—But thus all they
Whose intellect is an o'ermastering power
Which still recoils from its incumbering clay,
Or lightens it to spirit, whatso'er
The form which their creations may essay,
Are bards; the kindled marble's bust may wear
More poesy upon its speaking brow,
Than aught less than the Homeric page may bear;
One noble stroke with a whole life may glow
Or daify the canvass till it shine
With beauty so surpassing all below,
That they who kneel to idols so divine
Break no commandment, for high heaven is there
Transfigured, transfigur'd: and the line

Of poesy, which peoples out the air
With thought and beings of our thought reflected
Can do no more: then let the artist share
The palm, he shares the peril, and delighted,
Faints o'er the labor unapproved—Alas!
Despair and Genius are too oft connected.
Within the ages which before me pass,
Art shall resume and equal even the sway,
Which with Apelles and old Phidias,
She held in Hellas' unforgotten day.
Ye shall be taught by Ruin to revive
The Grecian forms at least from their decay,
And Roman souls at last again shall live
In Roman works wrought by Italian hands,
And temples, loftier than the old temples, give
New wonders to the world; and while still stands
The austere Pantheon, into heaven shall soar
A dome, 13 its image, while the base expands
Into a fame surpassing all before,
Such as all flesh shall flock to kneel in: ne'er
Such sight hath been unfolded by a door
As this, to which all nations shall repair,
And lay their sins at this gate of heaven.
And the bold Architect unto whose care
The dark and from the range to raise it shall be given,
Whom all arts shall acknowledge as their lord
Whether into the marble chaos driven
His chisel bid the Hebrew, 13 at whose word
Israel left Egypt, stop the waves in stone,
Or hies of Hell be by his pencil pour'd
Over the damn'd before the Judgment throne, 14
Such as I saw them, such as all shall see,
Or fumes be built of grandeur yet unknown,
The stream of his great thoughts shall spring from
The Ghibelline, who traversed the three realms
Which form the empire of eternity.
Amidst the clash of swords, and clang of gongs,
The age which I anticipate, no less
Shall be the Age of Beauty, and while wheels
Calamity the nations with distress,
The genius of my country shall arise,
A Cedar towering o'er the Wilderness,
Lovely in all its branches to all eyes,
Frugant as fair, and recognized afar,
With whose native incense they shall rise.
Sovereigns shall pause amidst their sport of war,
Wean'd for an hour from blood, to turn and gaze
On canvas or on stone; and they who mar
All beauty upon earth, compel'd to praise,
Shall feel the power of that which they destroy,
And Art's mistaken gratitude shall raise
To tyrants, who but take her for a toy,
Emblems and monuments, and prostitute
Her charms to pontiffs proud, 18 who but employ
The man of genius as the meanest brute,
To bear a burden, and to serve a need,
To sell his labors and his soul to boot.
Who toils for nations may be poor indeed,
But free; who sweats for monarch is no more
Than the gilt chamberlain, who, clothed sad
and fee'd,
Stands sleek and slavish, bowing at his door
Oh, Power that rules and inspires! how
Is it that they on earth, whose earthly power
Is likest thine in heaven in outward show,
Leaning like thee in attributes divine,
Tread on the universal necks that bow,
And then assure us that their right are thine i
Ar'd how is it that they, the sons of fame, Whose inspiration seems to them to shine From high, they whom the nations ofest name, Must pass their days in penury or pain, Or step to grandeur through the paths of shame, And wear a deeper brand and gaudier chain? Or if their destiny be born aloof From lowliness, or tempted thence in vain, In their own souls sustain a harder proof, The inner war of passions deep and fierce? Florence! when thy harsh sentence razed my roof, I loved thee; but the vengeance of my verse, The hate of injuries which every year Makes greater, and accumulates my curse, Shall live, outliving all thou holdest dear, Thy pride, thy wealth, thy freedom, and even that, The most infernal of all evils here, The sway of petty tyrants in a state; For such sway is not limited to kings, And demagogues yield to them but in date, As swept off sooner; in all deadly things other, Which make men hate themselves, and one another: In discord, cowardice, cruelty, all that springs From Death the Sin-born's incest with his mother, In rank oppression in its rudest shape, The faction Chief is but the Sultan's brother, And the worst despot's far less human ape:

Florence! when this lone spirit, which so long Yearned, as the captive toiling at escape, To fly back to thee in despite of wrong, An exile, saddest of all prisoners, Who has the whole world for a dungeon strong Seas, mountains, and the horizon's verge for bars Which shut him from the sole small spot of earth Where—whatso'er his fate—he still were hers, His country's, and might die where he had birth Florence! when this lone spirit shall return To kindred spirits, thou wilt feel my worth, And seek to honor with an empty urn The ashes thou shalt ne'er obtain—Alas! "What have I done to thee, my people?" Stea Are all thy dealings, but in this they pass The limits of man's common malice, for All that a citizen could be I was; Raised by thy will, all things in peace or war, And for this thou hast war'd with me.—"Tis done I may not overlap the eternal bar Built up between us, and will die alone, Beholding with the dark eye of a seer The evil days to gifted souls foreshown, Foretelling them to those who will not hear. As in the old time, till the hour be come [a tear When truth shall strike their eyes through many And make them own the Prophet in his tomb

NOTES TO THE PROPHECY OF DANTE.

1. *Midst whom my own sweet Beatrice bless'd.* Page 511, line 59. The reader is requested to adopt the Italian pronunciation of Beatrice, sounding all the syllables.

2. *My paradise had still been incomplete.* Page 511, line 65. "Che soi por la belle opre Che fanno in Cielo il sole e l' altre stelle Dentro di lui si crede il Paradiso, Cosi se guardo" Pensar ben d'ici ch' ogni terren' piacere.

_Canto_, in which Dante describes the person of Beatrice, Strophe third.

3. *I would have had my Florence great and free.* Page 511, line 87. "L'Esilio che me' è dato onor mi tegno. Cader tra' buoni è pur di lode dognò." _Sonnets of Dante_, in which he represents Right, Generosity, and Temperance as banished from among men, and seeking refuge from Love, who inhabits b's bosom.

4. *The dust she dooms to scatter.* Page 511, line 103. "Ut si quis predictorum ullo tempore in fortiam dicti: communis pervenerit, tallis perveniens igne comburatur, sic quod maritur." Second sentence of Florence against Dante, and the fourteen accused with him.—The Latin is worthy of the sentence.

5. *Where yet my boys are, and that fatal she.* Page 512, line 69. This lady, whose name was Gemma, sprung from one of the most powerful Guelf families, named Donati. Corso Donati was the principal adversary of the Ghibellines. She is described as being "Almodum morosa, ut de Xantipp Socrates philosophi coniuge scriptum esse legitur," according to Giannozino Manetti. But Leonardo Arcino is scandalized with Boccace, in his life of Dante, for saying that literary men should not marry. "Qui il Boccaccio non ha pazienza, e dice, le mogli esser contrarie agli studi; e non si ricorda che Socrate il più nobile filosofo che mai fosse, ebbe moglie e figliuoli e uffici della Repubblica nella sua Città; e Aristote che, &c., &c., ebbe due mogli in vari tempi, ed ebbe figliuoli, e ricchezze assai.—B Marco

The statue of Moses on the monument of Julius II.

SONETTO
Di Giovanni Battista Zappi.

Chi è costui, che in dura pietra scolto,
Siede gigante; e le più illustre, e conte
Prove dell’arte avanza, e ha vive, e pronte
Le labbra si, che le parole ascolto?
Quest’è Moses; ben me ’l diceva il solito
Onor del mento; e ’l doppio raggio in fronte.
Quest’è Moses, quando scendea del monte
E gran parte del Nume avea nel volto.
Tal era allor, che le sonanti, e vaste
Acque ei sospese a se d’intorno, e tale
Quando il mar chiusse, e ne fe tomba altrui
E voi sue turbe un rio vitello alzate?
Alzata aveste imago a questa eguale?
Ch’era men follo l’adorar costui

14. Over the damn’d before the Judgment throne. Page 516, line 94

The Last Judgment, in the Sistine chapel.

15. The stream of his great thoughts shall spring, from me
Page 516, line 97.

I have read somewhere (if I do not err, for I can not recollect where) that Dante was so great a favorite of Michael Angelo’s, that he had designed the whole of the Divina Commedia; but that the volume containing these studies was lost by sea.

16. Her charms to pontiff’s proud, who but employ, &c.
Page 515, line 117.

See the treatment of Michael Angelo by Julius II., and his neglect by Leo X.

17. “What have I done to thee, my people?”
Page 516, line 41

“E scrissi più volte non solamente a particolari cittadini del reggimento, ma ancora al popolo, e in altro una Epistola assai lunga che comincia:

— Popula mi, quid feci tibi?”
Vita di Dante, scritta da Lionardo Arotino.
HEBREWS MELODIES.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The subsequent poems were written at the request of my friend, the Hon. D. Kinnaird, for a selection of Hebrew Melodies, and have been published, with the music arranged by Mr. Braham and Mr. Nathan.

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY.

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day deny's.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impair'd the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face:
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

THE HARP THE MONARCH MINSIRAJ, SWEPT.

The harp the monarch minstrel swept,
The King of men, the loved of Heaven,
Which music hollow'd while she wept
O'er tones her heart of hearts had given.
Redoubled be her tears, its chords are riven:
It soften'd men of iron mould,
It gave them virtues not their own;
No ear so dull, no soul so cold,
That felt not, fire! not to the tone,
"'ill David's lyre grew mightier than his throne!"

It told the triumphs of our King,
It wafted glory to our God;
It made our gladden'd valleys ring,
The cedars bow, the mountains nod;
Its sound aspired to Heaven and there abode
Since then, though heard on earth no more,
Devotion, and her daughter, Love,
Stil' bid the bursting spirit soar
To sounds that seem as from above,
In dreams that day's broad light can not remove.

IF THAT HIGH WORLD.

Is that high world, which lies beyond
Our own, surviving Love endeared;
If there the cherished heart be fond,
The eye the same, except in tears—
How welcome those unrodden spheres!
How sweet this very hour to die!
To soar from earth and find all fears
Lost in thy light—Eternity!

It must be so; 'tis not for self
That we so tremble on the brink;
And striving to o'erleap the gulf,
Yet cling to Being's severing link.
Oh! in that future let us think
To hold each heart the heart that shares,
With them the immortal waters drink,
And soul in soul grow deathless theirs!

THE WILD GAZELLE

The wild gazelle on Judah's hills
Exulting yet may bound,
And drink from all the living rills
That gush on holy ground;
Its alry step and glorious eye
May glance in timeless transport by—
A step as fleet, an eye more bright,
Hath Judah witness'd there:
Hebrew Melodies.

And o'er her scenes of lost delight
Inhabitants more fair.

Inhabitants more fair,
The cedars wave on Lebanon,
But Judah's statelier maids are gone.

More beat each palm that shades those plains
Than Israel's scatter'd race;
For, taking root, it there remains
In solitary grace:
It cannot quit its place of birth,
It will not live in other earth.

But we must wander witheringly,
In other lands to die;
And where our fathers' ashes be,
Our own may never lie;
Our temple hath not left a stone,
And Mockery sits on Salem's throne.

O! WEEP FOR THOSE.
Oh weep for those that wept by Babel's stream,
Whose shrines are desolate, whose land a dream;
Weep for the harp of Judah's broken shell;
Mourn where their God hath dwelt the Godless dwell!

And where shall Israel love her bleeding feet?
And when shall Zion's songs again seem sweet?
And Judah's melody once more rejoice
The hearts that leap'd before its heavenly voice?

Tribe of the wandering foot and weary breast,
How shall ye flee away and be at rest!
The wild dove hath her nest, the fox his cave,
Mankind their country—Israel but the grave!

ON JORDAN'S BANKS.

O! Jordan's banks the Arab's camel stray,
Or Zion's hill the False One's votaries pray,
The Baal-adorer bows on Sinai's steep—
Yet there—even there—O God! thy thunders sleep!

There—where thy finger scorched the tablet stone!
There—where thy shadow to thy people shone.
Thy glory shrouded in its garb of fire:
Thyself—none living see and not expire!

O! in the lightning let thy glance appear!
Sweep from his shiver'd hand the oppressor's spear:
How long by tyrants shall thy land be trod?
How long thy temple worshipless, Oh God!

JEPHTHA'S DAUGHTER.

Since our Country, our God—Oh, my Sire!
Demand that thy Daughter expire;
Since thy triumph was bought by thy vow—
Strike the bosom that's bared for thee now;

And the voice of my mourning is o'er,
And the mountains behold me no more:
If the hand that I love lay me low,
There cannot be pain in the bow.

And of this, oh, my Father! be sure—
That the blood of thy child is as pure
As the blessing I beg ere it flow,
And the last thought that soothes me below

Though the virgins of Salem lament,
Be the judge and the hero uncost!
I have won the great battle for thee,
And my Father and Country are free!

When this blood of thy giving hath gush'd,
When the voice that thou lovest is hush'd,
Let my memory still be thy pride,
And forget not I smiled as I died!

OH! SNATCH'D AWAY IN BEAUTY'S BLOOM.

O! snatch'd away in beauty's bloom,
On thee shall press no ponderous tomb;
But on thy turf shall roses rear
Their leaves, the earliest of the year;
And the wild cypress wave in tender gloom:

And oft by yon blue gushing stream,
Shall Sorrow lean her drooping head,
And feed deep thought with many a dream,
And lingering pause and lightly tread;
Fond wretch! as if her step disturb'd the dead.

Away! we know that tears are vain,
That death nor needs nor hears distress;
Will this unteach us to complain?
Or make one mourner weep the less?
And ah! who tell'st me to forget,
Thy looks are wan, thine eyes are wet.

MY SOUL IS DARK.

My soul is dark—Oh! quickly string
The harp I yet can brook to hear;
And let thy gentle fingers fling
Its melting murmurs o'er mine ear.
If in this heart a hope be dear,
That sound shall charm it forth again:
If in these eyes there lurk a tear,
'Twill flow, and cease to burn my brain.

But bid the strain be wild and deep
Nor let thy notes of joy be first
I tell thee, minstrel, I must weep,
Or else this heavy heart will burst,
For it hath been by sorrow nurst,
And ached in sleepless silence long.
And now 'tis doom'd to know the worse,
And break at once—or yield to song.
I SAW THEE WEEP.

I saw thee weep—the big bright tear
   Came o’er that eye of blue;
And then methought it did appear
   A violet dropping dew:
I saw thee smile—the sapphire’s blaze
   Beside thee ceased to shine;
It could not match the living rays
   That fill’d that glance of thine.

As clouds from yonder sun receive
   A deep and mellow dye,
Which scarce the shade of coming eve
   Can banish from the sky,
Those smiles upon the moodiest mind
   Their own pure joy impart;
Their sunshine leaves a glow behind
   That lights o’er the heart.

THY DAYS ARE DONE.

Thy days are done, thy fame begun;
   Thy country’s strains record
The triumphs of her chosen Son,
   The slaughters of his sword!
The deeds he did, the fields he won,
   The freedom he restored!

Though thou art fall’n, while we are free
   Thou shalt not taste of death!
The generous blood that flow’d from thee
   Disdain’d to sink beneath:
Within our veins its currents be,
   Thy spirit on our breath!

Thy name, our charging hosts along,
   Shall be the battle-word!
Thy fall, the theme of choral song
   From virgin voices pour’d!
To weep would do thy glory wrong;
   Thou shalt not be depleted.

SONG OF SAUL BEFORE HIS LAST BATTLE.

Warriors and Chiefs! should the shaft or the sword
   Pierce me in leading the host of the Lord,
Heed not the corse, though a king’s, in your path:
   Bury your steel in the bosoms of Gath!

Thou who art bearing my buckler and bow,
   Should the soldiers of Saul look away from the foe,
Stretch me that moment in blood at thy feet!
   Mine be the doom which they dared not to meet.

Farewell to others, but never we part,
   Heir to my royalty, son of my heart!
Bright is the diadem, boundless the sway,
   Or kingly the death, which awaits us to-day!

SAUL.

Thou whose spell can raise the dead
   Bid the prophet’s form appear.
   “Samuel, raise thy buried head!
   King, behold the phantom seer!”
Earth yawned; he stood the centre of a cloud:
   Light changed its hue, retiring from his shroud.
Death stood all glassy in his fixed eye;
   His hand was wither’d, and his veins were dry:
His foot, in bony whiteness, glitter’d thence,
   Shrunken and sinewless, and ghastly bare:
From lips that moved not, and unbreathing frame
   Like cavern’d winds, the hollow accents came.
Saul saw, and fell to earth, as falls the oak,
   At once, and blasted by the thunder-stroke.

   “Why is my sleep disquieted?
   Who is he that calls the dead?
   Is it thou, O king? Behold,
   Bloodless are these limbs, and cold:
   Such are mine; and such shall be
   Thine to-morrow, when with me;
   Ere the coming day is done,
   Such shalt thou be, such thy son.
Fare thee well, but for a day;
   Then we mix our mouldering clay.
Thou, thy race, lie pale and low,
   Pierced by shafts of many a bow;
   And the falchion by thy side
   To thy heart thy hand shall guide;
Crownless, breathless, headless fall,
   Son and sire, the house of Saul!”

   “ALL IS VANITY, SAITH THE PREACHER.”

Fame, wisdom, love, and power were mine
   And health and youth possess’d me.
My goblets blush’d from every vine,
   And lovely forms caress’d me;
I sum’d my heart in beauty’s eyes,
   And felt my soul grow tender;
All earth can give, or mortal prize.
   Was mine of regal splendor.

I strive to number o’er what days
   Remembrance can discover,
Which all of life or earth displays
   Would lure me to live over.
There rose no day, there roll’d no hour
   Of pleasure unembitter’d;
And not a trapping deck’d my power
   That gall’d not while it glitter’d.

The serpent of the field, by art
   And spells, is won from harming;
But that which evils around the heart,
   Oh! who hath o’er of charming?
It will not list to wisdom’s lore,
   Nor music’s voice can lure it;
But there it stings for evermore
   The soul that must endure it.
WHEN COLDNESS WRAPS THIS SUFFERING CLAY.

When coldness wraps this suffering clay,
Ah, whither strays the immortal mind?
"I cannot die, it cannot stay,
But leaves its darken'd dust behind.
Then, unembodied, doth it trace
Fly steps each planet's heavenly way?
Oh! at once the realms of space,
A thing of eyes, that all survey?

Eternal, boundless, undiseg'd,
A thought unseen, but seeing all,
All, all in earth, or skies display'd,
Shall it survey, shall it recall:
Each fainter trace that memory holds
So darkly of departed years,
In one broad glance the soul beholds,
And all, that was, at once appears.

Before Creation peopled earth,
Its eye shall roll through chaos back;
And where the furthest heaven had birth,
The spirit trace its rising track.
And where the future mars or makes,
Its glance dilate o'er all to be,
While sun is quench'd or system breaks,
Fled in its own eternity.

Above or Love, Hope, Hate, or Fear,
It lives all passionless and pure:
An age shall fleet like earthly year;
Its years as moments shall endure.
Away, away, without a wing,
O'er all, through all, its thoughts shall fly;
A manless and eternal thing,
Forgetting what it was to die.

VISION OF BELSHAZZAR.

The king was on his throne,
The Satraps throng'd the hall;
A thousand bright lamps shone
O'er that high festival,
A thousand cups of gold,
In Judah deem'd divine—
Jehovah's vessels hold
The godless Heathen's wine.

In that same hour and hall,
The fingers of a hand
Came forth against the wall,
And wrote as if on sand:
The fingers of a man;—
A solitary hand
Along the letters ran,
And traced them like a wand.

The monarch saw, and shook,
And bade no more rejoice;
All bloodless wax'd his look,
And tremulous his voice.
"Let the men of lore appear,
The wisest of the earth,
And expound the words of fear,
Which mar our royal mirth."

CHALDEA'S SEERS ARE GOOD,
But here they have no skill;
And the unknown letters stood
Untold and awful still.
And Babel's men of age
Are wise and deep in lore
But now they were not sage,
They saw—but knew no more.

A captive in the land,
A stranger and a youth,
He heard the king's command,
He saw that writing's truth.
The lamps around were bright,
The prophecy in view;
He read it on that night,—
The morrow proved it true.

"Belshazzar's grave is made,
His kingdom pass'd away,
He, in the balance weigh'd,
Is light and worthless clay.
The shroud, his robe of state,
His canopy the stone;
The Mede is at his gate!
The Persian on his throne."

SUN OF THE SLEEPLESS!

Sun of the sleepless! melancholy star!
Whose tearful beam glows tremulously far,
That show'st the darkness thou canst not dispel,
How like art thou to joy remember'd well!
So gleams the past, the light of other days,
Which shines, but warms not with its powerless rays,
A night-beam Sorrow watcheth to behold,
Distinct, but distant—clear—but, oh how cold!

WERE MY Bosom AS FALSE AS THOU DEEM' ST IT TO BE.

Were my bosom as false as thou deem'st it to be
I need not have wander'd from far Galilee;
It was but adjuring my creed to efface
The curse which, thou say'st, is the crime of my race.

If the bad never triumph, then God is with thee!
If the slave only sin, thou art spotless and free!
If the Exile on earth is an Outcast on high,
Live on in thy faith, but in mine I will die.

I have lost for that faith more than thou canst betwixt,
As the God who permits thee to prosper doth know;
In his hand is my heart and my hope—and in thine
The land and the life which for him I resign.

HEROD'S LAMENT FOR MARIAMNE.

Oh, Mariamne! now for thee
The heart for which thou blest'st is bleeding;
Revenge is lost in agony,
And wild remorse to rage succeeding.
THE DESTRUCTION OF SENNACHARIB.

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown
That host on the morrow with its nestling was flown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he pass’d;
And the eyes of the sleepers were opened to a sight
That on the morrow to unsee’rdness again was blind.

And there lay the steed with his Nezil wide,
But through it there roll’d not the breath of his pride:
And the foam of his gazing lay white on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the river deep and serpents all slow,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his tail,
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unfurled, the trumpet unbown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are hewn in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glimpse of the Lord.

FROM JOB.

A SPIRIT pass’d before me: I beheld
The face of Immortality unvail’d—
Deep sleep came down on every eye, save mine—
And there it stood,—all formless—but divine:
Along my bones the creeping fife did quake;
And as my hair stiffen’d, then it spoke:

"Is man more just than God? Is man more pure
Than he who deems even Seraphs insecure?
Creatures of clay,—vain dwellers in the dust!
The mesh survives you, and are ye more just?
Things of a day! yee without are the night,
Headless and blind to Wisdom’s wasted light!"
ADVERTISEMENT.

At Ferrara, in the library, are preserved the original MSS of Tasso's Gerusalemme and of Guarini's Pastor Fido, with letters of Tasso, one from Titian to Ariosto; and the inkstand and chair, the tomb and the house of the latter. But as misfortune has a greater interest for posterity, and little or none for the contemporary, the cell where Tasso was confined in the hospital of St. Anna attracts a more fixed attention than the residence of the monument of Ariosto—at least it had this effect on me. There are two inscriptions, one on the outer gate, the second over the cell itself, inviting, unnecessarily, the wonder and the indignation of the spectator. Ferrara is much decayed, and depopulated; the castle still exists entire; and I saw the court where Parisina and Hugo were beheaded, according to the annals of Gibbon.

I.

Long years!—It tries the thrilling frame to bear
And eagle-spirit of a Child of Song—
Long years of outrage, calamity, and wrong;
Imputed madness, prison'd solitude,
And the mind's canker in its savage mood,
When the impatient thirst of light and air
Parches the heart; and the abhorred grate,
Marring the sunbeams with its hideous shade,
Works through the throbbing eyeball to the brain
With a hot sense of heaviness and pain;
And bare, at once, Captivity display'd
Stands scoffing through the never-open'd gate,
Which nothing through its bars admit, save day
And tasteless food, which I have eat alone
Fill its unsozial bitterness is gone;
And I can banquet like a beast of prey,
Tullen and lonely, couching in the cave
Which is my lair, and—it may be—my grave.
All this hath somewhat worn me, and may wear,
But must be borne. I stoop not to despair;
For I have battled with mine agony,
And made me wings wherewith to overfly
The narrow circus of my dungeon wall,
And fled the Holy Sepulchre from thral;
And revel'd among men and things divine,
And pour'd my spirit over Palestine,
In honor of the sacred war for him,
The God who was on earth and is in heaven,
For he hath strengthen'd me in heart and limb.
That through this sufferance I might be forgiven,
I have employ'd my penance to record
How Salem's shrine was won, and how adored

II.

But this is o'er—my pleasant task is done
My long sustaining friend of many years!
If I do blot thy final page with tears,
Know, that my sorrows have wrung from me none
But thou, my young creation! my soul's child!
Which ever playing round me came and smiled,
And wo'd me from myself with thy sweet sight.
Thou too art gone—and so is my delight.
And therefore do I weep and illy bleed
With this last bruise upon a broken reed,
Thou too art ended—what is left me now?
For I have anguish yet to bear—and how?
I know not that—but in the innate force
Of my own spirit shall be found resource.
I have not sunk, for I had no remorse,
Nor cause for such: they call'd me mad—and why?
Oh Leonora! wilt not thou reply?
I was indeed delirious in my heart
To lift my love so lofty as thou art;
But still my frenzy was not of the mind;
I knew my fault, and feel my punishment
Not less because I suffer it unbent.
That thou wilt beautiful, and I not blind,
Hath been the sin which shuts me from mankind.
But let them go, or torture as they will,
My heart can multiply thine image still;
Successful love may sate itself away,
The wretched are the faithful; 'tis their lot
To have all feeling save the one decay,
And every passion into one dilate,
As rapid rivers into ocean pour;
But ours is fathomless, and hath no shore

III.

Above me, hark! the long and maniac cry
Of minds and bodies in captivity.
And hark! the lash and the increasing howl,
And the half-inarticulate blasphemy!
There be some here with worse than frenzy foul,
some who do still goad on the o'er-labor'd mind, 
And dim the little light that's left behind 
With needless torture, as their tyrants will 
Is wound up to the lust of doing ill: 
With these and with their victims am I class'd, 
Mid sounds and sights like these long years have pass'd; 
Mid sights and sounds like these my life may close; 
So let it be—for then I shall repose.

IV.
I have been patient, let me be so yet; 
I had forgotten half I would forget, 
But it revives—oh! would it were my lot 
To be forgetful as I am forgetful—
Feel I not wroth with those who bade me dwell 
In this vast lazaret-house of many woes? 
Where laughter is not mirth, nor thought the mind, 
Nor words a language, nor ev'n men mankind; 
Where cries reply to curses, shrieks to blows, 
And each is tortured in his seperate hell—
For we are crowded in our solitudes— 
Many, but each divided by the wall, 
Which echoes Madness in her babbling moods;— 
While all can hear, none heed his neighbor's call—
None! save that One, the veriest wretch of all, 
Who was not made to be the mate of these, 
Nor bound between Distraction and Disease. 
Feel I not wroth with those who placed me here? 
Who have debased me in the minds of men, 
Debarring me the usage of my own, 
Blighting my life in best of its career, 
Branding my thoughts as things to shun and fear? 
Would I not pay them back these pangs again, 
And teach them inward sorrow's stifed groan? 
The struggle to be calm, and cold distress, 
Which undermines our Stoical success? 
No!—still too proud to be vindictive—
I have pardon'd princes' insults, and would die. 
Yes, Sister of my Sovereign! for thy sake 
I weep all bitterness from out my breast, 
It hath no business where thou art a guest; 
Thy brother hates—but I can not detest; 
Thou piest nor—but I can not forsake.

V.
Look on a love which knows not to despair, 
But all unquench'd is still my better part, 
Dwelling deep in my shut and silent heart, 
As dwells the gather'd lightning in its cloud, 
Encompass'd with its dark and rolling shroud, 
Till struck,—forth flies the all-ethereal dart! 
And thus at the collision of thy name 
The vivid thought still flashes through my frame, 
And for a moment all things as they were 
Fib'd by me;—they are gone—I am the same. 
And yet my love without ambition grew; 
I knew thy state, my station, and I knew 
A princess was no love-mate for a bard; 
I told it not, I breathed it not, it was 
Sufficient to itself, its own reward; 
And if my eyes reveal'd it, they, alas! 
Were punish'd by the silentness of thine, 
And yet I did not venture to repine. 
Thou wert to me a crystal-girded shrine, 
Worship'd at holy distance, and around 
Hallowed and mystically kiss'd the sainted ground; 
Not for thou wert a princess, but that Love 
Dath robed thee with a glory, and array'd 
Thy lineaments in beauty that dismay'd—

Oh! not dismay'd—but awed, like One above, 
And in that sweet severity there was 
A something which all softness did surpass— 
I know not how—th'genius master'd mine—
My star stood still before thee—if it were 
Presumptuous thus to love without design, 
That sad fatality hath cost me dear; 
But thou art dearest still, and I should be 
Fit for this cell, which wrongs me, but for thee 
The very love which lock'd me to my chain 
Hath lighten'd half its weight; and for the rest, 
Though heavy, lent me vigor to sustain, 
And look to thee with undivided breast, 
And foil the ingenuity of Pain.

VI.
It is no marvel—from my very birth 
My soul was drunk with love, which did pervade 
And mingle with whate'er I saw on earth; 
Of objects all inanimate I made 
Idols, and out of wild and lonely flowers, 
And rocks, whereby they grew, a paradise, 
Where I did lay me down within the shade 
Of waving trees, and dream'd uncounted hours, 
Though I was chid for wandering; and the wise 
Shook their white aged heads o'er me, and said 
Of such materials wretched men were made, 
And such a truant boy would end in wo, 
And that the only lesson was a blow; 
And then they smote me, and I did not weep, 
But cursed them in my heart, and to my haunt 
Returned and wept alone, and dream'd again 
The visions which arise without a sleep. 
And with my years my soul began to pant 
With feelings of strange tumult and soft pain; 
And the whole heart exhaled into One Want, 
But undefined and wandering, till the day 
I found the thing I sought, and that was thee 
And then I lost my being all to 
Absorb'd in thine—the world was pass'd away— 
Thou didst annihilate the earth to me!

VII.
I loved all solitude—but little thought 
To spend I know not what of life, remote 
From all communion with existence, save 
The maniac and his tyrant; had I been 
Their fellow, many years ere this had seen 
My mind like theirs corrupted to its grave, 
But who hath seen me writhe, or heard me rave? 
Perchance in such a cell we suffer more 
Than the wretched sailor on his desert shore; 
The world is all before him—mine is here, 
Soars twice the space they must accord my bier. 
What though he perish, he may lift his eye, 
And with a dying glance upbraids the sky— 
I will not raise my own in such reproof, 
Although 'tis clouded by my dungeon roof

VIII.
Yet do I feel at times my mind decline, 
But with a sense of its decay:—I see 
Unwonted lights along my prison shine, 
And a strange demon, who is vexing me 
With pitting pranks and petty pains, below 
The feeling of the healthful and the free; 
But much to One, who long hath suffer'd so 
Sickness of heart, and narrowness of place, 
And all that may be borne, or can debase
MONODY ON THE DEATH OF SHERIDAN.

I thought mine enemies had been but man,
But spirits may be leagued with them—all Earth
Abandons—Heaven forgets me;—in the dearth
Of such defiance the Powers of Evil can,
It may be, tempt me further, and prevail
Against the outworn creature they assail.
Why in this furnace is my spirit proved
Like steel in tempering fire? because I loved?
Because I loved what not to love, and see,
Was more or less than mortal, and than me.

IX.
I once was quick in feeling—that is o'er:—
My scars are callous, or I should have dash'd
My brain against these bars as the sun flash'd
In mockery through them;—if I hear and bore
The much I have recounted, and the more
Which hath no words, 'tis that I would not die
And sanction with self-slaughter the dull lie
Which snared me here, and with a brand of shame
Stamp madness deep into my memory,
And woo compassion to a blighted name,
Sealing the sentence which my foes proclaim.
No,—it shall be immortal! and I make
A future temple of my present cell,
Which nations yet shall visit for my sake.

While thou, Ferrara! when no longer dwell
The ducal chiefs within thee, shalt fall down,
And crumbling piecemeal view thy heartless hall.
A poet's wreath shall be thine only crown,
A poet's dungeon thy most far renown,
While stranger's wonder o'er thy unpeopled walls
And thou, Leonora! thou—who worth ashame
That such as I could love—who blush'd to hear
To less than monarchs that thou couldst be dear,
Go! tell thy brother that my heart, untame
By grief, years, weariness—and it may be
A taint of that he would impute to me—
From long infection of a den like this,
Where the mind rots congenital with the abyss,
Adores thee still;—and add—that when the towers
And battlements, which guard his joyous hours
Of banquet, dance, and revel, are forgot,
Or left unattended in a dull repose,
This—this shall be a consecrated spot!
But Thou—when all that Birth and Beauty throws
Of magic round thee is extinct—shalt have
One half the laurel which o'ershades my grave.
No power in death can tear our names apart,
As none in life could rend thee from my heart
Yes, Leonora! it shall be our fate
To be entwined for ever—but too late!

MONODY
ON THE DEATH OF THE RIGHT HON. R. B. SHERIDAN

SPOKEN AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

When the last sunshine of expiring day
In summer's twilight weeps itself away,
Who hath not felt the softness of the hour
Sink on the heart, as dew along the flower?
With a pure feeling which absorbs and awes,
While Nature makes that melancholy pause,
Her breathing moment on the bridge where Time
Of light and darkness forms an arch sublime,
Who hath not shared that calm so still and deep,
The voiceless thought which would not speak but
A hry concord—and a bright regret,
A glorious sympathy with suns that set?
'Tis not harsh sorrow—but a tender wo,
Nameless, but dear to gentle hearts below,
Felt without bitterness—but full and clear,
A sweet dejection—a transparent tear,
Unmix'd with worldly grief or selfish stain,
Shed without shame—and secret without pain.

Even as the tenderness that hour instils,
When Summer's day declines along the hills,
So feels the fulness of our heart and eyes,
When all of Genius which can perish dies.
A mighty Spirit is eclipsed—a Power
Hath pass'd from day to darkness—to whom
hour
Of light no likeness is bequeath'd—no name,
Focus at once of all the rays of Fame!
The flash of Wit—the bright Intelligence,
The beam of Song—the blaze of Eloquence,
Set with their Sun—but still have left behind
The enduring produce of immortal Mind;
Fruits of a genial morn, and glorious noon,
A deathless part of him who died too soon.
But small that portion of the wondrous whole,
These sparkling segments of that circling soul,
Which all embraced—and lighten'd over all,
To cheer—to pierce—to please—or to appall.
From the charm'd council to the festive board,
Of human feelings the unbounded lord;
In whose acclain the loftiest voices vied,
The praised—the proud—who made his praise their
pride.
When the loud cry of trampled Hiridostan*
Arose to heaven in her appeal from man,
His was the thunder—his the avenging rod,
The wrath—the delegated voice of God! [blazed
Which shook the nations through his lips—and
Till vanquish'd senators trembled as they praised.

And here, oh! here, where yet all young and warm,
The guy creations of his spirit charm,
The matchless dialogue—the deathless wit,
Which knew not what it was to intermit;
The glowing portraits, fresh from life, that bring
Home to our hearts the truth from which they spring;
These wondrous beings of his Fancy, wrought
To fulness by the fiat of his thought,
Here in their first abode you still may meet,
Bright with the hues of his Promethean heat,
A halo of the light of other days,
Which still the splendor of its orb betrays.

But should there be to whom the fatal blight,
Of failing Wisdom yields a base delight,
Men who exult when minds of heavenly tone
Jar in the music which was born their own,
Still let them pause—Ah! little do they know
That what to them seem'd Vice might be but Wo.
Hard is his fate on whom the public gaze
Is fix'd forever to detract or praise;
Repose denies her requiem to his name,
And Folly loves the martyrdom of Fame.
The secret enemy whose sleepless eye
Stands sentinel—accuser—judge—and spy,
The foe—the fool—the jealous—and the vain,
The envious who breathe the pain of others' pain,
Behold the host! delighted to deprave,
Who track the steps of Glory to the grave,
Watch every fault that daring Genius owes
Half to the ardor which his birth bestows,
Distort the truth, accumulate the lie,
And pile the pyramid of Calumny!

* See Fox, Burke, and Pitt's eulogy on Mr. Sheridan's speech on the
charges exhibited against Mr. Hastings in the House of Commons. Mr.
Pitt expressed the House as suffused, to give time for a calmer consideration
of the charges than could then occur after the immediate object of rage
worn.

These are his portion—but if join'd to these
Gaunt Poverty should league with deep Disease,
If the high Spirit must forget to soar,
And stoop to strive with Misery at the door,
To soothe the Indignity—and face to face
Meet sordid Rage—and wrestle with Disgrace,
To find in Hope but the renew'd caress,
The serpent-fold of further Faithlessness,—
If such may be the ills which men assail,
What marvel if at last the mightiest fall?
Breasts to whom all the strength of feeling given
Bear hearts electric—charged with fire from Heaven
Black with the rude collision, inflame torn,
By clouds surrounded, and on whirlwinds borne,
Driven o'er the lowering atmosphere that must
Thoughts which have turn'd to thunder—scorch—
and burst.

But far from us and from our mimic scene
Such things should be—if such have ever been;
Ours be the gentler wish, the kinder task,
To give the tribute Glory need not ask,
To mourn the vanquish'd beam—and add our rite
Of praise in payment of a long delight.
Ye Orators! whom yet our councils yield,
Mourn for the veteran Hero of our field!
The worthy rival of the wondrous Three!*
Whose words were sparks of Immortality!
Ye Bards! to whom the Drama's Muse is dear,
He was your Master—emulate him here!
Ye men of wit and social eloquence!
He was your brother hear his ashes hence!
While Pever's of mind, almost of boundless range,
Complete in kind—as various in their change,
While eloquence—Wit—Poesy—and Mirth,
That humble Harmonist of care on Earth,
Survive within our souls—while lives our sense
Of pride in Merit's proud pretminence,
Long shall we seek his likeness—long in vain,
And turn to all of him which may remain,
Sighing that Nature form'd but one such man,
And broke the die—in moulding Sheridan!

* See—Pit—Burke
ODE TO NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

"Expeude Ambitatem—quot Sera in dista numen iuovae."

"The Emperor Napoleon was acknowledged by the Senate, by the Italians, and by the Provinces of Gaul; his moral virtues, and military glories, were early celebrated; and those who desired any private benefit from his government, announced in prophetic strains the restoration of public felicity.

By this magnanimous abolition he prolonged his life a few years, in a very ambiguous state, between an Emperor and an Exile."


'*Tis done—but yesterday a King!
And arm'd with Kings to strive—
And now thou art a nameless thing:
So object—yet alive!
Is this the man of thousand thrones,
Who strew'd our earth with hostile bones,
And can he thus survive?
Since he, miscall'd the Morning Star,
Nor man nor fiend hath fallen so far.

Ill minded man! why scourge thy kind,
Who bow'd so low the knee?
By gazing on thyself grown blind,
Thou taught'st the rest to see.
With might unquestion'd—power to save
Thine only gift hath been the grave,
To those that worship'd thee;
Nor till thy fall could mortals guess
Ambition's less than littleness!

Thanks for that lesson—it will teach
To after-warriors more
Than high Philosophy can preach,
And vainly preach'd before.
That spell upon the minds of men
Breaks never to unite again,
That led them to adore
Those Pagod things of sabre-away,
With fronts of brass, and feet of clay

The triumph, and the vanity,
The rapture of the strife—
The earthquake voice of Victory,
To thee the breath of life
The sword, the sceptre, and that sway
Which man seem'd made but to obey,
Wherewith renown was rife—
All quell'd!—Dark spirit! what must be
The madness of thy memory!

The Desolator desolate!
The Victor overthrown.
The Arbiter of others' fate,
A Suppliant for his own!
Is it some yet imperial hope,
That with such change can calmly cope?
Or dread of death alone?
To die a prince—or live a slave—
Thy choice is most ignobly brave!

He of old would rend the oak,
Dream'd not of the rebound;
Chain'd by the trunk he vainly broke
Alone—how look'd he round?
Thou in the sternness of thy strength
An equal deed has done at length,
And darker fate has found:
He fell, the forest prowlers' prey,
But thou must eat thy heart away!

The Roman, when his burning heart
Was slaked with blood of Rome,
Threw down the dagger—dared depart,
In savage grandeur, home—
He dared depart in utter scorn
Of men that such a yoke had borne,
Yet left him such a doom!
His only glory was that hour,
Of self-uphold abandon'd power.

The Spaniard, when the lust of sway
Had lost its quickening spell,
Cast crowns for rosaries away,
An empire for a cell;
A strict accountant of his beads,
A subtle disputant on creeds,
His dotage trifled well:
Yet better had he neither known
A bigot's shrine, nor despot's throne.
But thou—from thy reluctant hand,
The thunderbolt is wrung—
Too late thou leav'st the high command,
To which thy weakness clung;
All Evil Spirit as thou art,
It is enough to grieve the heart,
To see thy own unstrung;
To think that God's fair world hath been
The footstool of a thing so mean!

And Earth hath spilt her blood for him,
Who thus can hoard his own!
And Monarchs bow'd the trembling limb,
And thank'd him for a throne!
Fair Freedom! we may hold thee dear,
When thus thy mightiest foes their fear
In humblest guise have shown.
Oh! ne'er may tyrant leave behind
A brighter name to lure mankind!

Thine evil deeds are writ in gore,
Nor written thus in vain—
Thy triumphs tell of fame no more,
Or deepen every strain—
If thou hast died as honor dies,
Some new Napoleon might arise,
To shame the world again—
But who would soar the solar height,
To set in su. a starless night?

Weigh'd in the balance, hero dust
Is vile as vulgar clay;
Thy scales, Mortality! are just
To all that pass away;
But yet methought the living great,
Some higher sparks should animate,
To dazzle and dismay;
Nor deem'd Contempt could thus make mirth
Of these, the Conquerors of the earth.

And she, proud Austria's mournful flower
Thy still imperial bride!
How bears her breast the torturing hour?
Still clings she to thy side?
Must she too bend, must she too share
Thy late repentance, long despair,
Thou throneless Homicide?
If still she loves thee, hoard that gem,
'Tis worth thy vanish'd diadem!

Then haste thee to thy sullen Isle,
And gaze upon the sea;
That element may meet thy smile,
It ne'er was ruled by thee!
Or trace with thine all idle hand,
In loitering mood upon the sand,
That earth is now as free!
That Corinth's pedagogue hath now
Transferr'd his by-word to thy brow.

Thou Timour! in his captive's cage,
What thoughts will there be thine,
While brooding in thy prison'd rage?
But one—'The world was mine!'
Unless, like he of Babylon,
All sense is with thy sceptre gone,
Life will not long confine
That spirit pour'd so widely forth—
So long obey'd—so little worth!

Or like the thief of fire from heaven,
Wilt thou withstand the shock?
And share with him, the unforgiven,
His vulture and his rock!
Foredoom'd by God—a man accurst,
And that last act, though not thy worst
The very Fiend's arch mock;
He in his fall preserved his pride,
And, if a moat, had as proudly died!

NOTES TO THE ODE TO NAPOLEON.

1. The rapture of the strife.
   Page 527, line 29.
   Certaminia gaudia, the expression of Attila in his
   harangue to his army, previous to the battle of Chal-
   lons, given in Cassiodorus.

2. He who of old would rend the oak.
   Page 527, line 46.
   Milo.

3. The Roman, when his burning heart.
   Page 527, line 55.
   Avilla.

4. The Spaniard when the lust of sway.

5. Thou Timour! in his captive's cage.
   Page 528, line 6.
   The sace of Bajazet, by order of Tamerlane.

6. Or like the thief of fire from heaven.
   Page 528, line 64.
   Prometheus.

7. The very fiend's arch mock.
   Page 528, line 7.
   "The fiend's arch mock—
   To lip a wanton, and suppose her chastity."—
   Shakespeare.
ODE ON VENICE.

I.
Our Venice! Venice! when thy marble walls
Are level with the waters, there shall be
A cry of nations o'er thy sunken halls,
A loud lament along the sweeping sea!
If I, a northern wanderer, weep for thee,
What should thy sons do?—any thing but weep:
And yet they only murmur in their sleep.
In contrast with their fathers—as the slime,
The dull green ooze of the receding deep,
Is with the dashing of the springtide foam
That drives the sailor shipless to his home,
Are they to those that were; and thus they creep,
Crouching and crab-like, through their sapping streets.
Oh! agony—that centuries should reap
No meadow harvest! Thirteen hundred years
Of wealth and glory turn'd to dust and tears;
And every monument the stranger meets,
Church, palace, pillar, as a mourner greets;
And even the Lion all subdued appears,
And the harsh sound of the barbarian drum,
With dull and daily dissonance, repeats
The echo of thy tyrant's voice along
The soft waves, once all musical to song,
That heaved beneath the moonlight with the throng
Of gondoliers—and to the busy hum
Of cheerful creatures, whose most sinful deeds
Were but the overbearing of the heart,
And flow of too much happiness, which needs
The aid of age to turn its course apart
From the luxuriant and voluptuous flood
Of sweet sensations, battling with the blood,
But these are better than the gloomy errors,
The weeds of nations in their last decay,
When Vice walks forth with her uns soften'd terrors,
And Mirth is madness, and but smiles to slay;
And Hope is nothing but a false delay,
The sick man's lightning half an hour ere death,
When Faintness, the last mortal birth of Pain,
And apathy of limb, the dull beginning
Of the cold staggering race which Death is winning,
Steals vein by vein and pulse by pulse away,
Yet so relieving the o'er-tortured clay,
To him appears renewal of his breath,
And freedom the mere numbness of his chain—
And then he talks of life, and how again
He feels his spirit soaring—albeit weak,
And of the fresher air, which he would seek—
And as he whispers knows not that he gasps,
That his thin finger feels not what it clasps,
And so the film comes o'er him—and the dizzv
Chamber swims round and round—and shadows busy
At which he vainly catches, fit and gleam,
Till the last rattle chokes the strangled sound,
And all is ice and blackness—and the earth
That which it was the moment ere our birth.

II.
There is no hope for nations!—Search the page
Of many thousand years—the daily scene,
The flow and ebb of each recurring age,
The everlasting to be which hath been,
Hath taught us nought or little: still we lean
On things that rot beneath our weight, and wear
Our strength away in wrestling with the air;
For 'tis our nature strikes us down: the beasts
Slaughter'd in hourly hecatombs for feasts
Are of as high an order—they must go
Even where their driver goads them, though or
slaughter.
Ye men, who purr your blood for kings as water,
What have they given your children in return?
A heritage of servitude and woe,
A blindfold bondage, where your hire is blows.
What! do not yet the red-hot ploughshares burn
O'er which you stumble in a false ordeal,
And deem this proof of loyalty the real,
Kissing the hand that guides you to your scars,
And gloying as you tread the glowing bars?
All that your sires have left you, all that Time
Bequeaths of free, and History of sublime,
Spring from a different theme!—Ye see and read,
Admire and sign, and then succumb and bleed!
Save the few spirits, who, despite of all,
And worse than all, the sudden crimes engender'd
By the down-thundering of the prison-wall,
And thirst to swallow the sweet waters tender'd,
Gushing from Freedom's fountains—when the crowd,
Madden'd with centuries of drought, are loud,
And trample on each other to obtain,
The cup which brings oblivion of a chain
Heavy and sore,—in which long yoked they plough'd
The sand,—or if there sprung the yellow grain,
'Twas not for them, their necks were too much bow'd,
And their dead palates chew'd the end of pain
Yes! the few spirits—who, despite of deeds.
Which they abhor, confound not with the cause,
Those momentary starts from Nature's laws,
Which, like the pestilence and earthquake, smite
But for a term, then pass, and leave the earth,
With all her seasons to repair the blight
With a few summers, and again put forth
Cities and generations—fair, when free—
For, Tyranny, there blooms no bud for thee!

III.
Glory and Empire! once upon these towers,
With Freedom—godlike Triad! how ye sate
The league of mightiest nations, in those hours
When Venice was an envy, might abide,
But did not quench, her spirit—in her fate
All were enwapp'd: the feasted monarchs knew
And loved their hostess, nor could learn to hate,
Although they humbled—with the kingly few
The many felt, for from all days and climes
She was the voyager's worship;—even her crimes
Were of the softer order—born of Love,
She drank no blood, nor fatten'd on the dead,
But gladden'd where her harmless conquests spread;
For these restored the Cross, that from above
Hallow'd her sheltering banners, which incessant
Flew between earth and the unholy Crescent,
Which, if it waned and dwindled, Earth may thank
The city it has clothed in chains, which clank
Now,创aking in the ears of those who owe
The name of Freedom to her glorious struggles;
Yet she but shares with them a common wo,
And call'd the 'kingdom' of a conquering foe,—
But knows what all—and, most of all, we know—
With what set gilded terms a tyrant joggles!

IV.
The name of Commonwealth is past and gone,
O'er the three fractions of the groaning globe;

Venice is crush'd, and Holland deigns to own
A sceptre, and endures the purple robe;
If the free Switzer yet bestrides alone
His chainless mountains, 'tis but for a time,
For tyranny of late is cunning grown,
And in its own good season tramples down
The sparkles of our ashes. One great clime,
Whose vigorous offspring by dividing ocean,
Are kept apart and nursed in the devotion
Of Freedom, which their fathers fought for, and
Béqueathed—a heritage of heart and hand,
And proud distinction from each other land,
Whose sons must bow them at a monarch's motion,
As if his senseless sceptre were a wand,
Full of the magic of exploded science—
Still one great clime, in full and free defiance,
Yet rears her crest, unconquer'd and sublime,
Above the far Atlantic!—She has taught
Her Esau-bredren that the haughty flag,
The floating fence of Albion's feeble crag,
May strike to those whose red right hands have
bought
Rights cheaply earn'd with blood.—Still, still, for ever
Better, though each man's life blood were a river,
That it should flow, and overflow, than creep
Through thousand lazy channels in our veins,
Damn'd like the dull canal with locks and chains,
And moving, as a sick man in his sleep,
Three paces, and then faltering—better be
Where the extinguish'd Spartans still are free,
In their proud channel of Thermopylae,
Than stagnate in our marsh,—or o'er the deep
Fly, and one current to the ocean add,
One spirit to the souls our fathers had,
One freeman more, America, to thee!
THE DREAM.

Was crown'd with a peculiar diadem
Of trees, in circular array, so fix'd,
Not by the sport of nature, but of man:
These two, a maiden and a youth, were there
Gazing—the one on all that was beneath
Fair as herself—but the boy gazed on her;
And both were young, and one was beautiful:
And both were young—yet not alike in youth.
As the sweet moon on the horizon's verge
The maid was on the eve of womanhood;
The boy had fewer summers, but his heart
Had far outgrown his years, and to his eye
There was, a one beloved face on earth,
And that was shining on him; he had look'd
Upon it till it could not pass away;
He had no breath, nor being, but in hers;
She was his voice; he did not speak to her,
But trembled on her words; she was his sight,
For his eye follow'd hers, and saw with hers,
Which color'd all his objects—he had ceased
To live within himself; she was his life,
The ocean to the river of his thoughts,
Which terminated all; upon her he slumber'd around
A touch of hers, his blood would ebb and flow
And his check change tempestuously—his heart
Unknowing of its cause of agony,
But she in these fond feelings had no share;
Her sighs were not for him; to her he was
Even as a brother—but no more; 'twas much,
For brotherless she was, save in the name
Her infant friendship had bestow'd on him;
Herself the solitary scion left
Of a time-honor'd race. —It was a name
Which pleased him, and yet pleased him not—and why?
Time taught him a deep answer—when she loved
Another: even now she loved another,
And on the summit of that hill she stood
Looking afar if yet her lover's steed
Kept pace with her expectancy, and flew.

III.
A change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
There was an ancient mansion, and before
Its walls there was a steel caparison'd:
Within an antique Oratory stood
The Boy of whom I spake; he was alone,
And pale, and pacing to and fro: anon
He sate him down, and seized a pen, and traced
Words which I could not guess of; then he lean'd
His bow'd head on his hands, and shook as 'twere
With a convulsion—then arose again,
And with his teeth and quivering hands did tear
What he had written, but he shed no tears.
And he did ca'n himself, and fix his brow
Into a kind of quiet; as he paused,
The Lady of his love recert'd there;
She was serene and smiling then, and yet
She knew she was by him belov'd,—she knew
For quickly comes such knowledge, that his heart
Was darken'd with her shadow, and she saw
That he was wretched, but she saw not all.
He rose, and with a cold and gentle grasp
He took her hand; a moment o'er his face
A tablet of unutterable thoughts
Was traced, and then it faded, as it came;
He dropp'd the hand he held, and with slow steps
Retired, but not as bidding her adieu,
For they did part with mutual smiles; he pass'd
From out the massy gate of that old Hall,
And mounting on his steed he went his way,
And ne'er repass'd that hoary threshold more.

IV.
A change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
The Boy was sprung to manhood: in the wilds
Of fiery climes he made himself a home,
And his Soul drank their sunbeams: he was girl
With strange and dusky aspects; he was not
Himself like what he had been; on the sea
And on the shore he was a wanderer;
There was a mass of many images
Crowded like waves upon me, but he was
A part of all: and in the last he lay
Reposing from the noontide sultriness,
Couch'd among fallen columns, in the shade
Of ruin'd walls that had survived the names
Of those who rear'd them; by his sleeping side
Stood camels grazing, and some goodly steeds
Were fasten'd near a fountain; and a man
Clad in a flowing garb did watch the while,
While many of his tribe slumber'd around:
And they were canopied by the blue sky,
So cloudless, clear, and purely beautiful,
That God alone was to be seen in Heaven.

V.
A change came o'er the spirit of my dream
The Lady of his love was wed with One
Who did not love her better: in her home,
A thousand leagues from his,—her native home.
She dwelt, begin with growing Infancy,
Daughters and sons of Beauty,—but behold!
Upon her face there was the tint of grief,
The settled shadow of an inward strife,
And an unquiet drooping of the eye
As if its lids were charged with unshed tears.
What could she grieve for?—she had all she loved,
And he who had so loved her was not there
To trouble with bad hopes, or evil wish,
Or ill-repressed affection, her pure thoughts.
What could such grief be?—she had loved him not
Nor given him cause to deem himself beloved,
Nor could he be a part of that which prey'd
Upon her mind—a spectre of the past.

VI.
A change came o'er the spirit of my dream
The Wanderer was return'd; I saw him stand
Before an Altar—with a gentle bride;
Her face was fair, but was not that which made
The Starlight of his Boyhood; —as he stood
Even at the altar, o'er his brow there came
The self-same aspect, and the quivering shock
That in the antique Oratory shook
His bosom in its solitude; and then—
As in that hour—a moment o'er his face,
The tablet of unutterable thoughts
Was traced,—and then it faded as it came,
And he stood calm and quiet, and he spoke
The fitting vows, but heard not his own words,
And all things reeld around him; he could see
Not that which was, nor that which should have
But the old mansion, and the accust'med hall,
And the remember'd chambers, and the place.
The day, the hour, the sunshine, and the shade
All things pertaining to that place and hour
And her who was his destiny, came back
And thrust themselves between him and the light:
What business had they there at such a time?

VII.
A change came o’er the spirit of my dream.
The lady of his love:—Oh! she was changed
As by the sickness of the soul; her mind
Had wandered from its dwelling, and her eyes
They had not their own lustre, but the look
Which is not of the earth; she was become
The queen of a fantastic realm; her thoughts
Were combinations of disjointed things;
And forms impalpable and unperceived
Of other’s sight familiar were to hers.
And this the world calls frenzy; but the wise
Have a far deeper madness, and the glance
Of melancholy is a fearful gift;
What is it but the telescope of truth?
Which strips the distance of its phantasies,
And brings life near in utter nakedness,
Making the cold reality too real!

VIII.
A change came o’er the spirit of my dream.
The Wanderer was alone as heretofore,
The beings which surrounded him were gone,
Or were at war with him; he was a mark
For blight and desolation, compass’d round
With Hatred and Contention; Pain was mix’d
In all which was served up to him, until,
Like to the Pontic monarch of old days,*
He fed on poisons, and they had no power,
But were a kind of nutriment; he lived
Through that which had been death to many men,
And made him friends of mountains: with the stars,
And the quick Spirit of the Universe
He held his dialogues; and they did teach
To him the magic of their mysteries;
To him the book of Night was open’d wide,
And voices from the deep abyss reveal’d
A marvel and a secret—be it so.

IX.
My dream was past; it had no further change.
It was of a strange order, that the doom
Of these two creatures should be thus traced out
Almost like a reality—the one.
To end in madness—both in misery.

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THE BLUES:
A LITERARY ECLOGUE.

"Nunciam no erode colori."
VIRGIL.
Oh trust not, ye beautiful creatures, to him,
Through your hair were as red as your stockings are blue.

ECLOGUE FIRST.

London—Before the Door of a Lecture Room.

Enter Tracy, meeting Inkell.

Ink. Yow’re too late.

Tracy. Is it over?

Ink. No; nor will be this hour.

But the benches are cram’d, like a garden in flower,
With the pride of our belles, who have made it the fashion;
So instead of "beaux arts," we may say "la belle passion."

For learning, which lately has taken the lead in
The world, and set all the fine gentlemen reading.

Tracy. I know it too well, and have worn out my patience
With studying to study your new publications.
There’s Vamp, Scamp, and Mouthy, and Words-words and Co.

With their damnable—
Ink. Hold, my good friend, do you know
Whom you speak to?

Tracy. Right well, boy, and so does the Row:—

You’re an author—a poet—

Ink. And think you that I
Can stand tamely in silence, to hear you decry
The Muses?

Tracy. Excuse me; I meant no offence
To the Nine; though the number who make some pretence.

To their favors is such—but the subject to drop,
I am just piping hot from a publisher’s shop,
(Next door to the pastry-cook’s; so that when I
Cannot find the new volume I wanted to buy
On the bibliopol’s shelves, it is only two paces,
As one finds every author in one of those places.)
Where I just had been skimming a charming critique,
So studded with wit, and so sprinkled with Greek!
THE BLUES.

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Where your friend—you know who—has just got
such a threshing,
That it is, as the phrase goes, extremely "refresh-
ing."
What a beautiful word!

Ink. Very true; 'tis so soft
And so cooling—they use it a little too oft;
And the papers have got it at last—but no matter.
So they've cut up our friend then?

Tra. Not left him a tatter—
Not a rag of his present or past reputation,
Which they call a disgrace to the age and the nation.

Ink. I'm sorry to hear this; for friendship, you know—
Our poor friend—but I thought it would terminate
so.

Our friendship is such, I'll read nothing to shock it.
You don't happen to have the Review in your pocket?

Tra. No; I left a round dozen of authors and
others
(Very sorry, no doubt, since the cause is a brother's)
All scrambling and jostling, like so many imps,
And on fire with impatience to get the next glimpse.

Ink. Let us join them.

Tra. What, won't you return to the lecture?
Ink. Why, the place is so cram'd there's no room
for a spectre.

Besides, our friend Scamp is to-day so absurd—
How can you tell that till you hear him?

Ink. I heard
Quite enough; and to tell you the truth, my retreat
Was from his vile nonsense, no less than the heat.

Tra. I have had no great loss then!

Ink. Loss!—such a palaver!
I'd inoculate sooner my wife with the slave
Of a dog when gone rabid, than listen two hours
To the torrent of trash which around him he pours,
Pump'd up with such effort, disgorg'd with such labor,
That—come—do not make me speak ill of one's
neighbor.

Tra. I make you!

Ink. Yes, you! I said nothing until
You compell'd me, by speaking the truth—

Tra. To speak ill?

Is that your deduction?

Ink. When speaking of Scamp ill,
I certainly follow, not set an example.
The fellow's a fool, an impostor, a zany.

Tra. And the crowd of to-day shows that one
fool makes many.

But we two will be wise.

Ink. Fray, then, let us retire.

Tra. I would, but—

Ink. There must be attraction much higher
Than Scamp, or the Jews' harp he nicknames his lyre,
I'd call you to this hot-bed.

Tra. I own it—'tis true—

A fair lady—

Tra. A spinster?

Ink. Miss Lilac!

Ink. The Blue!

The heiress?

Tra. The angel!

Ink. The devil! why, man!

Tra. You wed with Miss Lilac! 'twould be your perdition:
She's a poet, a chymist, a mathematician.
To be sure makes a difference.

Tru. I know what is what:
And you, who’re a man of the gay world, no less
Than a poet o’ t’ other, may easily guess
That I never could mean, by a word, to offend
A genius like you, and moreover my friend.

Ink. No doubt; you by this time ’should know
what is due
To a man of——but come—let us shake hands.

Tru. You knew,
And you know, my dear fellow, how heartily I,
Whatever you publish, am ready to buy.

Ink. That’s my bookseller’s business; I care not
for sale;
Indeed the best poems at first rather fail.
There were Renegade’s epics, and Botherby’s plays,
And my own grand romance——

Tru. Had its full share of praise.
I myself saw it puff’d in the “Old Girl’s Review.”

Ink. What Review?

Tru. ’Tis the English “Journal de Trevoux;”
A clerical work of our Jesuits at home.

Have you never yet seen it?

Ink. That pleasure’s to come.

Tru. Make haste then.

Ink. Why so?

Tru. I have heard people say
That it threatened to give up the ghost t’ other day.

Ink. Well, that is a sign of some spirit.

Tru. No doubt.
Shall you be at the Countess of Fiddlecombe’s rout?

Ink. I’ve a card, and shall go; but at present, as
soon
As friend Scamp shall be pleased to step down from
the moon,
(Where he seems to be soaring in search of his wits,) I’m engaged to the Lady Bluebottle’s collation,
To partake of a luncheon and learn’d conversation!
’Tis a sort of reunion for Scamp, on the days
Of his lecture, to treat him with cold tongue and
praise,
And I own, for my own part, that ’tis not unpleasant.
Will you go? There’s Miss Lilac will also be present.

Tru. That “metal’s attractive.”

Ink. No doubt—to the pocket.

Tru. You should rather encourage my passion
than shock it.
But let us proceed; for I think, by the hum——

Ink. Very true; let us go, then, before they can
come,
’Or else we’ll be kept here an hour at their levy,
On the rack of cross questions, by all the blue bevy.

Drunk! Zounds, they’ll be on us; I know by the
drone
Of Mr Botherby’s spouting, ex-cathedral tone,
Ay, ’tis here he is at it. Poor Scamp! better join
Your friends, or he’ll pay you back in your own coin.

Tru. All fair; ’tis but lecture for lecture.

Ink. That’s clear.
But for God’s sake let’s go, or the bore will be here.

Dun... dun... some, say, I’m off.

[Exit Inkel.

Tru. You are right, and I’ll follow;
’Tis high time for a “Sic me servavit Apollo.”

And let we shall have the whole crew on our kibes,
Blunt dandies, and dowagers, and second-hand
scribes.

All flocking to moisten their exquisite throttles
With a glass of Madeira at Lady Bluebottle’s.

[Exit Traci.

ECLOGUE SECOND.

An Apartment in the House of Lady Bluebottle
A Table prepared.

SIR RICHARD BLUEBOTTLE, solus

Was there ever a man who was married so sorry?
Like a fool, I must needs do the thing in a hurry
My life is reversed, and my quiet destroy’d; My days, which once pass’d in so gentle a void,
Must now, every hour of the twelve, be employ’d:

The twelve do I say?—of the whole twenty-four,
Is there one which I dare call my own any more?
What with driving and visiting, dancing and dining
What with learning, and teaching, and scribbling,
And shining,

In science and art, I’ll be curst if I know
Myself from my wife; for although we are two,
Yet she somehow contrives that all things shall be

Done in a style that proclaims us eternally one.
But the thing of all things which distresses me more
Than the bills of the week (though they trouble me
sore)
Is the numerous, humorous, backbiting crew
Of scribblers, wits, lecturers, white, black, and blue,
Who are brought to my house as an inn, to my cost

—for the bill here, it seems, is defray’d by the host—

No pleasure! no leisure! no thought for my pains,
But to hear a vile jargon which addles my brains;
A smatter and chatter, glean’d out of reviews,
By the rag, tag, and bobtail, of those they call
"Blues;"
A rabble who know not—but soft, here they come!
Would to God I were dead! as I’m not, I’ll be dumb

Enter Lady Bluebottle, Miss Lilac, Lady Bluebent, Mr. Botherby, Inkel, Tracy, Miss Mazarine, and others, with Scamp, the Lecturer, &c.

Lady Blueb. Ah! Sir Richard, good morning; I’ve

brought you some friends.

SIR RICH. (haste, and afterwards aside.) If friends,
they’re the first.

Lady Blueb. But the luncheon attends.
I pray ye be seated;” sans ceremonie.

Mr. Scamp, you’re fatigued; take your chair there,
next me. [They all sit

SIR RICH. (aside.) If he does, his fatigue is to come

Lady Blueb. Mr. Tracy—

Lady Bluebent—Miss Lilac—he pleased, ray, to
place ye;
And you, Mr. Botherby—

Both. Oh, my dear Lady,
I obey.

Lady Blueb. Mr. Inkel, I ought to upbraid ye:
You were not at the lecture.

Ink. Excuse me, I was;
But the heat forced me out in the best part—alas!

And when——

Lady Blueb. To be sure it was broiling; but then
You have lost such a lecture!
Both. The best of the ten.

Tru. How can you know that? there are two more.

Both. Because

I defy him to beat this day's wondrous applause.
The very walls shook.

Ink. Oh, if that be the test,
I allow our friend Scamp has this day done his best.

Miss Lil. No more, sir, I thank you. Who lectures next spring?

Both. Dick Dunder.

Ink. That is, if he lives.

Miss Lil. And why not?

Ink. No reason whatever, save that he's a sot.

Lady Bluemount! a glass of Maderia?

Lady Bluemount. With pleasure.

Ink. How does your friend Wordswords, that
Windermere treasure?

Does he stick to his lakes, like the leeches he sings,
And their gatherers, as Homer sung warriors and
kings?

Lady Blu. He has just got a place.

Ink. *As a footman?

Lady Bluemount. For shame!

Nor profane with your sneers so poetic a name.

Ink. Nay, I meant him no evil, but pitied his
master;

For the poet of pedlars 'twere, sure, no disaster
To wear a new livery; the more, as 'tis not
The first time he has turn'd both his creed and his
coat.

Lady Bluemount. For shame! I repeat. If Sir George
could but hear—

Lady Bluemount. Never mind our friend Inkel; we all
know, my dear,

'Tis his way.

Sir Rich. But this place—

Ink. Is perhaps like friend Scamp's;

A lecturer's.

Lady Bluemount. Excuse me—'tis one in the "the
Stamps;"

He is made a collector.

Tru. Collector!

Sir Rich. How?

Miss Lil. What?

Ink. I shall think of him oft when I buy a new hat:

There his works will appear—

Lady Bluemount. Sir, they reach to the Ganges.

Ink. I shant go so far—I can have them at
Grange's.*

Lady Bluemount. Oh fie!

Miss Lil. And for shame!

Lady Bluemount. You're too bad.

Both. Very good!

Lady Bluemount. How good?

Lady Bluemount. He means nought—'tis his phrase.

Lady Bluemount. He grows rude.

Lady Bluemount. He means nothing; nay, ask him.

Lady Bluemount. Pray, sir! did you mean

What you say?

Ink. Never mind if he did: 'twill be seen

That whatever he means won't alloy what he says.

Both. Sir!

Ink. Pray be content with your portion of praise;

Twas in your defence.

Both. If you please, with submission,

I can make out my own.

* Grange is or was a famous pastry-cook and fruitster in Piccadilly.

Ink. It would be your perdition

While you live, my dear Botherby, never defend
Yourself or your works, but leave both to a friend
Apropos—is your play then accepted at last?

Both. At last?

Ink. Why I thought—that's to say—there had
past

A few green-room whispers, which hinted—you
know

That the taste of the actors at best is so.

Both. Sir, the green-room's in rapture and so's the
committee.

Ink. Ay—yours are the plays for exciting our
"pity

And fear," as the Greek says: for "purging the
mind,

I doubt if you'll leave us an equal behind.

Both. I have written the prologue, and meant to
have pray'd

For a spice of your wit in an epilogue's aid.

Ink. Well, time enough yet, when the play's to
be play'd.

Is it cast yet?

Both. The actors are fighting for parts,

As is usual in that most litigious of arts.

Lady Bluemount. We'll all make a party and go the
first night.

Tru. And you promised the epilogue, Inkel.

Ink. Not quite.

However, to save my friend Betherby trouble,
I'll do what I can, though my pains must be double.

Tru. Why so?

Ink. To do justice to what goes before.

Both. Sir, I am happy to say, I've no fears on
that score.

Your parts, Mr. Inkel, are—

Ink. Never mind mine;

Stick to those of your play, which is quite your own
line.

Lady Bluemount. You're a fugitive writer I think, sir;

of rhymes?

Ink. Yes, ma'am; and a fugitive reader sometimes

On Wordswords, for instance. I seldom alight,

Or on Mouthey, his friend, without taking to flight

Lady Bluemount. Sir, your taste is too common; but

Time and posterity

Will right these great men, and this age's severity

Become its reproach.

Ink. I've no sort of objection,

So I'm not of the party to take the infection.

Lady Bluemount. Perhaps you have doubts that they

ever will take?

Ink. Not at all; on the contrary, those of the lake

Have taken already, and still will continue

To take—what they can, from a great to a guinea,

Of pension or place—; but the subject's a bore!

Lady Bluemount. Well, sir, the time's coming.

Ink. Scamp! don't you feel sore?

What say you to this?

Scamp. They have merit, I own;

Though their system's absurdity keeps it unknown.

Ink. Then why not unearth it in one of your
lectures?

Scamp. It is only time past which comes under
my strictures.

Lady Bluemount. Come, a truce with all tarteness;—

the joy of my heart

Is to see Nature's triumph o'er all that is art

Wild Nature!—Grand Shakspeare!
Both. And down Aristotle! Lady Blub. Sir George thinks exactly with Lady Bluebottle;

And my Lord Seventy-four, who protects our dear Bard,

And who gave him his place, has the greatest regard For the poet, who, singing of pedlars and asses, Has found out the way to dispense with Parnassus.

Tra. And you, Scamp,— Scamp. I needs must confess I'm embarrass'd.

Ink. Don't call upon Scamp, who's already so harrass'd

With old schools, and new schools, and no schools, and all schools.

Tra. Well, one thing is certain, that some must be fools.

I should like to know who.

Ink. And I should not be sorry To know who are not,—it would save us some worry.

Lady Blueb. A truce with remark, and let nothing control

This "feast of our reason, and flow of the soul." Oh, my dear Mr. Botherby! sympathise!—I Now feel such a rapture, I'm ready to fly, I feel so elastic—"so buoyant—so buoyant !" *

Ink. Tracy! open the window.

Tra. I wish her much joy on't.

Both. For God's sake, my Lady Bluebottle, check not

This gentle emotion, so seldom our lot

Upon earth. Give it way; 'tis an impulse which lifts

Our spirits from earth; the sublimest of gifts;

For which poor Prometheus was chain'd to his mountain.

'Tis the source of all sentiment—feeling's true fountain:

'Tis the Vision of Heaven upon Earth: 'tis the gas Of the soul: 'tis the seizing of shades as they pass,

* Fact from life, with the words

And making them substance: 'tis something divine:—

Ink. Shall I help you, my friend, to a little more wine?

Both. I thank you; not any more, sir, till I dine.

Ink. Apropos—do you dine with Sir Humphrey to-day?

Tra. I should think with Duke Humphrey was more in your way.

Ink. It might be of yore; but we authors now look To the knight, as a landlord. much more than the Duke.

The truth is, each writer now quite at his ease is, And (except with his publisher) dines where he pleases.

But 'tis now nearly five, and I must to the Park.

Tra. And I'll take a turn with you there till 'tis dark.

And you, Scamp— Scamp. Excuse me; I must to my notes,

For my lecture next week.

Ink. He must mind when he quotes Out of "Elegant Extracts."

Lady Blueb. Well, now we break up; But remember Miss Diddle invites us to sup.

Ink. Then at two hours past midnight we all meet again,

For the sciences, sandwiches, hock, and champagne!

Tra. And the sweet lobster salad!

Both. I honor that meal;

For 'tis then, that our feelings most genuinely—feel.

Ink. True; feeling is truest then, far beyond question;

I wish to the gods 'twas the same with digestion! Lady Blueb. Pahaw!—never mind that; for one moment of feeling Is worth—God knows what.

Ink. 'Tis at least worth concealing For itself, or what follows—But here comes your carriage.

Sir Rich. (aside.) I wish all these people were d—d with my marriage.  [Exeunt
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS

WRITTEN IN AN ALBUM.

As o'er the cold sepulchral stone,
Some name arrests the passer-by;
Thus, when thou view'st this page alone,
May mine attract thy pensive eye!

And when by thee that name is read,
Reflect on me as on the dead,
And think my heart is buried here.

September, 14th, 1809.

TO • • •

Oh, Lady! when I left the shore,
The distant shore, which gave me birth,
I hardly thought to grieve once more,
To quit another spot on earth:

Yet here, amidst this barren isle,
Where panting Nature droops the head,
Where only thou art seen to smile,
I view my parting hour with dread.

Though far from Albin's craggy shore,
Divided by the dark-blue main,
A few, brief, rolling seasons o'er,
Perchance I saw her cliffs again:

But whereas or I now may roam,
Through scorching clime, and varied sea,
Though Time restore me to my home,
I never shall bend mine eye on thee:

On thee, in whom at once conspire
All charms which heedless hearts can move,
Whom but to see is to admire,
And, oh! forgive the word—to love.

Forgive the word, in one who ne'er
With such a word can more offend;
And since thy heart I cannot share,
Believe me, what I am, thy friend.

And who so cold as look on thee,
Thou lovely wand'rer, and be less?
Nor be, what man should ever be,
The friend of Beauty in distress?

Ah! who would think that form had past
Through Danger's most destructive path,
Hath braved the Death-wing'd tempest's blast
And 'scaped a tyrant's fierce wrath?

Lady! when I shall view the walls
Where free Byzantium once arose;
And Stamboul's Oriental halls,
The Turkish tyrants now enclose;

Thou mightiest in the lists of fame,
That glorious city still shall be;
On me 'twill hold a dearer claim,
As spots of thy nativity:

And though I bid thee now farewell,
When I behold that wondrous scene,
Since where thou art I may not dwell,
'Twill soothe to be where thou hast been.

September, 1809.

STANZAS,

WRITTEN IN PASSING THE AMBRACIAN GULF

Through cloudless skies, a silver sheen
Full beams the moon on Actium's coast,
And on these waves, for Egypt's queen,
The ancient world was won and lost.

And now upon the scene I look,
The azure grave of many a Roman;
Where stern Ambition once forsook
His wavering crown to follow woman.

Florence! whom I will love as well
As ever yet was said or sung,
(Since Orpheus sang his spouse from hell,)—
Whilst thou art fair and I am young;
Sweet Florence! those were pleasant times,
When worlds were staked for ladies' eyes:
Had bards as many realms as rhymes,
Thy charms might raise new Anthonies.

Though Fate forbids such things to be,
Yet, by thine eyes and ringlets curl'd,
I cannot lose a world for thee,
But would not lose thee for a world.

November 16th, 1809.

STANZAS,

COMPOSED DURING THE NIGHT, IN A THUNDER-STORM, WHEN THE GUIDES HAD LOST THE ROAD TO ZITZA, NEAR THE RANGE OF MOUNTAINS FORMERLY CALLED PINDUS, IN ALBANIA.

Chill and mirk is the nightly blast,
Where Pindus' mountains rise,
And angry clouds are pouring fast,
The vengeance of the skies.

Our guides are gone, our hope is lost,
And lightnings, as they play,
But show where rocks our path have crost,
Or gild the torrent's spray.

Is yon a cot I saw, though low?
When lightning broke the gloom—
How welcome were its shade!—ah, no!
'Tis but a Turkish tomb.

Through sounds of foaming waterfalls,
I hear a voice exclaim—
My way-worn countryman, who calls
On distant England's name.

A shot is fired—by foe or friend?
Another—'tis to tell
The mountain-peasants to descend,
And lead us where they dwell.

Oh! who in such a night will dare
To tempt the wilderness?
And who 'mid thunder peals can hear
Our signal of distress?

And who that heard our shouts would rise
To try the dubious road?
Or rather deem from nightly cries
That outlaws were abroad.

Clouds burst, skies flash, oh, dreadful hour!
More fiercely pours the storm!
Yet here one thought has still the power
To keep my bosom warm.

While wand'ring through each broken path,
O'er brake and craggy brow;
While elements exhaust their wrath,
Sweet Florence, where art thou?

Not on the sea, not on the sea,
Thy bark hath long been gone:
Oh, may the storm that pours on me,
Bow down my head alone!

Full swiftly blew the swift Siroc,
When last I press'd thy lip;
And long ere now, with foaming shock
Impell'd thy gallant ship.

Now thou art safe; nay, long ere now,
Hast trod the shore of Spain;
'Twere hard if fraught so fair as thou
Should linger on the main.

And since I now remember thee,
In darkness and in dread,
As in those hours of revelry
Which mirth and music sped:

Do thou amidst the fair white walls,
If Cadiz yet be free,
At times from out her latticed halls,
Look o'er the dark blue sea;

Then think upon Calypso's isles,
Endear'd by days gone by;
To others give a thousand smiles,
To me a single sigh.

And when the admiring circle mark
The paleness of thy face,
A half-formed tear, a transient spark
Of melancholy grace,

Again thou'lt smile, and blushing shun
Some coxcomb's raillery;
Nor own for once thou thought'st of one,
Who ever thinks on thee.

Though smile and sigh alike are vain,
When sever'd hearts repine,
My spirit flies o'er mount and main,
And mourns in search of thine.

October 11th, 1810.

WRITTEN AT ATHENS.

This spell is broke, the charm is flown!
Thus is it with life's fitful fever!
We madly smile when we should groan;
Delirium is our best deceiver.
Each lucid interval of thought,
Recalls the woes of Nature's charter,
And he that acts as wise men ought,
But lives, as saints have died, a martyr.

January 16th, 1810.

WRITTEN AFTER SWIMMING FROM SESTOS TO ABYDOS. *

If, in the month of dark December,
Leander, who was nightly wont
(What maid will not the tale remember?)
To cross thy stream, broad Hellespont!

* On the third of May, 1810, while the Blaunche (Captain Bathurst), was lying in the Dardanelles, Lieutenant Eberhard of that frigate, and the writer of these rhymes, swam from the European shore to the Asiatic—by the
four Alydus to Sestos would have been more correct. The whole distance.
If, when the wintry tempest roar'd,
He sped to Hero, nothing loth,
And thus of old thy current pour'd,
Fair Venus! how I pity both!

For me, degenerate modern wretch,
Though in the genial month of May,
My dripping limbs I faintly stretch,
And think I've done a feat to-day.

But since he cross'd the rapid tide,
According to the doubtful story,
To woo,—and—Lord knows what beside,
And swam for Love, as I for Glory;

'Twore hard to say who fared the best:
Sad mortals! thus the Gods still plague you!
He lost his labor, I my jest;
For he was drown'd, and I've the ague.

May 9, 1810.

SONG.

Ζών μεθ' ες δύνατον.

MAID of Athens, ere we part,
Give, oh, give me back my heart!
Or, since that has left my breast,
Keep it now and take the rest!

Hear my vow before I go,
Ζών μεθ' ες δύνατον.

By those tresses unconfin'd,
You'd by each Εgean wind;
By those lids whose jetty fringe
Kiss thy soft cheeks' blooming tinge;
By those wild eyes like the roe,
Ζών μεθ' ες δύνατον.

By that lip I long to taste;
Ορ' that zone-encircled waist;
By all the token-flowers* that tell
What words can never speak so well;
By Love's alternate joy and woe,
Ζών μεθ' ες δύνατον.

TRANSLATION OF THE FAMOUS GREEK WAR SONG,

Written by Rigas, who perished in the attempt to revolutionize Greece. The following translation is as literal as the author could make it in verse; it is of the same measure as that of the original.

Sons of the Greeks, arise!
The glorious hour's gone forth,
And, worthy of such ties,
Display who gave us birth

CHORUS.

Sons of Greeks! let us go
In arms against the foe,
Till their hated blood shall flow
In a river past our feet.

Then manfully despising
The Turkish tyrant's yoke,
Let you, country see you rising,
And all her chains be broke.

Brave shades of chi and sages,
Behold the comet's fire!
Hell-hordes of past age,
Oh, start again to roar!

At the sound of my trumpet, breaking
Your sleep, oh, join with me!
And the seven-hill'd city seeking,
Fight, conquer, till we're free.

Sons of Greeks, &c.

Sparta, Sparta, why in slumber,
Lethargic dost thou lie?
Awake, and join thy numbers
With Athens, old ally!

Leonidas recalling,
That chief of ancient song,
Who saved ye once from falling.
The terrible! the strong!
Who made that bold diversion
In old Thermopylae,
And warring with the Persian
To keep his country free;
With his three hundred waging
The battle, long he stood,
And like a lion raging,
Expired in seas of blood.

Sons of Greeks, &c.

* Constantineople.
† Constantineople.
* Ενταλντος
TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAIC SONG,

"Μετέω με 'το νεό πετάλδα
Θάνατσαν Χαλδή."

THE SONG FROM WHICH THIS IS TAKEN IS A GREAT FAVORITE WITH THE YOUNG GIRLS OF ATHENS, OF ALL CLASSES. THEIR MANNER OF SINGING IT IS BY VERSES IN ROTATION, THE WHOLE NUMBER PRESENT JOINING IN THE CHORUS. I HAVE HEARD IT FREQUENTLY AT OUR "Χάποσ" IN THE WINTER OF 1810-11. THE AIR IS PLAIN-TIVE AND PRETTY.

I enter thy garden of roses,
Beloved and fair Haidée,
Each morning where Flora reposés,
For surely I see her in thee.
Oh, Lovely! 'tis low I implore thee;
Receive this fond truth from my tongue,
Which utter's its song to adore thee,
Yet trembles for what it has sung;
As the branch, at the bidding of Nature,
Adds fragrance and fruit to the tree,
Through her eyes, through her every feature,
Shines the soul of the young Haidée.

But the loveliest garden grows hateful,
When Love has abandon'd the bower's;
Bring me hemlock—since mine is ungrateful,
That herb is more fragrant than flowers.
The poison, when pour'd from the chalice,
Will deeply embitter the bowl;
But when drunk to escape from thy malice,
The draught shall be sweet to my soul.
Too cruel! in vain I implore thee
My heart from these horrors to save;
Will nought to my bosom restore thee?
Then open the gates of the grave.

As the chief who to coq advances,
Secure of his conquest before,
Thus thou, with those eyes for thy lances,
Hast pierced through my heart to its core.
Ah, tell me, my soul! must I perish
By pangs which a smile would dispel?
Would the hope, which thou once bad'st me cherish,
For torture repay me too well?
Now sad is the garden of roses,
Beloved but false Haidée!
There Flora all wither'd reposés,
And mourns o'er thine absence with me.

WRITTEN BENEATH A PICTURE.

Dear object of defeated care!
Though not of love and thee bereft,
To reconcile me with despair
Thine image and my tears are left.

'Tis said with Sorrow Time can cope;
But this I feel can ne'er be true:
For by the death-blow of my Hope
My Memory immortal grew

ON PARTING.

The kiss, dear maid! thy lip has left,
Shall never part from mine,
Till happier hours restore the gift
Untainted back to thine.

Thy parting glance, which fondly beams
An equal love may see:
The tear that from thine eyelid streams
Can weep no change in me.

I ask no pledge to make me blest
In gazing when alone;
Nor one memorial for a breast,
Whose thoughts are all thine own.

Nor need I write—to tell the tale
My pen were doubly weak:
Oh! what can idle words avail,
Unless the heart could speak?

By day or night, in weal or wo,
That heart no longer free,
Must bear the love it cannot show
And silent ache for thee.

TO THYRZA.

Without a stone to mark the spot,
And say, what truth might well have said
By all, save one, perchance forgot,
Ah, wherefore art thou lowly laid?

By many a shore and many a sea
Divided, yet beloved in vain;
The past, the future fled to thee
To bid us meet—no—ne'er again!

Could this have been—a word, a look
That softly said "We part in peace."
Had taught my bosom how to brook,
With fainter sighs, thy soul's release.

And didst thou not, since Death for thee
Prepared a light and pangless dart,
Once long for him thou ne'er shall see,
Who held, and holds thee in his heart?

Oh! who like him had watch'd thee here?
Or sadly mark'd thy glazing eye,
In that dread hour ere death appear,
Since silent sorrow fears to sigh,

Till all was past! But when no more
'Twas thine to reek of human wo,
Affection's heart-drops, gushing o'er,
Had flow'd as fast—as now they flow.

Shall they not flow, when many a day
In these, to me, deserted towers,
Ere call'd but for a time away,
Affection's mingling tears were ours?

Works.
Ours was the glance none saw beside;  
The smile none else might understand;  
The whisper’d thought of hearts allied,  
The pressure of the thrilling hand;

The kiss, so guiltless and refined  
That Love each warmer wish forebore,  
Those eyes proclaim’d so pure a mind,  
Even passion blush’d to plead for more.

The tone that taught me to rejoice,  
When prone, unlike thee to repine;  
The song, celestial from thy voice,  
But sweet to me from none but thine,

The pledge we wore—I wear it still,  
But where is thine?—ah, where art thou?  
Oft have I borne the weight of ill,  
But never bent beneath till now!

Well hast thou left in life’s best bloom  
The cup of wo for me to drain,  
If rest alone be in the tomb,  
I would not wish thee here again;

But if in worlds more blest than this  
Thy virtues seek a fitter sphere,  
Impart some portion of thy bliss,  
To wean me from mine anguish here,

Teach me—too early taught by thee!  
To hear, forgiving and forgiven:  
On earth thy love was such to me;  
It faim would form my hope in heaven!

STANZAS.

Away, away ye notes of wo!  
Be silent, thou once soothing strain,  
Or I must flee from hence, for oh!  
I dare not trust those sounds again.

To me they speak of brighter days—  
But lull the chords, for now, alas!  
I must not think, I may not gaze  
On what I am—on what I was.

The voice that made those sounds more sweet  
Is hush’d, and all their charms are fled;  
And now their softest notes repeat  
A dirge, an anthem o’er the dead!

Yes, Thyrza! yes, they breathe of thee,  
Beloved dust! since dust thou art;  
And all that once was harmony  
Is worse than discord to my heart!

'Tis silent all!—but on my ear  
The well-remember’d echoes thrill;  
I hear a voice I would not hear,  
A voice that now might well be still:

Yet oft my doubting soul ‘twill shake;  
Even slumber owns its gentle tone,  
Till consciousness will vainly wake  
To listen, though the dream be flown.

Sweet Thyrza! waking as in sleep,  
Then art but now a lovely dream;  
A star that trembled o’er the deep,  
Then turn’d from earth its tender beam;

But, he, who through life’s dreary way  
Must pass, when heaven is veil’d in wrath,  
Will long lament the vanish’d ray  
That scattered gladness o’er his path.

TO THYRZA.

One struggle more, and I am free  
From pangs that rend my heart in twain  
One last long sigh to love and thee,  
Then back to busy life again.

It suits me well to mingle now  
With things that never pleased before;  
Though every joy is fled below,  
What future grief can touch me more?

Then bring me wine, the banquet bring,  
Man was not form’d to live alone:  
I’ll be that light above meaning thing  
That smiles with ill, and weeps with none.

It was not thus in days more dear,  
It never would have been, but thou  
Hast fled, and left me lonely here;  
Thou’rt nothing, all are nothing now.

In vain my lyre would lightly breathe!  
The smile that sorrow fain would wear  
But mocks the wo that lurks beneath,  
Like roses o’er a sepulchre.

Though gay companions o’er the bowl  
Dispel awhile the sense of ill;  
Though pleasure fires the maddening soul  
The heart—the heart is lonely still!

On many a lone and lovely night  
It sooth’d to gaze upon the sky;  
For then I deem’d the heavenly light,  
Shone sweetly on thy pensive eye:

And oft I thought at Cynthia’s noon,  
When sailing o’er the Ægean wav.  
“Now Thyrza gazes on that moon”  
Alas, it gleam’d upon her grave!

When stretch’d on fever’s sleepless bed  
And sickness shrunk my throbbing veins  
“Tis comfort still,” I faintly said,  
“That Thyrza cannot know my pains;”  
Like freedom to the time-worn clare,  
A boon ’tis idle then to give,  
Relenting Nature vainly gave,  
My life, when Thyrza ceased to live!

My Thyrza’s pledge in better days,  
When love and life alike were new!  
How different now thou meet’st my gaze!  
How ting’d by time with sorrow’s hue!  
The heart that gave itself with thee,  
Is silent—ah, were mine as still!  
Though cold as o’er the dead can be,  
It feels, it sickness with the chill.
Though Earth received them in her bed
And o'er the spot the crowd may tread,
In carelessness or mirth,
There is an eye which could not brook
A moment on that grave to look.

I will not ask where thou liest low,
Nor gaze upon the spot;
There flowers or weeds at will may grow,
So I behold them not:
It is enough for me to prove,
That what I loved and long must love
Like common earth can rot;
To me there needs no stone to tell,
'Tis Nothing that I loved so well

Yet did I love thee to the last
As fervently as thou,
Who didst not change through all the past
And cannot alter now.
The love where Death has set his seal,
Nor age can chill, nor rival steal,
Nor falsehood disavow:
And, what were worse, thou canst not see
Or wrong, or change, or fault in me.

The better days of life were ours;
The worst can be but mine:
The sun that cheers, the storm that lowers,
Shall never more be thine.
The silence of that dreamless sleep
I envy now too much to weep,
Nor need I to repine,
That all those charms have pass'd away;
I might have watch'd through long decay.

The flower in ripen'd bloom unmatch'd,
Must fall the earliest prey;
Though by no hand untimely snatch'd,
The leaves must drop away:
And yet it were a greater grief,
To watch it withering, leaf by leaf,
'Than see it pluck'd to-day;
Since earthly eye but ill can bear
To trace the change to foul from fair.

I know not if I could have borne
To see thy beauties fade;
The night that follow'd such a morn
Had warn a deeper shade:
Thy day without a cloud hath past,
And thou wert lovely to the last;
Extinguish'd, not decay'd:
As stars that shoot along the sky
Shine brightest as they fall from high

As once I wept, if I could weep
My tears might well be shed,
To think I was not near to keep
One vigil o'er thy bed;
To gaze, how fondly! on thy face,
To fold thee in a faint embrace,
Uphold thy drooping head;
And show that love, however vain,
Nor thou nor I can feel again.

Yet how much less it were to gain
Though thou hast left me free,
The loveliest things that still remain,
Than thus remember thee!
The aid of thine that cannot die
Through dark and dread Eternity
Returns again to me,
And more thy buried love endears
Than supt, except its living years.

STanzAS.
If sometimes in the haunts of men,
The image from my breast may fade,
The lonely hour presents again,
The semblance of thy gentle shade.
And now that sad and silent hour,
Thus much of thee can still restore,
And sorrow unobserved may pour
Theplaint she dare not speak before.

O, pardon that in crowds awhile,
I waste one thought I owe to thee,
And, self-condemn'd, appear to smile,
Unfaithful to thy Memory!
Nor deem that memory less dear,
That then I seem not to repine,
I would not fools should overhear,
One sight that should be wholly thine

If not the goblet pass unquaff'd,
It is not drain'd to banish care;
The cup must hold a deadlier draught,
That brings a Lethe for despair.
And could Oblivion set my soul
From all her troubled visions free,
I'd dash to earth the sweetest bowl
That drown'd a single thought of thee.

For well I know, that such had been
Thy gentle care for him, who now
Unmourn'd shall quit this mortal scene,
Where none regarded him, but thou;
And, oh! I feel in that was given,
A blessing never meant for me;
Thou wert too long a dream of Heaven,
For earthly love to merit thee.

March 14th, 1812.

ON A CORNELIAN HEART WHICH WAS BROKEN.

ILL-FATED Heart: and can it be,
That thou shouldst thus be rent in twain?
Have years of care for thine and thee
Alike be used in vain?

Yet precious seems each shatter'd part,
And every fragment dearer grown,
Since he who wears thee, feels thou art
A fitter emblem of his own.

TO A YOUTHFUL FRIEND.

Few years have pass'd since thou and I
Were firmest friends, at least, in name,
And childhood's gay sincerity
Preserved our feelings long the same.

But now, like me, too well thou know'st
What trifles oft the heart recall;
And those who once have lov'd the most,
Too soon forget they loved at all.

And such the change the heart displays,
So frail is early friendship's reign,
A month's brief lapse, perhaps a day's,
Will view thy mind estranged again.

If so, it never shall be mine
To mourn the loss of such a heart;
The fault was Nature's fault, not thine
Which made thee fickle as thou art,

As rolls the ocean's changing tide,
So human feelings ebb and flow;
And who would in a breast confide
Where stormy passions ever glow?

It boots not, that together bred,
Our childish days were days of joy;
My spring of life has quickly fled;
Thou, too, hast ceased to be a boy.

And when we bid adieu to youth,
Slaves to the specious world's control,
We sigh a long farewell to truth;
That world corrupts the noblest soul.

Ah, joyous season! when the mind
Dares all things boldly but to lie;
When thought ere spoke is unconfined,
And sparkles in the placid eye.

Not so in man's maturer years,
When man himself is but a tool,
When interest sways our hopes and fears
And all must love and hate by rule.

With fools in kindred vice the same,
We learn at length our faults to blend
And those, and those alone, may claim
The prostituted name of friend.

Such is the common lot of man:
Can we then 'scape from folly free?
Can we reverse the general plan,
Nor be what in turn must be?

No, for myself, so dark my fate
Through every turn of life hath been,
Man and the world I so much hate,
I care not when I quit the scene
BYRON’S WORKS.

But thou, with spirit frail and light,
Wilt shine awhile and pass away;
As glowworms sparkle through the night,
And dare not stand the test of day.

Alas! whenever folly calls
Where parasites and princes meet,
(For cherish’d first in royal halls,
The welcome vices kindly greet,)

Ev’n now thou’rt nightly seen to add
One insect to the fluttering crowd;
And still thy trifling heart is glad
To join the vain, and court the proud.

There dost thou glide from fair to fair,
Still simpering on with eager haste,
As flies along the gay parterre,
That taint the flowers they scarcely taste.

But say, what nymph will prize the flame
Which seems, as marshy vapors move,
To fit along from dame to dame,
An Ignis-fatuae gleam of love?

What friend for thee, howe’er inclin’d,
Will deign to own a kindred care?
Who will debase his manly mind,
For friendship every fool may share?

In time forbear; amidst the throng,
No more so base a thing be seen;
No more so idly pass along;
Be something, anything, but—mean.

TO • • • • •

WELL! thou art happy, and I feel
That I should thus be happy too;
For still my heart regards thy weal
Warmly, as it was wont to do.

Thy husband’s best—and ‘twill impart
Some pangs to view his happier lot,
But let them pass—Oh! how my heart
Would hate him, if he loved thee not!

When late I saw thy favorite child,
I thought my jealous heart would break,
But when th’ unconscious infant smiled,
I kiss’d it for its mother’s sake.

I kiss’d it, and repress’d my sighs,
Its father in its face to see;
But then it had its mother’s eyes,
And they were all to love and me.

Mary, adieu! I must away:
While thou art blest I’ll not repine,
But near thee I can never stay;
My heart would soon again be thine.

I deem’d that time, I deem’d that pride
Had quench’d at length my boyish flame,
Nor knew, till seated by thy side,
My heart in all, save hope, the same.

Yet was I calm; I knew the time
My breast would thrill before thy look,
But now to tremble were a crime—
We met, and not a nerve was shook

I saw thee gaze upon my face,
Yet meet with no confusion there,
One only feeling could’st thou trace,
The sullen calmness of despair.

Away! away! my early dream,
Remembrance never must awake,
Oh! where is Letho’s fabled stream?
My foolish heart be still, or break.

FROM THE PORTUGUESE.

In moments to delight devoted,
“ My life!” with tend’rest tone, you cry,
Dear words! on which my heart had doted,
If youth could neither fade nor die.

To death even hours like these must roll,
Ah! then repeat those accents never,
Or change “my life!” into “my soul!”
Which, like my love, exists for ever.

IMPRONTU, IN REPLY TO A FRIEND

When from the heart where Sorrow sits,
Her dusky shadow mounts too high,
And o’er the changing aspect sits,
And clouds the brow, or fills the eye,

If need not that gloom, which soon shall sink:
My thoughts their dungeon know too well;
Back to my breast the wanderers shrink,
And drop within their silent cell.

ADDRESS,

SPOKEN AT THE OPENING OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1812.

In one dread night our city saw, and sigh’d,
Bow’d to the dust, the Drama’s tower of pride:
In one short hour beheld the blazing fame, Apollo sink, and Shakespeare cease to reign.

Ye who beheld, (oh! sight admired and mourn’d, Whose radiance mock’d the ruin it adorn’d!)
Through clouds of fire the massy fragments riven,
Like Israel’s pillar, chase the night from heaven;
Saw the long column of revolving flames
Shake its red shadow o’er the startled Thames.
While thousands, throng’d around the burning dome,
Shrank back appall’d, and trembled for their home.
As gazed they, with thoughts’om the sky, the skies,
With lightnings awful as their own,
Till blackening ashes and the lonely wall
Usurp’d the Muse’s realm, and mark’d her fall;
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

say shall this new, nor less aspiring pile,
Rear'd where once rose the mightiest in our isle,
Know the same favor which the former knew,
A shrine for Shakespeare—worthy him and you?

Yes—it shall be—the magic of that name
Defies the scythe of time, the torch of flame;
On the same spot still consecrates the scene,
And bids the Drama be where she hath been.
This fabric's birth attest the potent spell—
Indulge our honest pride, and say, How well.

As soars this fame to emulate the last,
Oh! might we draw our omens from the past,
Some hour propitious to our prayers may boast
Names such as hollow still the dome we lost.
On Drury first your Siddons' thrilling art
O'erwhelm'd the gentlest, storm'd the sternest heart.
On Drury, Garrick's latest laurels grew;
Here your last tears retiring Roscius drew,
Sigh'd his last thanks, and wept his last adieu:
But still for living wit the wreaths may bloom
That only waste their odors o'er the tomb.
Such Drury claim'd and claims—nor you refuse
One tribute to revive his slumbering muse;
With garlands deck your own Menander's head!
Nor hoard your honors idly for the dead!

Dear are the days which made our annals bright,
Ere Garrick fled, or Brinsley ceased to write.
Heirs to their labors, like all high-born heirs,
Vain of our ancestry, as they of theirs;
While thus Remembrance borrows Banquo's glass
To claim the sceptred shadows as they pass,
And we the mirror hold, where imaged shine
Immortal names, emblazoned on our line,
Pause—ere their feebler offspring you condemn,
Reflect how hard the task to rival them!

Friends of the stage! to whom both Players and Plays
Must sue alike for pardon, or for praise,
Whose judging voice and eye alone direct
The boundless power to cherish or reject;
If e'er frivolity has led to fame,
And made us blush that you forbore to blame;
If e'er the sinking stage could condescend
To soothe the sickly taste it dare not mend,
All past reproach may present scenes refute,
And censure, wisely loud, be justly mute!
Oh! since your flat stamps the Drama's laws,
Forbear to mock us with misplaced applause;
So pride shall doubly nerve the actor's powers,
And reason's voice be echo'd back by ours!

This greeting o'er, the ancient rule obey'd,
The Drama's homage by her herald paid,
Receive your welcome too, whose every tone
Springs from our hearts, and fain would win your own.
The curtain rises—may our stage unfold,
Scenes not unworthy Drury's days of old!
Britons our judges, Nature for our guide,
Still may we please—long, long may you preside!

TO TIME.

TIME! on whose arbitrary wing
The varying hours must flag or fly,
Whose tardy winter, fleeting spring,
But drag or drive us on to die—

Hail thou! who on my mirth bestow'd
Those boons to all that know thee known
Yet better I sustain thy load,
For now I bear the weight alone.

I would not one fond heart should share
The bitter moments thou hast given;
And pardon thee, since thou couldst spare
All that I loved; to peace or heaven.

To them be joy or rest, on me
Thy future ills shall press in vain;
I nothing owe but years to thee,
A debt already paid in pain.

Yet even that pain was some relief;
It felt, but still forgot thy power:
The active agony of grief
Retards, but never counts the hour.

In joy I've sigh'd to think thy flight
Would soon subside from swift to slow:
Thy cloud could overcast the light,
But could not add a night to wo.

For then, however drear and dark,
My soul was suited to thy sky;
One star alone shot forth a spark
To prove thee—not Eternity.

That beam hath sunk, and now thou art
A blank; a thing to count and curse
Through each dull, tedious, trifling part,
Which all regret, yet all rehearse.

One scene even thou canst not deform;
The limit of thy sloth or speed,
When future wanderers bear the storm
Which we shall sleep too sound to heed.

And I can smile to think how weak
Thine efforts shortly shall be shown,
When all the vengeance thou canst wreak
Must fall upon—a nameless stone.

TRANSLATION OF A ROMANIC LOVE SON

Ah! Love was never yet without
The pang, the agony, the doubt,
Which rends my heart with ceaseless sigh.
While day and night roll darkling by.

Without one friend to hear my wo,
I faint, I die beneath the blow.
That Love had arrows, well I know;
Alas! I find them poison'd too.
Birds, yet in freedom, shun the not
Which Love around your haunts hath set;
Or circled by his fatal fire,
Your hearts shall burn, your hopes expire.

A bird of free and careless wing
Was I, through many a smiling spring;
But caught within the subtle snare,
I burn, and feebly flutter there.

Who ne'er have loved, and loved in vain,
Can neither feel nor pity pain,
The cold repulse, the look askance,
The lightning of Love's angry glance.

In flattering dreams I deem'd thee mine;
Now hope, and he who hoped, decline;
Like melting wax, or withering flower,
I feel my passion, and thy power.

My light of life! ah, tell me why
That panting lip, and alter'd eye?
My bird of love! my beauteous mate!
And art thou changed, and canst thou hate?

Mine eyes like wintry streams o'erflow:
What wretch with me would barter wo?
My bird! relent: one note could give
A charm, to bid thy lover live.

My curdling blood, my madd'ning brain,
In silent anguish I sustain;
And still thy heart, without partaking
One pang, exults—while mine is breaking.

Pour me the poison; fear not thou!
Thou canst not murder more than now;
I've lived to curse my natal day,
And love, that thus can lingering slay.

My wounded soul, my bleeding breast,
Can patience preach thee into rest?
Alas! too late, I dearly know,
That joy is harbinger of wo.

A SONG.

THOU art not false, but thou art fickle,
To those thyself so fondly sought;
The tears that thou hast forced to trickle
Are doubly bitter from that thought:
'Tis this which breaks the heart thou grievesest,
Too well thou lov'st—too soon thou leavest.

The wholly false the heart despises,
And spurns deceiver and deceit;
But she who not a thought disguises,
Whose love is as sincere as sweet,—
When she can change who loved so truly,
It feels what mine has felt so newly.

To dream of joy and wake to sorrow,
Is doom'd to all who love or live;
And if, when conscious on the morrow,
We scarce our fancy can forgive,
That cheated us in slumber only,
To leave the waking soul more lonely,

What must they feel whom no false vision,
But truest, tenderest passions warm'd?
Sincere, but swift in sad transition,
As if a dream alone had charm'd?
Ah! sure such grief is fancy's scheming,
And all thy change can be but dreaming!

ON BEING ASKED WHAT WAS THE
"ORIGIN OF LOVE."

The "Origin of Love!"—Ah, why
That cruel question ask of me,
When thou may'st read in many an eye
He starts to life on seeing thee?
And should'st thou seek his end to know
My heart forebodes, my fears foresee
He'll linger long in silent wo;
But live—until I cease to be.

REMEMBER HIM, &c.

REMEMBER him, whom passion's power
Scherely, deeply, vainly proved:
Remember thou that dangerous hour
When neither fell, though both were loved.

That yielding breast, that melting eye,
Too much invited to be blest;
That gentle prayer, that pleading sigh,
The wilder wish reproved, repress.

Oh! let me feel that all I lost
But saved thee all that conscience fears,
And blush for every pang it cost
To spare the vain remorse of years.

Yet think of this when many a tongue,
Whose busy accents whisper blame,
Would do the heart that loved thee wrong,
And brand a nearly blighted name.

Think that, what'er to others thou
Hast seen each selfish thought subdued
I bless thy purer soul even now,
Even now, in midnight solitude.

Oh, God! that we had met in time,
Our hearts as fond, thy hand more free,
When thou hadst loved without a crime,
And I been less unworthy thee!

Far may thy days, as heretofore,
From this our gaudy world be past!
And, that too bitter moment o'er,
Oh! may such trial be thy last!

This heart, alas! perverted long,
Its life itself destroy'd might there destroy;
To meet thee in the glittering throng,
Would wake Presumption's hope of joy.

Then to the things whose bliss or wo,
Like mine is wild and worthless all,
That world resign—such scenes forego,
Where those who feel must surely fall.
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

Thy youth, thy charms, thy tenderness,
Try soul from long seclusion pure;
From what even here hath past, may guess
What there thy bosom must endure.

Oh! pardon that imploring tear,
Since not by Virtue shed in vain,
My frenzy drew from eyes so dear;
For me they shall not weep again.

Though long and mournful must it be,
The thought that we no more may meet?
Yet I deserve the stern decree,
And almost deem the sentence sweet.

Still, had I loved thee less, my heart
Had then less sacrificed to thine;
It felt not half so much to part,
As if its guilt had made thee mine.

LINES

INSCRIBED UPON A CUP FORMED FROM A SKULL.

Start not—nor deem my spirit fled:
In me behold the only skull,
From which, unlike a living head,
Whatever flows is never dull.

I lived, I loved, I quaff'd, like thee;
I died let earth my bones resign:
Fill up—thou cannot injure me;
The worm hath fouler lips than thine.

Better to hold the sparkling grape,
Than nourish the earth-worm's slimy brood;
And circle in the goblet's shape
The drink of gods, than reptile's food.

Where once my wit, perseverance, hath shone,
In aid of others' let me shine;
And when, alas! our brains are gone,
What neither substitute than wine?

Quaff while thou canst—another race,
When thou and thine like me are sped,
May rescue thee from earth's embrace,
And rhyme and revel with the dead.

Why not? since through life's little day
Our heads such sad effects produce;
Redeem'd from worms and wasting clay,
This chance is theirs, to be of use.

Newstead Abbey, 1808.

ON THE DEATH OF SIR PETER PARKER,
BART.

There is a tear for all that die,
A mourner o'er the humblest grave;
But nations swell the funeral cry,
And Triumph weeps above the brave.

For them is Sorrow's purest sigh
O'er Ocean's leaving bosom sent;
In vain their bones unburied lie,
All earth becomes their monument.

A tomb is theirs on every page,
An epitaph on every tongue;
The present hours, the future age,
For them bewail, to them belong.

For them the voice of festal mirth
Grows hush'd, their name the only sound;
While deep Remembrance pours to Worth
The guilf's tributary round.

A theme to crowds that knew them not,
Lamented by admiring foes,
Who would not share their glorious lot?
Who would not die the death they chose?

And, gallant Parker! thus enshrined
Thy life, thy fall, thy fame shall be:
And early valor, glowing, find
A model in thy memory.

But there are breasts that bleed with thee
In wo, that glory cannot quell,
And shuddering hear of victory,
Where one so dear, so dauntless, fell.

Where shall they turn to mourn thee less?
When cease to hear thy cherish'd name?
Time cannot teach forgetfulness,
While Grief's full heart is fed by fame.

Alas! for them, though not for thee,
They cannot choose but weep the more,
Deep for the dead the grief must be,
Who ne'er gave cause to mourn before.

TO A LADY WEEPING

Weep, daughter of a royal line,
A Sire's disgrace, a realm's decay;
Ah, happy! if each tear of thine
Could wash a father's fault away!

Weep—for thy tears are Virtue's tears—
Auspicious to those suffering isles;
And be each drop in future years
Repaid thee by thy people's smiles!

March, 1812.

FROM THE TURKISH.

The chain I gave was fair to view,
The lute I added sweet in sound;
The heart that offer'd both was true,
And ill deserved the fate it found

These gifts were charm'd by secret spell,
Thy truth in absence to divine;
And they have done their duty well,
Alas! they could not teach thee thine.
That chain was firm in every link,
But not to bear a stranger's touch;
That lute was sweet—till thou could'st think,
In other hands its notes were such.

Let him, who from thy neck uncund
The chain which shiver'd in his grasp,
Who saw that lute refuse to sound,
Restring the chords, renew the clasp.

When thou wert changed, they alter'd too,
The chain is broke, the music mute.
'Tis past—to them and thee adieu—
False heart, frail chain, and silent lute.

SONNET.

TO GENEVRA.

Thick eyes' blue tenderness, thy long fair hair,
And the wan lustre of thy features—caught
From contemplation—where serenely wrought,
Seems Sorrow's softness charm'd from its despair—
Have thrown such speaking sadness in thine air,
That—but I know thy blessed bosom fraught
With mines of unalloy'd and stainless thought—
I should have deem'd thee doom'd to earthly care.
With such an aspect, by his colors blent,
When from his beauty-breathing pencil born,
(Except that thou hast nothing to repent,) The Magdalen of Guido saw the morn—
Such seem'st thou—but how much more excellent!
With nought: Remorse can claim—nor Virtue scorn.

SONNET.

TO GENEVRA.

Thy cheek is pale with thought, but not from wo,
And yet so lovely, that if Mirth could blush
Its rose of whiteness with the brightest flush,
My heart would wish away that ruder glow;
And dazzle not thy deep-blue eyes—but oh!
While gazing on them sterner eyes will gush,
And into mine my mother's weakness rush,
Soft as the last drops round heaven's airy bow,
For, through thy long dark lashes low depending,
The soul of melancholy Gentleness
Streams like a seraph from the sky descending,
Above all pain, yet pitying all distress;
At once such majesty with sweetness blending,
I worship more, but cannot love thee less.

INSCRIPTION

ON THE MONUMENT OF A NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

This Praise, which would be unmeaning Flattery
If inscribed over human bones,
Is but a just tribute to the Memory of
BOATSWAIN, a Dog,
Who was born at Newfoundland, May, 1803,
And died at Newwood Abbey, Nov. 10, 1806.

When some proud son of man returns to earth, Unknonv to glory, but upheld by birth,
The sculptor's art exhausts the pomp of we And storied urns record who rests below; When all is done, upon the tomb is seen, Not what he was, but what he should have been. But the poor dog, in life the firmest friend, The first to welcome, foremost to defend, Whose honest heart is still his master's own, Who labors, fights, lives, breathes for him alone, Unhonored falls, unnoticed all his worth, Denied in heaven the soul he held on earth: While man, vain insect! hopes to be forgiven, And claims himself a sole exclusive heaven. Oh man! thou feeble tenant of an hour, Debased by slavery, or corrupt by power, Who knows thee well must quit thee with disgust, Degraded mass of animated dust! Thy love is lust, thy friendship all a cheat, Thy smiles hypocrisy, thy words deceit! By nature vile, ennobled but by name, Each kindred brute might bid thee blush for shame Ye! who pereance behold this simple urn, Pass on—it honors none you wish to mourn; To mark a friend's remains these stones arise; I never know but one, and here he lies.

Newstead Abbey, Oct. 30, 1808.

FAREWELL.

FAREWELL! if ever fondest prayer
For others' weal avail'd on high,
Mine will not all be lost in air,
But waft thy name beyond the sky.
'Twere vain to speak, to weep, to sigh;
Oh! more than tears of blood can tell,
When wrung from guilt's expiring eye,
Are in that word—Farewell!—Farewell!

These lips are mute, these eyes are dry;
But in my breast, and in my brain,
Awake the pangs that pass not by,
The thought that ne'er shall sleep again.
My soul no deigns nor dares complain,
Though grief and passion there rebel;
I only know we loved in vain—
I only feel—Farewell!—Farewell!

BRIGHT BE THE PLACE OF THY SOUL

Bright be the place of thy soul!
No lovelier spirit than thine
E'er burst from its mortal control,
In the orbs of the blessed to shine.

On earth thou wert all but divine,
As thy soul shall immortally be;
And our sorrow may cease to repine.
When we know that thy God is with thee.
Light be the turf of thy tomb!
May its verdure like emeralds be;
There should not be the shadow of gloom,
In aught that reminds us of thee.

Young flowers and an evergreen tree
May spring from the spot of thy rest;
But nor cypress nor yew let us see;
For why should we mourn for the blest?

---

WHEN WE TWO PARTED.

When we two parted
In silence and tears,
Half broken-hearted
To sever for years,
Pale grew thy cheek and cold,
Colder thy kiss;
Truly that hour foretold
Sorrow to this.

The dew of the morning
Sunk chill on my brow—
It felt like the warning
Of what I feel now.
Thy vows are all broken,
And light is thy fame;
I hear thy name spoken,
And share in its shame.

They name thee before me,
A knell to mine ear;
A shudder comes o'er me—
Why wait thou so dear?
They know not I knew thee,
Who knew thee too well:—
Long, long shall I rue thee,
Too deeply to tell.

In secret we met—
In silence I grieve,
That thy heart could forget,
Thy spirit deceive.
If I should meet thee
After long years,
How should I greet thee?—
With silence and tears.

---

STANZAS FOR MUSIC.*

"O Lachrymarum fons, tenere solem
Ductantium oruis ex anno : quater
Pella in uno quod sanctum
Facies tu, pia Nymphae, erexit."

Gray's Poemata.

There's not a joy the world can give like that it
takes away,
When the glow of early thought declines in feeling's dull decay;

*Tis not on youth's smooth cheek the blush alone
which fades so fast,
But the tender bloom of heart is gone, ere youth
itself be past.

Then the few whose spirits float above the wreck of
happiness
Are driven o'er the shoals of guilt or ocean of
excess:
The magnet of their course is gone, or only points
in vain
The shore to which their shiver'd sail shall never
stretch again.

Then the mortal coldness of the soul like death
itself comes down;
It cannot feel for others' woes, it dare not dream
its own;
That heavy chill has frozen o'er the fountain of our
tears,
And though the eye may sparkle still, 'tis where
the ice appears.

Though wit may flash from fluent lips, and mirth
distract the breast,
Through midnight hours that yield no more their
former hope of rest;
'Tis but as ivy leaves around the ruin'd turret
wreath,
All green and wildly fresh without, but worn and
gray beneath.

Oh could I feel as I have felt,—or be what I have
been,
Or weep as I could once have wept, o'er many a
vanish'd scene:
As springs in deserts found seem sweet, all brackish
though they be,
So midst the wither'd waste of life, those tears
would flow to me. 1815

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STANZAS FOR MUSIC.

There be none of Beauty's daughters
With a magic like thee;
And like music on the waters
Is thy sweet voice to me:
When, as if its sound were causing
The charmed ocean's pining,
The waves lie still and gleaming,
And the lull'd winds seem dreaming
And the midnight moon is weaving
Her bright chain o'er the deep;
Whose breast is gently heaving,
As an infant's asleep:
So the spirit bows before thee,
To listen and adore thee;
With a full but soft emotion,
Like the swell of Summer's ocean.
FAIR THEE WELL.

"Also I they had been friends in youth;
But whispering tongues can poison truth:
And cunning lies live in realms above;
And life is theory; and youth is vain;
And to be wrong with one we love,
Dole work like madness in the brain:

But never either found another
To free the inward heart from pain—

Like cliffs, which have been rent asunder;
A density now flows between.

But neither beat, nor fear, nor shame,
Shall whereby do away, I ween,

The marks of that which once hath been."

—Cowper's Christian. j

FAIR THEE WELL! and if for ever,
Still for ever, fare thee well:
Even though unforgiving, never
'Gainst thee shall my heart rebel.

Would that breast were bared before thee,
Where thy head so oft hath lain,
While that placid sleep came o'er thee
Which thou ne'er canst know again:

Would that breast, by thee glanced over,
Every inmost thought could show!
Then thou wouldst at last discover
'Twas not well to spurn it so.

Though the world for this commend thee—
Though it smile upon the blow,
Even its praises must offend thee,
Founded on another's wo—

Though my many faults defaced me,
Could no other arm be found,
Than the one which once embraced me,
To inflict a curseless wound?

Yet, oh yet, thyself deceive not;
Love may sink by slow decay,
But by sudden wrench, believe not
Hearts can thus be torn away:

Still thine own its life retainest—
"Still must mine, though bleeding, beat;
And the undying thought which paineth
Is—that we no more may meet.

These are words of deeper sorrow
Than the wall above the dead;
Both shall live, but every morrow
Wake us from a widow'd bed.

And when thou wouldst solace gather,
When our child's first accents flow,
Wilt thou teach her to say "Father!"
Though his care she must forego?

When her little hands shall press thee,
When her lip to thine is press,
Think of him whose prayer shall bless thee,
Think of him thy love had bless'd!"

Should her lineaments resemble
Those thou never more may'st see
Then thy heart will softly tremble
With a pulse yet true to me.

All my faults perchance thou knowest,
All my madness none can know;
All my hopes, where'er thou goest,
Wither, yet with thee they go.

Every feeling hath been shaken;
Pride, which not a world could bow,
Bows to thee—by thee forsaken,
Even my soul forsakes me now.

But 'tis done—all words are idle—

Words from me are vainer still;—
But the thoughts we cannot bridle
Force their way without the will.—

Fare thee well!—thus disunited,
Torn from every nearer tie.
Sear'd in heart, and lone, and blighted,
More than this I scarce can die.

March 17, 1816

A SKETCH.*

"Honest—most loyal I
If that thou be'at a devil, I cannot kill thee."

—Shakespeare

Born in the garret, in the kitchen bred,
Promoted thence to deck her mistress' head;
Next—for some gracious service unexpress,
And from its wages only to be guess'd—
Raised from the toilet to the table,—where
Her wondering better's wait behind her chair
With eye unmoved, and forehead unabash'd,
She dines from off the plate she lately wash'd.
Quick with the tale, and ready with the lie—
The genial confidante, and general spy—
Who could, ye gods! her next employment guess—
An only infant's earliest governess!
She taught the child to read, and taught so well,
That she herself, by teaching, learn'd to spell.
An adept next in penmanship she grows,
As many a nameless slander deftly shows:
What she had made the pupil of herart,
None know—but that high Soul secured the heart,
And pant'd for the truth it could not hear,
With longing breast and undeluded ear.

Foil'd was perversion by that youthful mind,
Which Flattery fool'd not—Baseness could not blind
Deceit infect not—near Contagion soil—
Indulgence weaken—nor Example spoil—
Nor master'd Science tempt her to look down
On humbler talents with a pitying frown—
Nor Genius swell—nor Beauty render vain—
Nor Envy ruffle to retaliate pain—
Nor Fortune change—Pride raise—nor Passion bow—
Nor Virtue teach austerity—till now
Serenely purest of her sex that live,
But wanting one sweet weakness—to forgive,
Too shock'd at faults her soul can never know,
She deems that all could be like her below:

Poesy to all vice, yet hardly Virtue's friend,
For Virtue pardons those she would amend.

But to the theme—now laid aside too long,
The baleful burden of this honest song—

—Mrs. Chatterton.
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

TO ———

When all around grew drear and dark,
And reason half withheld her ray—
And hope but shed a dying spark
Which more misled my lonely way;

In that deep midnight of the mind,
And that internal strife of heart,
When dreading to be deem’d too kind,
The weak despair—the cold depart;

When fortune changed—and love fled far.
And hatred’s shafts flew thick and fast.
Thou wert the solitary star
Which rose and set not to the last.

Oh! blest be thine unbroken light!
That watch’d me as a seraph’s eye,
And stood between me and the night,
For ever shining sweetly high.

And when the cloud upon us came,
Which strove to blacken o’er thy ray—
Then purer spread its gentle flame,
And dash’d the darkness all away.

Still may thy spirit dwell on mine,
And teach it what to brave or brook—
There’s more in one soft word of thine
Than in the world’s defied rebuke.

Thou stood’st, as stands a lovely tree,
That still unbroken, though gently bent,
Still waves with fond fidelity
Its boughs above a monument.

The winds might rend—the sky light pour
But there thou wert—and still couldst be
Devoted in the stormiest hour
To shed thy weeping leaves o’er me.

But thou and thine shall know no blight,
Whatever fate on me may fall;
For heaven in sunshine will requite
The kind—and thee the most of all.

Then let the ties of baffled love
Be broken—thine will never break;
Thy heart can feel—but will not revive;
Thy soul, though soft, will never shake.

And these, when all was lost beside,
Were found and still are fix’d in thee—
And bearing still a breast so tried,
Earth is no desert—even to me.

ODE.

[FROM THE FRENCH.]

I.

We do not curse thee, Waterloo!
Though Freedom’s blood thy plain bedew
There ‘twas shed, but is not sure—
Rising from each gory trunk;

Though all her former functions are no more,
She rules the circle which she served before.
If mothers—none know why—before her quake;
If daughters dread her for the mothers’ sake;
If early habits—those false links, which bind
At times the loftiest to the meanest mind—
Have given her power too deeply to instil
The angry essence of her deadly will;
If like a snake she steal within your walls,
Till the black slime betray her as she crawls;
If like a viper to the heart she wind,
And leave the venom there she did not find;
What marvel that this bag of hatred works
Eternal evil latent as she lurks,
To make a Pandemonium where she dwells,
And reign the Hecate of domestic hells?
Skill’d by a touch to deepen scandal’s tints
With all the kind mendacity of hints,
While mingling truth with falsehood—snear’s with smiles—
A thread of candor with a web of wiles;
A plain blunt show of briefly-spoken seeming,
To hide her bloodless heart’s soul harden’d scheming;
A lip of lies—a face form’d to conceal;
And, without feeling, mock at all who feel:
With a vile mask the Gorgon would disown;
A cheek of parchment—and an eye of stone.
Mark, how the channels of her yellow blood
Ooze through her skin, and stagnate there to mud,
Cased like the centipede in saffron mail,
Or darker greenness of the scorpion’s scale—
(For drawn from reptiles only may we trace
Congenial colors in that soul or face)—
Look on her features! and behold her mind
As in a mirror of itself defined:
Look on the picture! deem it not overcharged—
There is no trait which might not be enlarged:
Yet true to “Nature’s journeymen,” who made
This monster when their mistress left off trade—
This female dog-star of her little sky,
Where all beneath her influence droop or die.

Oh! wretch without a tear—without a thought,
Save joy above the ruin thou hast wrought—
The time shall come, nor long remote, when thou
Shalt feel far more than thou inflictest now;
Feel for thy vile self-loving self in vain,
And turn thee howling in unpitied pain.
May the strong curse of crush’d affections light
Back on thy bosom with reflected blight!
And make thee in thy leprosy of mind
As loathsome to thyself as to mankind!
Till all thy self-thoughts curdle into hate,
Black—as thy will for others would create:
Till thy hard heart be calcined into dust,
And thy scull welter in its hideous crust.
Oh, may thy grave be sleepless as the bed,—
The widow’d couch of fire, that thou hast spread!
Then, when thou fain wouldst weary Heaven with
prayer—
Look on thine earthly victims—and despair!
Down to the dust!—and, as thou rost’st away,
Even worms shall perish on thy poisonous clay.
But for the love I bore, and still must bear,
To her thy malice from all ties would tear—
Thy name—thy human name—to every eye
The climax of all scorn should hang on high,
Exalted o’er thy less abhor’d companions—
And festering in the infancy of years.

* His sister, Mrs. Leigh.
Like the water-spout from ocean,
With a strong and growing motion—
It soars, and minglest in the air,
With that of lost LADROUER—
With that of him whose honor'd grave
Contains the " bravest of the brave."
A crimson cloud it spreads and glows,
But shall return to whence it rose;
When 'tis full 'twill burst asunder—
Never yet was heard such thunder
As then shall shake the world with wonder—
Never yet was seen such lightning
As o'er heaven shall then be bright'nin'!
Like the Wormwood Star foretold
By the sainted Seer of old,
Show'ring down a fiery flood,
Turning rivers into blood.*

II.

The Chief has fallen, but not by you,
Vanquishers of Waterloo!
When the soldier citizen
Sway'd not o'er his fellow men—
Save in deeds that led them on
Where glory smiled on Freedom's son—
Who, of all the despot's banded,
With that youthful chief competed?
Who could boast o'er France defeated,
Till lone Tyranny commanded?
Till, goaded by ambition's sting,
The Hero sunk into the King?
Then he fell—So perish all,
Who would men by man enthrall!

And thou, of the snow-white plume!
Whose realm refused thee e'en a tomb;†
Better hadst thou still been leading
France o'er hosts of hirelings bleeding,
Than sold thyself to death and shame
For a meanly royal name;
Such as he of Naples wears,
Who thy blood-bought title bears.
Little oldst thou deem, when dashing
On thy war-horse through the ranks,
Like a stream which burst its banks,
While helmets cleft, and sabres clashing,
Shone and shivered fast around thee—
Of the fate at last which found thee:
Was that haughty plume laid low
By a slave's dishonest blow?
Once—as the moon sways o'er the tide,
It roll'd in air, the warrior's guide;
Through the smoke-created night
Of the black and sulphur-fught,
The soldier raised his seeking eye
To catch that crest's ascendency,—

And, as it onward rolling rose,
So moved his heart upon our foes,
There, where death's brief pang was quickest:
And the battle's thickest
Slew'd beneath the advancing banner
Of the eagle's burning crest—
(Thrice with thunder-clouds to fan her,
Who could then her wing arrest—
Victory beaming from her breast?)
While the broken line enlarging
Fell, or fled along the plain;
There be sure was Murat charging!
There he ne'er shall charge again!

IV.

O'er glory's gone the invaders march,
Weeping Triumph o'er each level'd arch—
But let Freedom rejoice,
With her heart in her voice;
But, her hand on her sword,
Douby shall she be adored;
France has twice too well been taught
The " moral lesson " dearly bought—
Her safety sits not on a throne,
With CAPET or NAPOLEON!
But in equal rights and laws,
Hearts and hands in one great cause—
Freedom, such as God hath given
Unto all beneath his heaven,
With their breath, and from their birth,
Though Guilt would sweep it from the earth,
With a fierce and lavish hand
Scattering nations' wealth like sand;
Pouring nations' blood like water,
In imperial seas of slaughter!

V.

But the heart and the mind,
And the voice of mankind,
Shall arise in communion—
And who shall resist that proud union?
The time is past when swords subdued—
Man may die—the soul's renew'd:
Even in this low world of care
Freedom ne'er shall want an heri;
Millions breathe but to inherit
Her for ever bounding spirit—
When once more her hosts assemble,
Tyrants shall believe and tremble—
Smile they at this idle threat?
Crimson tears will follow yet

FROM THE FRENCH.

"ALL WISE, BUT PARTICULARLY SAVVY, AND A POLISH OFFICER WHO HAD BEEN EXALTED FROM THE RANKS BY BONAPARTE. HE CUMB TO HIS MASTER'S KNEES; WROTE A LETTER TO LORD KEITH, ENTREATING PERMISSION TO ACCOMPANY HIM, IN THE MOST MENTAL CAPACITY, WHICH COULD NOT BE ADMITTED."

MUST thou go, my glorious Chief,
Sever'd from thy faithful few?
Who can tell thy warrior's grief,
Madden'd o'er that long adieu?
Woman's love and friendship's zeal,
Dear as both has been to me—
What are they to all I feel,
With a soldier's faith for thee?

Idol of the soldier's soul!
First in fight, but mightiest now:
Many could a world control;
Thee alone no doom can bow.
By thy side for years I dared
Death; and envied those who fell,
When their dying shout was heard,
Blessing him they served so well.

Would that I were cold with those,
Since this hour I live to see;
When the doubts of coward foes,
Scarce dare trust a man with thee,
Dreading each should set thee free!
Oh! although in dungeons pent,
All their chains were light to me,
Gazing on thy soul unbent.

Would the sycophants of him,
Now so deaf to duty's prayer,
Were his borrow'd glories dim,
In his native darkness share?
Were that world this hour his own,
All thou calmly dest resign,
Could he purchase with that throne
Hearts like those which still are thine?

My chief, my king, my friend, adieu!
Never did I droop before;
Never to my sovereign sue,
As his foes I now implore:
All I ask is to divide
Every peril he must brave:
Sharing by the hero's side
His fall, his exile, and his grave.

ON THE STAR OF "THE LEGION OF HONOR."

[FROM THE FRENCH.]

Star of the brave!—whose beam hath shed
Such glory o'er the quick and dead—
I saw radiant and adored deceit;
Which millions rush'd in arms to greet,—
Wild meteor of immortal birth!
Why rise in Heaven to set on Earth?

Stars of slain heroes form'd thy rays;
Eternity flash'd through thy blaze;
The music of thy martial sphere
Was fame on high and honor here,
And thy light broke on human eyes,
Like a Volcano of the skies.

* Western one man was seen, whose left arm was shattered by a cannon ball, to wrench it off with the other, and throwing it up in the air, exclaim'd to his comrades 'Vive l'Etoile, Vere la France!' There were many other instances of the like; this you may, however, despise me as true.

Like lava roll'd thy stream of blood,
And swept down empires with its flood;
Earth rock'd beneath thee to her base,
As thou didst lighten through all space;
And the shorn Sun grew dim in air,
And set while thou wert dwelling there.

Before thee rose, and with thee grew,
A rainbow of the loveliest hue,
Of three bright colors, each divine,
And fit for that celestial sign;
For Freedom's hand had blended them,
Like tints in an immortal gem.

One tint was of the sunbeam's dyes;
One, the blue depth of Seraph's eyes;
One, the pure Spirit's veil of white
Had robed in radiance of its light:
The three so mingled did beseech
The texture of a heavenly dream.

Star of the brave! thy ray is pale,
And darkness must again prevail.
But, oh thou Rainbow of the free,
Our tears and blood must flow for thee.
When thy bright promise fades away
Our life is but a load of clay.

And Freedom hallows with her tread
The silent cities of the dead;
For beautiful in death are they
Who proudly fall in her array;
And soon, oh Goddess! may we be
For evermore with them or thee.

NAPOLEON'S FAREWELL

[FROM THE FRENCH.]

Farewell to the Land, where the gloom of my Glory
Arose and o'ershadow'd the earth with her name
She abandons me now—but the page of her story,
The brightest or blackest, is fill'd with my fame.
I have war'd with a word which vanquished me only
When the meteor of conquest allured me too far;
I have coped with the nations which dread me thus lonely,
The last single Captive to millions in war

Farewell to thee, France! when thy diadem crown'd me,
I made thee the gem and the wonder of earth,—
But thy weakness decrees I should leave as I found thee,
Decay'd in thy glory, and sunk in thy worth.
Oh! for the veteran hearts that were wasted
In strife with the storm, when their battles were won—
Then the Eagle, whose gaze in that moment was blasted,
Had still soar'd with eyes fix'd on victory's sun!
Farewell to thee, France!—but when Liberty rallies,
Once more in thy regions, remember me then—
The violet still grows in the depth of thy valleys;
Though with her, thy tears will unfold it again—
Yet, yet, I may well the hosts that surround us,
And yet may thy heart leap awake to my voice—
There are links which must break in the chain that
has bound us,
Turn thee and call on the Chief of thy choice.

**WRITTEN ON A BLANK LEAF OF "THE PLEASURES OF MEMORY."**

**ABSENT or present, still to thee,**
My friend, what magic spells belong!
As all can tell, who share, like me,
In turn thy converse, and thy song,
But when the dreaded hour shall come
By Friendship ever deemed too nigh,
And "MEMORY" o'er her Druid's tomb
Shall weep that aught of thee can die,
How fondly will she then repay
Thy homage offer'd at her shrine,
And blend, while ages roll away,
*Her name immortally with thine!*
April 19th, 1812.

**SONNET.**

**GOUVERNEUR—Voltaire—our Gibbon—and de Stael—**
*Leman!* these names are worthy of thy shore,
Thy shore of names like thesewert thou no more,
Their memory thy remembrance would recall;
To them thy banks were lovely as to all,
But they have made them lovelier, for the lore
Of mighty minds doth hallow in the core
Of human hearts the ruin of a wall
Where dwelt the wise and woundrous; but by thee
How much more, Lake of Beauty! do we feel,
In sweetly gliding o'er thy crystal sea,
The wild glow of that not ungentle zeal,
Which of the heirs of immortality
Is proud, and makes the breath of glory real!

**STANZAS TO ——.†**

Though the day of my destiny's over,
And the star of my fate hath declined,
Thy soft heart refused to discover
The faults which so many could find;
Though thy soul with my grief was acquainted,
It shrunk not to share it with me,
And the love which my spirit hath painted,
It never hath found but in thee.

Then when nature around me is smiling,
The last smile which answers to mine,
I do not believe it beguiling,
Because it reminds me of thine;
And when winds are at war with the ocean,
As the breasts I believed in with me,
If their billows excite an emotion,
It is that they bear me from thee.

Though the rock of my last hope is shiver'd
And its fragments are sunk in the wave,
Though I feel that my soul is deliver'd
To pain—it shall not be its slave.
There is many a pang to pursue me:
They may crush, but they shall not contemn
They may torture, but shall not subdue me—
*Tis of thee that I think—not of them.

Though human, thou didst not deceive me,
Though woman, thou didst not forsake,
Though loved, thou forborest to grieve me,
Though slander'd, thou never couldst shake,
Though trusted, thou didst not disclaim me,
Though parted, it was not to fly,
Though watchful, it was not to defame me,
Nor mute, that the world might belie.

Yet I blame not the world, nor despise it,
Nor the war of the many with one—
If my soul was not fitted to price it,
'Twas folly not sooner to shun:
And if dearly that error hath cost me,
And more than I once could foresee,
I have found that, whatever it lost me,
It could not deprive me of thee.

From the wreck of the past, which hath perish'd
Thus much I at least may recall,
It hath taught me that what I most cherishest
Deserved to be dearest of all:
In the desert a fountain is springing,
In the wide waste there still is a tree,
And a bird in the solitude singing,
Which speaks to my spirit of thee.

**DARKNESS.**

I had a dream, which was not all a dream.
The bright sun was extinguish'd, and the stars
Did wander darkling in the eternal space,
Rayless, and pathless, and the icy earth
Swung blind and blackening in the moonless air;
Morn came, and went—and came, and brought me
And men forgot their passions in the dread
Of this their desolation; and all hearts
Were chill'd into a selfish prayer for light:
And they did live by watch-fires—and the thrones
The palaces of crowned kings—the huts,
The habitations of all things which dwell,
Were burnt for beacons; cities were consumed,
And men were gather'd round their blazing homes.
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS

To look once more into each other's face;
Happy were those who dwelt within the eye
Of the volcanos, and their mountain-torch:
A fearful hope was all the world contain'd;
Forests were set on fire—but hour by hour
They fell and faded—and the cracking trunks
Extinguish'd with a crash—and all was black.
The brows of men by the despairing light
Wore an unearthly aspect, as by fits
The flashes fell upon them; some lay down
And hid their eyes and wept; and some did rest
Their chins upon their clenched hands, and smiled,
And others hurried to and fro, and fed
Their funeral piles with fuel, and look*d up
With mad disquietude on the dull sky,
The pall of a past world; and then again
With curses cast them down upon the dust,
And gnash'd their teeth and howled: the wild birds
 shriek'd,
And, terrified, did flutter on the ground,
And flap their useless wings; the wildest brutes
Came tame and tremulous; and vipers crawl'd
And twined themselves among the multitude,
Hissing, but stingless—they were slain for food:
And War which for a moment was no more,
Did glut himself again in savagery
With blood, and each sate sullenly apart
Gorging himself in gloom: no love was left;
All earth was but one thought—and that was death,
Immediate and inglorious; and the paug
Of famine fed upon all entrails—men
Died, and their bones were tombless as their flesh;
The meagre by the meagre were devour'd,
Even dogs assail'd their masters, all save one,
And he was faithful to a core, and kept
The birds and beasts and famish'd men at bay,
Till hunger clung them, or the drooping dead
Lared their lank jaws; himself sought out no food.
But with a piteous and perpetual moan,
And a quick desolate cry, licking the hand
Which answer'd not with a caress—he died.
The crowd was famish'd by degrees; but two
Of an enormous city did survive,
And they were enemies; they met beside
The dying embers of an altar-place
Where had been heap'd a mass of holy things
For an unholy usage; they raked up,
And shivering scraped with their cold skeleton hands
The feeble ashes, and their feeble breath
Blow for a little life, and made a flame
Which was a mockery; then they lifted up
Their eyes as it grew lighter, and beheld
Each other's aspects—saw, and shriek'd, and died—
Even of their mutual hideousness they died,
Unknowning who he was upon whose brow
Famine had written Fiend. The world was void,
The populous and the powerful was a lump,
Seasonless, herless, treeless, manless, lifeless—
A lump of death—a chaos of hard clay.
The rivers, lakes, and ocean all stood still,
And nothing stir'd within their silent depths;
Ships sailors lay lodging on the earth
And their masts fell down piecemeal; as they dropp'd
They slept on the abyss without a surge—
The waves were dead; the tides were in their grave,
The moon, their mistress, had expired before;
The winds were wither'd in the stagnant air,
And the clouds perish'd; Darkness had no need
Of aid from them—She was the universe.

CHURCHILL'S GRAVE.

A FACT LITERALLY RENDERED.

I stood beside the grave of him who blazed
The comet of a season, and I saw
The humblest of all sepulchres, and gazed
With not the less of sorrow and of awe
On that neglected turf and quiet stone,
With name no clearer than the names unknown,
Which lay unread around it; and I ask'd,
The Gardener of that ground, why it might be
That for this plant strangers his memory task'd
Through the thick deaths of half a century;
And thus he answer'd:—'Well, I do not know
Why frequent travellers turn to pilgrims so;
He died before my day of Sextonship,
And I had not the digging of this grave
And is this all? I thought,—and do we r.i.p
The veil of Immortality? and crave
I know not what of honor and of light
Through unborn ages, to endure this blight?
So soon and so successless? As I said,
The Architect of all on which we tread,
For Earth is but a tombstone, did essay
To extricate remembrance from the cly,
Whose minglings might confuse a Newton's thought
Were it not that all life must end in one,
Of which we are but dreamers;—as he taught
As 'twere the twilight of a former Sun,
Thus spoke he,—’I believe the man of whom
You wot, who lies in this selected tomb,
Was a most famous writer in his day,
And therefore travellers step from our their way
To pay him honor,—and myself what'ee
Your honor pleases,—’then most pleased I shock
From out my pocket's avaricious nook
Some certain coins of silver, which as 'twere
Perforce I gave this man, though I could spare
So much but inconveniently,—Ye smile,
I see ye, ye profane ones! all the while,
Because my homely phrase the truth would tell
You are the fools, not I—for I did dwell
With a deep thought, and with a soften'd eye,
On that Old Sexton's natural homily,
In which there was Obscurity and Fame
The Glory and the Nothing of a Name.

PROMETHEUS.

I.
TIPTON! to whose immortal eyes
The sufferings of mortality,
Seen in their sad reality,
Were not as things that gods despise,
What was thy pity's recompense?
A silent suffering, and intense;
The rock, the vulture, and the chain
All that the proud can feel of pain,
The agony they do not show,
The suffocating sense of wo,
Which speaks but in its loneliness,
And then in jealousy lest the sky
Should have a listener, nor will sigh
Until its voice is echoless.
Let bigotry rear a gloomy fane,
Let superstition hail the pile,
Let priests, to spread their sable reign,
With tales of mystic rites beguile.

Shall man confine his Maker's sway
To Gothic domes of mouldering stone?
Thy temple is the face of day;
Earth, ocean, heaven, thy boundless throne

Shall man condemn his race to hell
Unless they bend in pompous form;
Tell us that all, for one who fell,
Must perish in the mingling storm?

Shall each pretend to reach the skies,
Yet doom his brother to expire,
Whose soul a different hope supplies,
Or doctrines less severe inspire?

Shall these, by creeds they can't expound,
Propare a fancied bliss or woe?
Shall reptiles, groveling on the ground,
Their great Creator's purpose know?

Shall those, who live for self alone,
Whose years float on in daily crime—
Shall they by Faith for guilt atone,
And live beyond the bounds of Time?

Father! no prophet's laws I seek,—
Thy laws in Nature's works appear;
I own myself corrupt and weak,
Yet will I pray, for thou wilt hear!

Thou, who canst guide the wandering star
Through trackless realms of ether's space
Who calms't the elemental war,
Whose hand from pole to pole I trace:—

Thou, who in wisdom placed me here,
Who, when thou wilt, can take me hence,
Ah! whilst I tread this earthly sphere,
Extend to me thy wide defence.

To Thee, my God, to Thee I call!
Whatever weal or wo betide,
By thy command I rise or fall,
In thy protection I confide.

If, when this dust to dust restored,
My soul shall float on airy wing,
How shall thy glorious name adored
Inspire her feeble voice to sing?

But, if this fleeting spirit share
With clay the grave's eternal bed,
While life yet throbs I raise my prayer,
Though doom'd no more to quit the dead.

To Thee I breathe my humble strain,
Grateful for all thy mercies past,
And hope, my God, to thee again
This erring life may fly at last.

28th Dec. 1808
ROMANCE MUY DOLOROSO

DEL

SITIO Y TOMA DE ALHAMA.

El cual dexo en Aragon seis.

PASEAVASE el Rey Moro
Por la ciudad deGranada,
Desde las puertas de Elvira
Hasta las de Bivarambla.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Cartas le fueron venidas
Que Alhama era ganada.
Las cartas echó en el fuego,
a mí mensajero matav.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Descavalga de una mula,
Y en un cavalo cavala.
Por el Zacatin arriba
Subido se avia al Alhambra.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Como en el Alhambra estuvo,
Al mismo punto mandava
Que se tuquen las trompetas
Con añales de plata.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Y que atambores de guerra
Apriosa toquen alarma;
Por que lo oygan sus Moros,
Los de la Vega y Granada.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Los Moros que el son oyeron,
Que al sangriente Marte llama,
Uno a uno, y dos a dos,
Un gran esquadron formavan.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Allí habló un Moro viejo;
Destá manera hablava:—
Para que nos llamas, Rey?
Para que es este llamada?
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Ayés de saber, amigos,
Una nueva desdichada;
Que Christianos, con bravura,
Ya nos han tomado Alhama.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Allí habló un viejo Alfaqui,
De barba crecida y cana:—
Bien se te empleas, buen Rey
Buen Rey; bien se te empleav.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Mataste los Bencerrages,
Que era la flor de Granada;
Cogiste los tornadizos
De Cordova la nombrada.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

A VERY MOURNFUL BALLAD

ON THE SIEGE AND CONQUEST OF ALHAMA,

Which, in the Arabic language, is so the following purports.

The effect of the original ballad (which existed both in Spanish and Arabic) was such that it was forbidden to be sung by the Moors, on pain of death, within Granada.

The Moorish King rides up and down
Through Granada’s royal town;
From Elvira’s gates to those
Of Bivarambla on he goes.
Wo is me, Alhama!

Letters to the monarch tell
How Alhama’s city fell;
In the fire the scroll he threw,
And the messenger he slew.
Wo is me, Alhama!

He quits his mule, and mounts his horse,
And through the street directs his course
Through the street of Zacatin
To the Alhambra spurring in.
Wo is me, Alhama!

When the Alhambra walls he gain’d,
On the moment he ordain’d
That the trumpet straight should sound
With the silver clarion round.
Wo is me, Alhama!

And when the hollow drums of war
Beat the loud alarm afar,
That the Moors of town and plain
Might answer to the martial strain,
Wo is me, Alhama!

Then the Moors by this aware
That bloody Mars recall’d them there,
One by one, and two by two,
To a mighty squadron grew.
Wo is me, Alhama!

Out then spake an aged Moor
In these words the king before,
“Wherefore call on us, oh King?
What may mean this gathering?”
Wo is me, Alhama!

“Friends! ye have, alas! to know
Of a most disastrous blow,
That the Christians, stern and bold,
Have obtain’d Alhama’s hold.”
Wo, is me, Alhama!

Out then spake old Alfaqui,
With his beard so white to see,
“Good King! thou art justly served,
Good King! this thou hast deserved
Wo is me, Alhama!

“By thee were slain, in evil hour,
The Abencerrage, Granada’s flower;
And strangers were received by thee
Of Cordova the Chivalry.
Wo is me, Alhama!
Por esso mereces, Rey,
Una pene bien doblada;
Que te pierdas tu y el reyno,
Y que se pierda Granada.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Si no se respetan leyes,
Es ley que todo se pierda;
Y que se pierda Granada,
Y que te pierdas en ella.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Fuego por los ojos vierte,
El Rey que esto oyera.
Y como el otro de leyes
De leyes tambien hablava.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Sabe un Rey que no ay leyes
De darle a Reyes disgusto.—
Esse dize el Rey Moro
Rechinando de colera.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Moro Alfaqui, Moro Alfaqui,
El de la velida barba,
El Rey te manda prender,
Yor la perdida de Alhama.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Y cortarte la cabeça,
Y ponerla en el Alhambra,
Por que a ti castigo sea,
Y otros tiemblen en miralla.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Cavalleros, hombres buenos,
Descid de mi parte al Rey,
Al Rey Moro de Granada,
Como no se deva nada.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

De averse Alhama perdido
A mi me pesa en el alma.
Que si el Rey perdio su tierra,
Otro mucho mas perdiera.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Perdieran hijos padres,
Y casados las casadas:
Las cosas que mas amara
Perdie l' un y el otro fama.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Perdi una hija donzella,
Que era la flor d' esta tierra,
Cien doblas dava por ella,
No me las estimo en nada.
Ay de mi, Alhama!

Diziendo asai al hacen Alfaqui,
Le coto ron la cabeza,
Y la elevan al Alhambra,
Asai como el Rey lo manda
Ay de mi, Alhama!

"And for this, oh King, is sent
On thee a double chastisement:
Thee and thine, thy crown and realm,
One last wreck shall overwhelm.
Wo is me, Alhama!"

"He who holds no laws in awe,
He must perish by the law;
And Granada must be won,
And thyself with her undone."
Wo is me, Alhama!

Fire flash'd from out the old Moor's eyes,
The Monarch's wrath began to rise,
Because he answer'd, and because
He spake exceeding well of laws.
Wo is me, Alhama!

"There is no law to say such things
As may disgust the ear of kings:"—
Thus, snorting with his choler, said
The Moorish King, and doom'd him dead.
Wo is me, Alhama!

Moor Alfaqui! Moor Alfaqui!
Though thy beard so hoary be,
The King hath sent to have thee seized,
For Alhama's loss displeased.
Wo is me, Alhama!

And to fix thy head upon
High Alhambra's loftiest stone;
That this for thee should be the law,
And others tremble when they saw.
Wo is me, Alhama!

"Cavalier, and man of worth!
Let these words of mine go forth;
Let the Moorish Monarch know,
That to him I nothing owe;"
Wo is me, Alhama!

"But on my soul Alhama weighs,
And on my inmost spirit preys;
And if the King his land hath lost,
Yet others may have lost the most.
Wo is me, Alhama!

"Sires have lost their children, wives
Their lords, and valiant men their lives;
One what best his love might claim
Hath lost, another wealth, or fame.
Wo is me, Alhama!

"I lost a damsel in that hour,
Of all the land the loveliest flower,
Doubloons a hundred I would pay,
And think her ransom cheap that day."
Wo is me, Alhama!

And as these things the old Moor said,
They sever'd from the trunk his head;
And to the Alhambra's wall with speed
'Twas carried, as the King decreed.
Wo is me, Alhama!

And for this, oh King, is sent
On thee a double chastisement:
Thee and thine, thy crown and realm,
One last wreck shall overwhelm.
Wo is me, Alhama!"
Hombres, niños y mugeres,  
Lloran tan grande perdida;  
Lloravan todas las damas  
Quantas en Granada avia.  
Ay de mi, Alhama!  

Por las calles y ventanas  
Mucho llorava parecia;  
Llora el Rey como febra,  
Qu’es mucho lo que perdia.  
Ay de mi, Alhama!

SONETTO DI VITTORELLI.  
PER MONACA.  
Sonetto composto in il nome di un gentiluomo,  
che era morto poco insieme sua  
figlia sproverbatissima: e dicono si gentiluomo ditta suor sposa.

Di due vaghe donzelle, oneste, accorte  
Lieti miseri padri il ciel ne feo,  
Il ciel, che degne di più nobil sorte  
L’unà e l’altra veggendosi, ambo chiedeva.  
La mia fu tolta da veloce morte  
A le fumanti tede d’immeno;  
La tua, Francesco, in soggiugate porte  
Eterna prigioniera or si rende.  
Ma tu almeno potrai di gelosa  
Irremeabil soglia, ove s’asconde,  
La sua tenera udir voce pietsosa.  
Io verso un fume d’amarissimo onda,  
Corro a quel marmo, in cui la figlia o possa,  
Batto, e ribatto, ma nessun risponde.

TO MY DEAR MARY ANNE.  
THE FOLLOWING LINES ARE THE EARLIEST WRITTEN BY LORD BYRON. THEY WERE ADDRESSED TO MISS CHAWORTH, AFTERWARDS MRS. MUSTERS, IN 1804, ABOUT A YEAR BEFORE HER MARRIAGE.  

ADIEU to sweet Mary for ever!  
From her I must quickly depart;  
Though the fates us from each other sever,  
Still her image will dwell in my heart.

The flame that within my heart burns  
It unlike what in lovers’ hearts glows;  
The love which for Mary I feel  
Is far purer than Cupid bestows.

I wish not your peace to disturb,  
I wish not your joys to molest  
Mistake not my passion for love,  
’Tis your friendship alone I request.

Not ten thousand lovers could feel  
The friendship my bosom contains;  
It will ever within my heart dwell,  
While the warm blood flows through my veins.

May the Ruler of Heaven look down,  
And my Mary from evil defend!  
May she never know adversity’s frown,  
May her happiness never have an end.

Once more, my sweet Mary, adieu!  
Farewell! I with anguish repeat,  
For ever I’ll think upon you  
While this heart in my bosom shall beat.

To MISS CHAWORTH.  

Oh Memory, torture me no more,  
The present’s all o’ercast;  
My hopes of future bliss are o’er,  
In mercy veil the past.

What bring those images to view  
I henceforth must resign?  
Ah! why those happy hours renew,  
That never can be mine?

Past pleasure doubles present pain,  
To sorrow adds regret,  
Regret and hope are both in vain.  
I ask but to—forget.

1804
L'AMITIE EST L'AMOUR SANS AILES

Why should my anxious breast repine,
Because my youth is fled?
Days of delight may still be mine;
Affection is not dead.
In tracing back the years of youth,
One firm record, one lasting truth
Celestial consolation brings
Bear it, ye breezes, to the seat
Where first my heart responsive 'tis,
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

Through few, but deeply checker'd years,
What moments have been mine!
Now, half obscured by clouds of tears,
Now, bright in rays divine;
How'er my future doom be cast,
My soul, unraptured with the past,
To one idea fondly clings:
Friendship! that thought is all thine own,
Worth worlds of bliss, that thou art alone,
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

Where yonder yew-trees lightly wave
Their branches on the gale,
Unheeded heaves a simple grave,
Which tells the common tale;
Round this unconscious schoolboy's stray,
Till the dull knell of childish play
From yonder studious mansion rings,
But where'er my footsteps move.
My silent tears too plainly prove,
"Friendship is Love without his wings."

Oh Love! before thy glowing shrine
My early vows were paid;
My hopes, my dreams, my heart was thine,
But these are now dec'yd;
For thine are pinions like the wind,
No trace of thee remains behind,
Except, alas! thy jealous stings.
Away, away! delusive power,
Thou shalt not haunt my coming hour;
"Unless, indeed, without thy wings!"

Seat of my youth! thy distant sp'ire
Recalls each scene of joy;
My bosom glows with former fire,—
In mind again a boy.
Thy grove of elms, thy verdant hill,
Thy every path delights me still,
Each dower a double fragrance spills;
Again, as once, in converse gay,
Each dear associate seems to say
"Friendship is Love without his wings."

My Lycus! wherefore dost thou weep?
Thy falling tears restrain;
Affection for a time may sleep,
But oh, 'twill wake again.
Think, think, my friend, when next we meet,
Our long-wish'd interview, how sweet!
From thig my hope of rapture springs;
While youthful hearts thus fondly swell,
Absence, my friend, can only tell,
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

---

HILLS of Annelesy, bleak and barren,
Where my thoughtless childhood strayed,
How the northern tempests, warning,
Howl above thy tufted shade!

Now no more, the hours beguiling,
Former favorite haunts I see;
Now no more my Mary smiling
Makes ye seem a heaven to me. 1805.

ON REVISITING HARRAW.

[Some years ago, when at Harrow, a friend of the author engraved on a
particular spot of the name of both, with a few additional words, as a memo-
rial. Afterwards, on receiving some real or imagined injury, the author
destroyed the full record before he left Harrow. On revisiting the place in
1827, he wrote under it the following stanzas.]

Here once engaged the stranger's view
Young Friendship's record simply trace'd;
Few were her words,—but yet though few,
Resentment's hand the line defaced.

Deeply she cut,—but, not erased,
The characters were still so plain,
That Friendship once return'd, and gazed:—
Till Memory hail'd the words again.

Repentance placed them as before;
Forgiveness join'd her gentle name;
So fair the inscription seem'd once more,
That Friendship thought it still the same.

Thus might the Record now have been;
But, ah, in spite of Hope's endeavor,
Or Friendship's tears, Pride rush'd between,
And blotted out the line for ever!
**MISCELLANEOUS POEMS**

In one, and one alone deceived,
Did I my error mourn?
No—from oppressive bonds relieved,
I left the wretch to scorn.
I turn'd to those my childhood knew,
With feelings warm, with bosoms true,
Twined with my heart's according strings;
And till those vital chords shall break,
"or none but these my breast shall wake,
Friendship, the power deprived of wings!"

Ye few! my soul, my life is yours,
My memory and my hope;
Your worth a lasting love ensures,
Unfetter'd in its scope;
From smooth deceit and terror sprung,
With aspect fair and honey'd tongue,
Let Adulation wait on kings.
With joy clate, by snares beset,
We, we, my friends, can ne'er forget
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

Fictions and dreams inspire the bard
Who rolls the epic song;
Friendship and Truth be my reward,
To me no bays belong;
If laurell'd fame but dwells with lies,
Me the enchantress ever flies,
Whose heart and not whose fancy sings;
Simple and young, I dare not feign,
Mine be the ruse yet heartfelt strain
"Friendship is love without his wings!"

December, 1806.

---

TO MY SON:*

Those flaxen locks, those eyes of blue,
Bright as thy mother's in their hue;
Those rosy lips, whose dimples play
And smile to steal the heart away;
Recall a scene of former joy,
And touch thy father's heart, my Boy!

And thou canst list a father's name—
Ah, William, were thine own the same,—
No self-reproach—but, let me cease—
My care for thee shall purchase peace;
Thy mother's shade shall smile in joy,
And pardon all the past, my Boy!

* "The only circumstance I know, that bears even remotely on the subject of this poem, is the following. About a year or two before the date annexed to it, he wrote to his mother, from Harrow, (as I have been told by a person, to whom Mrs. Byron herself communicated the circumstances,) to say, that he had lately a good deal of uneasiness on account of a young woman, whom he knew to have been a favorite of his late friend, Cænon, and who, finding herself after his death in a state of progress towards matrimony, had declared Lord Byron was the father of her child. This, he positively asserted his mother was not the case; but believing, as he did firmly, that the child belonged to Cænon, it was his wish that it should be brought up with all possible care, and he therefore entreated that his mother would have the kindness to take charge of it. Though such a request might well (as I infer from the circumstances) have decomposed a temper more mild than Mrs. Byron's, she notwithstanding answered her son in the kindliest terms, saying that she would willingly receive the child as soon as it was born, and bring it up in whatever manner he desired. Happily, however, the infant died almost immediately, and was thus spared the being a tax on the good nature of any soul.—Shaw."

---

Her lowly grave the turf has press'd,
And thou hast known a stranger's breast.
Discretion sneers upon thy birth,
And yields thee scarce a name on earth;
Yet shall not these one hope destroy—
A father's heart is thine, my Boy!

Why, let the world unfeelingrown,
Must I 'nd Nature's claim disown?
Ah, no—though moralists reprove,
I hail thee, dearest child of love,
Fair childe, judge of youth and joy—
A father guards thy birth, my Boy!

Oh, 'twill be sweet in thee to trace
Ere age has wrinkled o'er my face,
Ere half my glass of life is run,
At once a brother and a son:
And all my wanes of years employ
In justice done to thee, my Boy!

Although so young thy heart is nigh,
Youth will not damp parental fire;
And, wert thou still less dear to me,
While Helen's form revives in thee,
The breast, which beat to former joy,
Will ne'er desert its pledge, my Boy!

---

**EPITAPH ON JOHN ADAMS, OF SOUTHWELL, A CARRIER, WHO DIED OF BRUNKINNES.**

John Adams lies here, of the parish of Southwell
A Carrier who carried his can to his mouth well;
He carried so much, and he carried so fast,
He could carry no more—so was carried at last;
For, the liquor he drank, being too much for one,
He could not carry off—so he's now carry-on.

---

**FRAGMENT.**

The following lines form the conclusion of a poem written by Lord Byron or his melancholy impression that he should soon die.)

Forget this world, my restless spirits
Turn, turn thy thoughts to heaven
There must thou soon direct thy flight.
If errors are forgiven,
To bigots and to sects unknown,
Bow down beneath th' Almighty Throne,
To him address thy trembling prayer.
He, who is merciful and just,
Will not reject a child of dust,
Although his meanest care.

Father of light! to thee I call,
My soul is dark within;
Thou, who canst mark the arrow fall
Avert the death of sin.
Thou, who canst guide the wandering star,
Who calm'st the elemental way.
Whose mantle is yon boundless sky,  
My thoughts, my words, my crimes forgive;  
And, since I soon must cease to live,  
Instruct me how to die.  
1807.

TO MRS. * * *

WHEN ASKED MY REASON FOR QUITTING ENGLAND IN THE SPRING.

When man, expell'd from Eden's bowers,  
A moment linger'd near the gate,  
Each scene recall'd the vanish'd hours,  
And bade him curse his future fate.

But, wandering on through distant climes,  
He learnt to bear his load of grief;  
Just gave a sigh to other times,  
And found in busier scenes relief.

Thus, Mary, will it be with me,  
And I must view thy charms no more;  
For, while I linger near to thee,  
I sigh for all I knew before.

In flight I shall be surely wise,  
Escaping from temptation's snare;  
I cannot view my paradise  
Without the wish of dwelling there.†

Dec. 2, 1808.

A LOVE-SONG.

TO * * * * *.

REMIND me not, remind me not,  
Of those beloved, those vanish'd hours  
When all my soul was given to thee;  
Hours that may never be forgot,  
Till time unnerves our vital powers,  
And thou and I shall cease to be.

Can I forget—canst thou forget,  
When playing with thy golden hair,  
How quick thy fluttering heart did move?  
Oh, by my soul, I see thee yet,  
With eyes so languid, breast so fair,  
And lips, though silent, breathing love.

When thus reclining on my breast,  
Those eyes threw back a glance so sweet,  
As half reproach'd yet raised desire,  
And still we near and nearer press,  
And still our glowing lips would meet,  
As if in kisses to expire.

And then those pensive eyes would close,  
And bid their lids each other seek,  
Veiling the azure orbs below;  
While their long lashes' darkening gloss  
Seem'd stealing o'er thy brilliant cheek,  
Like raven's plumage smooth'd on snow.

I dreamt last night our love return'd,  
And sooth to say, that very dream  
Was sweeter in its phantasy  
Than if for other hearts I burn'd,  
For eyes that ne'er like thine could beam  
In rapture's wild reality.

Then tell me not, remind me not,  
Of hours which, though for ever gone,  
Can still a pleasing dream restore,  
Till thou and I shall be forgot,  
And senseless as the mouldering stone  
Which tells that we shall be no more.

STANZAS

TO * * * * *.

THERE was a time, I need not name,  
Since it will ne'er forgotten be,  
When all our feelings were the same  
As still my soul hath been to thee.

And from that hour when first thy tongue  
Confess'd a love which equal'd mine,  
Though many a grief my heart hath wrung,  
Unknown and thus unfelt by thine,

None, none hath sunk so deep as this—  
To think how all that love hath flown;  
Transient as every faithless kiss,  
But transient in thy breast alone.

And yet my heart some solace knew,  
When late I heard thy lips declare,  
In accents once imagined true,  
Remembrance of the days that were.

Yes! my adored, yet most unkind!  
Though thou wilt never love again,  
To me 'tis doubly sweet to find  
Remembrance of that love remain.

Yes! 'tis a glorious thought to me,  
Nor longer shall my soul repine,  
What'er thou art or e'er shalt be,  
Thou hast been dearly, solely mine!

TO THE SAME.

And wilt thou weep when I am low?  
Sweet lady! speak those words again:  
Yet if they grieve thee, say not so—  
I would not give that bosom pain.

My heart is sad, my hopes are gone,  
My blood runs coldly through my breast,  
And when I perish, thou alone  
Wilt sigh above my place of rest.

And yet, methinks, a gleam of peace  
Doth through my cloud of anguish shine  
And for awhile my sorrows cease,  
To know thy heart hath felt for mine.

* This and the five following poems were first published in Hobhouse's Miscellany.
† In the original this line stands, "Without a wish to enter them." The reading given above is from a MS. correction by Lord Byron.
Oh lady! bless'd be that tear—
It falls for one that cannot weep:
Such precious drops are doubly dear
To those whose eyes no tear may steep.

Sweet lady! once my heart was warm
With every feeling soft as thine;
But beauty's self hath ceased to charm
A wretch created to repine.

Yet wilt thou weep when I am low?
Sweet lady! speak those words again;
Yet if they grieve thee, say not so—
I would not give that bosom pain.

---

SONG.

Fill the goblet again, for I never before
Felt the glow which now gladdens my heart to its core;
Let us drink!—who would not?—since, through life's varied round,
In the goblet alone no deception is fond.

I have tried in its turn all that life can supply;
I have bask'd in the beams of a dark rolling eye;
I have loved!—who has not?—but what heart can declare
That pleasure existed while passion was there?

In the days of my youth, when the heart's in its spring,
And dreams that affection can never take wing,
I had friends!—who has not?—but what tongue will avow,
That friends, rosy wine! are so faithful as thou?

The heart of a mistress some boy may estrange,
Friendship shifts with the sunbeam—thou never canst change:
Thou grow'st old—who does not?—but on earth what appears,
Whose virtues, like thine, still increase with its years?

Yet if blest to the utmost that love can bestow,
Should a rival bow down to our idol below,
We are jealous!—who's not?—thou hast no such alloy
For the more that enjoy thee, the more we enjoy.

Then the season of youth and its vanities past,
For refuge we fly to the goblet at last:
Then we find—do we not?—in the flow of the soul,
That truth, as of yore, is confined to the bowl.

When the box of Pandora was open'd on earth,
And Misery's triumph commenc'd over Mis'th,
Hope was left, was she not?—but the goblet we kiss,
And care not for hope, who are certain of bliss.

Long life to the grape! for when summer is flown,
The age of our nectar shall gladden our own;
We must die—who shall not?—May our sins be forgiven,
And Hebe shall never be idle in heaven.

---

STANZAS.

TO * * *, ON LEAVING ENGLAND

'Tis done—and shivering in the gale
The bark unmus'ls her snowy sail;
And, whistling o'er the bending mast
Loud sings on high the fresh'ning blast;
And I must from this land be gone,
Because I cannot love but one.

But could I be what I have been,
And could I see what I have seen—
Could I repose upon the breast
Which once my warmest wishes blest,
I should not seek another zone
Because I cannot love but one.

'Tis long since I beheld that eye
Which gave me bliss or misery;
And I have striven, but in vain,
Never to think of it again;
For though I fly from Albion,
I still can only love but one.

As some lone bird, without a mate,
My weary heart is desolate;
I look around, and cannot trace
One friendly smile or welcome face,
And even in crowds am still alone,
Because I cannot love but one.

And I will cross the whitening foam
And I will seek a foreign home;
Till I forget a false face,
I ne'er shall find a resting zone;
My own dark thoughts I cannot shun
But ever love, and love but one.

The poorest wretch on earth
Still finds some hospitable heart,
Where friendship's or love's softer glow
May smile in joy or sooth in wo;
But friend or leman I have none,
Because I cannot love but one.

I go—but whereasoe'er I flee,
There's not an eye will weep for me;
There's not a kind congenial heart,
Where I can claim the meanest part;
Nor thou, who hast my hopes undone,
Wilt sigh, although I love but one.

To think of every early scene,
Of what we are, and what we've been,
Would whelm some softer hearts with wo—
But mine, alas! has stood the blow;
Yet still beats on as it begun,
And never truly loves but one.

And who that dear loved one may be
Is not for vulgar eyes to see,
And why that early love was cross,
Thon know'st the best, I feel the most,
But few that dwell beneath the sun
Have loved so long, and loved but one.
I've tried another's fetters too,
With charms perchance as fair to view;
And I would fain have loved as well,
But some unconquerable spell
Forbade my bleeding breast to own
A kindred care for aught but one.

'Twould soothe to take one lingering view,
And bless thee in my last adieu;
Yet wish I not those eyes to weep
For him that wanders o'er the deep;
His home, his hope, his youth are gone,
Yet still he loves, and loves but one.*

---

LINES TO MR. HODGSON.

HUZZA! Hodgson, we are going,
Our embargo's off at last;
Favorable breezes blowing
Bend the canvas o'er the mast.
From aloft the signal's streaming,
Hark! the farewell gun is fired;
Women screeching, tars blasphemying,
Tell us that our time's expired.
Here's a rascal
Come to task all,
Prying from the custom-house;
Trunks unpacking,
Casus cracking,
Not a corner for a mouse

'Scapes unsearch'd amid the racket,
Ere we sail on board the Packet.

Now our boatmen quit their mooring,
And all hands must ply the oar;
Baggage from the quay is lowering,
We're impatient—push from shore.

"Have a care! that case holds liquor—
Stop the boat—I'm sick—oh Lord!"
"Sick, ma'am, damme, you'll be sicker
Ere you've been an hour on board."

Thus are screaming
Men and women,
Gemmen, ladies, servants, Jacks;
Here entangling,
All are wrangling,
Stuck together close as wax—
Such the general noise and racket,
Ere we reach the Lisbon Packet.

Now we've reach'd her, lo! the captain,
Gallant Kid, commands the crew;
Passengers their births are clapt in,
Some to grumble, some to spew.
"Hey day! call you that a cabin?
Why, 'tis hardly three feet square;
Not enough to stow Queen Mab in—
Who the deuce can harbor there?"

"Who, sir? plenty—
Nobles twenty

* This corrected by himself in a copy of the Miscellany—the two last lines, originally, as follows:—

"Though where'er our bark may run,
Love but loo, I love but one."
ON MOORE'S LAST OPERATIC FARCE.

A FARCEFUL EPISTLE

Good plays are scarce,
So Moore writes farce:
The poet's fame grows brittle—
We knew before
That Little's Moore,
But now 'tis Moore that's Little.
Sept. 14, 1811.

EPISTLE TO MR. HODGSON.

2 ANSWER TO SOME LINES EXHIBITING HIM TO BE CHEERFUL, AND TO "BANISH CARE."

"Oh! banish care!"—such ever be
The motto of thy revelry!
Perchance of mine, when wassail nights
Renew those riotous delights,
Wherewith the children of Despair
Lull the lone heart, and "banish care."
But not in morn's reflecting hour,
When present, past, and future lower,
When all I loved is changed or gone,
Mock with such taunts the woes of one,
Whose every thought—but let them pass—
Thou know'st I am not what I was.
But, above all, if thou wert bold
Place in a heart that never was cold,
By all the powers that men revere,
By all unto thy bosom dear,
Thy joys below, thy hopes above,
Speak—Speak of any thing but love.

'Twere long to tell, and vain to hear,
The tale of one who scorns a tear;
And there is little in that tale
Which better bosoms would bewail.
But mine has suffer'd more than well:
'Twould suit philosophy to tell.
I've seen my bride another's bride,—
Have seen her seated by his side,—
Have seen the infant, which she bore,
Wear the sweet smile the mother wore,
When she and I in youth have smiled
As fond and faultless as her child;—
Have seen her eyes, in cold disdain,
Ask if I felt no secret pain,
And I have acted well my part,
And made my cheek belch my heart,
Return'd the freezing glance she gave,
Yet felt the while that woman's slave;—
Have kiss'd, as if without design,
The babe which ought to have been mine,
And show'd, alas! in each caress,
Time had not made me love the less.

But let this pass—I'll whine no more,
Nor seek again an eastern shore;
The world belittles a busy brain,—
I'll hide me to its haunts again.
But if, in some succeeding year,
When Brittin's "May is in the sere,"
Thou hearst at once, whose deepening crimes
Suit with the sablest of the times

Of one, whom love nor pity sways,
Nor hope of fame, nor good men's praise,
One, who in stern ambition's pride,
Perchance not blood shall turn aside,
One rank'd in some recording page
With the worst anarchists of the age,
Him wilt thou know—and knowing pause,
Nor with the effect forget the cause.
Newstead Abbey, Oct. 11th, 1811.

ON LORD THURLOW'S POEMS.

DEDICATED TO MR. ROGERS.

When Thurlow this damn'd nonsense sent,
(I hope I am not violent,) Nor men nor gods knew what he meant.
And since not ev'n our Rogers' praise—
To common sense his thoughts could raise—
Why would they let him print his lays?

To me, divine Apollo, grant—O!
Hermilda's first and second canto,
I'm fitting up a new portmanteau;
And thus to furnish decent lining
My own and others' says I'm twining—
So, gentle Thurlow, throw me thine in.
May, 1812.

TO LORD THURLOW.

"I lay my branch of laurel down,
Then thou to fame Apollo's crown,
Let every other bring his own." Thurlow's Lines to Mr. Rogers.

"Then thus to form Apollo's crown.
A crown! why, twist it how you will,
Thy chaplet must be foolscaap still.
When next you visit Delphi's town,
Inquire among your fellow-lookers,
They'll tell you Phæbus gave his crown,
Some years before your birth, to Rogers.

"Let every other bring his own." When coals to Newcastle are carried,
And oaks sent to Athens as wonders,
From his spouse when the Regent's unmarried.
Or Liverpool weeps o'er his blunders;
When Tories and Whigs cease to quarrel,
When Castlecorny's wife has an heir,
Then Rogers shall ask us for laurel,
And thou shalt have plenty to spare.
TO THOMAS MOORE.

WRITTEN THE EVENING BEFORE HIS VISIT, IN COMPANY WITH LORD BYRON, TO MR. LEIGH HUNT IN HORREMBOE-LANE JAIL, MAY 19, 1813.

Oh you, who in all names can tickle the town, Anacreon, Tom Little, Tom Moore, or Tom Brown,— For hang me if I know of which you may most brag, Your Quarto two-pounds, or your Two-penny Post Bag; —

But now to my letter—to yours 'tis an answer—
To-morrow be with me, as soon as you can, sir,
All ready and dress'd for proceeding to spunge on (According to compact) the wit in the dungeon—
Fray Phæbus at length our political malice May not get us lodgings within the same palace! I suppose that to-night you're engaged with some codgers,
And for Sotheby's Blues have deserted Sam Rogers;
And I, though with cold I have nearly my death got, Must put on my breeches, and wait on the Heathcote, But to-morrow, at four, we will both play the Scourer, And you'll be Catullus, the Regent Mamurra.

FRAGMENT OF AN EPISTLE TO THOMAS MOORE.

What say I?"—not a syllable further in prose; I'm your man "of all measures," dear Tom,—so here goes! Here goes, for a swim on the stream of old Time,
On those buoyant supporters, the bladders of rhyme. If our weight breaks them down, and we sink in the flood,
We are another's, at least, in respectable mud,
Where the Divers of Bathos lie drowned in a heap,
And Southey's last Poem has pillow'd his sleep;—
That "Felo de se," who, half drunk with his malmsey,
Walk'd out of his depth and was lost in a calm sea,
Singing "Glory to God" in a spick and span stanza,
The like (since Tom Sternhold was chok'd) never man saw.

The papers have told you, no doubt, of the fusées, The fetes, and the gapings to get at these Russes,—
Of his Majesty's suite, up from coachman to Hetman,—
And what dignity decks the flat face of the great man.
I saw him, last week, at two balls and a party,—
For a prince, his demeanor was rather too hearty.
You know, we are used to quite different graces,

The Czar's look, I own, was much brighter and brisker,
But then he is sadly deficient in whisker;
And wore but a starless blue coat, and in kersey—
mere breeches whisk'd round, in a waist with the Jersey,
Who, lovely as ever, seem'd just as delighted
With majesty's presence as those she invited.

June, 1814.
A child of famine dying;
And the carnage begun when resistance is done,
And the fall of the wily flying!

But the Devil has reach'd our cliffs so white,
And what did he there, I pray?
If his eyes were good, he but saw by night
What we see every day:
But he made a tour, and kept a journal
Of all the wondrous-sights nocturnal,
And he sold it in shares to the Men of the Row,
Who bid pretty well—but they cheated him, though.

The Devil first saw, as he thought, the Mail,
Its coachman and his coat;
So instead of a pistol he cock'd his tail,
And seized him by the throat:
"Aha," quoth he, "what have we here?
Tis a new barouche, and an ancient peer!"

So he sat him on his box again,
And bade him no fear,
But be true to his club, and stanch to his rein,
His brothel, and his beer;
"Next to seeing a lord at the council board,
I would rather see him here."

The Devil next went to Westminster,
And he turn'd "to the room" of the Commons;
But he heard, as he purposed to enter in there,
That "the Lords" had received a summons;
And he thought as a "quondam aristocrat,"
He might peep at the peers, though to hear them were flat;
And he walk'd up the house so like one of our own,
That they say that he stood pretty near the throne.

He saw the Lord Liverpool seemingly wise,
The Lord Westmoreland certainly silly,
And Johnny of Norfolk—a man of some size—
And Chatham, so like his friend Billy;
And he saw the tears in Lord Eldon's eyes,
Because the Catholics would not rise,
In spite of his prayers and his prophecies;
And he heard—which set Satan himself a staring—
A certain chief justice say something like swearing.
And the Devil was shock'd—and quoth he, "I must go,
For I find we have much better manners below.
If thus he harangues when he passes my border,
I shall hint to friend Moloch to call him to order."

December, 1813.

MISSISSIPPI POEMS.

WINDSOR POETICS.

Lines composed on the occasion of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent
sitting even stately beside the coffee of Henry VIII, and Charles I, in
the royal room at Windsor.

FAME for contemptuous breach of sacred ties,
By headless Charles see heartless Henry lies;
Between them stands another sceptred thing—
It moves, it reigns—in all but name, a king:

Charles to his people, Henry to his wife,
—In him the double tyrant starts to life:
Justice and death have mix'd their dust in vain
Each royal vampire wakes to life again.
Ah, what can tombs avail!—since these disgorging
The blood and dust of both—to mould a G-ge.

March, 1814.

ADDITIONAL STANZAS, TO THE ODE TO
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

There was a day—there was an hour,
While earth was Gaul's—Gaul thine
When that immeasurable power
Unsated to resign
Had been an act of purer fame
Than gathers round Marengo's name
And gilded thy decline,
Through the long twilight of all time,
Despite some passing clouds of crime
But thou forsooth must be a king
And don the purple vest,
As if that foolish robe could wring
Remembrance from thy breast.
Where is that fated garment? where
The gewgaws thou Wert fond to wear,
The star—the string—the crest?
Vain froward child of empire! say,
Are all thy playthings snatch'd away?

Where may the weared eye repose
When gazing on the great?
Where neither guilty glory glows,
Nor despicable state?
Yes—one—the first—the last—the best—
The Cincinnatus of the West,
Whom envy dared not hate,
Bequeath'd the name of Washington,
To make man blash there was but one.

April, 1814.

TO LADY CAROLINE LAMB.

And say'st thou that I have not felt,
Whilst thou wert thus estranged from me?
Nor know'st how dearly I have dwelt
On one unbroken dream of thee?
But love like ours must never be,
And I will learn to prize thee less;
As thou hast fled, so let me flee,
And change the heart thou mayest not bless.

They'll tell thee, Clara! I have seem'd,
Of late, another's charms to woo,
Nor sigh'd, nor frown'd, as if I deem'd
That thou wert banish'd from my view.
Clara! this struggle—to undo
What thou hast done too well, for me
This mask before the babbling crew—
This treachery—was truth to thee.

I have not wept while thou wert gone,
Nor worn one look of sullen wo;
But sought, in many, all that one
(Ah! need I name her?) could bestow.
BYRON'S WORKS.

ADDRESS INTENDED TO BE RECIPIED AT THE CALEDONIAN MEETING.

Who hath not glow'd above the page where fame
Hath fix'd her Caledon's unconquer'd name;
The mountain-land which spurn'd the Roman chain
And baffled back the fiery-crest'd Dane,
Whose bright claymore and hardihood of hand
No foe could tame—no tyrant could command?
That race is gone—but still their children breathe,
And glory crowns them with redoubled wreath:
O'er Gael and Saxon mingling banners shine,
And England! add their stern born strength to thine
The blood which flow'd with Wallace flows as free,
But now 'tis only shed for fame and thee!
Oh! pass not by the northern veteran's claim,
But give support—the world hath given him fame.

The humbler ranks, the lowly brave, who bled
While cheerily following where the mighty led,
Who sleep beneath the undistinguish'd sod
Where happier comrades in their triumph trod,
To us bequeath—'tis all their fate allows—
The tireless offspring and the lonely spouse:
She on high Albyn's dusky hills may raise
The tearful eye in melancholy gaze,
Or view, while shadowy auspices disclose
The Highland seer's anticipated woes,
The bleeding phantom of each martial form
Dim in the cloud, or darkling in the storm;
While sad, she chants the solitary song,
The soft lament for him who tarries long—
For him, whose distant relics vainly crave
The Coronach's wild requiem to the brave.

'Tis Heaven—not man—must charm away the wo
Which bursts when Nature's feelings newly flow—
Yet tenderness and time may rob the tear
Of half its bitterness for one so dear.
A nation's gratitude perchance may spread
A thornless pillow for the widow's head;
May lighten well her heart's maternal care,
And wean from penury the soldier's heir.

ON THE PRINCE REGENT'S RETURNING THE PICTURE OF SARAH, COUNTESS OF JERSEY, TO MRS. MEE.

When the vain triumph of the imperial lord,
Whom servile Rome obey'd, and yet abhor'd,
Gave to the vulgar gaze each glorious bust,
That left a likeness of the brave or just;
What most admired each scrutinizing eye
Of all that deck'd that passing pageantry?
What spread from face to face the wondering air?
The thought of Brutus—for his was not there!
That absence proved his worth—that absence fix'd
His memory on the longing mind, unmix'd;
And more decreed his glory to endure,
Than all a gold Colossus could secure.

If thus, fair Jersey, our desiring gaze
Search for thy form, in vain and mute amaze,
Amid those pictured charms, whose loveliness,
Bright though they be, thine own had render'd less.

STANZAS FOR MUSIC.

I SPEAK not, I trace not, I breathe not thy name,
There is grief in the sound, there is guilt in the fame,
But the tear which now burns on my cheek may impart
The deep thoughts that dwell in that silence of heart.

Too brief for our passion, too long for our peace,
Were those hours—can their joy or their bitterness cease?
We repent—we abjure—we will break from our chain,—
We will part,—we will fly to—unite it again!

Oh! thine be the gladness, and mine be the guilt!
Forgive me, adored one!—forsake, if thou wilt:—
But the heart which is thine shall expire undeceived,
And man shall not break it—whatever thou may'st.

And stern to the haughty, but humble to thee,
Thine soul, in its bitterest blackness, shall be;
And our days seem as swift, and our moments more sweet,
With thee by my side, than with worlds at our feet.

One sigh of thy sorrow, one look of thy love,
Shall turn me or fix, shall reward or reprove;
And the heartless may wonder at all I resign—
Thy lip shall reply, not to theirs, but to mine.

May, 1814.
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

HEBREW MELODIES.

In the valley of waters we wept o'er the day
When the host of the stranger made Salem his prey,
And our heads on our bosoms all droopingly lay,
And our hearts were so full of the land far away.

The song they demanded in vain—it lay still
In our souls as the wind that hath died on the hill
They called for the harp, but our blood they shall spill,
Ere our right hands shall teach them one tone of their skill.

All stringlessly hung on the willow's sad tree,
As dead as her dead leaf those mute harps must be,
Our hands may be fettered, our tears still are free,
For our God and our glory, and Sion! for thee.

October, 1814

They say that Hope is happiness,
But genuine Love must prize the past;
And Memory wakes the thoughts that bless—
They rose the first, they set the last.

And all that Memory loves the most
Was once our only hope to be;
And all that hope adored and lost
Hath melted into memory.

Alas! it is delusion all,
The future cheats us from afar,
Nor can we be what we recall,
Nor dare we think on what we are.

October, 1814

LINFS INTENDED FOR THE OPENING OF
"THE SIEGE OF CORINTH."

In the year since Jesus died for men,
Eighteen hundred years and ten,
We were a gallant company,
Riding o'er land, and sailing o'er sea.
Oh! but we went merrily!
We forded the river and clomb the high hill.
Never our steeds for a day stood still;
Our sleep fell soft on the hardest bed;
Whether we couched in our rough capote,
On the rougher plank of our gliding boat
Or stretch'd on the beach, or our saddles sprawled
As a pillow beneath the resting head,
Fresh we woke upon the morrow:
All our thoughts and our words had scope
We had health, and we had hope,
Toil and travel, but no sorrow.
We were of all tongues and creeds;
Some were those who counted beads,
Some of mosque, and some of church,
And some, or I mis-say, of neither;
Yet through the wide world might ye search
Nor find a motlier crew nor blither

TO BELSHAZZAR.

BELSHAZZAR! from the banquet turn,
Nor in thy sensual fulness fall:
Behold! while yet before thee burn
The graven words, the glowing wall.
Many a despotic man miscall
Crown'd and anointed from on high;
But thou, the weakest, worst of all—
Is it not written, thou must die?
Go! dash the roses from thy brow—
Gray hairs but poorly wreath with them
Yoke's garlands misbecome thee now,
More than thy very diadem.
Where thou hast tarnish'd every gem—
Then throw the worthless bauble by,
Which, worn by thee, even slaves contemn,
And learn like better men to die.
Oh! early in the balance weigh'd,
And ever light of word and worth,
Whose soul expired ere youth decay'd,
And left thee but a mass of earth.
To see thee moves the sower's mirth:
But tears in Hope's averted eye
Lament that even thou hadst birth—
Unfit to go-ern, live, or die.

July, 1814

If he, that vain, old man, whom truth admits
Hair of his father's throne and shatter'd wits,
If his corrupted eye and wither'd heart
Could with thy gentle image bear depart,
That tarless shame be his, and ours the grief,
To gaze on Beauty's band without its chief:
Yet comfort still one selfish thought imparts,
We lose the portrait, but preserve our hearts.

What can his vaulted gallery now disclose?
A garden with all flowers—except the rose;
A font that only wants its living stream;
And light with every star, save Dian's beam.
Lost to our eyes the present forms shall be,
That turn from tracing them to dream of thee;
And more on that recall'd resemblance pause,
Than all he shall not force on our applause.

Long may thy yet meridian lustre shine,
With all that Virtue asks of Homage thine:
The symmetry of youth—the grace of mien—
The eye that gladdens—and the brow serene—
The glossy darkness of that clustering hair,
Which shades, yet shows that forehead more than fair,
Each glance that wins us, and the life that throws
A spell which will not let our looks repose,
But turn to gaze again, and find anew
Some charm that well rewards another view.
These are not lessen'd, these are still as bright,
Albeit too dazzling for a dotard's sight;
And these must wait till every charm is gone
To please the paltry heart that pleases none,
That dull, cold sensualist, whose sickly eye
In envious dimness pass'd thy portrait by;
Who rack'd his little spirit to combine
Its hate of Freedom's loveliness, and thine.

July, 1814

72
BYRON'S WORKS

The dead are thy inheritors—and we
But bubbles on thy surface; and the key
Of thy profundity is in the grave,
The ebon portal of thy people's cave,
Where I would walk in spirit, and behold
Our elements resolved to things untold,
And fathom hidden wonders, and explore
The essence of great bosoms now no more.

October, 1815

TO AUGUSTA.

I.
My sister! my sweet sister! if a name
Dearer and purer were, it should be thine.
Mountains and seas divide us, but I claim
No tears, but tenderness to answer mine:
Go where I will, to me thou art the same—
A loved regret which I would not resign.
There yet are two things in my destiny,—
A world to roam through, and a home with thee

II.
The first were nothing—had I still the last,
It were the haven of my happiness;
But other claims and other ties thou hast,
And mine is not the wish to make them less.
A strange doom is thy father's son's, and past
Recalling, as it lies beyond redress;
Reversed for him our grandsire's* fate of yore,—
He had no rest at sea, nor I on shore

III.
If my inheritance of storms hath been
In other elements, and on the rocks
Of perils, overlook'd or unforeseen,
I have sustain'd my share of worldly shocks,
The fault was mine; nor do I seek to screen
My errors with defensive paradox;
I have been cunning in mine overthrow,
The careful pilot of my proper wo.

IV.
Mine were my faults, and mine be their reward.
My whole life was a contest, since the day
That gave me being, gave me that which mar'sd
The gift,—a fate, or will, that walk'd astray;
And at times have found the struggle hard,
And thought of shaking off my bonds of clay
But now I fain would for a time survive,
If but to see what next can well arrive.

V.
Kingdoms and empires in my little day
I have outlived, and yet I am not old;
And when I look on this the petty spray
Of my own years of trouble, which have roll'd
Like a wild bay of breakers, melts away:
Something—I know not what—does still uphold
A spirit of light patience:—not in vain,
Even for its own sake, do we purchase pain.

* Admiral Byron was remarkable for never making a voyage without a tempest. He was known to the sailors by the facetious name of "Pond-washing Jack."

"But though it were tempest-tossed,
Still his bark could not be lost." He returned safely from the wreck of the Wager, (in Amon's voyage,) and subsequently commanded and had many years after, as commander of a similar expedition.
VI.
Perhaps the workings of defiance stir
Within me,—or perhaps a cold despair,
Brought on when ill habitually recur,—
Perhaps a kindred clime, or purer air,
(For even to this may change of soul refer,
And with light armor we may learn to bear,)
Have taught me a strange quiet, which was not
The chief companion of a calmer lot.

VII.
I feel almost at times as I have felt
In happy childhood: trees, and flowers, and brooks,
Which do remember me of where I dwelt
ERE my young mind was sacrificed to books,
Come as of yore upon me, and can melt
My heart with recognition of their looks;
And even at moments I could think I see
Some living thing to love—but none like thee.

VIII.
Here are the Alpine landscapes which create
A fund for contemplation;—to admire
Is a brief feeling of a trivial date;
But sometimes worthier do such scenes inspire:
Here to be lonely is not desolate,
For much I view which I could most desire,
And, above all, a lake I can behold
Lovelier, not dearer, than our own of old.

IX.
Oh that thouwert but with me!—but I grow
The fool of my own wishes, and forget
The solitude which I have vaunted so
Has lost its praise in this but one regret;
There may be others which I less may show;
I am not of the plaintive mood, and yet
I feel an ebb in my philosophy,
And the tide rising in my alter'd eye.

X.
I did remind thee of our own dear lake,*
By the old hall which may be mine no more.
Leman's is fair; but think not I forsake
The sweet remembrance of a dearer shore:
The havoc Time must with my memory make,
ERE that or thou can fade these eyes before;
Though, like all things which I have loved, they are
Resign'd for ever, or divided far.

XI.
The world is all before me; I but ask
Of Nature that with which she will comply—
It is but in her summer's sun to bask,
To mingle with the quiet of her sky,
To see her gentle face without a mask,
And never gaze on it with apathy.
She was my early friend, and now shall be
My sister—till I look again on thee.

XII.
I can reduce all feelings but this one;
And that I would not—for at length I see
Such scenes as those wherein my life began
The earliest—even the only paths for me—
Had I but sooner learnt the crowd to shun,
I had been better than I now can be;
The passions which have torn me would have slept,
I had not suffered, and thou hadst not wept.

* The lake of Newnham Abbey.

XIII.
With false ambition what had I done?
Little with love, and least of all with fame;
And yet they came unsought, and with me grew,
And made me all which they can make—a name
Yet this was not the end I did pursue;
Surely I once beheld a nobler aim.
But all is over—I am one the more
To baillen millions which have gone before.

XIV.
And for the future, this world's future may
From me demand but little of my care;
I have outlived myself by many a day;
Having survived so many things that were;
My years have been no slumber, but the prey
Of ceaseless vigils; for I had the share
Of life which might have fill'd a century,
Before its fourth in time had pass'd me by.

XV.
And for the remnant which may be to come
I am content; and for the past I feel
Not thankless,—for within the crowded sum
Of struggles, happiness at times would steal,
And for the present I would not bennumb
My feelings farther.—Nor shall I conceal
That with all this I still can look around,
And worship Nature with a thought profound

XVI.
For thee, my own sweet sister, in thy heart
I knew myself secure, as thou in mine;
We were and are—I am, even as thou art—
Being who ne'er each other can resign;
It is the same, together or apart,
From life's commencement to its slow decline
We are entwined—let death come slow or fast,
The tie which bound the first endures the last!

October, 1816.

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ON THE BUST OF HELEN, BY CANOVA

In this beloved marble view,
Above the works and though.as of man,
What Nature could, but would not do,
And beauty and Canova can!

Beyond imagination's power,
Beyond the bard's defeated art,
With immortality her dower,
Behold the Helen of the heart!

November, 1816

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FRAGMENT OF A POEM ON HEARING
THAT LADY BYRON WAS ILL.—1816

And thou wert sad—yet was I not with thee;
And thou wert sick—and yet I was not near.
Methought that joy and health alone could be
Where I was not, and pain and sorrow here.
And is it thus?—it is as I foretold,
And shall be more so:—&c., &c.
TO THOMAS MOORE.

Mr. boat is on the shore,
And my bark is on the sea;
But, before I go, Tom Moore,
Here's a double health to thee!

Here's a sigh to those who love me,
And a smile to those who hate;
And, whatever sky's above me,
Here's a heart for every fate.

Though the ocean roar around me,
Yet it still shall bear me on;
Though a desert should surround me,
It hath springs that may be won.

Were't the last drop in the well,
As I gasp'd upon the brink,
 Ere my fainting spirit fell,
'Tis to thee that I would drink.

With that water as this wine,
The libation I would pour
Should be—peace with thine and mine,
And a health to thee, Tom Moore.

July, 1817.

STANZAS TO THE RIVER PO.

River, that rollest by the ancient walls,
Where dwells the lady of my love, when she
Walks by thy brink, and there perchance recalls
A faint and fleeting memory of me;

What if thy deep and ample stream should be
A mirror of my heart, where she may read
The thousand thoughts I now betray to thee,
Wild as thy wave, and headlong as thy speed!

What do I say—a mirror of my heart?
Are not thy waters sweeping, dark, and strong?
Such as my feelings were and are, thou art;
And such as thou art were my passions long.

Time may have somewhat tamed them,—not for ever,
Thou overflow'st thy banks, and not for aye
Thy bosom overflows, congenial river!
Thy floods subside, and mine have sunk away,

But long wounds behind, and now again
Borne in our old unchanged career, we move;
Thou tendest wildly onwards to the main,
And—'tis loving one I should not love.

I see current I behold will sweep beneath
Her native walks, and murmur at her feet;
Her eyes will look on thee, when she shall breathe
The twilight air, unharrow'd by summer's heat.

She will look on thee,—I have look'd on thee,
Full of that thought; and, from that moment, ne'er
Thy waters could I dream of, name, or see,
Without the inseparable sigh for her;

Her bright eyes will be imaged in thy stream,—
Yes! they will meet the wave I gaze on now:
Mine cannot witness, even in a dream,
That happy wave repass me in its flow!

The wave that bears my tears returns no more;
Will she return by whom that wave shall sweep?
Both tread thy banks, both wander on thy shore,
I by thy source, she by the dark-blue deep.

But that which keepeth us apart is not
Distance, nor depth of wave, nor space of earth,
But the distraction of a various lot,
As various as the climates of our birth.

A stranger loves the lady of the land,
Born far beyond the mountains, but his blood
Is all meridian, as if never fann'd
By the bleak wind that chills the polar flood.

My blood is all meridian; were it not,
I had not left my clime, nor should I be,
In spite of tortures ne'er to be forgot,
A slave again of love,—at least of thee.

'Tis vain to struggle—let me perish young—
Live as I lived, and love as I have loved;
To dust if I return, from dust I sprung,
And then, at least, my heart can ne'er be moved.

June, 1819.

SONNET TO GEORGE THE FOURTH,
ON THE REPEAL OF LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD'S
FORFEITURE.

To be the father of the fatherless,
To stretch the hand from the throne's height, an
raise
His offspring, who expired in other days,
To make thy sire's sway by a kingdom less,—
This is to be a monarch, and express
Envy into unutterable praise.
Dismiss thy guard, and trust thee to such traits,
For who would lift a hand, except to bless?
Were it not easy, sire? and is't not sweet
To make thyself beloved? and to be
Omnipotent by mercy's means? for thus
Thy sovereignty would grow but more complete;
A despot thou, and yet thy people free,
And by the heart, not hand, enslaving us.

August, 1819.

FRANCESCA OF RIMINI.

TRANSLATED FROM THE INFERNO OF DANTÉ.
CANTO FIFTH.

"The land where I was born sits by the seas,
Upon that shore to which the Po descends,
With all his followers, in search of peace.
Love, which the gentle heart soon apprehends,
Seized him for the fair person which was taken
From me, and me even yet the mode offends,
Love, who to none beloved to love again.
Remits, saileth me with wish to please, so strong, That, as thou seest, yet, yet it doth remain.

Love to one death conductus us along,
But Calna waits for him our life who ended:"
These are the accents utter'd by her tongue.

Since first I listen'd to these soul's offended,
I bow'd my visage and so kept it till

"What think'st thou?" said the bard; "when doth I
unbend,
And recommended: "Alas! unto such ill
How many sweet thoughts what strong ecstasies,
Led these their evil fortune to fulfill!"

And then I turn'd unto their side eyes,
And said, "Francesca, thy sad desistances
Have made me sorrow till the tears arise.

But tell me, in the season of sweet sighs,
By what and how thy love to passion rose,
So as his dim desires to recognize?"

Then she to me: "The greatest of all woes
Is to recall to mind
\{ remind us of\} our happy days
\{ this \}
In misery, and \{ that\} thy teacher knows.

But if to learn our passion's first root proys
Upon thy spirit with such sympathy,

\{ relate \}
I will \{ do\} even \{ as\} he who weeps and says—
We read one day for pastime, seated nigh,
Of Lancelot, how love enchain'd him too.
We were alone, quite unsuspiciously.

But oft our eyes met, and our cheeks in hue
All other discolor'd by that reading were;

But one point only wholly \{ desired \}
When we read the \{ long-sighed for\}'s smile of her,
\{ a fervent \} lover,
He who from me can be divided ne'er
Kiss'd my mouth, trembling in the act all over.
Accursed wa, 'tis book and he who wrote!
That day no further leaf we did uncover.

While thus one spirit told us of their lot,
The other wept, so that with pity's thralls
I swoon'd as if by death I had been smote,
And fell down even as a dead body falls."

March, 1820.

THE IRISH AVATAR.†

Era the daughter of Brunswick is cold in her grave,
And her ashes still float to their home o'er the tide,
Lo! George the triumphant speeds over the wave,
To the long-cherish'd isle which he loved like his—his—tride.

True, the grand of her bright and brief era are gone,
The rainbow-like epoch where Freedom could pause
For the few little years, out of centuries won,
Which betray'd not, or crush'd not, or wept not her cause.

\* In some of the editions it is, "sire," in others, "sire;" "an essential difference between "saying" and "talking," which I know not how to de-

\* In the King's "Old" edition of 1814. cede me read.

\* On the King's "Old" to Ireland, in 1603.

True, the chains of the Catholic clank o'er his rags,
The castle still stands, and the senate's no more.
And the famine which dwelt on her freedomless crags
Is extending its steps to her desolate shore.

To her desolate shore—where the emigrant stands
For a moment to gaze ere he flies from his heart,
Tears fall on his chain, though it drops from his hands,
For the dungeon he quits is the place of his birth

But he comes! the Messiah of royalty comes!
Like a godly Leviathan roll'd from the waves!
Then receive him as best such an advent becomes,
With a legion of cooks and an army of slaves!

He comes in the promise and bloom of threescore,
To perform in the pageant the sovereign's part—
But long live the shamrock which shadow him o'er!
Could the green in his hat be transferr'd to his heart?

Could that long-wither'd spot but be verdant again,
And a new spring of noble affections arise—
Then might freedom forgive thee this dance in thy chain,

And this shout of thy slavery which saddens the skies.

Is it madness or meanness which clings to thee now?
Were he God—as he is but the commonest clay,
With scarce fewer wrinkles than sins on his brow—
Such servile devotion might shame him away.

Ay, roar in his train! let thine orators lash
Their fanciful spirits to pamper his pride—
Not thus did thy Grattan indignantly flash
His soul o'er the freedom implored and denied.

Ever glorious Grattan! the best of the good!
So simple in heart, so sublime in the rest!
With all which Demosthenes wait'd endured,
And his rival or victor in all he possessed.

Ere Tully arose in the zenith of Rome,
Though unequal'd, preceded, the task was begun;
But Grattan sprung up like a God from the tomb
Of ages, the first, last, the savior, the one!

With the skill of an Orpheus to soften the brute;
With the fire of Prometheus to kindle mankind;
Even Tyranny listening sate melted or mute,
And Corruption shrunk scorch'd from the glance of his mind.

But back to our theme! Back to despots and slaves!
Feasts furnish'd by Famine! rejoicings by Pain!
True Freedom but welcometh, while slavery still races,
When a week's saturnalia hath loosen'd her chain.

Let the poor squalid splendor thy wreck can afford
(As the bankrupt's profession his ruin would hide)
Gild over the palace. Lo! Erin, thy lord!
Kiss his foot with thy blessing for blessings denied.

Or if freedom past hope be extorted at last,
If the idol of brass find his feet are of clay,
Must what terror or policy wring forth be class'd
With what monarch's ne'er give, but as wolves yield their prey?
Each brute hath its nature, a king's is to reign,—
To reign! in that word see, ye ages, comprised
The cause of the curses the all annals contain,
From Caesar the dreaded to George the despised.

Wear, Fingal, thy trappings! O'Connell proclaims
His accomplishments! His!! and thy country

Half an age's contempt was an error of fame,
And that "Hal is the rascaliest, sweetest young prince!"

Will thy yard of blue riband, poor Fingal, recall
The fetters from millions of Catholic limbs?
Or, has it not bound thee the fastest of all
The slaves, who now hail their betrayer with hymns?

Ay! "build him a dwelling!" let each give his mite!
Till, like Babel, the new royal dome hath arisen!
Let thy beggars and helots their pittance unite—
And a palace bestow for a poorhouse and prison!

Spread—spread, for Vitellius the royal repast,
Till the glutonous despot be stuff'd to the gorge!
And the roar of his drunkards proclaims him at last
The Fourth of the fools and oppressors, call'd
"George!"

Let the tables be loaded with feasts till they groan!
Till they groan like thy people, through ages of wo!
Let the wine flow around the old Bacchanal's throne,
Like their blood which has flow'd, and which yet has to flow.

But let not his name be thine idol alone—
On his right hand behold a Sejanus appears!
Thine own Castlereagh! let him still be thine own!
A wretch never named but with curses and jeers!

Till now, when the isle which should blush for his birth,
Deep, deep as the gore which he shed on her soil,
Seems proud of the reptile which crawld from her earth,
And for murder repays him with shouts and a smile.

Without one single ray of her genius, without
The fancy, the manhood, the fire of her race—
The miscreant who well might plunge Erin in doubt
If she ever gave birth to a being so base.

If she did—let her long-boasted proverb be hush'd,
Which proclaims that from Erin no reptile can spring—
See the cold-blooded serpent, with venom full flush'd,
Still warming its folds in the breast of a king!

Shout, drink, feast, and flatter! Oh! Erin, how low
Wert thou sunk by misfortune and tyranny, till
Thy welcome of tyrants hath plunged thee below
The depth of thy deep in a deeper gulf still.

My voice, though but humble, was raised for thy right,
My voice as a freeman's, still voted thee free,

This hand, though but feeble, would arm in thy fight,
And this heart, though outworn, had a throb still for thee!

Yev, I loved thee and thine, though thou art not my land,
I have known noble hearts and great souls in thy sons,
And I wept with the world o'er the patriots band
Who are gone, but I weep them no longer as once.

For nappy are they now reposing afar,—
Thy Grattan, thy Curran, thy Sheridan, all
Who, for years, were the chiefs in the eloquent war,
And redeem'd, if they have not retarded, thy fall.

Yes, happy are they in their cold English graves!
Their shades cannot start to thy shouts of to-day—
Nor the steps of enslavers and chain-kissing slaves
Be stamp'd in the turf o'er their fetters clay.

Till now I had envied thy sons and their shore,
Though their virtues were hunted, their liberties fled;
There was something so warm and sublime in the core
Of an Irishman's heart, that I envy—thy dead.

Or, if aught in my bosom can quench for an hour
My contempt for a nation so servile, though sore,
Which though trod like the worm will not turn upon power,
'Tis the glory of Grattan, and genius of Moore

September, 1821.

STANZAS

TO HER WHO CAN BEST UNDERSTAND THEM.

Be it so! we part for ever!
Let the past as nothing be;—
Had I only loved thee, never
Hadst thou been thus dear to me.

Had I loved, and thus been slighted,
That I better could have borne;—
Love is quell'd, when unrequited,
By the rising pulse of scorn.

Pride may cool what passion heated,
Time will tame the wayward will;
But the heart in friendship cheated
Throbs with wo's most maddening thrill.

Had I loved, I now might hate thee,
In that hatred solace seek,
Might exult to execrate thee,
And, in words, my vengeance wreak.

But there is a silent sorrow,
Which can find no vent in speech,
Which disdains relief to borrow
From the heights that song can reach.

Like a dankless chain enthralling,—
Like the sleepless dreams that mock,—
Like the frigid ice-drops falling
From the surf-surrounded rock.
Such the cold and sickening feeling
   Thou hast caused this heart to know,
Stabbed the deeper by concealing
   From the world its bitter wo.

Once it fondly, proudly, deemed thee
   All that fancy's self could paint,
Once it honored and esteemed thee
   As its idol and its saint!

More than woman thou wast to me;
   Not as man I looked on thee;—
Why like woman thea unde me?
   Why "heap man's worst curse on me?"

Wast thou but a fiend, assuming
   Friendship's smile, and woman's art,
And, in borrow'd beauty blooming,
   Trifling with a trusted heart?

By that eye which once could listen
   With opposing glance to thee;—
By that ear which once could listen
   To each tale I told to thee;—

By that lip, its smile bestowing,
   Which could soften sorrow's gush;—
By that cheek, once brightly glowing
   With pure friendship's well-feigned blush;

By all those false charms united,—
   Thou hast wrought thy wanton will,
And, without compunction, blighted
   What "thou would'st not kindly kill."

Yet I curse thee not in sadness,
   Still, I feel how dear thou wert;
Oh! I could not—'t on madness—
   Doom thee to thy just desert!

Love! and when my life is over,
   Should thine own be lengthened long,
Thou may'st then, too late, discover,
   By thy feelings, all my wrong.

When thy beauties all are faded,
   When thy flatterers fawn no more,—
Ere the solemn shroud hath shaded
   Some regardless reptile's store,—

Ere that hour, false syren, hear me!
   Thou may'st feel what I do now,
While my spirit, hovering near thee,
   Whispers friendship's broken vow.

But 'tis useless to upbraid thee
   With thy past or present state;
What thou wast, my fancy made thee,
   What thou art, I know too late.

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STANZAS

WRITTEN ON THE ROAD BETWEEN FLORENCE AND PISA.

Oh, talk not to me of a name great in story;
   The days of our youth are the days of our glory;
And the myrtle and ivy of sweet two-and-twenty
   Are worth all your laurels, though ever so plenty.

What are garlands and crowns to the brow that is wrinkled?
   'Tis but as a dead flower with May-dew besprinkled
Then away with all such from the head that is hoary
   What care I for the wreaths that can only give glory i

Oh Fame! if I 'er took delight in thy praises,
   'Twas less for the sake of thy high-sounding ph. ases,
Than to see the bright eyes of the dear one discover
   She thought that I was not unworthy to love her.

There chiefly I sought thee, there only I found thee;
   Her glance was the best of the rays that surround thee;
When it sparkled o'er aught that was bright in my story,
   I knew it was love, and I felt it was glory.                December, 1821.

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IMPROPTU,

ON LADY BLESSINGTON EXPRESSING HER INTENTION OF TAKING THE VILLA CALLED "IL PARA DISO," NEAR GENOA.

Beneath Blessington's eyes
   The reclain'd Paradise
Should be free as the former from evil;
   But if the new Eve
For an apple should grieve,
   What mortal would not play the Devil?*

April, 1823.

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TO THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON.

You have ask'd for a verse:—the request
   In a rhymer 'twere strange to deny;
But my Hippocrene was but my breast,
   And my feelings (its fountain) are dry.

Were I now as I was, I had sung
   What Lawrence had painted so well;
But the strain would expire on my tongue,
   And the theme is too soft for my shell.

I am ashes where once I was fire,
   And the hard in my bosom is dead;
What I loved I now merely admire,
   And my heart is as gray as my head.

My life is not dated by years—
   There are moments which act as a plough,
And there is not a furrow appears
   But is deep in my soul as my brow.

Let the young and the brilliant aspire
   To sing what I gaze on in vain;
For sorrow has torn from my lyre
   The string which was worthy the strain.

April, 1823.

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* The Genoese who had already applied this shorelure just to himself;
Taking them their hands that the villa had "been fixed on for his own residence
they said, "Il Diavolo a sacro monte in Parmeze."—Moore.
ON THIS DAY I COMPLETE MY THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR.

'Tis time this heart should be unmoved,
Since others it hath ceased to move!
Yet, though I cannot be beloved,
Still let me love!

My days are in the yellow leaf;
The flowers and fruits of love are gone;
The worm, the canker, and the grief
Are mine alone!

The fire that on my bosom preys
Is lone as some volcanic isle:
No torch is kindled at its blaze—
A funeral pile

The hope, the fear, the jealous care,
The exalted portion of the pain
And power of love, I cannot share,
But wear the chain.

But 'tis not thus—and 'tis not here—
Such thoughts would shake my soul, nor now,
Where glory decks the hero's bier,
Or binds his brow.

The sword, the banner, and the field,
Glory and Greece around me see!
"The Spartan, borne upon his shield,
Was not more free.

Awake! (not Greece—she is awake!)
Awake, my spirit! Think through whom
Thy life-blood tracks its parent lake,
And then strike home!

Tread those reviving passions down,
Unworthy manhood!—unto thee
Indifferent should the smile or frown
Of beauty be.

It thou regret'st thy youth, why live?
The land of honorable death
Is here:—up to the field, and give
Away thy breath!

Seek out—less often sought than found—
A soldier's grave, for thee the best;
Then look around, and choose thy ground,
And take thy rest.

Missolonghi, Jan. 22, 1824.

TO A LADY WHO PRESENTED THE AUTHOR WITH THE VELVET BAND WHICH BOUND HER TRESSES.*

This Band, which bound thy yellow hair,
Is mine, sweet girl! thy pledge of love;
It claims my warmest, dearest care,
Like relics left of saints above.

* This and the following poems from manuscripts collected after the death of Lord Byron were first published in London in 1833.

Oh! I will wear it next my heart,
'Twill bind my soul in bonds to thee;
From me again 'twill ne'er depart,
But mingle in the grave with me.

The dew I gather from thy lip
Is not so dear to me at this;
That I but for a moment sip,
And banquet on a transient bliss:

This will recall each youthful scene,
E'en when our lives are on the wane;
The leaves of Love will still be green
When Memory bids them bud again.

Oh! little lock of golden hue,
In gently waving ringlet curl'd,
By the dear head on which you grew,
I would not lose you for a world.

Not though a thousand more adorn
The polish'd brow where once you shone,
Like rays which gild a cloudless morn,
Beneath Columbia's fervid zone.

REMEMBRANCE.

'Tis done!—I saw it in my dreams;
No more with Hope the future beams;
My days of happiness are few:
Chill'd by misfortune's wintry blast,
My dawn of life is overcast;
Love, Hope, and Joy, alike adieu:—
Would I could add Remembrance too.

THE ADIEU.

WRITTEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE AUTHOR WOULD SOON DIE.

Adieu, thou Hill!* where early joy
Spread roses o'er my brow
Where Science seeks each loitering boy
With knowledge to endow.
Adieu my youthful friends or foes,
Partners of former bliss or woe;
No more through Ida's paths we stray;
Soon must I share the gloomy cell,
Whose ever slumbering inmates dwell,
Unconscious of the day.

Adieu, ye hoary Regal Fanes,
Ye spires of Granta's vale,
Where Learning robed in sable reigns,
And Melancholy pale.
Ye comrades of the jovial hour,
Ye tenants of the classic bower,
On Cama's verdant margin placed,
Adieu! while memory still is mine,
For, offerings on Oblivion's shrine
These scenes must be effaced.

* Harrow.
Adieu, ye mountains of the clime
Where grew my youthful years;
Where Loch na Garr in snows sublime
His giant summit rears.
Why did my childhood wander forth
From you, ye regions of the North,
With sons of pride to roam?
Why did I quit my Highland cave,
Marr's dusky heath, and Dee's clear wave.
To seek a Sothern home?

Hall of my Sires! * a long farewell—
Yet why to thee adieu?
Thy vaults will echo back my knell,
Thy towers my tomb will view:
The faltering tongue which sung thy fall,
And former glories of thy Hall,
Forgets its wonted simple note—
But yet the Lyre retains the strings,
And sometimes on Æolian wings
In dying strains may float.

Fields, which surround you rustic cot,
While yet I linger here,
Adieu! you are not now forgot,
To retrospection dear.
Streamlet *† along whose rippling surge,
My youthful limbs were wont to urge,
At noontide heat their piant course;
Plunging with ardor from the shore,
Thy springs will have these limbs no more,
Deprived of active force.

And shall I here forget the scene,
Still nearest to my breast?
Rocks rise, and rivers roll between
The spot which passion blest;
Yet, Mary,‡ all thy beauties seem
Fresh as in Love's bewitching dream,
To me in smiles display'd;
Till slow disease resigns his prey
To Death, the parent of decay,
Thine image cannot fade.

And thou! my Friend! § whose gentle love
Yet thrills my bosom's chords,
How much thy friendship was above
Description's power of words!
Still near my breast thy gift I wear,
Which sparkled once with Feeling's tear
Of Love the pure, the sacred gem;
Our souls were equal, and our lot
In that dear moment quite forgot;
Let pride alone condemn!

All, all, is dark and cheerless now?
No smile of Love's deceit,
Can warm my veins with wonted glow,
Can bid Life's pulses beat:
Not e'en the hope of future fame
Can wake my faint, exhausted frame,
Or crown with fancied wreaths my head.
Mine is a short inglorious race—
To humble in the dust my face,
And mingle with the dead.

Oh Fame! thou goddess of my heart
On him who gains thy praise,
Pointless must fall the Spectre's dart
Consumed in Glory's blaze,
But me she beckons from the earth,
My name obscure, unmark'd my birth,
My life a short and vulgar dream;
Lost in the dull, ignoble crowd,
My hopes recline within a shroud,
My fate is Lethe's stream.

When I repose beneath the sod,
Unheeded in the clay,
Where once my playfell footsteps trod,
Where now my head must lay;
The meed of pity will be shed
In dew-drops o'er my narrow bed,
By nightly skies and storms alone;
No mortal eye will deign to steep
With tears the dark sepulchral deep,
Which hides a name unknown.

Forget this world, my restless sprite
Turn, turn thy thoughts to Heaven.
There must thou soon direct thy flight,
If errors are forgiven.
To bigots and to sects unknown,
Bow down beneath the Almighty's Throne;
To Him address thy trembling prayer:
He, who is merciful and just,
Will not reject a child of dust,
Although his meanest care.

Father of Light! to Thee I call,*
My soul is dark within:
Thou, who canst mark the sparrow's fall,
Avert the death of sin.
Thou, who canst guide the wandering star,
Who calm'st the elemental war,
Whose mantle is yon boundless sky,
My thoughts, my words, my crimes forgive,
And since I soon must cease to live,
Instruct me how to die.

TO A VAIN LADY.

Ah, heedless girl, why thus disclose
What ne'er was meant for other ears?
Why thus destroy thine own repose,
And dig the source of future tears?

Oh, thou wilt weep, unprudent maid,
While lurking envious foes will smile,
For all the follies thou hast said,
Of those who spoke but to beguile.

Vain girl! thy ling'ring woes are nigh,
If thou believest what striplings say;
Oh, from the deep temptation fly,
Nor fall the specious spoiler's prey.

Dost thou repeat, in childish boast,
The words man utter to deceive?
Thy peace, thy hope, thy all is lost
If thou canst venture to believe.

BYRON'S WORKS.

TO ANNE.

Oh, Anne! your offences to me have been grievous; I thought from my wrath no atonement could save you; but woman is made to command and deceive us—I look'd in your face, and I almost forgave you.

I vowed I could ne'er for a moment respect you, Yet thought that a day's separation was long: When we met, I determined again to suspect you—Your smile soon convinced me suspicion was wrong.

I swore, in a transport of young indignation, With fervent contempt evermore to disdain you: I saw you—my anger became admiration; And now, all my wish, all my hope, 's to regain you.

With beauty like yours, oh, how vain the contention! Thus lowly I sue for forgiveness before you;—At once to conclude such a fruitless dissection, Be false, my sweet Anne, when I cease to adore you!

January 16, 1807.

TO THE SAME.

Oh say not, sweet Anne, that the Fates have decreed The heart which adores you should wish to dis- sever; Such Fates were to me most unkind ones indeed,—To bear me from love and from duty for ever.

Your frowns, lovely girl, are the Fates which alone Could bid me from fond admiration refrain; By these, every hope, every wish were o'erthrown, Till smiles should restore me to rapture again.

As the ivy and oak, in the forest entwined, The rage of the tempest united must weather My love and my life were by nature design'd To flourish alike, or to perish together.

Then say not, sweet Anne, that the Fates have decreed, Your lover should bid you a lasting adieu; Till Fate can ordain that this bosom shall bleed, His soul, his existence, are centred in you.

January 15, 1807.

TO THE AUTHOR OF A SONNET BEGINNING

"SAD IS MY VERSE, YOU SAY, AND YET NO TEAR."

Thy verse is "sad" enough, no doubt; A devilish deal more sad than witty! Why we should weep, I can't find out, Unless for thee we weep in pity.

Yet there is one I pity more; And much, alas! I think he needs it: For he, I'm sure will suffer sore, Who, to his own misfortune, reads it.

The rhymes, without the aid of magic, May once be read—but never after; Yet their effect's by no means tragic, Although by far too dull for laughter.

But would you make our bosoms bleed, And of no common pang complain— If you would make us weep indeed, Tell us, you'll read them o'er again.

March 8, 1807.

ON FINDING A FAN.

In one who felt as once he felt, This might, perhaps, have fann'd the flame, But now no more his heart will melt, Because that heart is not the same.

As when the ebbing flames are low, The aid which once improved the light, And made them burn with fiercer glow, Now quenches all their blaze in night,

Thus has it been with passion's fires— As many a boy and girl remembers— While every hope of love expires, Extinguish'd with the dying embers.

The first, though not a spark survive, Some careful hand may teach to burn; The last, alas! can ne'er survive; No touch can bid its warmth return.

Or, if it chance to wake again, Not always doomed its heat to soothe, It sheds (so wayward fates ordain) Its former warmth around another.

1807.
Farewell to the Muse.

They Power! who hast ruled me through infancy's days,
Young offspring of Fancy, 'tis time we should part;
Then rise on the gale the last of my lays,
The coldest effusion which springs from my heart.

This bosom, responsive to rapture no more,
Shall hush thy wild notes, nor implore thee to sing;
The feelings of childhood, which taught thee to soar,
Are wafted far distant on Apathy's wing.

Though simple the themes of my rude flowing Lyre,
Yet even those themes are departed for ever;
No more beam the eyes which my dream could inspire,
My visions are flown, to return,—alas, never!

When drain'd is the nectar which gladdens the bowl,
How vain is the effort delightful to prolong!
When cold is the beauty which dwell in my soul,
What magic of Fancy can lengthen my song?

Can the lips sing of Love in the desert alone,
Of kisses and smiles which they now must resign;
Or dwell with delight on the hours that are flown?
Ah, no! for those hours no longer be mine.

Can they speak of the friends that I lived but to love?
Ah, surely affection ennobles the strain!
But how can my numbers in sympathy move,
When I scarcely can hope to behold them again?

Can I sing of the deeds which my Fathers have done,
And raise my loud harp to the fame of my Sires?
For glories like theirs, oh, how faint is my tone!
*For Heroes* exploits how unequal my fires!

Untouch'd then, my Lyre shall reply to the blast—
'Tis hush'd; and my feeble endeavors are o'er:
And those who have heard it will pardon the past,
When they know that its murmurs shall vibrate no more.

And soon shall its wild erring notes be forgot,
Since early affection and love is o'ercast;
Oh! blest had my fate been, and happy my lot,
Had the first strain of love been the dearest, the last.

Farewell, my young Muse! since we now can ne'er meet;
If our songs have been languid, they surely are few:
Let us hope that the present at least will be sweet—
The present—which seals our eternal adieu.

1807.

To an Oak at Newstead.*

Young Oak! when I planted thee deep in the ground,
I hoped that thy days would be longer than mine;
That thy dark-waving branches would flourish around,
And ivy thy trunk with its mantle entwine.

Such, such was my hope; when, in infancy's years,
On the land of my fathers I reared thee with pride;
They are past, and I water thy stem with my tears,—
Thy decay not the weeds that surround thee can hide.

I left thee, my Oak, and since that fatal hour,
*A stranger has dwelt in the hall of my sire;
Till manhood shall crown me, not mine is the power.
But his whose neglect may have made thee expire

Oh! hardy thouwert—even now little care
Might revive thy young head, and thy wounds gently heal;
But thouwert not fated affection to share—
For who could suppose that a stranger would feel?

Ah, droop not, my Oak! lift thy head for awhile;
Ere twice round you Glory this planet shall run,
The hand of thy Master will teach thee to smile.
When Infancy's years of probation are done.

Oh, live then, my Oak; tow'r aloft from the weeds,
That clog thy young growth, and assist thy decay,
For still in thy bosom are life's early seeds,
And still may thy branches their beauty display.

Oh! yet, if maturity's years may be thine,
Though I shall lie low in the cavern of death,
On thy leaves yet the day-beam of ages may shine
Uninjured by time, or the rude winter's breath.

For centuries still may thy boughs lightly wave
O'er the corse of thy lord in thy crapefury laid;
While the branches thus gratefully shelter his grave,
The chief who survives may recline in thy shade.

And as he with his boys shall revisit this spot,
He will tell them in whispers more softly to tread
Oh! surely, by these I shall ne'er be forgot:
Remembrance still hallows the dust of the dead.

And here, will they say, when in life's glowing prime
Perhaps he has poured forth his young simple lay
And here he must sleep, till the moments of time
Are lost in the hours of Eternity's day.

1807.

Lines.

On hearing that Lady Byron was ill.*

And thou wert sad—yet I was not with thee;
And thou wert sick, and yet I was not near;
Methought that joy and health alone could be
Where I was not—and pain and sorrow here!
And is it thus?—is it as I foretold,
And shall be more so; for the mind recoils
Upon itself, and the wreck'd heart feels cold,
While heaviness collects the shattered spoils.
It is not in the storm nor in the strife
We feel benumb'd and wish to be no more,
But in the after-silence on the shore,
When all is lost, except a little life.

* See Fragment, page 566.

* See Fragment, page 571.
I am too well avenged—but 'twas my right;
Whate'er my sins might be, thou wert not sent
To be the Nemesis who should requite—
Nor did Heaven choose so near an instrument.

Mercy is for the merciful!—If thou
Hast been of such, 'twill be accorded now.
Thy nights are banish'd from the realms of sleep—
Yes! they may flatter thee, but thou must feel
A hollow agony which will not heal,
For thou art pillow'd on a curse too deep;
Thou hast sown in my sorrow, and must reap
The bitter harvest in a wo as real!
I have had many foes, but none like thee;
For 'gainst the rest myself I could defend,
And be avenged, or turn them into friend;
But thou in safe implacability
Hast nought to dread—in thine own weakness
shieded,
And in my love, which hath but too much yielded,
And spared, for thy sake, some I should not spare—
And thus upon the world—trust in thy truth—
And the wild fame of my unworl'd youth—
On things that were not, and on things that are—
Even upon such a basis hast thou built
A monument, whose cement hath been guilt!
The moral Clytemnestra of thy lord,
And hew'd down, with an unsuspected sword,
Fame, peace, and hope—and all the better life
Which, but for this cold treason of thy heart,
Might still have risen from out the grave of strife,
And found a nobler duty than to part.
But of thy virtues diest thou make a vice,
Trafficking with them in a purpose cold,
For present anger and for future gold—
And buying other's grief at any price.
And thus once enter'd into crooked ways,
The early truth, which was thy proper praise,
Did not still walk beside thee—but at times,
And with a breast unknowing its own crimes,
Deceit, avarice incompatible,
Equivocations, and the thoughts which dwell
In Janus-spirits—the significant eye
Which learns to lie with silence—the pretext
Of Prudence, with advantages annex'd—
The acquiescence in all things which tend,
No matter how, to the desired end—
All found a place in thy philosophy,
The means were worthy, and the end is won—
I would not do by thee as thou hast done!

September, 1816.

STANZAS.

"COULD LOVE FOR EVER."

Could Love for ever
Run like a river,
And Time's endeavor
Be tried in vain—
No other pleasure
With this could measure;
And like a treasure
We'd hug the chain.
But since our sighing
Ends not in dying,
And, form'd for flying,

Love plumes his wing
Then for this reason
Let's love a season,
But let that season be only Spring.

When lovers parted
Feel broken-hearted
And all hopes are thwarted,
Expect to die;
A few years older,
Ah! how much colder
They might behold her
For whom they sigh.
When link'd together,
In every weather,
They pluck Love's feather
From out his wing—
He'll stay for ever,
But sadly shiver
Without his plumage, when past the Spring.

Like Chiefs of Faction
His life is action—
A formal passion
That curbs his reign,
Obscures his glory,
Despots, hence, he
Such terr'd but the
Quits w— but vain.
Still, stillly no ming
With ban too du'hcing,
His pow'r cing,
He musea on—
Repose but cloys him,
Retreat destroys him,

Love brooks not a degraded throne

Wait not, fond lover:
Till years are over,
And then recover,
As from a dream.
While each bewailing
The other's falling,
With wrath and railing
All hideous seem—
While first decreasing,
Yet not quite ceasing,
Wait not till teazing
All passion blight:
If once diminish'd
Love's reign is finish'd—
Then part in friendship,—and bid good night.

So shall Affection,
To recollection
The dear connection
Bring back with joy;
You had not waited
Till, tired or hâ'ted,
Your passions sated
Began to cloy.
Your last embraces
Leave no cold traces—
The same fond faces
As through the past:
And eyes, the mirrors
Of your sweet errors
Reflect but rapture—not least though last.
Our English maids are long to woo,
And frigid even in possession:
And if their charms be fair to view,
Their lips are slow at Love's confession:
But born beneath a brighter sun,
For love ordain'd the Spanish maid is,
And who,—when fondly, fairly won,—
Enchants you like the girl of Cadiz?

The Spanish maid is no coquette,
Nor joys to see a lover tremble,
And if she love, or if she hate,
Alike she knows not to disguise.
Her heart can ne'er be bought or sold—
How'er it beats, 'tis beats sincerely;
And, though it will not bend to gold,
'Twill love you long and love you dearly.

The Spanish girl that meets your love,
Ne'er taunts you with a mock denial,
For every thought is bent to prove
Her passion in the hour of trial.
When thro'ning foemen menace Spain,
She dares the deed and shares the danger
And should her lover press the plain,
She hurls the spear, her love's avenger.

And when, beneath the evening star,
She mingles in the gay Bolo'o
Or sings to her attuned guitar
Of Christian knight or Moorish hero,
Or counts her beads with fairy hand
Beneath the twinkling rays of Hesper,
Or joins devotion's choral band,
To chant the sweet and hallow'd vesper.

In each her charms the heart must move
Of all who venture to behold her
Then let not maids less fair reprove
Because her bosom is not colder;
Through many a clime 'tis mine to roam
Where many a soft and melting maid is,
But none abroad, and few at home,
May match the dark-eyed girl of Cadiz.

THE THIRD ACT OF MANFRED,
IN ITS ORIGINAL SHAPE, AS FIRST SENT TO THE PUBLISHER.

SCENE I.

A Hall in the Castle of Manfred.

Manfred and Herman.

Man. What is the hour?

Her. It wants but one till sunset
And promises a lovely twilight.

Man. Say,
Are all things so disposed of in the tower
As I directed?

Her. All, my lord, are ready:
Here is the key and casket.

Man. It is well.
Thou may'st retire.  

Her. My lord, the Abbot of St. Maurice craves
To greet your presence.

Exit the Abbot of St. Maurice.

Abbot. Peace be with Count Manfred!

Man. Thanks, holy father! welcome to these walls;
Thy presence honors them, and bless those
Who dwell within them.

Abbot. Would it were so, Count; but I would fain confer with thee alone.

Man. Herman retire. What would my reverend guest?

Abbot. Thus, without prelude,—Age and zeal thy office,
And good intent, must plead my privilege:
Our near, though not acquainted, neighborhood.
May also be my herald: Rumors strange,
And of unholy nature, are abroad,
And busy with thy name—a noble name
For centuries; may he who bears it now
Transmit it unimpaired!

Man. Proceed,—I listen.

Abbot. 'Tis said thou holdest converse with the things
Which are forbidden to the search of man;
That with the dwellers of the dark abodes,
The many evil and unheavenly spirits
Which walk the valley of the shade of death,
Thou communest. I know that with mankind,
Thy fellows in creation, thou dost rarely Exchange thy thoughts, and that thy solitude
Is as an anchorite's, were it but holy.

Man. And what are they who do avouch these things?

Abbot. My pious brethren—the scared peasantry—
Even thy own vassals—who do look on thee
With most unquiet eyes. Thy life's in peril.

Man. Take it.

Abbot. I come to save, and not destroy—
I would not pry into thy secret soul;
But if these things be sooth, there still is time
For penitence and pity: reconcile thee
With the true church, and through the church to heaven.

Man. I hear thee. This is my reply; whate'er
I may have been, or am, doth rest between
Heaven and myself.—I shall not choose a mortal
To be my mediator. Have I sinn'd
Against your ordinances? prove and punish! *

Abbot. Then, hear and tremble! for the head
Of him who in the mail of innate hardihood
Would shield himself, and battle for his sins,
There is the stake on earth, and beyond earth eternal—

Man. Charity, most reverend father,
Becomes thy lips so much more than this menace,
That I would call thee back to: it but say,
What wouldst thou with me?

Abbot. Things that would shake thee—but I keep them
back,
And give thee till to-morrow to repent.
Then if thou dost not all devote thyself
To penitence, and with gift of all thy lands
To the monastery—

Man. I understand thee,—well.

Abbot. Expect no mercy; I have warned thee.

Man. (opening the casket.) Stop—
There is a gift for thee within this casket.

[Manfred opens the casket, strikes a light,
And burns some incense.

Ho! Asharoth!
The Demon Asharoth appears, singing as fol-

ows:

Abbot. I fear thee not,—hence—

Avaunt thee, evil one!—help, ho! without there!

Man. Convey this man to the Shreckhorn—to its peak—
To its extreme peak—watch with him there
From now till sunrise; let him gaze, and know
He ne'er again will be so near to heaven,
But harm him not; and when the morrow breaks,
Set him down safe in his cell—away with him!

Ash. Had I not better bring his brethren too,
Convent and all to bear him company?

Man. No, this will serve for the present. Take

him up.

Ash. Come, friar! now an exorcism or two,
And we shall fly the lighter.

[Ashtaroth disappears with the Abbot, sing-
ing as follows:

A prodigal son and a maid undone,
And a widow re-wedded within the year;
And a worldly monk and a pregnant nun,
Are things which every day appear.

* "Raven-stone, (Rabenstein,) a translation of the German word for gravel, which in Germany and Switzerland is permanent, and made of more.

It will be perceived that, as far as this, the original matter of the Third
w has been retained.
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

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MANFRED alone.

Man Why would this fool break in on me, and
force
My art to pranks fantastical?—no matter,
It was not of my seeking. My heart sickens
And weighs a fix’d foreboding on my soul;
But it is calm—calm as a sullen sea
After the hurricane; the winds are still,
But the cold waves swell high and heavily,
And there is danger in them. Such a rest
Is no repose. My life hath been a combat,
And every thought a wound, till I am scar’d
In the immortal part of me.—What now?

* Re-enter HERMAN.

Herr My lord, you bade me wait on you at sunset;
He sinks behind the mountain.

Man. Doth he so?
I will look on him.

[MANFRED advances to the window of the hall.
Glorious orb!* the idol
Of early nature, and the vigorous race
Of undisposed mankind, the giant sons
Of the embraces of angels, with a sex
More beautiful than they, which did draw down
The erring spirits who can ne’er return.—
Most glorious orb! that were a worship, ere
The mystery of thy making was reveal’d!
Thou earliest minister of the Almighty,
Which gladden’d, on their mountain tops, the hearts
Of the Chaldean shepherds, till they pour’d
Themselves in orisons! thou material God!
And representative of the Unknown—
Who chose thee for his shadow! thou chief star!
Centre of many stars! which mak’st our earth
Endurable, and temperest the hues
And hearts of all who walk within thy raves!
Sire of the seasons! Monarch of theclimes,
And those who dwell in them! for, near or far,
Our inborn spirits have a tint of thee,
Even as our outward aspects;—thou dost rise,
And shine, and set in glory! Fare thee well!
I ne’er shall see thee more. As my first glance
Of love and wonder for thee, then take
My latest look: thou wilt not beam on one
To whom the gifts of life and warmth have been
Of a more fatal nature. He is gone:
I follow.

[Exit MANFRED.

SCENE II.

The Mountains.—The Castle of Manfred at some distance.—A Terrace before a Tower.—Time,
Twilight.

HERMAN, MANUEL, and other Dependants of

MANFRED.

Her. Tis strange enough; night after night, for years,
He hath pursed long vigil in this tower,
Without a witness. I have been within it,—
So have we all been ofttimes; but from it,
Or its contents, it were impossible
To draw conclusions absolute of aught
His studies tend to. To be sure, there is

One chamber where none enter; I would give
The fee of what I have to come these three years,
To pore upon its mysteries.

Manuel. "Twere dangerous;
Content thyself with what thou know’st already.
Her. Ah! Manuel! thou art elderly and wise,
And couldst say much; thou hast dwelt within the castle—
How many years is’t?

Manuel. Ere Count-Manfred’s birth
I served his father, whom he nought resembled.
Her. There be more sons in like predicament
But wherein—do they differ?

Manuel. I speak not
Of features or of form, but mind and habits;
Count Sigismund was proud,—but gay and free,—
A warrior and a reveller; he dwelt not
With books and solitude, nor made the night
A gloomy vigil, but a festal time,
Merrier than day, he did not walk the rocks
And forests like a wolf, nor turn aside
From men and their delights.

Her. Beshrew the hour,
But those were jocund times! I would that such
Would visit the old walls again; they look
As if they had forgotten them.

Manuel. These walls
Must change their chieftain first. Oh! I have seen
Some strange things in these few years.*

Her. Come, be friendly;
Relate us some, to while away our watch:
I’ve heard thee darkly speak of an event
Which happen’d hereabouts, by this same tower.
Manuel. That was a night indeed! I do remember
’Twas twilight, as it may be now, and such
Another evening:—yon red cloud, which rests
On Eigheer’s pinnacle, so rested then,—
So like it that it might be the same; the wind
Was faint and gusty, and the mountain sways
Began to glitter with the climbing moon;
Count Manfred was, as now, within his tower,—
How occupied, we knew not, but with him
The sole companion of his wanderings
And watchings—her, whom of all earthly things
That lived, the only thing seem’d to love,
As he, indeed, by blood was bound to do,
The lady Astarte, his—

Her. Look—look—the tower—
The tower’s on fire. Oh, heavens and earth! what sound,
What dreadful sound is that?

[A crash like thunder.

Manuel. Help, help, there!—to the rescue of the
Count,
The Count’s in danger,—what ho! thre, approach! [The Servants, Vassals, and Peasantry ap-
proach, stupefied with terror.
If there be any of you who have heart
And love of human kind, and will to aid
Those in distress—pause not—but follow me—
The portal’s open, follow. [MANUEL goes in
Her. Come—Who follows?
What, none of ye?—ye recreants! shiver then
Without. I will not see old Manuel risk
His few remaining years unaided.

[HERMAN goes in

* Altered, in the present form to "Some strange things in them, Herman."
Hark!—

No—al is silent—not a breath—the flame
Which shot forth such a blaze is also gone:
What may this mean? Let's enter!

Faith, not I,—

Not that, if one, or two, or more, will join,
I then will stay behind; but, for my part,
I do not see precisely to what end.

Come.

Cease your vain prating—come.

I hear a word

Or two—but indistinctly—what is next?

What's to be done? let's bear him to the castle.

He changes rapidly.

'Twill soon be over.

Oh! what a death is this! that I should live
To shake my gray hairs over the last chief
Of the house of Sigismund.—And such a death!

Alone—we know not how—unshrived—untended—

With strange accompaniments and fearful signs—

I shudder at the sight—but must not leave him.

Old man! 'tis not so difficult to die.

He departs

Whither? I dread to think—but he is gone!
DON JUAN

"Difficile est pepticum communi dicere."
HOR. Epist. ad. Pluron.

"Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more Cates and Aes!—Ye,
by St. Anne, and Giner shall be hot in the mouth, too!"
SHAKESPEARE, Two/th Night, or What You WIL.

DEDICATION.

I.

SOUTHBY You're a poet—Poet-laureate,
And representative of all the race,
Although 'tis true that you turned out a Tory at
Last,—yours has lately been a common case,—
And now, my Epic Renegade! what are ye at?
With all the Lakers, in and out of place?
A nest of tuneful persons, to my eye
Like "four and twenty Blackbirds in a pye!

II.

"Which pye being open'd they began to sing,"
(This old song and new simile holds good,)
"A dainty dish to set before the King;"
Or Regent, who admires such kind of food:—
And Coleridge, too, has lately taken wing,
But like a hawk encumber'd with his hood,—
Explaining metaphysics to the nation—
I wish he would explain his Explanation.*

III.

You, Bob! are rather insolent, you know,
At being disappointed in your wish
To supersede all warblers here below,
And be the only Blackbird in the dish;
And then you overstrain yourself, or so,
And tumble downward like the flying fish
Gaspimg on deck, because you soar too high, Bob,
And fall, for lack of moisture quite a dry, Bob!

IV.

And Wordsworth, in a rather long "Excursion;"
(I think the quarto holds five hundred pages,) Has given a sample from the stavy version
Of his new system to perplex the sages
'Tis poetry—at least by his assertion,
And may appear so when the dog-star rages—
And he who understands it would be able
To add a story to the Tower of Babel.

* A. Coleridge's "Biographia Literata" appeared in 1817.

V.

You—Gentlemen! by dint of long secession
From better company, have kept your own
At Keswick, and, through still continued fusion
Of one another's minds, at last have grown
To deem as a most logical conclusion,
That Poesy hath wreathes for you alone
There is a narrowness in such a notion,
Which makes me wish you'd change your lakes for
ocean.

VI.

I would not imitate the petty thought,
Nor coin my self-love to so base a vice,
For all the glory your conversion brought,
Since gold alone should not have been its price.
You have your salary; wasn't for that you wrought!
And Wordsworth has his place in the Excise.*
You're shabby fellows—true—but poets still,
And duly seated on the immortal hill.

VII.

Your bays may hide the boldness of your knees—
Perhaps some virtuous blushes,—let them go—
To you I envy neither fruit nor boughs—
And for the fame you would engross below,
The field is universal, and allows
Scope to all such as feel the inherent glow:—
Scott, Rogers, Campbell, Moore, and Crabbe will
Gainst you the question with posterity.

VIII.

For me, who, wandering with pedestrian Muses,
Contend not with you on the winged steed,
I wish your fate may yield ye, when she chooses
The fame you envy, and the skill you need;

* Wordsworth's place may be in the Customs,—it is, I think, in that of the Excise—besides another at Lord Leisestile's table, where this poetical character and political parasite lists up the crumbs with a heartless alacrity; we converted Jacobus to long subsided into the churlish symphonist of the worst prejucice of the aristocracy.
And recollect a poet nothing loses
In giving to his brethren their full meed
Of merit, and complaint of present days
Is not the certain path to future praise.

IX.
He that reserves his laurels for posterity
(Who does not often claim the bright reversion)
Has generally no great crop to spare it, he
Being only injured by his own assertion;
And although here and there some glorious rarity
Arise like Titan from the sea's immersion,
The major part of such appellants go
To—God knows where—for no one else can know.

X.
If, fallen in evil days on evil tongues,
Milton appeal'd to the Avenger, Time,
If Time, the Avenger, execrates his wrongs,
And makes the word "Miltonic" mean "sublime:"
He deign'd not to belle his soul in songs,
Nor turn his very talent to crime;
He did not loose the Sire to laud the Son,
But closed the tyrant-hater he began.

XI.
Think'st thou, could he—the blind Old Man arise
Like Samuel from the grave, to freeze once more
The blood of monarchs with his prophecies,
Or be alive again—again all hor
With time and trials, and those helpless eyes,
And heartless daughters—worn—and pale—and poor,
Would he adore a sultan? he obey
The intellectual ennui Castleragh!?&

XII.
Cold-blooded, smooth-faced, placid miscreant!
Dabbling its sleek young hands in Erin's gore,
And thus for wider carnage taught to pant,
Transferr'd to gorge upon a sister shore,
The vulgarast tool that Tyranny could want,
With just enough of talent, and no more,
To lengthen fetters by another fix'd,
And offer poison long already mix'd.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

[Some text not transcribed due to illegibility or damage]

An orator of such set trash of phrase
Ineffably—legitimately vile,
That even its grossest flatterers dare not praise
Nor foes—all nations—condescend to smile.—
Not even a sprightly blinder's spark can blaze
From that Ixion grindstone's ceaseless toil,
That turns and turns to give the world a notion
Of endless torments and perpetual motion

XIV.
A bungler even in its disgusting trade,
And botching, patching, leaving still behind
Something of which its masters are afraid,
States to be curb'd, and thoughts to be confined,
Conspiracy or Congress to be made—
Cobbling at manacles for all mankind—
A tinkering slave-maker, who mends old chains,
With God and man's abhorrence for its gains.

XV.
If we may judge of matter by the mind,
Emasculated to the narrow it
Hath but two objects, how to serve, and bind,
Deeming the chain it wears even men may fit.
Eutropius of its many masters—blind
To worth as freedom, wisdom as to wit,
Fearless—because no feeling dwells in ice,
Its very courage stagnates to a vice.

XVI.
Where shall I turn me not to view its bonds,
For I will never feel them;—Italy!
Thy late reviving Roman soul despots [thee—
Beneath the lie this State—thing breath'd o'er
Thy clanking chain, and Erin's yet green wounds
Have tongues—tongues to cry aloud for me.
Europe has slaves—allies—kings—armies still,
And Soutrey lives to sing them very ill.

XVII.
Meantime—S. Laureate—I proceed to dedicate
In honest simple verse, this song to you.
And, if in flattering strains I do not predicate, 
'Tis that I still retain my "buff and blue;"
My politics as yet are all to educate:
Apostasy so fashionable, too,
To keep one creed's a task grown quite Herculean
Is it not so, my Tory, ultra-Julian? +

Venice, September 19, 1816.

* For the character of Etrurica, the eunuch and minister at the court of
  Ardashir, see Gibbon.

† I alias not to our friend Landor's heroic, the traitor Count Julian, but to
  Gibbon's hero, vulgarly called "The Apotheosis."
DON JUAN.

CANTO I.

I.
I WANT a hero—an uncommon want.
When every year and month sends forth a new one,
Till, after cloying the gazettes with cant,
The age discovers he is not the true one;
Of such as these I should not care to vaunt,
I'll therefore take our ancient friend Don Juan:
We all have seen him in the pantomime
Sent to the devil somewhat ere his time.

II.
Vernon, the butcher Cumberland, Wolfe, Hawke,
Prince Ferdinand, Cranby, Burgoyne, Keppel,
Evil and good, have had their tithe of talk, (Howe,
And fill'd their sign-posts then, like Wellesley now;
Each in their turn like Banquo's monarchs stalk,
Followers of fame, "ninearrow" of that sort:
France, too, had Buonapart and Dumourier
Recorded in the Moniteur and Courier.

III.
Barnave, Brissot, Condorcet, Mirabeau,
Petion, Clootz, Danton, Marat, La Fayette,
Were French, and famous people, as we know,
And there were others, scarce forgotten yet,
Joubert, Hoche, Marceau, Lannes, Desaix, Moreau,
With many of the military set,
Exceedingly remarkable at times,
But not at all adapted to my rhymes.

IV.
Nelson was once Britannia's god of war,
And still should be so, but the tide is turn'd;
There's no more to be said of Trafalgar,
'Tis with our hero quietly inurn'd:
Because the army's grown more populous,
At which the naval people are concern'd:
Besides, the prince is all for the land-service,
Forgetting Duncan, Nelson, Howe, and Jervis.

V.
Brave men were living before Agamennon,
And since, exceeding valorous and sage,
A good deal like him too, though quite the same none,
But then they shone not on the poet's page,
And so have been forgotten—I condemn none,
But can't find any in the present age
Fit for my poem, (that is, for my new one;) So,
as I have said, I'll take my friend Don Juan.

VI.
Most epic poets plunge in "medias res;" (Horace makes this the heroic turnpike road,
And then your hero tells, where'er you please,
What went before—by way of episode,
While seated after dinner at his ease,
Beside his mistress in some soft abode,
Palace or garden, paradise or cavern,
Which serves the happy couple for a tavern.

VII.
That is the usual method, but not mine—
My way is to begin with the beginning:
The regularity of my design
Forbids all wanderings as the worst of sinning,
And therefore I shall open with a line,
(Although it cost me half an hour in spinning)
Narrating somewhat of Don Juan's father,
And also of his mother, if you'd rather.

VIII.
In Seville was he born, a pleasant city,
Famous for oranges and women—he
Who has not seen it will be much to pity,
So says the proverb—and I quite agree;
All of the Spanish towns is none more pretty,
Cadiz perhaps, but, that you soon may see—
Don Juan's parents lived beside the river,
A noble stream, and call'd the Guadalquivir.

IX.
His father's name was Jose—Don, of course
A true Hidalgo, free from every stain
Of Moor or Hebrew blood, he traced his source
Through the most Gothic gentlemen of Spain,
A better cavalier ne'er mounted horse,
'Or, being mounted, 'er got down again,
Than Jose who begot our hero, who
Begot—but that's to come—Well, to renew—

X.
His mother was a learned lady, famed
For every branch of every science known—
In every Christian language ever named,
With virtues equall'd by her wit alone,
She made the cleverest people quite ashamed,
And even the good with inward envy groan,
Finding themselves so very much exceeded
In their own way by all the things that she did.

XI.
Her memory was a mine: she knew by heart
All Calderon and greater part of Lope,
So that if any actor miss'd his part,
She could have served him for the prompter's copy,
For her Feinagle's were an useless art,
And he himself obliged to shut up shop—he
Could never make a memory so fine as
That which adorned the brain of Donna Inez.

XII.
Her favorite science was the mathematical,
Her noblest virtue was her magnanimity,
Her wit (she sometimes tried at wit) was Attic all,
Her serious sayings darken'd to sublimity;
In short, in all things she was fairly what I call
A prodigy—her morning dress was dimity,
Her evening silk, or, in the summer, muslin,
And other stuffs, with which I won't stay puzzling.

XIII.
She knew the Latin—that is, "the Lords prayer;" And Greek, the alphabet, I'm nearly sure;
She read some French romances here and there,
Although her mode of speaking was not pure.
For native Spanish she had no great care,
At least her conversation was obscure;
Her thoughts were theorems, her words a problem,
As if she deem'd that mystery would enable'em.
XIV.

She liked the English and the Hebrew tongue,
And said there was analogy between 'em;
She proved it somehow out of sacred song, [em;
But I must leave the proofs to those who've seen
But this I've heard her say, and can't be wrong, [em,
And all may think which way their judgments lean.
"Tis strange—the Hebrew noun which means 'I am,'
The English always use to govern d—n."

XV.

Some women use their tongues—she look'd a lecture,
Each eye a sermon, and her brow a homily,
An all-in-all sufficient self-director,
"Like the lamented late Sir Samuel Romily,
The Law's expounder, and the State's corrector,
Whose suicide was almost an anomaly—
One sad example more, that "All is vanity,"—
(The jury brought their verdict in "Insanity.")

XVI.

In short, she was a walking calculation, [covers
Miss Edgeworth's novels stepping from their
Or Mrs. Trimmer's books on education,
"Or Gaiety's Wife" set out in quest of lovers,
Morality's prim personification,
In which not Envy's self a flaw discovers;
To others' share let "let female errors fall,"
For she had not even one—the worst of all.

XVII.

Oh! she was perfect past all parallel—
Of any modern female saint's comparison;
So far above the cunning powers of hell,
Her guardian angel had given up his garrison;
Even her minutest motions went as well
As those of the best piece-maid made by Harrison:
In virtues nothing earthily could surpass her,
Save thine "incomparable oil," Macasear.

XVIII.

Perfect she was, but as perfection is
Insipid in this naughty world of ours,
Where our first parents never learn'd to kiss
Till they were exiled from their earlier bower's,
Where all was peace, and innocence, and bliss,
(I wonder how they got through the twelve hours,)
Don Jose, like a lineal son of Eve,
Went plucking various fruit without her leave.

XIX.

He was a mortal of the careless kind,
With no great love for learning or the learn'd,
Who chose to go where'er he had a mind,
And never dream'd his lady was concern'd;
The world, as usual, wickedly inclined
To see a kingdom or a house o'erturn'd,
Whisper'd he had a mistress, some said two;
But for domestic quarrels one will do.

XX.

Now Donna Inez had, with all her merit,
A great opinion of her own good qualities;
Neglect, indeed, requires a saint to bear it,
And such indeed she was in her moralities;
But then she had a devil of a spirit,
And sometimes mix'd up fancies with realities,
And let few opportunities escape
Of getting her liege lord into a scrape.

XXI.

This was an easy matter with a man
Oft in the wrong, and never on his guard,
And even the wisest, do the best they can,
Have moments, hours, and days, so unprepared,
That you might "brain them with their lady's fan."
And sometimes ladies hit exceeding hard,
And fans turn into faielines in fair hands,
And why and wherefore no one understands.

XXII.

'Tis a pity learned virgins over wod
With persons of no sort of education,
Or gentlemen who, though well-born and bred,
Grow tired of scientific conversation:
I don't choose to say much upon this head,
I'm a plain man, and in a single station,
But—oh! ye lords of ladies intellectual,
Inform us truly, have they not honpeck'd you a?

XXIII.

Don Jose and his lady quarrell'd—why
Not any of the many could divine,
Though several thousand people chose to try,
'Twas surely no concern of theirs nor mine:
I loathe that low vice, curiosity;
But if there's any thing in which I shine,
'Tis in arranging all my friends' affairs,
Not having, of my-own, domestic cares.

XXIV.

And so I interfered, and with the best
Intentions, but their treatment was not kind;
I think the foolish people were possess'd,
For neither of them could I ever find,
Although their porter afterwards confess'd—
But that's no matter, and the worst's behind,
For little Juan o' her me threw, down stairs,
A pail of housemaid's water unaware'd.

XXV.

A little curly-headed, good-for-nothing,
And mischief-making monkey from his birth;
His parents ne'er agreed except in doting
Upon the most unquiet imp on earth;
Instead of quarrelling had they been but both in
neir sensel, they'd have sent young master fort7
7 school, or had him soundly whipp'd at home,
To teach him manners for the time to come.

XXVI.

Don Jose and the Donna Inez led
For some time an unhappy sort of life,
Wishing each-other, not divorced, but dead;
They lived respectably as man and wife,
Their conduct was exceedingly well-bred,
And gave no outward signs of inward strife,
Until at length the smother'd fire broke out,
And put the business past all kind of doubt.

XXVII.

For Inez call'd some druggists and physicians,
And tried to prove her loving lord was mad,
But as he had some lucid intermissions,
She next decided he was only bad;
Yet when they ask'd her for depostions,
No sort of explanation could be had,
Save that their duty both to man and God
Required this conduct—which seem'd very odd.
XXVIII.
She kept a journal, where his faults were noted,
And open'd certain trunks of books and letters,
All which might, if occasion served, be quoted;
And then she had all Seville for abettors,
Besides her good old grandmother, (who doted;) the hearers of her case became repeaters,
Then advocates, inquisitors, and judges,
Some for amusement, others for old grudges.

XXIX.
And then this best and meekest woman bore
With such serenity her husband's woes,
Just as the Spartan ladies did of yore,
Who saw their spouses kill'd, and nobly chose
Never to say a word about them more—
Calmly she heard each calumny that rose,
And saw his agonies with such sublimity,
That all the world exclaim'd, 'What magni-
nimity!' XXX.
No doubt, this patience, when the world is damning
Is philosophic in our former friends; [as,
'Tis also pleasant to be deem'd magnanimous,
The more so in obtaining our own ends;
And what the lawyers call a "matus animus."
Conduct like this by-by no means comprehends;
Revenge in person's certainly no virtue,
But then 'tis not my fault if others hurt you.

XXXI.
And if our quarrels should rip up old stories,
And help them with a lie or two additional,
I'm not to blame, as you well know, no more is
Any one else—they were become traditional;
Besides, their resurrection aids our glories
By contrast, which is what we just were wishing
And science profits by this resurrection—
Dead scandals form good subjects for dissection.

XXXII.
Their friends had tried a reconciliation,
Then their relations, who made matters worse;
'Twere hard to tell upon a like occasion
To whom it may be best to have recourse—
I can't say much for friend or yet relation:)
The lawyers did their utmost for divorce,
But scarce a fee was paid on either side
Before, unluckily, Don Jose died.

XXXIII.
He died: and most unluckily, because,
According to all hints I could collect
From counsel learned in those kind of laws,
(Although their talk's obscure and circumstinct,) his death contriv'd to spoil a charming cause;
A thousand pities also with respect
To public feeling, which on this occasion
Was manifested in a great sensation.

XXXIV.
But ah! he died; and buried with him lay
The public feeling and the lawyers' faces:
His house was sold, his servants sent away,
A Jew took one of his two mistresses,
A priest the other—at least so they say:
I ask'd the doctors after his disease—
He died of the slow fever called the tertian,
And left his widow to her own sverion.

XXXV.
Yet Jose was an honorable man,
That I must say, who knew him very well;
Therefore his frailties I'll no further scan,
Indeed there were not many more to tell;
And if his passions now and then outran
Discretion, and were not so peaceable
As Numas's, (who was also named Pompillius,) he had been ill brought up, and was bilious.

XXXVI.
What'er might be his worthlessness or worth,
Poor fellow! he had many things to wound him,
Let's own, since it can do no good on earth;
It was a trying moment that which found him,
Standing alone beside his desolate hearth, [him,
Where all his household gods lay shiver'd round
No choice was left his feelings or his pride,
Save death or Doctors' Commons—so he died.

XXXVII.
Dying intestate, Juan was sole heir
To a chancery-suit, and messages, and lands,
Which, with a long minority and care,
Promised to turn out well in proper hands;
Inez became sole guardian, which was fair,
And answer'd but to nature's just demands;
An only son left with an only mother
Is brought up much more wisely than another.

XXXVIII.
Sages of women, even of widows, she
Resolved that Juan should be quite a paragon,
And worthy of the noblest pedigrees,
(His sire was of Castile, his dam from Arragon:)
Then for accomplishments of chivalry,
In case our lord the king should go to war again,
He learn'd the arts of riding, fencing, gunnery,
And how to scale a fortress—or a nunnery

XXXIX.
But that which Donna Inez most desired,
And saw herself each day before all
The learned tutors whom for him she hired,
Was that his breeding should be strictly moral:
Much into all his studies she inquired,
And so they were submitted first to her, all,
Arts, sciences, no branch was made a mystery
To Juan's eyes, excepting natural history.

XL.
The languages, especially the dead,
The sciences, and most of all the abstruse,
The arts, at least all such as could be said
To be the most remote from common use
In all these he was much and deeply read;
But not a page of any thing that's loose,
Or hints continuation of the species,
Was ever suffered, lest he should grow vicious.

XLI.
His classic studies made a little puzzle,
Because of filthy loves of gods and goddesses,
Who in the earlier ages raised a bustle,
But never put on pantaloons or bodice;
His reverend tutors had at times a tussle,
And for their Æneas, Iliads, and Odysseys,
Were forced to make an odd sort of apology;
For Donna Inez dreading the mythology.
XLII.

Ovid’s a rake, as half his verses show him;
Anacreon’s morals are a still worse sample;
Catullus scarcely had a decent poem;
I don’t think Sappho’s Ode a good example,
Although Longinus tells us there is no hymn [p16];
Where the sublime soars forth on wings more am-
But Virgil’s songs are pure, except that horrid one
Beginning with “For manis pastor Corydon.”

XLIII.

Lucrétius’ irreligion is too strong
For early stomachs, to prove wholesome food,
- can’t help thinking—might be wrong.
Although no doubt his real intent was good,
For speaking out so plainly in his song,
So much indeed as to be downright rude:
And then what proper person can be partial
To all those nauseous epigrams of Martial?

XLIV.

Juan was taught from out the best edition,
Expergurated by learned men, who place;
Judiciously, from out the schoolboy’s vision,
This greater part—but it could not be done.
Too much their modest bard by this omission,
And pitying sore his mutilated case,
They only add them in an appendix,*
Which saves, in fact, the trouble of an index;

XLV.

For there we have them all “at one fell swoop,”
Instead of being scatter’d through the pages;
They stand forth marshall’d in a handsome troop,
To meet the ingenuous youth of future ages,
I’ll some less rigid editor shall stoop
To call them back into their separate cages,
Instead of standing staring altogether,
Like garden gods—and not so decent, either.

XLVI.

The Missal too (it was the family Missal)
Was ornamented in a sort of way
Which ancient mass-books often are, and this all
Kinds of grotesques illumined; and how they
Who saw those figures on the margin kiss all,
Could turn their optic to the text and pray,
Is more than I know—but Don Juan’s mother
Kept this herself, and gave her son another.

XLVII.

Sermons he read, and lectures he endured,
And homilies, and lives of all the saints;
To Jerome and to Chrysostom inured,
He did not take such studies for restraint;
But how faith is acquired, and then insured,
So well not one of the aforesaid pains
As Saint Augustine, in his fine Confessions,
Which made the reader envy his transgressions

XLVIII.

This, too, was a seal’d book to little Juan—
I can’t but say that his mamma was right,
If such an education was the true one.
She scarcely trusted him from out her sight;
Her maids were old, and if she took a new one,
You might be sure she was a perfect fright;
She did this during even her husband’s life—
I recommend as much to every wife.

XLIX.

Young Juan wax’d in goodness and grace
At six a charming child, and at eleven
With all the promise of as fine a face
As c’er to man’s maturer growth was given:
He studied steadily, and grew space,
And seemed, at least, in the right road to heaven
For half his days were pass’d at church, the other
Between his tutors, confessor, and mother,

L.

At six, I said he was a charming child,
At twelve, he was a fine, but quiet boy
Although in infancy a little wild
They tamed him down among them: to destroy
His natural spirit not in vain they toil’d,
At least it seemed so; and his mother’s joy
Was to declare how sage, and still, and steady,
Her young philosopher was grown already.

L.

I had my doubts, perhaps I have them still.
But what I say is neither here nor there;
I knew his father well, and have some skill
In character—but it could not be fair
From sure to son to augur good or ill;
He and his wife were an ill-sorted pair—
But scandal’s my aversion—I protest
Against all evil speaking, even in jest.

LII.

For my part I say nothing—nothing—but
This I will say—my reasons are my own—
That if I had an only son to put
To school (as God be praised that I have none)
’Tis not with Donna Inez I would shut
Him up to learn his catechism alone;
No—no—I’d send him out betimes to college,
For there it was I pick’d up my own knowledge

LIII.

For there one learns—’tis not for me to boast,
Though I acquired—but I pass over that,
As well as all the Greek I since have lost:
I say that there’s the place—but “Verum rat.
I think I pick’d up, too, as well as most,
Knowledge of matters—but, no matter what—
I never married—but, I think, I know
That sons should not be educated so.

LIV.

Young Juan now was sixteen years of age,
Tall, handsome, slender, but well knit; he seemed
Active, though not so sprightly, as a page;
And every body but his mother deem’d
Him almost man; but she flew in a rage,
And bit her lips (for else she might have screamed)
If any said so, for to be precious
Was in her eyes a thing the most atrocious.

LV.

Among her numerous acquaintance, all
Selected for discretion and devotion,
There was the Donna Julia, whom to call
Pretty were but to give a feeble notion
Of many charms, in her as natural
As sweetness to the flower, or salt to ocean,
Her zone to Venus, or his bow to Cupid,
(But this last simile is trite and stupid.)
LVI.
The darkness of her oriental eye
Accorded with her Moorish origin:
(Her blood was not all Spanish, by the by;
In Spain, you know, this is a sort of sin.)
When proud Grenada fell, and, forced to fly,
Debadild wept, of Donna Julia's kin
Some went to Africa, some stay'd in Spain,
Her great-great-grandmamma chose to remain.

LVII.
She married (I forget the pedigree)
With an Hidalgo, who transmitted down
His blood less noble than such blood should be:
At such alliances his sires would frown,
In that point so precise in each degree
That they bred in and in, as might be shown,
Marrying their cousins—nay, their aunts and nieces,
Which always spoils the breed, if it increases.

LVIII.
This heathenish cross restored the breed again,
Ruin'd its blood, but much improved its flesh;
For, from a root, the ugliest in Old Spain,
Sprung up a 'planch as beautiful as fresh,
The sons no more were short, the daughters plain;
But there's a rumor which I fain would hush—
'Tis said that Donna Julia's grandmamma
Produced her Don more heirs at love than law.

LIX.
However this might be, the race went on
Improving still through every generation
Until it centered in an only son,
Who left an only daughter; my narration
May have suggested that this single one
Could be but Julia, (who on this occasion
I shall have much to speak about,) and she
Was married, charming, chaste, and twenty-three.

LX.
Her eye (I'm very fond of handsome eyes)
Was large and dark, suppressing half its fire
Until she spoke, then, through its soft disguise
Flash'd an expression more of pride than ire,
And love than either; and there would arise
A something in them which was not desire,
But would have been, perhaps, but for the soul
Which struggled through and chasten'd down the whole.

LXI.
Her glossy hair was cluster'd o'er a brow
Bright with intelligence, and fair and smooth;
Her eyebrow's shape was like the aerial bow,
Her cheek all purple with the beam of youth,
Mounting at times to a transparent glow,
As if her veins ran lightning; she, in sooth,
Possess'd an air and grace by no means common:
Her stature tall—I hate a dumpy woman.

LXII.
Wedded she was some years, and to a man
Of fifty, and such husbands are in plenty;
And yet, I think, instead of such a one,
'Twere better to have two of five-and-twenty,
Especially in countries near the sun:
And now I think on't, "mi vien in mente,"
Ladies (of) the most uneasy virtue,
Prefer a spouse whose age is short of thirty.

LXIII.
'Tis a sad thing, I cannot choose but say,
And all the fault of that indescent sun,
Who cannot leave alone our helpless clay,
But will keep baking, broiling, burning on,
That, howsoever people fast and pray,
The flesh is frail, and so the soul undone:
What men call gallantry, and gods adultery,
Is much more common where the climates are sultry.

LXIV.
Happy the nations of the moral north!
Where all is virtue, and the winter season
Sends sin without a rag on, shivering forth.
('Twas snow that brought St. Anthony to reason;
Where juries cast up what a wife is worth,
By laying whate'er sum, in mulct, they please on
The lover, who must pay a handsome price,
Because it is a marketable vice.

LXV.
Alfonso was the name of Julia's lord,
A man well looking for his years, and who
Was neither much beloved nor yet abhor'd:
They lived together as most people do,
Suffering each others' foibles by accord,
And not exactly either one or two;
Yet he was jealous, though he did not show it
For jealousy dislikes the world to know it.

LXVI.
Julia was—yet I never could see why—
With Donna Inez quite a favorite friend;
Between their tastes there was small sympathy,
For not a line had Julia ever penn'd:
Some people whisper (but no doubt they lie,)
For malice still imputes some private end
That Inez had, ere Don Alfonso's marriage,
Forgot with him her very prudent carriage;

LXVII.
And that, still keeping up the old connexion,
Which time had lately render'd much more chaste
She took his lady also in affection,
And certainly this course was much the best.
She flatter'd Julia with her sage protection,
And complimented Don Alfonso's taste,
And if she could not (who can?) silence scandal,
At least she left it a more slender handle.

LXVIII.
I can't tell whether Julia saw the affair
With other people's eyes, or if her own
Discoveries made, but none could be aware
Of this, at least no symptom e'er was shown;
Perhaps she did not know, or did not care,
Indifferent from the first or callous grown:
I'm really puzzled what to think or say,
She kept her counsel in so close a way.

LXIX.
Juan she saw; and, as a pretty child,
Caress'd him often, such a thing might be
Quite innocently done, and harmless styled
When she had twenty years, and thirteen he,
But I am not so sure I should have smiled
When he was sixteen, Julia twenty-three:
These few short years make wondrous alterations
Particularly among sun-burnt nations.
LXX.
Whate'er the cause might be, they had become
Changed; for the dame grew distant, the youth shy;
Their looks cast down their greetings almost dumb.
And much embarrassment in either eye;
There surely will be little doubt with some
That Donna Julia knew the reason why,
But as for Juan, he had no more motion
Than he who never saw the sea of ocean.

LXXI.
Yet Julia's very coldness still was kind,
And tremulously gentle her small hand
Withdraw itself from his, but left behind
A little pressure, thrilling, and so bland
And slight, so very slight, that to the mind
'Twas but a doubt; but ne'er magician's wand
Wrought change with all Armida's fiery art
Like what this light touch left on Juan's heart.

LXXII.
And if she met him, though she smiled no more,
She looked a sadness sweeter than her smile,
As if her heart had deeper thoughts in store
She must not own, but cherish'd more the while,
For that compression in its burning bore
Even innocence itself has many a wile,
And will not dare to trust itself with truth,
And love is taught hypocrisy from youth.

LXXIII.
But passion most dissembles, yet betrays
Even by its darkness; as the blackest sky
Foretells the heaviest tempest, it displays
Its working through the vainly-guarded eye,
And in whatever aspect it arrays
Itself, 'tis still the same hypocrisy;
Coldness or anger, even disdain or hate
Are marks it often wears, and still too late.

LXXIV.
Then there were sighs, the deeper for suppression,
And stolen glances, sweeter for the theft,
And burning blushes, though for no transgression,
Tremblings when met, and restlessness when left;
All these are little preludes to possession,
Of which young passion cannot be bereft,
And merely tend to show how greatly love is
Embrass'd at first starting with a novice.

LXXV.
Poor Julia's heart was in an awkward state
She felt it going, and resolved to make
The noblest efforts for herself and mate,
For honor's, pride's, religion's, virtue's sake:
Her resolutions were most truly great,
And almost might have made a Tarquin quake—
She pray'd the Virgin Mary for her grace,
As being the best judge of a lady's case.

LXXVI.
She vow'd she never would see Juan more,
And next day paid a visit to his mother,
And look'd extremely at the opening door,
Which, by the Virgin's grace, let in another;
Grateful she was, and yet a little sore—
Again it opens, it can be no other,
'Tis surely Juan now!—No! I'm afraid
That night the Virgin was no further pray'd.

LXXVII.
She now determined that a virtuous woman
Should rather face and overcome temptation,
That flight was base and dastardly, and no man
Should ever give her heart the least sensation,
That is to say a thought, beyond the common
Preference that we must feel upon occasion
For people who are pleasanter than others,
But then they only seem so many brothers.

LXXVIII.
And even if by chance—and who can tell?
The devil's so very sly—she should discover
That all within is not so very well,
And if, still free, that such or such a lover
Might please perhaps, a virtuous wife can quell
Such thoughts, and be the better when they're over
And, if the man should ask, 'tis but de. jial.
I recommend young ladies to make trial.

LXXIX.
And then there are such things as love divine,
Bright and immaculate, unmixed and pure
Such as the angels think so very fine,
And matrons, who would be no less secure,
Platonic, perfect, "just such love as mine;"
Thus Julia said—and thought so, to be sure,
And so I'd have her think, were I the man
On whom her reveries celestial ran.

LXXX.
Such love is innocent and may exist
Between young persons without any danger;
A hand may first, and then a lip be kissed;
For my part, to such doings I'm a stranger,
But hear these freedoms for the utmost list
Of all o'er which such love may be a ranger:
If people go beyond, 'tis quite a crime
But not my fault—I tell them all in time.

LXXXI.
Love, then, but love within its proper limits,
Was Julia's innocent determination
In young Don Juan's favor, and to him its
Exertion might be useful on occasion;
And, lighted at too pure a shrine to dim its
Etherial lustre, with what sweet persuasion
He might be taught, by love and her together—
I really don't know what, nor Julia either.

LXXXII.
Fraught with this fine intention, and well fenced
In mail of proof—her purity of soul,
She, for the future, of her strength convinced,
And that her honor was a rock, or mole,
Exceeding sagely from that hour dispensed
With any kind of troublesome control.
But whether Julia to the task was equal
Is that which must be mentioned in the sequel.

LXXXIII.
Her plan she deemed both innocent and feasible,
And, surely, with a stippling of sixteen ble
Not scandal's sages could fix on much that's seis.
Or, if they did so, satisfied to mean
Nothing but what was good, her breast was peaceable
A quiet conscience makes one so serene!
Christians have burned each other, quite persuaded
That all the apostles would have done as they did.
LXXXIV.
And if, in the mean time, her husband died,
But heaven forbid that such a thought should cross
Her brain, though in a dream, (and then she sigh’d!)
Never could she survive that common loss;
But just suppose that moment should betide,
I only say suppose it—inter nos.
(Which should be entre nous, for Julia thought
In French, but then the rhyme would go for nought.)

LXXXV.
I only say suppose this supposition:
Juan, being then grown up to man’s estate,
Would fully suit a widow of condition;
Even seven years hence it would not be too late;
And in the interim (to pursue this vision)
The mischief, after all, could not be great,
For he would learn the rudiments of love
I mean the seraph way of those above.

LXXXVI.
So much for Julia. Now we’ll turn to Juan,
Poor little fellow! he had no idea
Of his own case, and never hit the true one;
In feelings quick as Ovid’s Miss Medea,
He puzzled over what he found a new one,
But not as yet imagined it could be a
Thing quite in course, and not at all alarming,
Which, with a little patience, might grow charming.

LXXXVII.
Silent and pensive, idle, restless, slow,
His home deserted for the lonely wood,
Tormented with a wound he could not know,
His, like all deep grief, plunged in solitude:
I’m fond myself of solitude or so,
But then I beg it may be understood
By solitude I mean a sultan’s, not
A hermit’s, with a harem for a grot.

LXXXVIII.
“Ah love! in such a wilderness as this,
Where transport and security entwine,
Here is the empire of thy perfect bliss,
And here thou art a god indeed divine.”
The bard I quote from does not sing amiss;
With the exception of the second line,
For that same twining “transport and security”
Are twisted to a phrase of some obscurity.

LXXXIX.
The poet meant, no doubt, and thus appeals
To the good sense and senses of mankind,
The very thing which every body feels,
As all have found on trial, or may find,
That no one likes to be disturbed at meals
Or love—I won’t say more about, “entwined”
Or “transport,” as we know all that before,
But beg “security” will bolt the door.

XC.
Young Juan wander’d by the glassy brooks,
Thinking unutterable things: he threw
Himself at length within the leafy nooks
Where the wild branch of the cork forest grew;
There poets find materials for their books,
And every now and then we read them through,
So that their plan and prosody are eligible,
Unless, like Wordsworth, they prove unintelligible.

XCI.
He, Juan, (and not Wordsworth,) so pursued
His self-communion with his own high soul,
Until his mighty heart, in its great mood,
Had mitigated part, thought not the whole
Of its disease; he did the best he could
With things not very subject to control,
And turn’d, without perceiving his condition,
Like Coleridge, into a metaphysician.

XCII.
He thought about himself, and the whole earth
Of man the wonderful, and of the stars,
And how the deuce they ever could have birth;
And then he thought of earthquakes and of wars
How many miles the moon might have in girth,
Of air balloons, and of the many bars
To perfect knowledge of the boundless skies;
And then he thought of Donna Julia’s eyes.

XCIII.
In thoughts like these true wisdom may discern
Longings sublime, and aspirations high,
Which some are born with, but the most part learn
To plague themselves withal, they know not why
Twas strange that one so young should thus concern
His brain about the action of the sky;
If you think ‘twas philosophy that this did,
I can’t help thinking puberty assisted.

XCIV.
He pored upon the leaves, and on the flowers,
And heard a voice in all the winds; and then
He thought of wood-nymphs and immortal bowers,
And how the goddesses come down to men:
He miss’d the pathway, he forgot the hours,
And, when he looked upon his watch again,
He found how much old Time had been a winner—
He also found that he had lost his dinner.

XCV.
Sometimes he turn’d to gaze upon his book
Boscan, or Garcilasso,—by the wind
Even as the page is rustled while we look,
So by the poesy of his own mind
Over the mystic leaf his soul was shook,
As if ‘twere one wherein magicians bind
Their spells, and give them to the passing gale
According to some good old woman’s tale.

XCVI.
Thus would he while his lonely hours away,
Discontented, nor knowing what he wanted;
Nor glowing reverie, nor poet’s lay,
Could yield his spirit that for which it panted,
A bosom whereon he his head might lay,
And hear the heart beat with the love it granted
With—several other things, which I forget,
Or which, at least, I need not mention yet

XCVII.
These lonely walks and lengthening reveries
Could not escape the gentle Julia’s eyes;
She saw that Juan was not at his ease;
But that which chiefly may and must surprise
Is, that the Donna Inez did not tease
Her only son with question or surmise;
Whether it was she did not see, or would not.
Or, like all very clever people, could not
This may seem strange, but yet 'tis very common; For instance—gentlemen, whose ladies take Leave to o'erstep the written rights of woman, And break the—which commandment is't they (I have forgot the number, and think no man (break? Should rashly quote, for fear of a mistake.) I say, when these same gentlemen are jealous, They make some blunder, which their ladies tell us.

A real husband always is suspicious, But still no less suspects in the wrong place, Jealous of some one who had no such wishes, Or pandering blindly to his own disgrace, By harboring some dear friend extremely vicious; The last indeed's infallibly the case: And when the spouse and friend are gone off wholly, He wonders at their vice, and not his folly.

Thus parents also are at times shortsighted; Though watchful as the lynx, they ne'er discover The while the wicked world beholds, delighted, Y young Hopeful's mistress, or Miss Fanny's lover, Till some confounded escapade has blighted The plan of twenty years, and all is over; And then the mother cries, the father swears, And wonders why the devil he got heirs.

But Inez was so anxious, and so clear Of sight, that I must think on this occasion, She had some other motive much more near For leaving Juan to this new temptation; But what that motive was, I shan't say here; Perhaps to finish Juan's education, Perhaps to open Don Alfonso's eyes, In case he thought his wife too great a prize.

It was upon a day, a summer's day; Summer's indeed a very dangerous season, And so is spring about the end of May; The sun no doubt, is the prevailing reason, But whatsoever the cause is, one may say, And stand convicted of more truth than treason, That there are months which nature grows more merry in; March has its hares, and May must have its heroine.

'Twas on a summer's day—the sixth of June: I like to be particular in dates, Not only of the age, and year, but moon; They are a sort of posthouse, where the Fates Change horses, making history change its tune, Then spur away o'er empires and o'er states, Leaving at last not much besides chronology, Excepting the post-obits of theology.

'Twas on the sixth of June, about the hour Of half-past six—perhaps still nearer seven, When julia sat within as pretty a bower As ere held houri in that heathenish heaven Described by Mahomet, and Anaereon Moore, To whom the lyre and laurels have been given, With all the trophies of triumphant song— He won them well, and may he wear them long

She sate, but not alone; I know not well How this same interview had taken place, And even if I knew, I should not tell— People should hold their tongues in any case— No matter how or why the thing befell, But there were she and Juan face to face— When two such faces are so, 'twould be wise, But very difficult, to shut their eyes.

How beautiful she looked! her conscious heart Glo'ed in her cheek, and yet she felt no wrong; Oh love! how perfect is thy mystic art, [strag Strengthening the weak and trampling on the How self-deceitful is the sagest part Of mortals whom thy lure hath led along; The precipice she stood on was immense— So was her creed in her own innocence.

She thought of her own strength, and Juan's youth And of the folly of all prudish fears, Victorious virtue, and domestic truth, And then of Don Alfonso's fifty years: I wish these last had not occur'd, in sooth, Because that number rarely much endears, And through all climes, the snowy and the sunny, Sounds ill in love, whate'er it may in money.

When people say, "I've told you fifty times," They mean to scold, and very often do; When poets say, "I've written fifty rhymes," They make you dread that they'll recite them too, In gangs of fifty, thieves commit their crimes; At fifty, love for love is rare, 'tis true; But then, no doubt, it equally as true is, A good deal may be bought for fifty Louis.

Julia had honor, virtue, truth and love, For Don Alfonso; and she inly swore, By all the vows below to powers above, She never would disgrace the ring she wore, Nor leave a wish which wisdom might reprieve: And while she ponder'd this, besides much more, One hand on Juan's carelessly was thrown, Quite by mistake—she thought it was her own;

Unconsciously she lean'd upon the other, Which play'd within the tangles of her hair; And to contend with thoughts she could not smoother She seem'd, by the distraction of her air 'Twas surely very wrong in Juan's mother To leave together this imprudent pair, She who for many years had watch'd her son so— I'm very certain mine would not have done so

The hand which still held Juan's, by degrees Gently, but palpably, confirm'd its grasp, As if it said "detain me, if you please!" Yet there's no doubt she only meant to clasp His fingers with a pure Platonic squeeze: She would have shrunk as from a toad or sap Had she imagined such a thing could roce A feeling dangerous to a prudent spouse.
CXII.
I cannot know what Juan thought of this,
But what he did is much what you would do;
His young lip thank'd it with a grateful kiss,
And then, abash'd at his own joy, withdrew
In deep despair, lest he had done amiss,
Love is so very timid when 'tis new:
She blush'd and frown'd not, but she strove to speak,
And held her tongue, her voice was grown so weak.

CXIII.
The sun set, and up rose the yellow moon,
The devil's in the moon for mischief; they
Who call'd her chaste, methinks, began too soon
Their nomenclature: there is not a day,
The longest, not the twenty-first of June,
Sees half the business in a wicked way
On which three single hours of moonshine smile—
And then she looks so modest all the while.

CXIV.
There is a dangerous stillness in that hour,
A stillness which leaves room for the full soul
To open all itself, without the power
Of calling wholly back its self-control;
The silver light which, hallowing tree and tower,
Sheds beauty and deep softness o'er the whole,
Breathes also to the heart, and o'er it throws
A loving languor which is not repose.

CXV.
And Julia sate with Juan, half embraced,
And half retiring from the glowing arm,
Which trembled like the bosom where 'twas placed:
Yet still she must have thought there was no harm,
Or else 'twere easy to withdraw her waist;
But then the situation had its charm,
And then—God knows what next—I can't go on;
I'm almost sorry that I ever begun.

CXVI.
Oh, Plato! Plato! you have paved the way,
With your confounded fancies, to more immoral conduct by the fancied sway.
Your system feigns o'er the controlless core
Of human hearts, than all the long array
Of poets and romancers:—You're a bore,
A charlatan, a coxcomb—and have been,
At best, no better than a go-between.

CXVII.
And Julia's voice was lost, except in sighs,
Until too late for useful conversation:
The tears were gushing from her gentle eyes,
I wish, indeed, they had not had occasion;
But who, alas! can love, and then be wise?
Not that remorse did not oppose temptation,
A little still she strove, and much repented,
And whispering "I will ne'er consent," consented.

CXVIII.
Tis said that Xerxes offer'd a reward
To those who could invent him a new pleasure;
Methinks the requirition's rather hard,
And must have cost his majesty a treasure;
For my part, I'm a moderate-minded bard,
Pond of a little love, (which I call leisure;)
I care not for new pleasures, as the old
Are quite enough for me, so they but hold.

CXIX.
Oh Pleasure! you're indeed a pleasant thing,
Although one must be damn'd for you, no doubt
I make a resolution every spring
Of reformation ere the year run out,
But, somehow, this my vestal vow takes wing,
Yet still, I trust, it may be kept throughout:
I'm very sorry, very much ashamed,
And mean, next winter, to be quite reclaim'd.

CXX.
Here my chaste muse a liberty must take—
Start not! I still chaster reader,—she'll hencebrace
Forward, and there is no great cause to quake.
This liberty is a poetical license
Which some irregularity may make
In the design, and as I have a high sense
Of Aristotle and the Rules, 'tis fit
To beg his pardon when I err a bit.

CXXI.
This license is to hope the reader will
Suppose from June the sixth, (the fatal day,
Without whose epoch my poetic skill,
For want of facts would all be thrown away,)
But keeping Julia and Don Juan still
In sight, that several months have pass'd; we'll see;
'Twas in November, but I'm not so sure
About the day—the era's more obscure.

CXXII.
We'll talk of that anon—'Tis sweet to hear,
At midnight on the blue and moonlit deep,
The song and siren of Adria's gondolier,
By distance mellow'd, o'er the waters sweep;
'Tis sweet to see the evening star appear;
'Tis sweet to listen as the night-winds creep
From leaf to leaf; 'tis sweet to view on high
The rainbow, based on ocean, span the sky;

CXXIII.
'Tis sweet to hear the watch-dog's honest bark
Bay deep-mouth'd welcome as we draw near home
'Tis sweet to know there is an eye will mark
Our coming, and look brighter when we come;
'Tis sweet to be awakened by the lark,
Or lull'd by falling waters; sweet the hum
Of bees, the voice of girls, the song of birds,
The lisp of children, and their earliest words.

CXXIV.
Sweet is the vintage, when the showering grapes
In Bacchanal profusion reel to earth
Purple and gushing: sweet are our escapes
From civic revelry to rural mirth;
Sweet to the miser are his glittering heaps,
Sweet to the father is his first-born's birth,
Sweet is revenge—especially to women,
Pillage to soldiers, prize-money to seamen.

CXXV.
Sweet is a legacy; and passing sweet
The unexpected death of some old lady
Or gentleman of seventy years complete,
Who've made "us youth" wait too—too long
For an estate, or cash, or country-seat,[already]
Still breaking, but with stamina so steady,
That all the Israelites are fit to mob its
Next owner for their double-damned poet-ebits
CXXXVII.

But sweeter still than this, than these, than all,
Is first and passionate love—it stands alone,
Like Adam's recollection of his fall;

The trees of knowledge have been pluck'd—all's
And life yields nothing further to recall
Worthy of this ambrosial sin so shown,
No doubt in fable, as the unforgiven
Fire which Prometheus filch'd for us from heaven.

CXXXVIII.

Man's a strange animal, and makes strange use
Of his own nature and the various arts,
And likes particularly to produce
Some new experiment to show his parts:
This is the age of oddities let loose,
Where different talents find their different marts;
You'd best begin with truth, and when you've lost
Labor, there's a sure market for imposture. [your

CXXXIX.

What opposite discoveries we have seen!
(Signs of true genius, and of empty pockets:)
One makes new noses, one a guillotine; [sockets;
One breaks your bones, one sets them in their
But vaccination certainly has been
A kind antithesis to Congreve's rock-sts,
With which the Doctor paid off an old ox,
By borrowing a new one from an ox.

CXXX.

Bread has been made (indifferent) from potatoes,
And galvanism has set some corpses grinning,
But has not answer'd like the apparatus
Of the humane Society's beginning,
By which men are unsuffocated gratis; [spinning.
What wondrous new machines have late been
I said the small-pox has gone out of late;
Perhaps it may be follow'd by the great.

CXXXI.

'Tis said the great came from America;
Perhaps it may set out on its return,—
The population there so spreads, they say,
'Tis grown high time to thin it in its turn,
With war, or plague, or famine, any way,
So that civilization they may learn;
And which in ravage the more loathsome evil is—
Their real lues, or our pseudo-aphilys?

CXXXII.

This is the patent age of new inventions
For killing bodies and for saving souls,
All propagated with the best intentions:
Sir Humphry Davy's lantern, by which coals
Are safely mined for in the mode he mentions;
Timbuctoo travels, voyages to the Poles,
Are ways to benefit mankind, as true,
Perhaps, as shooting them at Waterloo.

CXXXIII.

Man's a phemonon, one knows not what,
And wonderful beyond all wondrous measure;
'Tis pity, though, in this sublime world, that
Pleasure's a sin, and sometimes sin's a pleasure
Few mortals know what end they would be at,
But whether glory, power, or love, or pleasure
The path is through perplexing ways, and when
The goal is gain'd, we die, you know—and then—

CXXXIV.

What then?—I do not know, no more do you—
And so good night.—Return we to our story:
'Twas in November, when fine days are few,
And the far mountains wax a little hoary,
And slip a white cap on their mantles blue;
And the sea dashes round the promontory,
And the loud breaker boils against the rock,
And sober suns must set at five o'clock.

* CXXXV.

'Twas, as the watchmen say, a cloudy night;
No moon, no stars, the wind was low or loud
By gusts, and many a sparkling hearth was bright
With the piled wood, round which the family crow'd
There's something cheerful in that sort of light,
Even as a summer sky's without a cloud;
I'm fond of fire, and crickets, and all that,
A lobster salad, and champagne, and chat.

CXXXVI.

'Twas midnight—Donna Julia was in bed,
Sleeping, most probably,—when at her door
Arose a clatter might awake the dead,
If they had never been awake before—
And that they have been so we all have read,
And are to be so, at the least, once more—
The door was fasten'd, but, with voice and flat;
First knockes were heard, then "Madam—M. am-
bist:

CXXXVII.

"For God's sake, Madam,—Madam—here's my
With more than half the city at his back—[master
Was ever heard of such a cursed disaster?
'Tis not my fault—I kept good watch—Alack! I
Do, pray, undo the bolt a little faster—
They're on the stair just now, and in a crack
Will all be here; perhaps he yet may fly—
Surely the window's not so very high!"

CXXXVIII.

By this time Don Alfonso was arrived,
[ber
With torches, friends, and servants in great maz
The major part of them had long been wived,
And therefore paused not to disturb the slumber
Of any wicked woman, who contrived
By stealth her husband's temples to encumber:
Examples of this kind are so contagious,
Were one not punish'd, all would be outrageous.

CXXXIX.

I can't tell how, or why, or what suspicion
Could enter into Don Alfonso's head;
But for a cavalier of his condition
It surely was exceedingly ill-bred,
Without a word of previous admonition,
To hold a levee round his lady's bed,
And summon lackeys, arm'd with fire and sword,
To prove himself 'the thing he most abhor'd
CXLI.

Poor Donna Julia! starting as from sleep.
(Mind—that I do not say—she had not slept.)
Began at once to scream, and yawn, and weep;
Her maid Antonia, who was an adept,
Constrained to sling the bedclothes in a heap,
As if she had just now from out them crept:
I can't tell why she should take all this trouble
To prove her mistress had been sleeping double.

CXLI.

But Julia mistress, and Antonia maid,
Appeard like two poor harmless women, who
Of goblins, but still more of men, afraid,
Had thought one man might be deter'd by two,
And therefore side by side were gently laid,
Until the hours of absence should run through,
And truant husband should return and say,
'My dearest, I was the first who came away.'

CXLI.

Now Julian found at length a voice, and cried, [mean?]
"In Heaven's name, Don Alfonso, what d'ye
Has madness seized you? would that I had died
Ere such a monster's victim I had been!
What may this midnight violence befriend,
A sudden fit of drunkenness or spasm?
Dare you suspect me, whom the thought would kill?
Search, then, the room!"—Alfonso said, "I will."

CXLI.

It's search'd, they search'd, and rummaged every where,
Closet and clothes-press, chest and window-seat,
And found much linen, lace, and several pair
Of stockings, slippers, brushes, combs, complete;
With other articles of ladies fair,
To keep them beautiful, or leave them neat:
Arras they prick'd and curtains with their swords,
And wounded several smutters, and some boards.

CXLI.

Under the bed they search'd, and there they found—
No matter what—it was not that they sought;
They open'd windows, gazing if the ground
Had signs or foot-marks, but the earth said nought:
And then they stared each other's faces round:
'Tis odd, not one of all these seekers thought,
And seems to me almost a sort of blunder,
Of looking in the bed as well as under.

CXLI.

During this inquisition Julia's tongue— [cried.
Was not asleep—'Yes, search and search,' she
"Insult on insult heap, and wrong on wrong!
It was for this that I became a bride!
For this in silence I have suffer'd long
A husband like Alfonso at my side:
But now I'll bear no more, nor here remain,
If there be law, or lawyers, in all Spain.

CXLI.

"Yes, Don Alfonso, husband now no more,
If ever you indeed deserved the name,
Is't worthy for your years?—you have thousands,
Fifty, or sixty—it is all the same
 Isn't wise or fitting causeless to explore
For facts against a virtuous woman's fame?
Ungrateful, perjured, barbarous Don Alfonso!
How dare you think your lady would go on so?

CXLII.

"Is it for this I have disdain'd to hold
The common privileges of my sex?
That I have chosen a confessor so old
And deaft, that any other it would vex,
And never once he has had cause to scold,
But found my very innocence perplex
So much, he always doubted I was married—
How sorry you will be when I've miscarried!

CXLIII.

"Was it for this that no Cortezo e'er
I yet have chosen out the youth of Sevillia
Is it for this I scarce went any where,
Except to bull-fights, mass, play, rout, and revel
Is it for this, whate'er my suitors were,
I favor'd none—nay, was almost uncivil?
Is it for this that General Count O'Reily,
Who took Algiers, declares I used him vilely?

CXLIV.

"Did not the Italian Musico Cazzani
Sing at my heart six months at least in vain?
Did not his countryman, Count Corniani,
Call me the only virtuous wife in Spain?
Were there not also Russians, English, many?
The Count Strongstroganoff I put in pain,
And Lord Mount Coffe-house, the Irish peer,
Who kill'd himself for love (with wine) last year.

CXLV.

"Have I not had two bishops at my feet,
The Duke of Ichar, and Don Fergan Nunez?
And is it thus a faithful wife you treat?
I wonder in what quarter now the mean is:
I praise your vast forbearance not to be at
Me also since the time so opporune—
Oh, valiant man! with sword drawn and cock'd tiro
Now, tell me, don't you cut a pretty figure?

CXLVI.

"Was it for this you took your sudden journey,
Under pretence of business indispensable,
With that sublime of rasca! your attorney,
Whom I see standing there, and looking sensible
Of having play'd the fool? though both I spurn, he
Deserves the worst, his conduct's less defendable,
Because, no doubt, 'twas for his dirty fee
And not for any love to you or me.

CXLIX.

"If he comes here to take a deposition,
By all means let the gentleman proceed;
You've made the apartment in a fit condition.
There's pen and ink for you, sir, when you need
Let every thing be noted with precision,
I would not you for nothing should be fee'd—
But, as my maid's undress'd, pray turn your spies out.
Oh!' sob'd Antonia, "I could tear their eyes out."

CL.

"There is the closet, there the toilet, there
The antechamber—search them under, over.
There is the sofa, there the great arm-chair,
The chimney—which would really hold a lover
I wish to sleep, and beg you will take care
And make no further noise till you discover
The secret cavern of this lurking treasure—
And, when 'tis found, let me, too, have that pleasure
CLIV.

"And now, Hidalgo! now that you have thrown
Double upon me, confusion over all,
Pray have the courtesy to make it known
Who is the man you search for? how dy'e call
him? what's his lineage? let him but be shown—
I hope he's young and handsome—is he tall?
Tell me—and be assured, that since you stain
My honor thus, it shall not be in vain.

CLV.

"At least, perhaps, he has not sixty years—
At that age he would be too old for slaughter,
Or for so young a husband's jealous fears.—
(Antonia! let me have a glass of water.)
I am ashamed of having shed these tears,
They are unworthy of my father's daughter;
My mother dream'd not in my natal hour
That I should fall into a monster's power.

CLVI.

"Perhaps 'tis of Antonia you are jealous,
You saw that she was sleeping by my side
When you broke in upon us with your followers:
Look where you please—we've nothing, sir, to hide;
Only another time, I trust, you'll tell us,
Or for the sake of decency abide
A moment at the door, that we may be
Dress'd to receive so much good company.

CLVII.

"And now, sir, I have done, and say no more;
The little I have said may serve to show
The guileless heart in silence may grieve o'er
The wrongs to whose exposure it is slow—
I leave you to your conscience as before,
'Twill one day ask you why you used me so?
God grant you feel not then the bitterest grief—
Antonia! where's my pocket-handkerchief?"

CLVIII.

She ceased, and turn'd upon her pillow; pale
She lay, her dark eyes flashing through their tears
Like skies that rain and lighten; as a veil
The guileless heart in silence may grieve o'er
The wrongs to whose exposure it is slow:
I leave you to your conscience as before,
'Twill one day ask you why you used me so?
God grant you feel not then the bitterest grief—
Antonia! where's my pocket-handkerchief?"

CLIX.

The Senhor Don Alfonso stood confused;
Antonia bustled round the ransack'd room,
And, turning up her nose, with looks abused
Her master, and his myrmidons, of whom
Not one, except the attorney, was amused;
His, like Achates, faithful to the tomb,
So there were quarrels, cared not for the cause,
Knowing they must be settled by the laws.

CLX.

With prying snub-nose, and small eyes, he stood,
Following Antonia's motions here and there,
With much suspicion in his attitude;
For reputation, he had little care;
So that a suit or action were made, quick,
Small pity had he for the young and fair,
And n'er believd in negatives, till these
Were proved by competent false witnesses.

CLXI.

But Don Alfonso stood with downcast looks,
And, truth to say, he made a foolish figure;
When, after searching in five hundred nooks,
And treating a young wife with so much rigor,
He gain'd no point, except some self rebukes,
Added to those his lady with such vigor
Had pour'd upon him for the last half hour,
Quick, thick, and heavy—as a thunder-showers

CLXII.

At first he tried to hammer an excuse,
To which the sole reply was tears and sobs,
And indications of hysterics, whose
Prologue is always certain throses and throbs,
Gasps, and whatever else the owners choose—
Alfonso saw his wife, and thought of Job's;
He saw, too, in perspective, her relations,
And 'twas he tried to muster all his patience.

CLXIII.

He stood in act to speak, or rather stammer,
But sage Antonia cut him short before
The anvil of his speech received the hammer,
With "Pray, sir, leave the room, and say no more
Or madam dies."—Alfonso mutter'd "D—n her,"
But nothing else, the time of words was o'er;
He cast a rueful look or two, and did,
He knew not wherefore, that which he was bid

CLXIV.

With him retir'd his "posse comitatus,"
The attorney last, who linger'd near the door,
Reluctantly, still tarrying there as late as
Antonia let him—not a little sore
At this most strange and unequall'd "hiatus"
In Don Alfonso's facts, which just now wore
An awkward look; as he revolved the case,
The door was fasten'd in his legal face.

CLXV.

No sooner was it bolted, than—Oh shame!
Oh sin! oh sorrow! and oh wondrous kind
How can you do such things and keep your fame,
Unless this world, and 't other too, be blind?
Nothing so dear as an unfrich'd good name!
But to proceed—for there is more behind:
With much heart-felt reluctance be it said,
Young Juan sipp'd, half smother'd, from the bed.

CLXVI.

He had been hid—I don't pretend to say
How, nor can I indeed describe the where—
Young, slender, and pack'd easily, he lay,
No doubt, in little compass, round or square,
But pity him I neither must nor may
His suffocation by that pretty pair;
'Twere better, sure, to die so, than be shut,
With mauvin Clarence, in his Malwiney butt.

CLXVII.

And, secondly, I pity not, because
He had no business to commit a sin,
Forbid by heavenly, fined by human, laws,—
At least 'twas rather early to begin;
But at sixteen the conscience rarely graws
So much as when we call our old debts in
At sixty years, and draw the accounts of evil,
And find a deuced balance with the devil.
CLXVIII.
Of his position I can give no notion:
’Tis written in the Hebrew Chronicle,
How the physicians, leaving pill and potion,
Prescribed, by way of blister, a young belle,
When old King David’s blood grew dull in motion,
And that the medicine answer’d very well;
Perhaps ’twas in a different way applied,
For David lived, but Juan nearly died.

CLXIX.
What’s to be done? Alfonso will be back
The moment he has sent his fools away.
Antonia’s skill was put upon the rack,
But no device could be brought into play—
And how to parry the renew’d attack?
Besides, it wanted but few hours of day:
Antonia puzzled: Julia did not speak,
But press’d her bloodless lip to Juan’s cheek.

CLXX.
He turn’d his lip to hers, and with his hand
Call’d back the tangles of her wandering hair;
Even then their love they could not all command,
And half forgot their danger and despair:
Antonia’s patience now was at a stand—
“Come, come, ’tis no time now for fooling there,
She whispered in great wrath—’I must deposit
This pretty gentleman within the closet:

CLXXI.
“Pray keep your nonsense for some luckier night—
Who can have put my master in this mood?
What will become on’t?—I’m in such a fright!
The devil’s in the urchin, and no good—
Is this a time for giggling? this a plight?
Why don’t you know that it may end in blood?
You’ll lose your life, and I shall lose my place,
My mistress all, for that half-girlish face.

CLXXII.
Had it but been for a stout cavalier
Of twenty-five or thirty—(come make haste)—
But for a child, what piece of work is here!—
I really, madam, wonder at your taste—
(Of course, sir, get in)—my master must be near.
There, for the present at least he’s fast,
And, if we can but till the morning keep
Our counsel—(Juan, mind you must not sleep.”)

CLXXIII.
Now, Don Alfonso entering, but alone,
Closed the oration of the trusty maid:
See loiter’d, and he told her to be gone,
An order somewhat sullenly obey’d;
However, present remedy was none,
And no great good seem’d answer’d if she stay’d:
Regarding both with slow and sidelong view,
She snuff’d the candle, curtsied, and withdrew.

CLXXIV.
Alfonso paused a minute—then began
Some strange excuses for his late proceeding:
He would not justify what he had done,
To say the best, it was extreme ill-breeding:
But there were ample reasons for it, none.
Of which he specified in this nis pleasing:
His speech was a fine sample, on the whole,
Of rhetoric, which the learned call “rigmarole.”

CLXXV.
Julia said nought; though all the while there rose
A ready answer, which at once enables
A matron, who her husband’s foible knows,
By a few timely words to turn the tables.
Which, if it does not silence, still must pose,
Even if it should comprise a pack of fables;—
’Tis to retort with firmness, and when he
Suspends with one, do you reproach with three

CLXXVI.
Julia, in fact, had tolerable grounds,
Alfonso’s loves with Inez were well known,
But whether ’twas that one’s own guilt confounds
But that can’t be, as has been often shown:
A lady with apologies abounds:
It might be that her silence sprang alone
From delicacy to Don Juan’s ear,
To whom she knew his mother’s fame was dear.

CLXXVII.
There might be one more motive, which makes two.
Alfonso ne’er to Juan had alluded,
Mention’d his jealousy, but never who
Had been the happy lover, he concluded
Conceal’d among his premises: ’tis true,
His mind the more o’er this its mystery brooded
To speak of Inez now were, one may say,
Like throwing Juan in Alfonso’s way

CLXXVIII.
A hint, in tender cases, is enough;
Silence is best, besides there is a tact
(That modern phrase appears to me sad stuff,
But it will serve to keep my verse compact)
Which keeps, when push’d by questions rather
A lady always distant from the fact—[rough
The charming creatures lie with such a grace,
There’s nothing so becoming to the face

CLXXIX.
They blush, and we believe them; at least I
Have always done so; ’tis of no great use,
In any case, attempting a reply,
For then their eloquence grows quite profuse;
And when at length they’re out of breath, they sigh
And cast their languid eyes down, and let loose
A tear or two, and then we make it up
And then—and then—and then—sit down and sup

CLXXX.
Alfonso closed his speech, and begged her pardon
Which Julia half withheld, and then half granted
And laid conditions he thought very hard on
Denying several little things he wanted:
He stood, like Adam, lingering near his garden,
With useless penitence perplex’d and haunted.
Beseeking she no further would refuse,
When lo! he stumbled o’er a pair of shoes.

CLXXXI.
A pair of shoes!—what then? not much, if they
Are such as fit with lady’s feet, but these
(No one can tell how much I grieve to say)
Were masculine: to see them and to seize
Was but a moment’s art—Ah! well—a-day
My teeth begin to chatter, my veins freeze—
Alfonso first examined well their fashion
And then flew out into another passion
CLXXXI.

He left the room for his relinquish'd sword,
And Julia instant to the closet flew;
'Fly, Juan, fly! for Heaven's sake—not a word;
The door is open—you may yet slip through
The passage you so often have explored—
Here is the garden-key—fly—fly—adiéu!—
Haste—haste!—I hear Alfonso's hurrying feet—
Day has not broke—there's no one in the street.'

CLXXXIII.

None can say that this was not good advice,
The only mischief was, it came too late;
Of all experience 'tis the usual price,
A sort of income-tax laid on by fate:
Juan had reach'd the room-door in a trice,
And might have done so by the garden-gate,
But met Alfonso in his dressing-gown,
Who threaten'd death—so Juan knock'd him down.

CLXXXIV.

Díre was the scuffle, and out went the light,
Antonia cried out "Rape!" and Julia "Fire!"
But not a servant stirr'd to aid the fight.
Alfonso, pommell'd to his heart's desire,
Sware lustily he 'd been revenged this night;
And Juan, too, blasphemed an octave higher;
His blood was up; though young, he was a Tartar,
And not at all disposed to prove a martyr.

CLXXXV.

Alfonso's sword had dropp'd he could draw it,
And they continued battling hand to hand,
For Juan very luckily ne'er saw it;
His temper not being under great command,
If at that moment he had chance to claw it,
Alfonso's days had not been in the land
Much longer.—Think of husbands', lovers' lives,
And how you may be doubly widows—wives!

CLXXXVI.

Alfonso grappled to detain the foe,
And Juan threttled him to get away,
And blood ('twas from the nose) began to flow;
At last, as they more faintly wrestling lay,
Juan contriv'd to give an awkward blow,
And then his only garment quite gave way;
He fled, like Joseph, leaving it—but there,
I doubt, all likeness ends between the pair.

CLXXXVII.

Lights came at length, and men and maids, who found
An awkward spectacle their eyes before;
Antonia in hysterics, Julia swoon'd,
Alfonso leaning, breathless, by the door;
Some half torn drapery scatter'd on the ground,
Some blood, and several footsteps, but no more;
Juan the gate gain'd, tur'd the key about,
And, liking not the inside, lock'd the out.

CLXXXVIII.

Here ends this canto.—Need I sing or say,
How Juan, naked, favor'd by the night,
(Who favors what she should not,) found his way,
And reach'd his home in an unseenly plight?
The pleasant scandal which arose next day,
The nine days' wonder which was brought to light,
And how Alfonso sued for a divorce,
Were in the English newspapers, of course.

CLXXXIX.

If you would like to see the whole proceedings
The depositions, and the cause at full,
The names of all the witnesses, the pleadings
Of counsel to nonsuit or to annul,
There's more than one edition, and the readings
Are various, but they none of them are dull,
The best is that in short hand, tal'en by Gurney,
Who to Madrid on purpose made a journey.

CXG.

But Donna Inez, to divert the train
Of one of the most circulating scandals
That had for centuries been known in Spain,
At least since the retirement of the Vandals,
First vow'd (and never had she vow'd in vain)
To Virgin Mary several pounds of candles;
And then, by the advice of some old ladies,
She sent her son to be shipp'd off from Cadiz.

CXCI.

She had resolved that he should travel through
All European climes by land or sea,
To mend his former morals, and get new,
Especially in France and Italy,
(At least this is the thing most people do.)
Julia was bent into a convent; she
Grieved, but perhaps, her feelings may be better
Shown in the following copy of her letter:

CXCII.

"They tell me 'tis decided, you depart:
'Tis wise—'tis well, but not the less a pain:
I have no further claim on your young heart,
Mine is the victor, and would be again:
To love too much has been the only art
I used;—I write in haste, and if a stain
Be on this sheet, 'tis not what it appears—
My eyeballs burn and throb, but have no tears.

CXCIII.

"I loved, I love you; for this love have lost
State, station, heaven, mankind's, my own esteem
And yet cannot regret what it hath cost,
So dear is still the memory of that dream;
Yet, if I name my guilt, 'tis not to boast,—
None can deem haliber of me than I deem:
I trace this scrawl because I cannot rest—
I've nothing to reproach or to request.

CXCIV.

"Man's love is of man's life a thing apart,
'Tis woman's whole existence; man may range
The court, camp, church, the vessel, and the mart
Sword, gown, gown, glory, offer in exchange
Pride, fame, ambition, to fill up his heart,
And few there are whom these cannot estrange
Men have all these resources, we but one—
To love again, and be again undone.

CXCV.

"You will proceed in pleasure and in pride,
Beloved and loving many; all is o'er
For me on earth, except some years to hide
My shame and sorrow deep in my heart's core
These I could bear, but cannot cast aside
The passion, which still—ages as before,
And so farewell—forgive me, love me—Ne,
That word is idle now—but let it go.
CXCVI.

My breast has been all weakness, is so yet;
But still, I think, I can collect my mind;
My blood still rushes where my spirit's set,
As roll the waves before the settled wind;
My heart is feminine, nor can forget—
To all, except one image, madly blind:
So shakes the needle, and so stands the pole,
As vibrates my fond heart to my fix'd soul.

CXCVII.

"I have no more to say, but linger still,
And dare not set my seal upon this sheet,
And yet I may as well the task fulfill,
My misery can scarce be more complete:
I had not lived till now, could sorrow kill;
Death shuns the wretch who fain the blow would
And I must even survive this last adieu, [meet,
And bear with life, to love and pray for you!"

CXCVIII.

This note was written upon gilt-edged paper,
With a neat little crow-quot, slight and new:
Her small white hand could hardly reach the taper,
It trembled as magnetic needles do,
And yet she did not let one tear escape her;
The seal a sunflower; "Elle vous suit partout,
The motto cut upon a white cornelian,
The wax was superfine, its hue vermillion.

CXCVIX.

This was Don Juan's earliest scrape; but whether
I shall proceed with his adventure is
Dependent on the public altogether:
We'll see, however, what they say to this,
(Their favor in an author's cap's a feather,
And no great mischief's done by their caprice;)
And, if their approbation we experience,
Perhaps they'll have some more about a year hence.

CC.

My poem's epic, and is meant to be
Divided in twelve books, each book containing,
With love, and war, a heavy gale at sea,
A list of ships and captains, and kings reigning,
New characters; the episodes are three:
A panorama view of hell's in training,
After the style of Virgil and of Homer,
So that my name of epic's no misnomer.

CCI.

All these things will be specified in time,
With strict regard to Aristotle's Rules,
The code mecum of the true sublime,
Which makes so many poets and some fools;
'Prose poets like blank-verse—I'm fond of rhyme—
Good workmen never quarrel with their tools;
I've got new mythological machinery,
And very handsome supernatural scenery.

CCII.

There's only one slight difference between
Me and my epic brethren gone before,
And here the advantage is my own, I ween,
(Not that I have not several merits more;) But this will more peculiarly be seen;
They so embellish, that 'tis quite a bore
Their labyrinth of fables to thread through,
Whereas this story's actually true.
CCX

I sent it in a letter to the editor,

Who thank’d me duly by return of post—

I’m for a handsome article his creditor;

Yet, if my gentle Muse he please to roast,

And break a promise after having made it her,

Denying the receipt of what it cost,

And smear his page with gall instead of honey,

All I can say is—that he had the money.

CCXI.

I think that with this holy new alliance

I may insure the public, and defy

All other magazines of art or science,

Daily, or monthly, or three-monthly; I

Have not essay’d to multiply their clients,

Because they tell me ’twere in vain to try,

And that the Edinburgh Review and Quarterly

Treat a dissenting author very martly.

CCXII.

"Non ego hoc ferrem callida juventa
Consule Plancio," Horace said, and so

Say I, by which quotation there is meant a

Hint that some six or seven good years ago,

(Long ere I dreamt of dating from the Brenta,) I

Was most ready to return a blow,

And would not brook at all this sort of thing.

In my hot youth—when George the Third was King.

CCXIII.

But now, at thirty years, my hair is gray,—

(I wonder what it will be like at forty?

I thought of a peruke the other day,) My heart is not much greener; and, in short, I

Have squander’d my whole summer while ’twas May, And feel no more the spirit to retort; I

Have spent my life, both interest and principal, And deem not, what I deem’d, my soul invincible.

CCXIV.

No more—no more—Oh! never more on me

The freshness of the heart can fall like dew,

Which out of all the lovely things we see

Extracts emotions beautiful and new,

Hived in our bosoms like the bag o’ the bee: Think’st thou the honey with those objects grew? Alas! ’twas not in them, but in thy power, To double even the sweetness of a flower.

CCXV.

No more—no more—Oh! never more, my heart,

Canst thou be my sole world, my universe! Once all in all, but now a thing apart, Thou canst not be my blessing or my curse: The illusion’s gone for ever, and thou art Insensible, I trust, but none the worse; And in thy stead I’ve got a deal of judgment, Though Heaven knows how it ever found a lodgment.

CCXVI.

My days of love are over—me no more?
The charms of maid, wife, and still less of widow, Can make the fool of which they made before— In short, I must not lead the life I did do: The credulous hope of mutual minds is o’er; The copious use of clarét is forbid, too; So, for a good old gentlemanly vice, I think I must take up with sav’ce.

CCXVII.

Ambition was my idol, which was broken

Before the shrines of Sorrow and of Pleasure;

And the two last have left me many a token

O ‘er which reflection may be made at leisure;

Now, like Friar Bacon’s brazen head, I’ve spoken,

"Time is, time was, time’s past," a chymic treasure

Is glittering youth, which I have spent betimes— My heart in passion, and my head on rhymes.

CCXVIII.

What is the end of fame? ’tis but to fill

A certain portion of uncertain paper;

Some liken it to climbing up a hill,

Whose summit, like all hills, is lost in vapor;

For this men write, speak, preach, and heroes kill,

And bards burn what they call their "midnight To have, when the original is dust, [tape;]

A name, a wretched picture, and worst bust.

CCXIX.

What are the hopes of man? old Egypt’s king,

Cheops, erected the first pyramid

And largest, thinking it was just the thing To keep his memory whole, and mummy hid: But somebody or other, rummaging, Burglariously broke his coffin’s lid; Let not a monument give you or me hopes, Since not a pinch of dust remains of Cheops.

CCXX.

But I, being fond of true philosophy,

Say very often to myself, "Ah! all things that have been born were born to die,

Which death mows down to hay is grass You’ve pass’d your youth not so unpleasantly, And if you had it o’er again—t’would pass So thank your stars that matters are no worse, And read your Bible, sir, and mind your purse.

CCXXI.

But for the present, gentle reader! and

Still gentle purchaser! the bard—that’s I— Must, with permission, shake you by the hand, And so your humble servant, and good bye! We meet again, if we should understand Each other; and if not, I shall not try Your patience further than by this short sample— ‘Twere well if others follow’d my example

CCXXII.

"Go, little book, from this my solitude! I cast thee on the waters, go thy ways! And if, as I believe, thy vein be good, The world will find thee after many days.

When Southey’s read, and Wordsworth understood.

I can’t help putting in my claim to praise—

The four first rhymes are Southey’s, every line:

For God’s sake, reader! take them not for mine.
CANTO II.

I.
John ye! who teach the ingenuous youth of nations, Holland, France, England, Germany or Spain, I pray ye flog them upon all occasions, It mend their morals: never mind the pain: The best of mothers and of educations, In Juan's cause, were but employ'd in vain, Since in a way, that's rather of the oddest, he became divested of his native modesty.

II.
Had he but been placed at a public school, In the third form, or even in the fourth, His daily task had kept his fancy cool, At least had he been nurtured in the north ; Spain may prove an exception to the rule, But then exceptions always prove its worth— A lad of sixteen causing a divorce Puzzled his tutors very much of course.

III.
I can't say that it puzzles me at all, If all things be consider'd: first, there was His lady mother, mathematical, A—, never mind; his tutor, an old ass; A pretty woman,—(that's quite natural, Or else the thing had hardly come to pass;) A husband rather old, not much in unity With his young wife—a time, and opportunity.

IV.
Well—well, the world must turn upon its axis, And all mankind turn out with it, heads or tails, And live and die, make love, and pay our taxes, And as the veering wind shifts, shift our sails; The king commands us, and the doctor quacks us, The priest instructs, and so our life exhales, A little breath, love, wine, ambition, fame, Fighting, devotion, dust—perhaps a name.

V.
I said, that Juan had been sent to Cadiz— A pretty town, I recollect it well— Tis there the mart of the colonial trade is, (Or was, before Peru learn'd to rebel;) And such sweet girls—I mean such graceful ladies, Their very waist would make your bosom swell; I can't describe it, though so much it strike, Nor liken it—I never saw the like:

VI.
An Arab horse, a stately stag, a Barb New broke, a camelsopard, a gazelle, No—none of these will do;—and then their garb! Their veil and petticoat—Alas! to dwell Upon such things would very near absorb A canto—then their feet and ankles!—well, Thank Heaven I've got no metaphor, quite ready, And so, my sober Muse—come let's be steady—

VII.
Chaste Muse!—well, if you must, you must!—the well Thrown back a moment, with the glancing hand, While the overpowering eye, that turns you pale, Flashes into the heart:—all sunny land Of love! when I forgot you, may I fail [plan't To—say my prayers—but never was there A dress through which the eyes give such a volley Exceeding the Venetian Fazzoli.

VIII.
But to our tale: the Donna Inez seat Her son to Cadiz only to embark; To stay there had not answer'd her intent, But why?—we leave the reader in the dark— 'Twas for a voyage that the young man was meant, As if a Spanish ship were Noah's ark, To wean him from the wickedness of earth, And send him like a dove of promise forth

IX.
Don Juan bade his valet pack his things According to direction, then received A lecture and some money: for four springs He was to travel; and, though Inez grieved, (As every kind of parting has its stings,) She hoped he would improve—perhaps believed A letter, too, she gave (he never read it) Of good advice—and two or three of credit.

X.
In the mean time, to pass her hours away, Brave Inez now set up a Sunday-school For naughty children, who would rather play (Like truant rogues) the devil or the fool; Infants of three years old were taught that day Dunces were whipp'd or set upon a stool; The great success of Juan's education Spurr'd her to teach another generation.

XI.
Juan embark'd—the ship got under weigh, The wind was fair, the water passing rough; A devil of a sea rolls in that bay, As I, who've cross'd it oft, know well enough: And, standing upon deck, the dashing spray Flies in one's face, and makes it weather-tough And there he stood to take, and take again, His first—perhaps his last—farewell of Spain.

XII.
I can't but say it is an awkward sight To see one's native land recoiling through The growing waters—it unmans one quite: Especially when life is rather new: I recollect Great Britain's coast looks white, But almost every other country's blue, When, gazing on them, mystified by distance, We enter on our nautical existence.

XIII.
So Juan stood bewilderd on the deck: The wind sung, cordage strain'd, and sailors swear And the ship crack'd, the town became a speck From which away so far and fast they bore. The best of remedies is a beef-steak Against sea-sickness; try it, sir, before You sneer, and I assure you this is true, For I have found it answer—so may you.
XIV.
Don Juan stood, ar, a, gazing from the stern,
Beheld his native Spain receding far:
First partings form a lesson hard to learn,
Even nations feel this when they go to war;
There is a sort of unexpress’d concern,
A’kind of shock that sets one’s heart ajar.
At leaving even the most unpleasant people
And places, one keeps looking at the steeple.

XV.
But Juan had got many things to leave—
His mother, and a mistress, and no wife,
So that he had much better cause to grieve
Than many persons more advanced in life;
And, if we now and then a sigh must have
At quitting even those we quit in strife,
No doubt we weep for those the heart endears—
That is, till deeper griefs congeal our tears.

XVI.
So Juan wept, as wept the captive Jews
By Babel’s waters, still remembering Sion:
I’d weep, but mine is not a weeping muse,
And such light griefs are not a thing to die on;
Young men should travel, if but to amuse
Themselves; and the next time their servants tie on
Behind their carriages their new portmanteau,
Perhaps it may be lined with this my canto.

XVII.
And Juan wept, and much he sigh’d, and thought,
While his salt tears drop’t into the salt sea,
“Sweets to the sweet!” (I like so much to quote;
You must excuse this extract, ’tis where she,
The Queen of Denmark, for Ophelia brought
Flowers to the grave,) and sobbing often, he
Reflected on his present situation,
And seriously resolved on reformation.

XVIII.
“Farewell, my Spain! a long farewell!” he cried,
“Perhaps I may revisit thee no more,
But die, as many an exiled heart hath died,
Of its own thirst to see again thy shore:
Farewell, where Guadaluquir’s waters glide!
Farewell, my mother! and, since all is o’er,
Farewell, too, dearest Julia!”—(here he drew
Her letter out again, and read it through.)

XIX.
“And oh! if e’er I should forget, I swear—
But that’s impossible, and cannot be—
Sooner shall this blue ocean melt to air,
Sooner shall earth resolve itself to sea,
Than I resign thine image, oh! my fair!
Or think of any thing excepting thee;
A mind diseased no remedy can physi—
(Here the ship gave a lurch, and he grew sea-sick.)

XX.
“Sooner shall heaven kiss earth—(here he fell
Oh, Julia! what is every other wo!— [sicker]—
(For God’s sake, let me have a glass of liquor—
Pedro! Baptista help me down below.)
Julia, my love!—(you raiseal, Pedro, quicker)
Oh, Julia!—(this cursed vessel pitches so)—
Beloved Julia! hear me still beseeching—
(Here he grew inarticulate with retching.)

XXI.
He felt that chilling heaviness of heart,
Or rather stomach, which, alas! attends,
Beyond the best apothecary’s art,
The loss of love, the treachery of friends,
Or death of those we doat on, when a part
Of us dies with them, as each fond hope ends.
No doubt he would have been much more pathetically,
But the sea acted as a strong emetic.

XXII.
Love’s a capricious power; I’ve known it hold
Out through a fever caused by its own heat.
But be much puzzled by a cough and cold,
And find a quiney very hard to treat:
Against all noble maladies he’s bold,
But vulgar illnesses don’t like to meet,
Nor that a sneeze should interrupt his sigh;
Nor inflamations redd’n his blind eye.

XXIII.
But worst of all is nausea, or a pain
About the lower regions of the bowels;
Love, who heroically breathes a vein,
Shrinks from the application of hot towels,
And purgatives are dangerous to his reign,
Sea-sickness death: his love was perfect, how else
Could Juan’s passion, while the billows roar,
Resist his stomach, ne’er at sea before?

XXIV.
The ship, called the most holy “Trinidad,”
Was steering duly for the port Leghorn;
For there the Spanish family Moncada
Were settled long ere Juan’s sire was born;
They were relations, and for them he had a
Letter of introduction, which the morn
Of his departure had been sent him by
His Spanish friends for those in Italy.

XXV.
His suite consisted of three servants and
A tutor, the licentiate Pedrillo,
Who several languages did understand,
But now lay sick and speechless on his pillow,
And, rocking in his hammock, long’d for land,
His headache being increased by every billow
And the waves oozing through the port-hole made
His berth a little damp, and him afraid.

XXVI.
’Twas not without some reason, for the wind
Increased at night, until it blew a gale;
And though ’twas not much to a naval mind,
Some landmen would have look’d a little pale,
For sailors are, in fact, a different kind;
At sunset they began to take in sail,
For the sky show’d it would come on to blow,
And carry away, perhaps, a mast or so.

XXVII.
At one o’clock, the wind with sudden shift
Threw the ship right into the trough of the sea,
Which struck her aft, and made an awkward rift,
Started the stern-post, also shatter’d the
Whole of her stern frame, and, ere she could lift
Herself from out her present jeopardy,
The rudder tore away; ’twas time to sound
The pumps, and there were four feet water found.
XXVIII.
The gang of people instantly was put
Upon the pumps, and the remainder set
To get up part of the cargo, and what not,
But they could not come at the leak as yet;
At last they did get at it really, but
Still their salvation was an even bet:
The water rush'd through in a way quite puzzl'g,
While they thrust sheets, shirts, jackets, bales of
muslin,

XXIX.
Into the opening; but all such ingredients [down]
Would have been vain, and they must have gone
Despite of all their efforts and expedients,
But for the pumps: I'm glad to make them known
To all the brother-tars who may have need hence,
For fifty tons of water were upthrown
By them per hour, and they had been all undone.
But for the maker Mr. Mann, of London.

XXX.
As day advanced, the weather seemed to abate,
And then the leak they reckon'd to reduce,
And keep the ship afloat, though three feet yet
Kept two hard and one chain pump still in use.
The wind blew fresh again: as it grew late [loose],
A squall came on, and, while some guns broke
A gust—which all descriptive power transcends—
Laid with one blast the ship on her beam-ends.

XXXI.
There she lay motionless, and seemed up:
The water left the hold, and wash'd the decks,
And shake a scene men do not soon forget;
For they remember battles, fires, and wrecks,
Or any other thing that brings regret,
Or breaks their hopes, or hearts, or heads, or necks,
Thus drownings are much talk'd of by the divers
And swimmers who may chance to be survivors.

XXXII.
Immediately the masts were cut away,
Both main and mizzen; that the mizen went,
The mainmast follow'd: but the ship still lay
Like a mere log, and baffled our intent.
Foremast and bowsprit were cut down, and they
Eased her at last, (although we never meant
fo part with all till every hope was blighted,)
And then with violence the old ship righted.

XXXIII.
It may be easily supposed, while this
Was going on, some people were unquiet;
That passengers would find it much amiss
To lose their lives, as well as spoil their diet;
That even the able seamen, deeming his
Days nearly o'er, might be disposed to riot,
As upon such occasions tars will ask
For grog, and sometimes drink rum from the cask.

XXXIV.
There's nought, no doubt, so much the spirit calms
As rum and true religion; thus it was, [psalms,
some plunder'd, some drunk spirits, some sung
The high wind made the treble, and as bass,
The hoarse harsh waves kept time, fright cured the
quarrels
Of all the luckless landsmen's sensick maws:
Strange sounds of wailing, blasphemy, devotion,
Lament'd in chorus to the roaring ocean.

XXXV.
Perhaps more mischief had been done, but for
Our Juan, who, with sense beyond his years,
Got to the spirit-room, and stood before
It with a pair of pistols; and their fears,
As if Death were more dreadful by his door
Of fire than water, spite of oaths and tears,
Kept still aloof the crew, who, ere they sunk,
Thought it would be becoming to die drunk.

XXXVI.
"Give us more grog," they cried, "for it will be
All one an hour hence." Juan answer'd, "No!
Tis true that death awaits both you and me,
But let us die like men, not sink below
Like brutes;"—and thus his dangerous post kept he,
And none liked to anticipate the blow;
And even Pedrillo, his most revered tutor,
Was for some rum a disappointed suitor.

XXXVII.
The good old gentleman was quite aghast
And made a loud and pious lamentation;
Repented all his sins, and made a last
Irrevocable vow of reformation;
Nothing should tempt him more (this peril past)
To quit his academic occupation
In cloisters of the classic Salamanca,
To follow Juan's wake like Sancho Panca.

XXXVIII.
But now there came a flash of hope once more,
Day broke, and the wind full'd: the masts were gone,
The leak increased; shoals round her, but no shore
The vessel swam, yet still she held her own.
They tried the pumps again, and though before
Their desperate efforts seem'd all useless grown,
A glimpse of sunshine set some hands to bale—
The stronger pump'd, the weaker thrum'd a sail.

XXXIX.
Under the vessel's keel the sail was pass'd,
And for the moment it had some effect;
But with a leak, and not a stick of mast
Nor rag of canvas, what could they expect?
But still 'tis best to struggle to the last,
'Tis never too late to be wholly wreck'd:
And though 'tis true that man can only die once,
'Tis not so pleasant in the Gulf of Lyons.

XL.
There winds and waves had hurl'd them, and from
thence
Without their will, they carried them away;
For they were forced with steering to dispense,
And never had as yet a quiet day
On which they might repose, or even commence
A jury-mast or rudder, or could say
The ship would swim an hour, which, by good luck
Still swam—though not exactly like a duck.

XLI.
The wind, in fact, perhaps was rather less,
But the ship labor'd so, they scarce could hope
To weather out much longer; the distress
Was also great with which they had to cope
For want of water, and their solid meal
Was scant enough; in vain the telescope
Was used—nor sail nor shore appear'd in sight,
Nought but the heavy seas, and coming night.
XLII.

Again the weather threaten'd—again blew
A gale, and in the fore and after hold
Water appear'd; yet, though the people knew
All this, the most were patient, and some bold,
'\text{\textquoteleft}til the chains and leathers were worn through
Of all our pumps—a wreck complete she roll'd,
At mercy of the waves, whose mercies are
Like human beings during civil war.

XLIII.

Then came the carpenter, at last, with tears
In his rough eyes, and told the captain he
Could do no more; he was a man in years,
And long had voyaged through many a stormy sea,
And if he wept at length, they were not tears
That made his eyelids as a woman's be,
But he, poor fellow, had a wife and children,
Two things for dying people quite bewildering.

XLIV.

The ship was evidently settling now
Fast by the head; and, all distinction gone,
Some went to prayers again, and made a vow
Of candles to their saints—but there were none
To pay them with; and some look'd o'er the bow,
Some hoisted out the boats: and there was one
That begg'd Pedrillo for absolution,
Who told him to be damn'd—in his confusion.

XLV.

Some lash'd them in their hammocks, some put on
Their best clothes as if going to a fair;
Some cursed the day on which they saw the sun,
And gnash'd their teeth, and, howling, tore their
And others went on, as they had begun, [hair]
Getting the boats out, being well aware
That a tight boat will live in a rough sea,
Unless with breakers close beneath her lee.

XLVI.

The worst of all was, that in their condition,
Having been several days in great distress,
'Twas difficult to get out such provision
As now might render their long suffering less:
Men, even when dying, dislike inanimation;
Their stock was damaged by the weather's stress:
Two casks of biscuit and a keg of butter
Were all that could be thrown into the cutter.

XLVII.

But in the long-boat they contrived to stow
Some pounds of bread, though injured by the wet;
Water, a twenty-gallon cask or so;
Six flasks of wine; and they contrived to get
A portion of their beef up from below,
And with a piece of pork, moreover, met,
But scarce enough to serve them for a luncheon;
Then there was rum, eight gallons in a puncleon.

XLVIII.

The other boats, the yawl and pinnace, had
Been stover in the beginning of the gale;
And the long-boat's condition was but bad,
As there were but two blankets for a sail,
And one oar for a mast, which a young lad
Threw in by good luck over the ship's rail;
And two coasts could not hold, far less be stored,
To save one half the people then on board.

XLIX.

'Twas twilight, for the sunless day went down
Over the waste of waters; like a veil,
Which, if withdrawn, would but disclose the frown.
Of one whose hate is masked but to assail;
Thick to their hopeless eyes the night was shown,
And grimly darkled o'er their faces pale
And the dim desolate deep—twelve days had Fenn
Been their familiar, and now Death was here.

L.

Some trial had been making at a raft,
With little hope in such a rolling sea,
A sort of thing at which one would laugh at,
If any laughter at such times could be,
Unless with people who too much have quaff'd,
And have a kind of wild and horrid glee
Half epileptic, and half hysterical:
Their preservation would have been a miracle

LI.

At half-past eight o'clock, booms, hen-coops, spars
And all things, for a chance, had been cast loose
That still could keep afloat the struggling tars,
For yet they strove, although of no great use:
There was no light in heaven but a few stars;
The boats put off o'er crowded with their crews;
She gave a heel, and then a lurch to port,
And, going down head-foremost—sunk, in short.

LII.

Then rose from sea to sky the wild farewell,
Then shriek'd the timid, and stood still the brave,
Then some leap'd overboard with dreadful yell,
As eager to anticipate their grave;
And the sea yawnd around her like a hell,
And down she sunk with her the whirling wave
Like one who grapples with his enemy,
And strives to strangle him before he die.

LIII.

And first one universal shriek there rush'd,
Louder than the loud ocean, like a crash
Of echoing thunder; and then all was hush'd,
Save the wild wind and the remorseless dash
Of billows; but at intervals there gush'd,
Accompanied with a convulsive splash,
A solitary shriek—the bubbling cry
Of some strong swimmer in his agony.

LIV.

The boats, as stated, had got off before,
And in them crowded several of the crew;
And yet their present hope was hardly more
Than what it had been, for so strong it blew,
There was slight chance of reaching any shore,
And then they were too many, though so few—
Nine in the cutter, thirty in the boat,
Were counted in them when they got afloat.

LV.

All the rest perish'd; near two hundred souls
Had left their bodies; and, what's worse, also
When over Catholick the ocean rolls,
They must wait several weeks, before a mass
Takes off one peck of purgatorial coals,
Because, till people know what's come to pass,
They won't lay out their money on the dead—
It costs three francs for every mass that's said.
DON JUAN.

LVI.  

A man got into the long-boat, and there  
Contrived to help Pedro to a place;  
It seemed as if they had exchanged their care,  
For Juan wore the magisterial face.

Who courage gives, while poor Pedrillo's pair  
Of eyes were crying for their owner's case;  
Battista (though a name call'd shortly Tita)  
Was lost by getting at some aqua-vita.

LVII.  

Pedro, his valet, too, he tried to save;  
But the same cause, conducive to his lose,  
Left him so drunk, he jump'd into the wave,  
As o'er the cutter's edge he tried to cross.

And so he found a wine-and-watery grave:  
They could not rescue him, although so close,  
Because the sea ran higher every minute,  
And for the boat—the crew kept crowding in it.

LVIII.  

A small old spider,—which had been Don Jose's,  
His father's, whom he loved, as ye may think,  
For on such things the memory reposeth  
With tenderness—stood howling on the brink,

Knowing, (dogs have such intellectual noses!)  
No doubt the vessel was about to sink;  
And Juan caught him up, and, ere he stepp'd Off, threw him in, then after him he leapt.

LIX.  

He also staff'd his money where he could  
About his person, and Pedrillo's too,  
Who let him do, in fact, whate'er he would,  
Not knowing what himself to say or do,

As every rising wave his dread renew'd;  
But Juan, trusting they might still get through,  
And deeming there were remedies for any ill,  
Thus recumb'd his tutor and his spaniel.

LX.  

I was a rough night, and blew so stiffly yet,  
That the sail was becalm'd between the seas,  
Though on the wave's high top much to set,  
They dared not take it in for all the breeze.

Each sea curl'd o'er the stern, and kept them wet,  
And made them bale without a moment's ease,  
So that themselves as well as hopes were damp'd,  
And the poor little cutter quickly swam'd.

LXI.  

Nine souls more went in her; the long-boat still  
Kept above water, with an oar for mast,  
I wo blankets stitch'd together, answering ill  
Instead of sail, were to the oar made fast;

Though every wave roll'd menacing to fill,  
And present peril all before surpass'd,  
I hey grief'd for those who perish'd with the cutter,  
And also for the biscuit-casks and butter.

LXII.  

The sun rose red and fiery a sure sign  
Of the continuance of the gale: to run  
Before the sea, until it should grow fine,  
Was all that for the present could be done:

A few teaspoonfuls of their rum and wine  
Was serv'd out to the people, who began  
To faint, and damaged bread wet through the bags,  
And most of them had little clothes but rags.

LXIII.  

They counted thirty, crowded in a space  
Which left scarce room for motion or exertion:  
They did their best to modify their case,  
[ion,  
One half sate up, though numb'd with the inner

While t'other half were laid down in their place,  
At watch and watch; thus, shivering like the ter-

A gue in its cold fit, they fill'd their boat,  
[ia

With nothing but the sky for a great-coat.

LXIV.  

'Tis very certain the desire of life  
Frolongs it; this is obvious to physicians,

When patients, neither plagued with friend nor wife  
Survive through very desperate conditions,

Because they still can hope, nor shives the knifeNor shears of Atropos before their visions.

Despair of all recovery spoils longevity,  
And makes men's miseries of alarming brevity.

LXV.  

'Tis said that persons living on annuities  
Are longer lived than others,—God knows why  
Unless to plague the grantors,—yet so true it is  
That some, I really think, do never die:

Of any creditors the worst a Jew it is,  
And that's their mode of furnishing supply:

In my young days they lent me cash that way,  
Which I found very troublesome to pay.

LXVI.  

'Tis thus with people in an open boat,  
They live upon the love of life, and bear  
More than can be believed, or even thought, [tes:  
And stand, like rocks, the tempest's wear and

And hardships still has been the sailor's lot,  
Since Noah's ark went cruising here and there  
She had a curious crew as well as cargo,  
Like the first old Greek privateer, the Argo.

LXVII.  

But man is a carnivorous production,  
And must have meals, at least one meal a day;  
He cannot live, like woodcocks, upon suction,  
But, like the shark and tiger, must have prey.

Although his anatomical construction  
Bears vegetables in a grumbling way,  
Your laboring people think, beyond all question,  
Beef, veal, and mutton, better for digestion.

LXVIII.  

And thus it was with this our hapless crew;  
For on the third day there came on a calm,  
And though at first their strength it might renew  
And, lying on their weariness like balm,

Did them like tarts sleeping on the blue  
Of ocean, when they woke they felt a qualm  
And fell all ravenously on their provision,  
Instead of hoarding it with due precision.

LXIX.  

The consequence was easily foreseen—  
They ate up all they had, and drank their wine  
In spite of all remonstrances, and then

On what, in fact, next day were they to dine?  
They hoped the wind would rise, these foolish men  
And carry them to shore: these hopes were fine,  
But as they had but one oar, and that brittle,  
It would have been more wise to save their victual
LXX.
The fourth day came, but not a breath of air,
And ocean slumber'd like an unwaken'd child:
The fifth day, and their boat lay floating there,
The sea and sky were blue, and clear, and mild—
With their one oar (I wish they had had a pair)
What could they do? and hunger's rage grew wild,
So Juan's spainiel, spite of his entreating,
Was kill'd and portion'd out for present eating.

LXXI.
On the sixth day they fed upon his hide,
And Juan, who had still refused, because
The creature was his father's dog that died,
Now feeling all the vulture in his jaws,
With some remorse received, (though first denied,) As a great favor, one of the fore-paws,
Which he divided with Pedrillo, who Devour'd it, longing for the other too.

LXXII.
The seventh day, and no wind—the burning sun
Blister'd and scorch'd; and stagnant on the sea,
They lay like carcases; and hope was none,
Save in the breeze that came not; savagely
They glare'd upon each other—all was done,
Water, and wine, and food,—and you might see
The longings of the cannibal arise
Although they spoke not) in their wolfish eyes.

LXXIII.
At length one whisper'd his companion, who Whisper'd another, and thus it went round, And then into a hoarser murmur grew,
An ominous, and wild, and desperate sound;
And when his comrades thoughts each sufferer knew 'Twas but his own, suppress'd till now, he found:
And out they spoke of lots for flesh and blood,
And who should die to be his fellows' food.

LXXIV.
But ere they came to this, they that day shared Some leathern caps, and what remain'd of shoes; And then they look'd around them, and despair'd, And none to be the sacrifice would choose;
At length the lots were torn up and prepared, But of materials that must shock the muse— Having no paper, for the want of better, They took by force from Juan Julia's letter.

LXXV.
The lots were made, and mark'd, and mix'd, and In silent horror, and their distribution [handed Lull'd even the savage hunger which demanded, Like the Prometheus vulture, this pollution; None in particular had sought or plan'd it, 'Twas nature gnaw'd them to this resolution, By which none were permitted to be neutral— And the lot fell on Juan's luckless tutor.

LXXVI.
He but requests to be bled to death; The surgeon had his instruments, and bled Pedrillo, and so gently ebb'd his breath, You hardly could perceive when he was dead. He died, as born, a Catholic in faith, Like most in the belief in which they're bred, At first a little credulous he kis'd, and then hold'd out his jugular and wrist.

LXXVII.
The surgeon, as there was no other fee, Had his first choice of morsels for his pains; But being thirstiest at the moment, he Prefer'd a draught from the fast-flowing veins Part was divided, part thrown in the sea, And such things as the entrails and the brains Regaled two sharks, who follow'd o'er the bilow— The sailors ate the rest of poor Pedrillo.

LXXVIII.
The sailors ate him, all save three or four, Who were not quite so fond of animal food: To these was added Juan, who, before Refusing his own spainiel, hardly could Feel now his appetite increased much more; 'Twas not to be expected that he should, Even in extremity of their disaster, Dine with them on his pastor and his master.

LXXIX.
'Twas better that he did not; for, in fact, The consequence was awful in the extreme; For they, who were most ravenous in the act, Went raging mad—Lord! how they did blaspheme And foam and roll, with strange convulsions rack'd, Drinking salt water like a mountain-stream, Tearing and grinning, howling, screeching, swear. And, with hyaena laughter, died despairing. [ing,

LXXX.
Their numbers were much thin'd by this infliction, And all the rest were thin enough, heaven knows; And some of them had lost their recollection, Happier than they who still perceived their woes But others ponder'd on a new dissection, As if not warn'd sufficiently by those Who had already perish'd, suffering madly, For having used their appetites so sadly.

LXXXI.
And next they thought upon the master's mate, As fattert; but he saved himself, because, Besides being much averse from such a fate, There were some other reasons: the first was, He had been rather indisposed of late, And that which chiefly proved his saving clause, Was a small present made to him at Cadiz, By general subscription of the ladies.

LXXXII.
Of poor Pedrillo something still remain'd, But it was used sparingly,—some were afraid, And others still their appetites constrain'd, Or but at times a little supper made; All except Juan, who throughout abstain'd, Chewing a piece of bamboo, and some leas; At length they caught two boobies and a nodd'y, And then they left off eating the dead body.

LXXXIII.
And if Pedrillo's fate should shocking be, Remember Ugolino condescends To eat the head of his arch-enemy The moment after he politely ends His tale; if foes be food in hell, at sea 'Tis surely fair to dine upon our friends, When shipwright's short allowed fare grows too scanty Without being much more horrible than Dante.
LXXXIV.

And the same night there fell a shower of rain,  
For which their mouths gaped, like the cracks of earth
When dried to summer dust; till taught by pain,
Men really know not what good water's worth;
If you had been in Turkey or in Spain,
Or with a furnish'd boat's crew, born by your birth,
Or in the desert heard the camel's bell,
You'd wish yourself where Truth is—in a well.

LXXXV.

It pour'd down torrents, but they were no richer,
Until they found a ragged piece of sheet,
Which served them as a sort of spongy pitcher,
And when they deemed its moisture was complete,
They wrung it out, and, though a thirsty ditcher
Might not have thought the scanty draught so
As a full pot of porter, to their thinking
They ne'er, till now, had known the joys of drinking.

LXXXVI.

And their baked lips, with many a bloody crack,
Suck'd in the moisture, which like nectar stream'd;
Their throats were ovens, their swoln tongues were black
As the rich man's in hell, who vainly scream'd
To beg the beggar, who could not, rain back
A drop of dew, when every drop had seem'd
To taste of heaven—if this be true, indeed,
Some Christians have a comfortable creed.

LXXXVII.

There were two fathers in this ghastly crew,
And with them their two sons, of whom the one
Was more robust and hardy to the view,
But he died early; and when he was gone,
His nearest messmate told his sire, so threw
One glance on him, and said, "Heaven's will be,
I can do nothing!" and he saw him thrown abroad;
Into the deep, without a tear or groan.

LXXXVIII.

The other father had a weaker child,
Of a soft cheek, and aspect delicate;
But the boy bore up long, and with a mild
And patient spirit, held aloof his fate;
Little he said, and now and then he smiled,
As if to win a part from off the weight
He saw increasing on his father's heart,
With the deep deadly thought, that they must part.

LXXXIX.

And o'er him bent his sire, and never raised
His eyes from off his face, but wiped the foam
From his pale lips, and ever on him gazed; [come,
And when the wish'd-for shower at length was
And the boy's eyes, which the dull film half glaz'd,
Brighten'd, and for a moment seem'd to resem
He squee'd from out a rag some drops of rain
Into his dying child's mouth—but in vain.

XC.

The boy expired—the father held the clay,
And look'd upon it long, and when at last
Death left no doubt, and the dead burden lay
Stiff on his heart, and pulse and hope were past,
He watch'd it wistfully, until away
'Twas borne by the rude wave wherein 'twas cast;
Then he himself sunk down, a. dumb and shivering,
And gave no signs of life, save his limbs quiver.

XCI.

Now overheard a rainbow, bursting through sea,
The scattering clouds, shone, spanning the dark
Resting its bright base on the quivering blue:
And all within its arch appear'd to be
Clearer than that without, and its wide hue
Wax'd broad and waving, like a banner free,
Then chang'd like to a bow that's bent, and then
Forsook the dim eyes of these shipwreck'd men.

XCII.

It chang'd, of course; a heavenly chameleon,
The airy child of vapor and the sun,
Brought forth in purple, cradled in vermilion,
Baptized in molten gold, and swathed in dun,
Glittering like crescents o'er a Turk's pavilion,
And blending every color into one,
Just like a black eye in a recent smudge.
(For sometimes we must box without the muzzle.)

XCIII.

Our shipwreck'd seamen thought it a good omen—
It is as well to think so, now and then;
'Twas an old custom of the Greek and Roman,
And may become of great advantage when
Folks are discouraged; and most surely no men
Had greater need to nerve themselves again
Than these, and so this rainbow look'd like hope—
Quite a celestial kaleidoscope.

XCIV.

About this time, a beautiful white bird,
Web-footed, not unlike a dove in size
And plumage, (probably it might have err'd
Upon its course,) pass'd off before their eyes,
And tried to perch, although it saw and heard
The men within the boat, and in this guise
It came and went, and flutter'd round them till
Night fell:—this seem'd a better omen still.

XCV.

But in this case I also must remark,
'Twas well this-bird of promise did not perch
Because the tackle of our shatter'd bark
Was not so safe for roosting as a church;
And had it been the dove from Noah's ark,
Returning there from her successful search,
Which in their way that moment chance to fail,
They would have eat her, olive-branch and all.

XCVI.

With twilight it again came on to blow,
But not with violence; the stars shone out,
The boat made way; yet now they were so low,
'They knew not where nor what they were about;
Some fancied they saw land, and some said "No!"
The frequent fog-banks gave them cause to doubt—
Some swore that they heard breakers, others guns,
And all mistook about the latter once.

XCVII.

As morning broke, the light wind died away,
When he who had the watch sung out, and swore
If 'twas not land that rose with the sun's ray
He wish'd that land he never might see more.
And the rest rubb'd their eyes, and saw a bay,
Or thought they saw, and shaped their course to
For shore it was, and gradually grew
Distinct and high, and palpable to view

shore
XCVIII.  
And then of these some part burst into tears,  
And others, looking with a stupid stare,  
Could not yet separate their hopes from fears,  
And seem'd as if they had no further care;  
While a few pray'd—(the first time for some years)—  
And at the bottom of the boat three were  
Asleep; they shook them by the hand and head,  
And tried to awaken them, but found them dead.

XCIX.  
The day before, fast sleeping on the water,  
They found a turtle of the hawks-bill kind,  
And by good fortune, gliding softly, caught her,  
Which yielded a day's life, and to their mind  
Proved even still a more nutritious matter,  
Because it left encouragement behind:  
They thought that in such perils, more than chance  
Had sent them this for their deliverance.

C.  
The land appear'd, a high and rocky coast,  
And higher grew the mountains as they drew,  
Set by a current, toward it; they were lost  
In various conjectures, for none knew  
To what part of the earth they had been tossed,  
So changeable had been the winds that blew;  
Some thought it was Mount Ætna, some the high-  
Of Candia, Cyprus, Rhodes, or other islands. [lands

CI.  
Meantime the current, with a rising gale,  
Still set them onwards to the welcome shore,  
Like Charon's bark of spectres, dull and pale:  
Their living freight was now reduced to four;  
And three dead, whom their strength could not avail  
To heave into the deep with those before,  
Though the two sharks still follow'd them, and dash'd  
The spray into their faces as they splash'd.

CII.  
Famine, despair, cold, thirst, and heat had done  
Their work on them by turns, and thinn'd them to  
Such things, a mother had not known her son  
Amidst the skeletons of that gaunt crew;  
By night chill'd, by day scorched, thus one by one  
They perish'd, until wither'd to these few,  
But chiefly by a species of self-slaughter,  
In washing down Pedrillo with salt water.

CIII.  
As they drew nigh the land, which now was seen,  
Unequal in its aspect here and there,  
They felt the freshness of its growing green,  
That waved in forest tops, and smooth'd the air,  
And fell upon their glazed eyes as a screen  
From glistening waves, and skies so hot and bare—  
Lovely seem'd any object that should sweep  
Away the vast, salt, drear, eternal deep.

CIV.  
The shore look'd wild, without the trace of man,  
And girt by formidable waves; but they  
Were mad for land, and thus their course they ran,  
Though right ahead the roaring breakers lay:  
A reef between them also now began  
To show its boiling surf and bounding spray;  
But, finding no place for their landing better—  
They ran the boat for shore, and overcast her

CV.  
But in his native stream, the Guadalquivir,  
Juan to love his youthful limbs and heart;  
And, having learn'd to swim in that sweet river,  
Had oft turn'd the art to some account.  
A better swimmer you could scarce see ever,  
He could, perhaps, have pass'd the Hellespont  
As once, (a feat on which ourselves we prided,)  
Leander, Mr. Ekenhead, and I did.

CVI.  
So, here, though faint, exequiated, and stark,  
He bury'd his boyish limbs, and strove to ply  
With the quick wave, and gain, ere it was dark  
The beach which lay before him, high and dry.  
The greatest danger here was from a shark.  
That carried off his neighbor by the thigh;  
As for the other two, they could not swim,  
So nobody arrived on shore but him.

CVII.  
Nor yet had he arrived but for the oar,  
Which, providentially for him, was wash'd  
Just as his feeble arms could strike no more;  
And the hard wave o'whelm'd him as 'twas dash'd  
Within his grasp; he clung to it, and sore  
The waters beat while he thereto was lashed;  
At last, with swimming, wading, scrambling, he  
Roll'd on the beach, half senseless, from the sea:

CVIII.  
There, breathless, with his digging nails he clung  
Fast to the sand, lest the returning wave,  
From whose reluctant roar his life he wrung  
Should suck him back to her insatiate grave;  
And there he lay, full-length, where he was flung  
Before the entrance of a cliff-worn cave,  
With just enough of life to feel its pain,  
And deem that it was saved, perhaps in vain.

CIX.  
With slow and staggering effort he arose,  
But sunk again upon his bleeding knee,  
And quivering hand; and then he look'd for those  
Who long had been his mates upon the sea,  
But none of them appear'd to share his woes;  
Save one, a corpse from out the famish'd three,  
Who died two days before, and now had found  
An unknown barren beach for burial ground.

CX.  
And, as he gazed, his dizzy brain spun fast,  
And down he sunk, and, as he sunk, the sand  
Swam round and round, and all his senses pass'd:  
He fell upon his side, and his stretch'd hand  
Drapp'd dripping on the oar, (their jury mast,)  
And, like a wither'd lily, on the land  
His slender frame and pallid aspect lay,  
As fair a thing as 'er was form'd of clay.

CXI.  
How long in his damp trance young Juan lay  
He knew not, for the earth was gone for him,  
And time had nothing more of night nor day  
For his congealing blood, and senses dim.  
And how this heavy faintness pass'd away  
He knew not, till each painful pulse his limb  
And tingling vein, seem'd throbbing back to life.  
For Death, though vanquish'd, still retir'd with stra
CXII.
His eyes he open'd, shut, again unclosed,
For all was doubt and disinterest: he thought
He still was in the boat, and had but dozed.
And felt again with his despair o'erwrongt,
And wish'd it death in which he had reposed;
And then once more his feelings back were brought,
And slowly by his swimming eyes was seen
A lovely female face of seventeen.

CXIII.
'Twas bounding close o'er his, and the small mouth
S'med almost prying into his for breath;
And chasing him, the soft warm hand of youth
Recall'd his answering spirits back from death.
And, bathing his chill temples, tried to sooth
Each pulse to animation, till beneath
Its gentle touch and trembling care, a sigh
To these kind efforts made a low reply.

CXIV.
Then was the cordial pour'd, and mantle flung
Around his scarce-clad limbs; and the fair arm
Rais'd higher the faint head which o'er it hung;
And her transparent cheek, all pure and warm,
Pillow'd his death-like forehead; then she wrung
His dewy curls, long drench'd by every storm;
And watch'd with eagerness each throb that drew
A sigh from his heaved bosom—and hers too.

CXV.
And lifting him with care into the cave,
The gentle girl, and her attendant,—one
Young yet her older, and of brow less grave,
And more robust of figure,—then begun
To kindle fire, and as the new flames gave
Light to the rocks that roof'd them, which the sun
Had never seen, the maid, or whatso'ere
She was, appear'd distinct, and tall, and fair.

CXVI.
Her brow was overhung with coins of gold,
That sparkled o'er the auburn of her hair,
Her clustering hair, whose longer locks were roll'd
In braids behind, and, though her stature were
Even of the highest for a female mould,
They nearly reach'd her heel; and in her air
There was a something which bespoke command,
As one who was a lady in the land.

CXVII.
Her hair, I said, was auburn; but her eyes
Were black as death, their lashes the same hue,
Of downcast length, in whose silk shadow lies
Deepest attraction, for when to the view
Forth from its raven fringe the full glance flies,
Ne'er with such force the swiftest arrow flew;
'Tis as the snake, late coil'd, who pours his length,
And hurst at once his venom and his strength.

CXVIII.
Her brow was white and low, her cheeks' pure dye
Like twilight rosy still with the set sun;
Short upper lip—sweet lips! that make us sigh
Ever to have seen such; for she was one
Fit for the model of a statuary.
(A race of mere impostors, when all's done:
I've seen much finer women, ripe and real,
Than all the nonsense of their stone ideal.)

CXIX.
I'll tell you why I say so, for 'tis just
One should not rail without a decent cause.
There was an Irish lady, to whose bust
I never saw justice done, and yet she was
A frequent model; and if e'er she must
Yield to stern Time and Nature's wrinkling jaws
They will destroy a face which mortal thought
Ne'er compass'd, nor less mortal chisel wrought.

CXI.
And such was she, the lady of the cave:
Her dress was very different from the Spanisn,
Simpler, and yet of colors not so grave;
For, as you know, the Spanish women banish
Bright hues when out of doors, and yet, while wave
Around them (what I hope will never vanish)
The basquina and the mantilla, they
Seem at the same time mystical and gay.

CXXI.
But with our damsel this was not the case:
Her dress was many color'd, finely spun;
Her locks curl'd negligently round her face,
But through them gold and gems profusely shone
Her girdle sparkled, and the richest lace
Flow'd in her veil, and many a precious stone
Flash'd on her little hand; but, what was shocking
Her small snow feet had slippers, but no stocking.

CXXII.
The other female's dress was not unlike,
But of inferior materials: she
Had not so many ornaments to strike:
Her hair had silver only, bound to be
Her dowry; and her veil, in form alike,
Was coarser; and her air, though firm, less free;
Her hair was thicker, but less long; her eyes
As black, but quicker, and of smaller size.

CXXIII.
And these two tended him, and cheer'd him both
With food and rainment, and those soft attentions
Which are (as I must own) of female growth,
And have ten thousand delicate inventions;
They made a most superior mess of broth,
A thing which poesy but seldom mentions.
But the best dish that e'er was rock'd since Homer's
Achilles order'd dinner for new comers.

CXXIV.
I'll tell you who they were, this female pair,
Lest they should seem princesses in disguise;
Besides I hate all mystery, and that air
Of clap-trap, which your poets prize;
And so, in short, the girls they really were
They shall appear before your curious eyes,
Mistress and maid; the first was only daughter
Of an old man who lived upon the water.

CXXV.
A fisherman he had been in his youth,
And still a sort of fisherman was he;
But other speculations were, in sooth,
Added to his connexion with the sea,
Perhaps, not so respectable in truth;
A little smuggling, and some piracy,
Left him, at last, the sole of many masters
Of an ill-gotten million of piaster.
CXXVI.
A fisher, therefore, was he—though of men,
Like Peter the Apostle,—and he fish'd
For wandering merchant vessels, now and then,
And sometimes caught as many as he wish'd;—
The cargoes he confiscated, and gain
He sought in the slave-market too, and dish'd
Full many a morsel for that Turkish trade,
By which, no doubt, a good deal may be made.

CXXVII.
He was a Greek, and on his isle had built
(One of the wild and smaller Cyclades)
A very handsome house from out his guilt,
And there he lived exceedingly at ease;
Heaven knows what cash he got, or blood he spilt,
A sad old fellow was he, if you please,
But this I know, it was a spacious building,
Full of barbaric carving, paint, and gilding.

CXXVIII.
He had an only daughter, call'd Haidee,
The greatest heiress of the Eastern isles;
Besides so very beautiful was she,
Her dowry was as nothing to her smiles:
Still in her teens, and like a lovely tree
She grew to womanhood, and between whiles
Rejected several suitors, just to learn
How to accept a better in his turn.

CXXIX.
And walking out upon the beach below
The cliff, towards sunset, on that day she found,
Insensible,—not dead, but nearly so,—
Don Juan, almost famish'd, and half drown'd;
But, being naked, she was shock'd, you know,
Yet deem'd herself in common pity bound,
As far as in her lay, "to take him in,
A stranger," dying, with so white a skin.

CXXX.
But taking him into her father's house
Was not exactly the best way to save,
But like conveying to the cat the mouse,
Or people in a trance into their grave;
Because the good old man had so much "wra'f,
Unlike the honest Arab thieves so brave,
He would have hospitably cured the stranger,
And sold him instantly when out of danger.

CXXXI.
And therefore, with her maid, she thought it best
(A virgin always on her maid relies)
To place him in the cave for present rest:
And when, at last, he open'd his black eyes,
Her charity increased about their guest.
And their compassion grew to such a size,
It open'd half the turnpike-gates to heaven—
(Saint Paul says 'tis the toll which must be given.)

CXXXII.
They made a fire, but such a fire as they
Upon the moment could contrive with such
Materials as were cast up round the bay,
Some broken planks and oars, that to the touch
Were nearly tinder, since so long they lay,
A mast was almost crumbled to a crutch;
But, 'by God's grace,' here wrecks were in such plenty,
That there was fuel to have furnish'd twenty.

CXXXIII.
He had a bed of furs and a pelisse
For Haidee stripp'd her sables off to make
His couch; and that he might be more at ease,
And warm, in case by chance he should awake
They also gave a petticoat apiece,
She and her maid, and promise'd by daybreak
To pay him a fresh visit, with a dish,
For breakfast, of eggs, coffee, bread, and fish.

CXXXIV.
And thus they left him to his lone reposè
Juan slept like a top, or like the dead,
Who sleep at last, perhaps, (God only knows,)—
Just for the present, and in his hul'd head
Not even a vision of his former woes
Spread'd in accur'd dreams, which sometimes
Unwelcome visions of our former years,
Till the eye, cheated, open'd thick with tears.

CXXXV.
Young Juan slept all dreamless;—but the maid
Who smooth'd his pillow, as she left the den,
Look'd back upon him, and a moment stay'd,
And turn'd, believing that he call'd again.
He slumber'd; yet she thought, at least she said,
(The heart will slip even as the tongue and pen.)
He had pronounced her name—but she forgot
That at this moment Juan knew it not.

CXXXVI.
And pensive to her father's house she went,
Enjoining silence strict to Zoe, who
Better than she knew what, in fact, she meant,
She being wiser by a year or two:
A year or two 's an age when rightly spent,
And Zoe spent hers as most women do,
In gaining all that useful sort of knowledge
Which is acquired in nature's good old college.

CXXXVII.
The morn broke, and found Juan slumbering still!
Fast in his cave, and nothing clash'd upon
His rest; the rushing of the neighboring rill,
And the young beams of the excluded sun,
Troubled him not, and he might sleep his fill;
And need he had of slumber yet, for none
Had suffer'd more—his hardships were comparative
To those related in my grand-dad's "Narrative."

CXXXVIII.
Not so Haidee; she sadly toss'd and tumbled,
And started from her sleep, and, turning o'er,
Dream'd of a thousand wrecks, o' er which she stumbled,
And handsome corpses strew'd upon the shore;
And woke her maid so early that she grumbled,
And call'd her father's old slaves up, who swore
In several oaths—Armenian, Turk, and Greek,—
They knew not what to think of such a freak.

CXXXIX.
But up she got, and up she made them get,
With some pretence about the sun, that makes
Sweet skies just when he rises, or is set;
And 'tis, no doubt, a sight to see when breaks
Bright Phæbus, while the mountains still are waxed
With mist, and every bird with him awakes,
And night is flung off like a mourning suit
Worn for a husband,—or some other brute
CXL.
I say, the s.n is a most g'orious sight. 
I've seen him rise full fit, indeed of late 
I have set up on purpose all the night, 
Which hastens, as physicians say, one's fate; 
And so all ye, who would be in the right 
In health and purse, begin your day to date 
From day-break, and when coffin'd at fourscore, 
Engrave upon the plate, you rose at four.

CXLII.
And Haidee met the morning face to face; 
Her own was freshest, though a feverish flush 
Had dyed it with the headlong blood, whose race 
From heart to check is cur'd into a blush, 
Like to r torrent which a mountain's base, 
That o'er uppowers some Alpine river's rush, 
Checks to a lake, whose waves in circles spread, 
Or the Red Sea—but the sea is not red.

CXLIII.
And down the cliff the island virgin came, 
And near the cave her quick light footsteps drew, 
While the sun smiled on her with his first flame, 
And young Aurora kiss'd her lips with dew, 
Taking her for a sister; just the same 
Mistake you would have made on seeing the two, 
Although the mortal, quite as fresh and fair, 
Had all the advantage too of not being air.

CXLIV.
And thus, like to an angel o'er the dying
Who die in righteousness, she lean'd; and there
All tranquilly the shipwreck'd boy was lying,
As o'er him lay the calm and stillst air;
But Zoé the meantime some eggs was frying,
Since, after all, no doubt the youthful pair
Must breakfast, and betimes—lest they should ask it, 
She drew out her provision from the basket.

CXLV.
She knew that the best feelings must have victual,
And that a shipwreck'd youth would hungryst be; 
Besides, being less in love, she yawn'd a little, 
And felt her veins chill'd by the neighboring sea; 
And so, she cook'd their breakfast to a tittle; 
I can't say that she gave them any tea, 
But there were eggs, fruit, coffee, bread, fish, honey, 
With Scio wine—and all for love, not money.

CXLVI.
And Zoé, when the eggs were ready, and 
The coffee made, would fain have waken'd Juan; 
But Haidee stopp'd her with her quick small hand, 
And without word, a sign her finger drew on 
Her lip, which Zoé needs must understand; 
And, the first breakfast spoil'd, prepared a new one, 
Because her mistress would not let her break 
That sleep which seem'd as it would ne'er awake.

CXLVII.
For still he lay, and on his thin worn cheek 
A purple hectic play'd, like dying day 
On the snow-tops of distant hills; the streak 
Of sufferance yet upon his forehead lay, [weak, 
Where the blue veins look'd shadowy, shrunk, and lif, 
And his black curls were dewy with the spray, 
Which weigh'd upon them yet, all damp as a suit 
Mix'd with the stony vapors of the vault.

CXLVIII.
And she bent o'er him, and he lay beneath, 
Hush'd as the babe upon its mother's breast, 
Droop'd as the willow when no winds can breathe; 
Lull'd like the depth of ocean when at rest, 
Fair as the crowning rose of the whole wreath, 
Soft as the callow eyneget in its nest; 
In short he was a very pretty fellow, 
Although his woe's had turn'd him rather yellow.

CXLIX.
He woke and gazed, and would have slept again, 
But the fair face which met his eyes, forbade 
Those eyes to close, though weariness and pain 
Had further sleep a further pleasure made: 
For woman's face was never form'd in vain 
For Juan, so that even when he pray'd, 
He turn'd from grisly saints, and martyrs hairly, 
To the sweet portraits of the Virgin Mary.

CL.
And thus upon his elbow he arose, 
And look'd upon the lady in whose cheek 
The pale contented with the purple rose, 
As with an effort she began to speak; 
Her eyes were eloquent, her words would pose 
Although she told him, in good modern Greek 
With an Ionian accent, low and sweet, 
That he was faint, and must not talk, but eat.

CLI.
Now Juan could not understand a word, 
Being no Grecian; but he had an ear, 
And her voice was the warble of a bird, 
So soft, so sweet, so delicately clear, 
That finer, simpler music ne'er was heard; 
The sort of sound we echo with a tear, 
Without knowing why—an overpowering tone, 
Whence melody descends, as from a throne.

CLII.
And Juan gaz'd, as one who is awake 
By a distant organ, doubting if he be 
Not yet a dreamer, till the spell is broke 
By the watchman, or some such reality, 
Or by one's early valet's cursed knock; 
At least it is a heavy sound to me, 
Who like a morning slumber—for the night 
Shows stars and women in a better light.

CLIII.
And Juan, too, was help'd out from his dream, 
Or sleep, or whatsoever it was, by feeling 
A most prodigious appetite: the steam 
Of Zoé's cookery no doubt was stealing 
Upon his senses, and the kindling beam 
Of the new fire which Zoé kept up kneeling 
To stir her viands, made him quite awake 
And long for food, but chiefly a beef-steak.
CLIV.
But beef is rare within these oxless isles;
Goats' flesh there is, no doubt, and kid, and mutton,
And when a holiday upon them smiles,
A joint upon their barbarous spits they put on:
But this occurs but seldom, between whiles,
For some of these are rocks with scarce a hut on,
Others are fair and fertile, among which,
This, though not large, was one of the most rich.

CLV.
I say that beef is rare and can't help thinking
That the old fable of the Minotaur—
From which our modern morals rightly shrinking.
Condemn the royal lady's taste who wore
A cow's shape for a mask—was only (sinking
The allegory) a mere type, no more—
That Pasiphaë promoted breeding cattle,
To make the Cretans bloodier in battle.

CLVI.
For we all know that English people are
Fed upon beef—I won't say much of beer,
Because 'tis liquor only, and being far
From this my subject, has no business here:—
We know, too, they are very fond of war,
A pleasure—like all pleasures—rather dear,
So were the Cretans—from which I infer
That beef and battles both were owing to her.

CLVII.
But to resume. The languid Juan raised
His head upon his elbow, and he saw
A sight on which he had not lately gazed,
As all his latter meals had been quite raw,
Three or four things for which the Lord be praised,
And, feeling still the famish'd vulture gnaw,
He fell upon whatever was offer'd, like
A priest, a shark, an alderman, or pike.

CLVIII.
He ate, and he was well supplied; and she,
Who watch'd him like a mother, would have fed
Him past all bounds, because she smiled to see
Such appetite in one she had deem'd dead:
But Zoë, being older than Haidee,
Knew (by tradition, for she ne'er had read)
That famish'd people must be slowly nursed,
And fed by spoonfuls, else they always burst.

CLIX.
And so she took the liberty to state,
Rather by deeds than words, because the case
Was urgent, that the gentleman, whose fate
Had made her mistress quit her bed to trace
He seashore at this hour, must leave his plate,
Unless he wish'd to die upon the place—
She snatch'd it, and refused another morsel,
Saying, he had gorged enough to make a horse ill.

CLX.
Next they—he being naked, save a tatter'd
Pair of scarce decent trousers—went to work,
And in the fire his recent rags they scatter'd,
And dress'd him, for the present, like a Turk,
Or Greek—that is, although it not much matter'd,
Omitting turban, slippers, pistols, dirk,—
They furnish'd him, entire except some stitches,
With a clean shirt, and very spacious breeches.

CLXI.
And then fair Haidee tried her tongue at speaking
But not a word could Juan comprehend,
Although he listen'd so that the young Greek in
Her earnestness would never have made an end.
And, as he interrupted not, went eking
Her speech out to her protégé and friend,
Till, pausing at the last her breath to take,
She saw he did not understand Romæic.

CLXII.
And then she had recourse to nods, and signs,
And smiles, and sparkles of the speaking eye
And read (the only book she could) the lines
Of his fair face, and found, by sympathy,
The answer eloquent, where the soul shines
And darts in one quick glance a long reply;
And thus in every look she saw express'd
A world of words, and things at which she guess'd.

CLXIII.
And now, by dint of fingers and of eyes,
And words repeated after her, he took
A lesson in her tongue; but by surprise,
No doubt, less of her language than her look:
As he who studies fervently the skies
Turns oftener to the stars than to his book,
Thus Juan learn'd his alpha beta better
From Haidee's glance than any graven letter.

CLXIV.
'Tis pleasing to be school'd in a strange tongue
By female lips and eyes—that is, I mean,
When both the teacher and the taught are young,
As was the case, at least where I have been;
They smile so when one's right, and when one's wrong
They smile still more, and then there intervene
Pressure of hands, perhaps even a chaste kiss;—
I learn'd, the little that I know by this:

CLXV.
That is, some words of Spanish, Turk, or Greek,
Italian not at all, having no teachers,
Much English I cannot pretend to speak;
Learning that language chiefly from its preachers
Barrow, South, Tilletson, whom every week
I study, also Blair, the highest teachers
Of eloquence in piety and prose—
I hate your poets, so read none of those.

CLXVI.
As for the ladies, I have nought to say,
A wanderer from the British world of fashion,
Where I, like other "dogs, have had my day,"
Like other men, too, may have had my passion—
But that, like other things, has pass'd away;
And all her fows whom I could lay the lash on,
Foes, friends, men. women, now are nought to me
But dreams of what has been, no more to be.

CLXVII.
Return we to Don Juan. He began
To hear new words, and to repeat them; but
Some feelings, universal as the sun,
Were such as could not in his breast be shut
More than within the bosom of a nun:
He was in love—as you would be, no doubt.
With a young benefactress,—so was she
Just in the way we very often see.
CLXVIII.
And every day by daybreak—rather early
For Juan, who was somewhat fond of rest—
She came into the cave, but it was merely
To see her bird repose in his nest;
And she would softly stir his looks so curvily,
Without disturbing her yet slumbering guest,
Breathing all gently o'er his cheek and mouth,
As o'er a bed of roses the sweet south.

CLXIX.
And every morn his color freshlier came,
And every day help'd on his convalescence,
Was well, because health in the human frame
Is pleasant, besides being true love's essence,
For health and idleness to passion's flame
Are oil and gunpowder; and some good lessons
Are also learnt from Ceres and from Bacchus,
Without whom Venus will not long attack us.

CLXX.
While Venus fills the heart, (without heart really
Love, though good always, is not quite so good,) Ceres presents a plate of vermicelli,
For love must be sustain'd like flesh and blood.—
While Bacchus pours out wine, or hands a jelly:
Eggs, oysters too, are amatory food;
But who is their purveyors from above
Heaven knows,—it may be-Neptune, Pan, or Jove.

CLXXI.
When Juan woke, he found some good things ready:
A bath, a breakfast, and the finest eyes
That ever made a youthful heart less steady,
Besides her maid's, as pretty for their size;
But I have spoken of all this already—
And repetition's tiresome and unwise.—
Well,—Juan, after bathing in the sea,
Came always back to coffee and Haidee.

CLXXII.
Both were so young, and one so innocent,
That bathing pass'd for nothing; Juan seem'd to her, as 'twere the kind of being sent,
Of whom these two years she had nightly dream'd,
A something to be loved, a creature meant
To be her happiness, and whom she deem'd
To render happy; all who joy would win
Must share it,—happiness was born a twin.

CLXXIII.
It was such pleasure to behold him, such
Enlargement of existence to partake
Nature with him, to thrill beneath his touch,
To watch him slumbering, and to see him wake
To live with him for ever were too much;
But then the thought of parting made her quake:
He was her own, her ocean treasure, cost
Like a rich wreck—her first love and her last.

CLXXIV.
And thus a moon roll'd on, and fair Haidee
Paid daily visits to her boy, and took
Such plentiful precautions, that still he
Remain'd unknown within his craggy nook:
At last her father's prows put out to sea,
For certain merchantmen upon the look,
Not as of yore to carry off an Io,
But three Ragusan vessels, bound for Scio.

CLXXV.
Then came her freedman, for she had no mother,
So that, her father being at sea, she was
Free'd as a married woman, or such other
Female, as where she likes may freely pass,
Without even the encumbrance of a brother,
The freest she that ever gazed on glass:
I speak of Christian lands in this comparison,
Where wives, at least, are seldom kept in garison.

CLXXVI.
Now she prologue'd her visits and her talk,
(For they must talk,) and he had learnt to say
So much as to propose to take a walk,—
For little had he wander'd since the day
On which, like a young flower snapp'd from the stalk
Dropping and dewy on the beach he lay,—
And thus they walk'd out in the afternoon,
And saw the sun set opposite the moon.

CLXXVII.
It was a wild and breaker-beaten coast,
With cliffs above, and a broad sandy shore,
Guarded by shoals and rocks as by a host,
With here and there a creek, whose aspect wore
A better welcome to the tempest-toss'd;
And rarely ceased the haughty billows' roar,
Save on the dead long summer days, which make
The outstretch'd ocean glitter like a lake.

CLXXVIII.
And the small ripple split upon the beach
Scarcely o'erpass'd the cream of your champagne
When o'er the brim the sparkling bums reach,
That springdew of the spirit! the heart's rain!
Few things surpass old wine; and they may preach
Who please,—the more because they preach in vain,—
Let us have wine and women, mirth and laughter,
Sermons and soda-water the day after.

CLXXIX.
Man, being reasonable, must get drunk;
The best of life is but intoxication:
Glory, the grape, love, gold, in these are sunk
The hopes of all men, and of every nation;
Without their sap, how branchless were the trunk
Of life's strange tree, so fruitful on occasion!
But to return,—get very drunk; and when
You wake with headache, you shall see what then.

CLXXX.
Ring for your valet—bid him quickly bring
Some hock and soda-water, then you'll know
A pleasure worthy Xeres the great king;
For not the blest sherbet, sublim'd with snow.
Nor the first sparkle of the desert-spring,
Nor Burgundy in all its sunset glow,
After long travel, ennui, love, or slaughter,
Was with that draught of hock and soda-water.

CLXXXI.
The coast—I think it was the coast that I
Was just describing,—Yes, it was the coast—
Lay at this period quiet as the sky,
The sands untumbled, the blue waves untoss'd
And all was stillness, save the sea-bird's cry,
And dolphin's leap, and little billow cross'd;
By some low rock or shelve that made it fret
Against the boundary it scarcely wet.
CLXXXII.
And forth they wander'd, her sire being gone,
As I have said, upon an expedition;
And mother, brother, guardian, she had none,
Save Zoe, who, although with due precision
She waited on her lady with the sun,
Thought daily service was her only mission,
Bringing warm water, wreathing her long tresses,
And asking now and then for cast-off dresses.

CLXXXIII.
It was the cooling hour, just when the rounded
Red sun sinks down behind the azure hill,
Which then seems as if the whole earth it bounded,
Circling all nature, hush'd, and dim, and still,
With the far mountain-crescent, half surrounded
On one side, and the deep sea calm and chill
Upon the other, and the rosy sky,
With one star sparkling through it like an eye.

CLXXXIV.
And thus they wander'd forth, and hand in hand,
Over the shining pebbles and the shells,
Glimed along the smooth and harden'd sand,
And in the worn and wild receptacles
Work'd by the storms, yet work'd as it were plan'd,
In hollow halls, with sparry roofs and cells,
They turn'd to rest; and, each clasp'd by an arm,
Yielded to the deep twilight's purple charm.

CLXXXV.
They look'd up to the sky, whose floating glow
Spread like a rosy ocean, vast and bright;
They gazed upon the glittering sea below,
Whence the broad moon rose circling into sight;
They heard the waves' splash, and the wind so low,
And saw each other's dark eyes staring light
Into each other—and, beholding this,
Their lips drew near, and clung into a kiss;

CLXXXVI.
A long, long kiss, a kiss of youth, and love,
And beauty, all concentrating like rays
Into one focus, kindled from above;
Such kisses as belong to early days,
When heart, and soul, and sense, in concert move,
And the blood's lava, and the pulse a blaze,
Each kiss a heart-quake,—for a kiss's strength,
I think it must be reckon'd by its length.

CLXXXVII.
by length I mean duration; theirs endured
Heaven knows how long—no doubt they never
reckon'd,
And if they had, they could not have secured
The sum of their sensations to a second:
They had not spoken; but they felt allured,
As if their souls and lips each other beckon'd,
Which, being join'd, like swelling bees they clung—
Their hearts the flowers from whence the honey
sprang.

CLXXXVIII.
They were alone, yet not alone as they
Who, shut in chambers, think it loneliness;
The silent ocean, and the starlight bay,
The twilight gloom, which momentarily grew less,
The voiceless sands, and dropping caves, that lay
Around them, made them to each other press,
As if there were no life beneath the sky
Save theirs and that their life could never die.

CLXXXIX.
They fear'd no eyes nor ears on that lone beach
They felt no terrors from the night, they were
All in all to each other: though their speech
Was broken words, they thought a language there
And all the burning tongues the passions teach
Found in one sigh the best interpreter
Of nature's oracle—first love,—that all
Which Eve has left her daughters since her fall.

CXC.
Haidee spoke not of scruples, ask'd no vows,
Nor offer'd any; she had never heard
Of plight and promises to be a spouse,
Or perils by a loving maid incur'd;
She was all which pure ignorance allows,
And flew to her young mate like a young bird;
And, never having dreamt of falsehood, she
Had not one word to say of constancy.

CXCI.
She loved, and was believed—she ador'd,
And she was worshipp'd; after nature's fashion,
Their intense souls, into each other pour'd,
If souls could die, had perish'd in that passion,—
But by degrees their senses were restored,
Again to be o'ercome, again to dash on;
And, beating 'gainst his bosom, Haidee's heart
Felt as if never more to beat apart.

CXCI.
Alas! they were so young, so beautiful,
So lonely, loving, helpless, and the hour
Was that in which the heart is always full,
And, having o'er itself no further power,
Prompts deeds eternity cannot annul,
But pays off moments in an endless shower
Of hell-fire—all prepared for people giving
Pleasure or pain to one another living.

CXCI.
Alas! for Juan and Haidee! they were
So loving and so lovely—till then never,
Excepting our first parents, such a pair
'Had run the risk of being damn'd for ever;
And Haidee, being devout as well as fair,
Had, doubtless, heard about the Stygian river
And hell and purgatory—but forgot
Just in the very crisis she should not.

CXCV.
They look upon each other, and their eyes
Gleam in the moonlight; and her white arm clasp'd
Round Juan's head, and his around her lies
Half buried in the tresses which it grasps;
She sits upon his knee, and drinks his sighs,
He hers, until they end in broken gasps;
And thus they form a group that's quite antique,
Half naked, loving, natural, and Greek.

CXCV.
And when those deep and burning moments pass
And Juan sunk to sleep within her arms,
She slept not, but all tenderly, though fast,
Sustain'd his head upon her bosom's charms;
And now and then her eye to heaven is cast,
And then on the pale cheek her breast now warm;
Pillow'd on her overflowing heart, which pants
With all it granted, and with all it grants.
CXCVI.
An infant when it gazes on a light,
A child the moment when it drains the breast,
A devotee when soars the host in sight,
An Arab with a stranger for a guest,
A sailor, when the prize has struck in fight,
A miser filling his hoarded chest,
Feel rapture; but not such true joy are reaping
As they who watch o'er what they love while sleeping.

CXCVII.
For there it lies so tranquil, so beloved,
A! that it bathed of life with us is living;
So gentle, stillest, helpless, and unmoved,
And all unconscious of the joy 'tis giving,
All it hath felt, inflat ed, pass'd, and proved,
Hush'd into depths beyond the watch's diving;
There lies the thing we love with all its errors,
And all its charms, like death without its terrors.

CXCVIII.
The lady watch'd her lover—and that hour
Of Love's, and Night's, and Ocean's solitude,
O'erflow'd her soul with their united power;
Amidst the barren sand and rocks so rude,
She and her wave-worn love had made their bower,
Where nought upon their passion could intrude,
And all the stars that crowded the blue space,
Saw nothing happier than her glowing face.

CXCIX.
Alas! the love of women! it is known
To be a lovely and a fearful thing;
For all of theirs upon that die is thrown,
And if 'tis lost, life hath no more to bring
To them butmockeries of the past alone,
And their revenge is as the tiger's spring,
Deadly, and quick, and crushing: yet as real
Torture is theirs—what they inflict they feel.

CC.
They're right; for man, to man so oft unjust,
Is always so to women; one sole bond
Awaits them, treachery is all their trust;
Taught to conceal, their bursting hearts despand
O'er their idol, till some wealthier lust
Buys them in marriage—and what reists beyond?
A thankless husband, next a faithless lover,
Then dressing, nursing, praying, and all's o'er.

CCI.
Some take a lover, some take dramas or prayers,
Some mind their household; others dissipation,
Some run away, and but exchange their cares,
Losing the advantage of a virtuous station;
Few changes e'er can better their affairs,
Their's being an unnatural situation,
From the dull palace to the dirty hovel:
Some play the devil, and then write a novel.

CCII.
Hajdeed was nature's bride, and knew not this;
Hajdeed was passion's child, born where the sun
Showers triple light, and scorches even the kiss
Of his gazelle-eyed daughters; she was one
Made but to love, to feel that she was his
Who was her chosen: what was said or done
Elsewhere was nothing—She had nought to fear,
Hone, care, nor love beyond, her heart beat here.

CCIII.
And oh! that quickening of the heart, that beat!
How much it costs us, yet each rising throbb
Is in its cause as its effect so sweet,
That wisdom, ever on the watch to rob
Joy of its alchemy, and to repeat
Fine truths: even conscience, too, has a tough job
To make us understand each good old maxim,
So good—I wonder Castlereagh don't tax 'em.

CCIV.
And now 'twas done—on the lone shore were plighted
Their hearts; the stars, their nuptial torches, set!
Beauty upon the beautiful they lighted:
Ocean their witness, and the cave their bed,
By their own feelings hallow'd and united,
Their priest was solitude, and they were wed:
And they were happy, for to their young eyes
Each was an angel, and earth paradise.

CCV.
Oh love! of whom great Caesar was the suitor,
Titus the master, Antony the slave,
Horace, Catullus, scholars, Ovid tutor,
Sappho the sage blue-stock:'ing, in whose grave
All those may leap who rather would be nother—
(Lencadina's rock still overlooks the wave—
Oh Love! thou art the very god of evil,
For, after all, we cannot call thee devil.

CCVI.
Thou makest the chaste connubial state preeminent
And jestest with the brows of mightiest men:
Cæsar and Pompey, Mahomet, Belisarius,
Have much employed the muse of history's pen
Their lives and fortunes were extremely various,—
Such worthies time will never see again—
Yet to these four in three things the same luck holds
They all were heroes, conquerors, and cuckolds.

CCVII.
Thou makest philosophers: there's Epicurus
And Aristippus, a material crew.
Who to immortal courses would allure us
By theories, quite practicable too
If only from the devil they would insure us,
How pleasant were the maxim, (not quite new,)
"Eat, drink, and love, what can the rest avail us?"
So said the royal sage, Sardanapalus.

CCVIII.
But Juan! had he quite forgotten Julia?
And should he have forgotten her so soon?
I can't but say it seems to me most truly a
Perplexing question; but, no doubt, the moon
Does these things for us, and whenever newly a
Palpitation rises, 'tis her boon,
Else how the devil is it that fresh features
Have such a charm for us poor human creatures?

CCIX.
I hate inconstancy—I loathe, detest,
Abhor, condemn, abjure the mortal mate
Of such quicksilver clay that in his breath,
No permanent foundation can be laid;
Love, constant love, has been my constant guest
And yet last night, being at a masquerade,
I saw the prettiest creature, fresh from Milan,
Which gave me some sensations like a villain.
CCX.

But soon Philosophy came to my aid,
And whisper'd, "Think of every sacred tie!"
"I will, my dear Philosophy!" I said,
"But thou her teeth, and then, oh heaven! her eye!"
I'll just inquire if she be wife or maid,
Or neither—out of curiosity."
"Stop!" cried Philosophy, with air so Grecian
(Though she was mask'd then as a fair Venetian)—

CCXI.

"Stop!" so I stopped.—But to return: that which
Men call inconstancy is nothing more
Than admiration, due where nature's rich
Profusion with young beauty covers o'er
Some favor'd object; and as in the niche
A lovely statue we almost adore,
This sort of admiration of the real
Is but a heightening of the "beau ideal."

CCXII.

'Tis the perception of the beautiful,
A fine extension of the faculties,
Platonic, universal, wondrous,
Skies,
Drawn from the stars, and filter'd through the
Without which life would be extremely dull;
In short, it is the use of our own eyes,
With one or two small senses added, just
To hint that flesh is form'd of fiery dust.

CCXIII.

Yet 'tis a painful feeling, and unwilling,
For surely if we always could perceive
In the same object graces quite as killing
As when she rose upon us like an Eve,
'Twould save us many a heartache, many a shilling.
(For we must get them any how, or grieve,) Whereas, if one sole lady pleased for ever,
How pleasant for the heart, as well as liver!

CCXIV.

The heart is like the sky, a part of heaven,
But changes night and day too, like the sky;
Now 'er it clouds and thunder must be driven,
And darkness and destruction as on high; driven,
But when it hath been search'd, and pierced, and
Its storms expire in water-drops; the eye
Pours forth at last the heart's blood turn'd to tears,
Which make the English climate of our years.

CCXV.

The liver is the lazard of bile,
But very rarely executes its function,
For the first passion stays there such a while,
That all the rest creep in and form a junction,
Like knots of vipers on a dunghill's soil,
Rage, fear, hate, jealousy, revenge, compunction,
That all mischiefs spring up from this entail,
Like earthquakes from the hidden fire call'd "central."

CCXVI.

In the mean time, without proceeding more
In this anatomy, I've finish'd now
Two hundred and odd stanzas as before,
That being about the number I'll allow
Each canto of the twelve, or twenty-four;
And, laying down my pen, I make my bow
Leaving Don Juan and Haidee, to plead
For them and theirs with all who deign to read.

CANTO III.

HAII, Muse! et cetera.—We left Juan sleeping,
Pillow'd upon a fair and happy breast,
And watch'd by eyes that never knew weeping
And loved by a young heart too deeply bless'd
To feed the poison through her spirit creeping,
Or know who rested there; a foe to rest,
Had soil'd the current of her sinless years,
And turn'd her pure heart's purest blood to tears.

II.

Oh, love! what is it in this world of ours
Which makes it fatal to be loved? Ah, why
With cypress branches hast thou wreathed thy
And made thy best interpreter a sigh? (bowers,
As those who dote on odors pluck the flowers,
And place them on their breast—but place to die—
Thus the frail beings we would fondly cherish
Are laid within our bosoms but to perish.

III.

In her first passion woman loves her lover,
In all the others all she loves is love,
Which grows a habit she can ne'er get over,
And fits her loosely—like an easy glove,
As you may find where'er you like to prove her
One man alone at first her heart can move;
She then prefers him in the plural number,
Not finding that the additions much encumber.

IV.

I know not if the fault be men's or theirs;
But one thing's pretty sure; a woman planted,
Unless at once she plunges for life prayers,) After a decent time must be gallanted;
Although, no doubt, her first of love affairs
Is that to which her heart is wholly granted;
Yet there are some, they say, who have had none.
But those who have ne'er end with only one.

V.

'Tis melancholy, and a fearful sign
Of human frailty, folly, also crime,
That love and marriage rarely can combine,
Although they both are born in the same clime,
Marriage from love, like vinegar from wine—
A sad, sour, sober beverage—by time
Is sharpen'd from its high celestial flavor
Down to a very homely household savor.

VI.

There's something of antipathy, as 'twere,
Between their present and their future state;
A kind of flattery that's hard, y fair
Is used, until the truth arrives too late—
Yet what can people do, except despair?
The same things change their names at such rates
For instance—passion in a lover's glorious,
But in a husband is pronounced luxurion.
VII.

Men grow ashamed of being so very fond:
They sometimes get a little tired,
(But that, of course, is rare,) and then despond:
The same things cannot always be admired,
Yet 'tis "so nominated in the bond,"
That both are tied till one shall have expired.
And thought! to lose the spouse that was adorning
Our days, and put one's servants into mourning.

VIII.

There's doubtless something in domestic doings Which forms, in fact, true love's antithesis;
Romances paint at full length people's wooings, But only give a bust of marriages;
For no one cares for matrimonial coolings.
There's nothing wrong in a communal kiss;
Think you, if Laura had been Petrarch's wife, He would have written sonnets all his life?

IX.

All tragedies are finish'd by a death,
All comedies are cuted by a marriage;
The future states of both are left to faith,
For authors fear description might disparage
The worlds to come of both, or fall beneath, [riage,
And then both worlds would punish their miscar.
So leaving each their priest and prayer-book ready, They say no more of Death or of the Lady.

X.

The only two that in my recollection Have sung of heaven and hell, or marriage, are,
Dante and Milton, and of both the affection
Was hapless in their nuptials, for some bar
Of fault or temper ruin'd the connexion,—
(Such things, in fact, it don't ask much to mar;)
But Dante's Beatrice and Milton's Eve
Were not drawn from their spouses, you conceive.

XI.

Some persons say that Dante meant theology
By Beatrice, and not a mistress—I,
Although my opinion may require apology,
Decem this a commentator's phantasy,
Unless indeed 'twas from his own knowledge he
Decided thus, and show'd good reason why;
I think that Dante's more abstruse ecasties
Meant to personify the mathematics.

XII.

Haidee and Juan were not married, but
The fault was theirs, not mine: it is not fair,
Chaste reader, then, in any way to put
The blame on me, unless you wish they were;
Then, if you'd have them wedded, please to shut
The book which treats of this erroneous pa,
Before the consequences grow too awful—
'Tis dangerous to read of loves unlawful.

XIII.

Yet they were happy—happy in the illicit
Indulgence of their innocent desires;
But, more imprudent grown with every visit,
Haidee forgot the island was her sire's;
When we what we like, 'tis hard to miss it
At least in the beginning, ere one tires;
Thus she came often, not a moment losing
Whilst her piratical papa was cruising.

XIV.

Let not his mode of raising cash seem strange,
Although he fleeced the flags of every nation.
For into a prime minister but change
His title, and 'tis nothing but taxation;
But he, more modest, took an humbler range
Of life, and in an honest vocation
Pursued o'er the high seas his watery journey
And merely practised as a sea-attorney.

XV.

The good old gentleman had been detain'd
By winds and waves, and some important captures.
And, in the hope of more, at sea remain'd,
Although a squall or two had damped his raptures
By swamping one of the prizes; he had chain'd
His prisoners, dividing them like chapters,
In number'd lots; they all had cuffs and collars,
And averaged each from ten to a hundred dollars.

XVI.

Some he disposed of off Cape Matapan,
Among his friends the Mainots; some he sold
To his Tunis correspondents, save one man
Toss'd overboard unsaleable, (being old:)
The rest—save here and there some richer one,
Reserved for future ransom in the hold,—
Were link'd alike; as for the common people, he
Had a large order from the Dey of Tripoli.

XVII.

The merchandise was served in the same way,
Pieced out for different marts in the Levant,
Except some certain portions of the prey,
Light classic articles of female want,
French stuffs, lace, tweezers, toothpicks, teapot, tra
Guitars and castanets from Alicant,
All which selected from the spoil he gathers,
Robb'd for his daughter by the best of fathers.

XVIII.

A monkey, a Dutch mastiff, a mackaw,
Two parrots, with a Persian cat and kittens,
He chose from several animals he saw—
A terrier too, which once had been a Briton's,
Who dying on the coast of Ithica,
The peasants gave the poor dumb thing a pittance
These to secure in this strong blowing weather,
He caged in one huge hamper altogether.

XIX.

Then having settled his marine affairs,
Despatching single cruisers here and there,
His vessel having need of some repairs,
He shaped his course to where his daughter fair
Continued still her hospitable cares:
But that part of the coast being shoal and bare,
And rough with reefs which ran out many a mile,
His port lay on the other side o' the isle.

XX.

And there he went ashore without delay,
Having no custom-house or quarantine
To ask him awkward questions on the way,
About the time and place where he had been:
He left his ship to be hove down next day,
With orders to the people to careen;
So that all hands were busy beyond measure,
In getting out goods, ballast, guns, and treasure
Arriving at the summit of a hill
Which overlook'd the white walls of his home,
He stopp'd.—What singular emotions fill
Their bosoms who have been induced to roam!
With fluttering doubts if all be well or ill—
With love for many, and with fears for some;
All feelings which o'erleap the years long lost,
And bring our hearts back to their starting-post.

The approach of home to husbands and to sires,
After long travelling by land or water,
Most naturally some small doubt inspires—
A female family's a serious matter;
(None tracts the sex more, or so much admires,
But they hate flattery, so I never flatter;)—
Wives in their husbands' absences grow subtler,
And daughters sometimes run off with the butler.

An honest gentleman at his return
May not have the good fortune of Ulysses:
Not all lone matrons for their husbands mourn,
Or show the same dislike to suitors' kisses;
The odds are that he finds a handsome urn
To his memory, and two or three young misses
Born to some friend, who holds his wife and riches,
And that his Argus bites him by—the breeches.

If single, probably his plighted fair
Has in his absence wedded some rich viser;
But all the better, for the happy pair
May quarrel, and the lady growing wiser,
He may resume his amatory care
As cavalier sermente, or despise her;
And, that his sorrow may not be a dumb one,
Writes odes on the inconstancy of woman.

And oh! ye gentlemen who have already
Some chaute liason of the kind— I mean
An honest friendship for a married lady—
The only thing of this sort ever seen
To last—of all connexions the most steady,
And the true Hymen (the first's but a screen)—
Yet for all that keep not too long away;
I've known the absent wrong'd four times a day.

Lambró, our sea-solicitor, who had
Much less experience of dry land than ocean,
On seeing his own chimney smoke, felt glad;
But not knowing metaphysics, had no notion
Of the true reason of his not being sad,
Or that of any other strong emotion; [Her,
He loved his child, and would have wept the loss of
But knew the cause no more than a philosopher.

He saw his white walls shining in the sun,
His garden trees all shadowy and green;
He heard his rivulet's light bubbling run,
The distant dog-bark; and perceived between
The umbrage of the wood, so cool and dun,
The moving figures and the sparkling sheen
Of arms, (in the East, all arm,) and various dyes
Of color'd garbs, as bright as butterflies.

And as the spot where they appear he hears
Surprised at these unwonted signs of idling,
He hears—alas! no music of the spheres,
But an unhallow'd, earthy sound of fiddling!
A melody which made him doubt his ears.
The cause went past his guessing or unriddling;
A pipe too and a drum, and, shortly after,
A most unoriental roar of laughter.

And still more nearly to the place advancing,
Descending rather quickly the declivity,
Through the waved branches, o'er the greensward
'Midst other indications of festivity, [glancing,
Seeing a troop of his domestics dancing
Like dervises, who turn as on a pivot, he
Perceived it was the Pyrrhic dance so martial,
To which the Levantines are very partial.

And further on a group of Grecian girls,
The first and tallest her white kerchief waving,
Were strung together like a row of pearls;
Link'd hand in hand, and dancing; each too having
Down her white neck long floating auburn curls—
(The least of which would set ten poets raving.)
Their leader sang—and bounded to her song,
With choral step and voice, the virgin throng.

A band of children, round a snow-white ram,
There wreathe his venerable horns with flowers;
While peaceful as if still an unwean'd lamb,
The patriarch of the flock all gently cowers
His sober head, majestically tame,
Or eats from out the palm, or playful lowers
His brow is if in act to butt, and then,
Yielding to their small hands, draws back again.

Their classical profiles, and glittering dresses,
Their large black eyes, and soft seraphic cheeks,
Crimson as cleft pomegranates, their long tresses,
The gesture which enchants, the eye that speaks,
The innocence which happy childhood blesses,
Made quite a picture of these little Greeks;
So that the philosophical beholder
Sigh'd for their sakes—that they should e'er grow older.

Afar, a dwarf buffoon stood telling tales
To a sedate gray circle of old smokers,
Of secret treasures found in hidden vales,
Of wonderful replies from Arab jokers,
Of charms to make good gold and cure bad ails;
Of rocks bewitch'd that open to the knockers,
Of magic ladies, who, by one sole act,
Transform'd their lords to beasts, 'but that's a fact.
DON JUAN.

XXXV.
Here was no lack of innocent diversion
For the imagination or the senses,
Song, dance, wise, music, stories from the Persian,
All pretty pastime in which no offence is:
But Lambro saw all these things with aversion,
Perceiving in his absence such expenses,
Reading that climax of all human ills
The inflammation of his weekly bills.

XXXVI.
Ah, what is man? what peril still environ
The happiest mortals even after dinner—
A day of gold from out an age of iron
Is all that life allows the luckiest sinner;
Pleasure (where'er she sings, at least's) a siren,
That lures to flay alive the young beginner;
Lambro's reception at his people's banquet
Was such as fire accords to a wet blanket.

XXXVII.
He—being a man who seldom used a word
Too much, and wishing gladly to surprise
(In general he surprised men with the sword)
His daughter—had not sent before to advise
Of his arrival, so that no one stirred;
And long he paused to reassure his eyes,
In fact much more astonished than delighted,
To find so much good company invited.

XXXVIII.
He did not know (alas! how men will lie)
That a report (especially the Greeks)
Avouch'd his death, (such people never die,)
And put his house in mourning several weeks.
But now their eyes and also lips were dry;
The bloom, too, had return'd to Haidee's cheek;
Her tears, too, being return'd into their fount,
She now kept house upon her own account.

XXXIX.
Hence all this rice, meat, dancing, wine, and fiddling,
Which turn'd the isle into a place of pleasure;
The servants all were getting drunk or idling,
A life which made them happy beyond measure.
Her father's hospitality seem'd middling,
Compared with what Haidee did with his treasure;
'Twas wonderful how things went on improving,
While she had not one hour to spare from loving.

XL.
Perhaps you think in stumbling on this feast
He flew into a passion, and in fact
Here was no mighty reason to be pleased;
Perhaps you prophecy some sudden act,
The whip, the rack, or dungeon at the least,
To teach his people to be more exact,
And that, proceeding at a very high rate,
He shou'd the royal penchants of a pirate.

XLI.
You're wrong;—He was the mildest manner'd man
That ever scuttled ship or cut a throat;
With such true breeding of a gentleman,
You never could divine his real thought;
No courtier could, and scarcely woman can
Gird more deceit within a petticoat;
Pity he loved adventurous life's variety
He was so great a loss to good society

XLII.
Advancing to the nearest dinner-tray,
Tapping the shoulder of the highest guest,
With a peculiar smile, which, by the way,
Boded no good, whatever it express'd;
He ask'd the meaning of this holiday?
The vinous Greek to whom he had address'd
His question, much too merry to divine
The questioner, fill'd up a glass of wine,

XLIII.
And, without turning his facetious head,
Over his shoulder, with a Bœchant air,
Presented the o'erflowing cup, and said,
"Talking's dry work, I have no time to spare."
A second hiccup'd, "Our old master's dead,
You'd better ask our mistress, who's his heir.
"Our mistress"—quoth a third: "Our mistress is
You mean our master—not the old, but new." [pooh

XLIV.
These rascals, being new comers, knew not whom
They thus address'd—and Lambro's visage fell—
And o'er his eye a momentary gloom
Pass'd, but he strove quite courteously to quell
The expression, and, endeavoring to resume
His smile, requested one of them to tell
The name and quality of his new patron,
Who seem'd to have turn'd Haidee into a matron.

XLV.
"I know not," quoth the fellow, "who or what
He is, nor whence he came—and little care;
But this I know, that this roast capon's fat,
And that good wine ne'er wash'd down better fare
And if you are not satisfied with that,
Direct your questions to my neighbor there,
He'll answer all for better or for worse,
For none likes more to hear himself converse"

XLVI.
I said that Lambro was a man of patience,
And certainly he shou'd the best of breeding,
Which scarce even France, the paragon of nations
E'er saw her most polite of sons exceeding;
He bore these sneers against his near relations,
His own anxiety, his heart, too, bleeding,
The insults, too, of every servile gluton,
Who all the time was eating up his mutton.

XLVII.
Now in a person used to much command—
To bid men come, and go, and come again—
To see his orders done, too, out of hand—
Whether the word was death, or but the chang
It may seem strange to find his manners bland;
Yet, such things are, which I cannot explain,
Though doubtless he who can command himself
Is good to govern—almost as a Guelf.

XLVIII.
Not that he was not sometimes rash or so,
But never in his real and serious mood;
Then calm, concentrated, and still, and slow
He lay col'd like the boa in the wood;
With him it never was a word and blow,
His angry word once o'er, he shed no blood,
But in his silence there was much to rue,
And his one blow left little work for too.
Alx.
He ask'd no further questions, and proceeded
On to the house, but by a private way,
So that the few who met him hardly heeded,
So little they expected him that day;
If love paternal in his bosom pleaded
For Haidee's sake, is more than I can say,
But certainly to one, deem'd dead, returning,
This reveal seem'd a curious mode of mourning.

l.
If all the dead could now return to life,
(Which God forbid,) or some, or a great many;
For instance, if a husband or his wife,
(Nuptial examples are as good as any,) No doubt what'eer might be their former strife,
The present weather would be much more rainy—
Tears shed into the grave of the connexion
Would share most probably its resurrection.

li.
He enter'd in the house, no more his home,
A thing to human feelings the most trying,
And harder for the heart to overcome
Perhaps, than even the mental pang of dying;
To find our heartstone turn'd into a tomb,
And round its once warm precincts palely lying
The ashes of our hopes, is a deep grief,
Beyond a single gentleman's belief.

lii.
He enter'd in the house—his home no more,
For without hearts there is no home—and felt
The solitude of passing his own door
Without a welcome; there he long had dwelt,
There his few peaceful days Time had swept o'er,
There his worn bosom and keen eye would melt
Over the innocence of that sweet child,
His only shrine of feelings undefiled.

liii.
He was a man of a strange temperament,
Of mild demeanour though of savage mood,
Moderate in all his habits, and content
With temperance in pleasure, as in food,
Quick to perceive, and strong to bear, and meant
For something better, if not wholly good;
His country's wrongs and his desir to save her
Had stung him from a slave to an enslaver.

liv.
The love of power, and rapid gain of gold,
The hardness by long habitude produced,
The dangerous life in which he had grown old,
The mercy he had granted oft abused,
The sights he was accustomed to behold,
The wild seas and wild men with whom he cruised,
Had cost his enemies a long repentance,
And made him a good friend, but bad acquaintance.

lv.
But something of the spirit of old Greece Flash'd o'er his soul a few heroic rays,
such as lit onward to the golden fleece
His predecessors in the Colchian days:
Tis true he had no ardent love for peace;
Alas! his country show'd no path to praise:
Hate to the world and war with every nation
He waged, in reengeance of her degredation.

lvii.
Still o'er his mind the influence of the clime Shed its Ionian elegance, which showed'd Its power unconsciously full many a time,— A taste seen in the choice of his abode, A love of music and of scenes sublime, A pleasure in the gentle stream that low'd Past him in crystals, and a joy in flowers, Bedew'd his spirit in his calmer hours.

lviii.
But whatsoever he had of love, reposed On that beloved daughter; she had been The only thing which kept his heart uncurst Amidst the savage deeds he had done and seen. A lonely pure affection unprofess'd:
There wanted but the loss of this to wean His feelings from all milk of human kindness, And turn him, like the Cyclops, mad with blindness.

lix.
The cubless tigress in her jungle raging Is dreadful to the shepherd and the flock; The ocean when its yeasty war is waging Is awful to the vessel near the rock:
But violent things will sooner be assuag'd— Their fury being spent by its own shock— Than the stern, single, deep, and worldless ire Of a strong human heart, and in a sire.

lx.
It is hard, although a common case, To find our children running restive— they In whom our brightest days we would retrace, Our little selves reform'd in finer clay; Just as old age is creeping on apace; And clouds come o'er the sunset of our day, They kindly leave us, though not quite alone But in good company—the gout or stone.

lx.
Yet a fine family is a fine thing, (Provided they don't come in after dinner;) 'Tis beautiful to see a matron bring Her children up, (if nursing them don't thin her;) Like cherubs round an altar-piece they cling To the fireside, (a sight to touch a sinner;) A lady with her daughter or her nieces Shone like a guineas and seven shining pieces.

lx.
Old Lambro pass'd unseen a private gate, And stood within his hall at eventide, Meantime the lady and her lover sat At wasail in their beauty and their pride An ivory inlaid table spread with state Before them, and fair slaves on every side; Gems, gold, and silver, form'd the service mostly. Mother-of-pearl and coral the less costly.

lxii.
The dinner made about a hundred dishes; Lamb and pistachio-nuts—in short, all meats, And saffron soups, and sweetbreads; and the fishes Were of the finest that e'er founded in nets, Dress'd to a Sybarite's most pamper'd wishes: The beverage was various sherbets Of raisin, orange, and pomegranate juice, [use. Squeezed through the rind which makes it best for
LXIII.

These were ungirded round, each in its crystal ever,
And its ardently date-bread loaves closed the repast,
And Mocha's berry, from Arabia pure,
In small fine China cups, came in at last—
gold cups of filigree, made to secure.
The hand from burning, underneath them placed;
Cherries, cinnamon, and saffron too boil'd
Up with the coffee, which (I think) they spoil'd.

LXIV.

The kangles of the room were tapestry, made
Of velvet panels, each of different hue,
And thick with damask flowers of silk inlaid:
And round them ran a yellow border too;
The upper border, richly wrought, display'd,
Embroider'd delicately o'er with blue,
soft Persian sentences, in lilac letters,
From poets, or the moralists their better.

LXV.

These oriental writings on the wall,
Quite common in those countries, are a kind
Of monitors, adapted to recall,
Like skulls at Memphian banquets, to the mind
The words which shook Belshazzar in his hall,
And took his kingdom from him.—You will find,
Taught sages may pour out their wisdom's treasure,
There is no sterner moralist than pleasure.

LXVI.

A beauty at the season's close grown hectic,
A genius who has drunk himself to death;
A rake turn'd methodist or ecclectic—
(For that's the name they like to pray beneath)—
But most, an almanack struck apoplectic,
Are things that really take away the breath,
And show that late hours, wine and love, are able
To do not much less damage than the table.

LXVII.

Haidee and Juan carpeted their feet

On crimson satin, border'd with pale blue;
Their sofa occupied three parts complete
Of the apartment—and appear'd quite new;
The velvet cushions—for a throne more meet)—
Were scarlet, from whose glowing centre grew
A sun emboss'd in gold, whose rays of tissue,
Meridian-like, were seen all light to issue.

LXVIII.

Crystal and marble, plate and porcelain,
Had done their work of splendor, Indian mats
And Persian carpets, the heart bled to stain,
Over the floors were spread; gazelles and cats,
And dwarfs and blacks, and such like, things that gain
Their bread as ministers; and such like—(that's
To say, by gradation)—mingled there
As plentiful as in a court or fair.

LXIX.

There was no want of lofty mirrors, and
The tables, most of ebony inlaid
With mother-of pearl or ivory, stood at hand,
Or were of tossoine-shell or rare woods made,
Fretted with gold or silver: by command,
The greater part of these were ready spread
With viands, and sherbets in ice, and wine—
Kent for all comers, at all hours to dine.

LXX.

Of all the dresses I select Haidee's:
She wore two jellicks—one was of pale yellow;
Of azure, pink, and white, was her chemise—
'Neath which her breast heaved like a little billow
With buttons form'd of pearls as large as peas,
All gold and crimson shone her jellick's fellow,
And the striped white gauze bacean that bound her
Like fleecy clouds about the moon, flow'd round her

LXXI.

One large gold bracelet clasps each lovely arm,
Lockess—so pliable from the pure gold,
That the hand stretch'd and shut it without harm.
The limb which it adorn'd its only mould;
So beautiful—its very shape would charm,
And clinging as if loth to lose its hold,
The purest ore inclosed the whitest skin
That e'er by precious metal was hold in.]

LXXII.

Around, as princess of her father's land,
A like gold bar, above her instep roll'd;
Announced her rank: twelve rings were on her hand;
Her hair was star'd with gems; her veil's fine fold
Below her breast was fasten'd with a band
Of lavish pearls, whose worth could scarce be told;
Her orange silk full Turkish trousers fur'd
About the prettiest ankle in the world.

LXXIII.

Her hair's long auburn waves down to her heel
Flow'd like an Alpine torrent which the sun
Dyes with his morning light,—and would conceal
Her person if allow'd at large to run;
And stili they seem resolutely to feel
The silken fillet's curl, and sought to shun
Their bounds whose'er some zephyr caught began
To offer his young pinion as her fan

LXXIV.

Round her she made an atmosphere of life,
The very air seem'd lighter from her eyes,
They were so soft and beautiful, and rife
With all we can imagine of the skies,
And pure as Psyche ere she grew a wife—
Too pure even for the purest human ties;
Her overpowering presence made you feel
It would not be idolatry to kneel.

LXXV.

Her eyelashes, though dark as night, were tipted
(It is the country's custom,) but in vain;
For those large black eyes were so blackly tipted
The glossy rebels mock'd the jetty stin,
And in their native beauty stood avenged;
Her nails were touch'd with henna; but again
The power of art was turn'd to nothing, for
They could not look more rosy than before.

LXXVI.

The henna should be deeply dyed to make
The skin relieved appear more fairly fair:
She had no need of this—day ne'er will break
On mountain tops more heavenly white than her.
The eye might doubt if it were well awake,
She was so like a vision; I might err,
But Shakspeare also says 'tis very silly
'Tis gold refined, or paint the lily
BYRON'S WORKS.

LXXXVII.
Juan had on a shawl of black and gold,
But a white baraban, and so transparent,
The sparkling gems beneath you might behold,
Like small stars through the milky way apparent;
His turban, furl'd in many a graceful fold,
An emerald agniret with Haidee's hair in't,
Surmounted as its clasp—a glowing crescent,
Whose rays shone ever trembling, but incessant.

LXXXVIII.
And now they were diverted by their suite,
Dwarfs, dancing girls, black eunuch's, and a poet,
Which made their new establishment complete;
The last was of great fame, and liked to show it;
His verses rarely wanted their due fort—
And for his theme—he seldom sung below it,
de being paid to satirize or flatter,
As the psalm says, "inditing a good matter."

LXXX.
He praised the present and abused the past,
Reversing the good custom of old days,
An eastern anti-jacobin at last
He turn'd, preferring pudding to no praise—
For some few years his lot had been o'ercast
By his seeming independent in his lays,
But now he sung the Sultan and the Pacha,
With: truth like Southey, and with verse like
Crashaw.

LXXXI.
He was a man who had seen many changes,
And always changed as true as any needle,
His polar star being one which rather ranges,
And not the fix'd—he knew the way to wheedle;
So vile he escap'd the doom which oft avenges;
And being fluent, (save indeed when fee'd ill,) He lie'd with such a fervor of intention—
There was no doubt he earn'd his lucrative pension.

LXXXII.
But he had genius—when a turncoat has it
The "vates irritabilis" takes care
That without notice few full moons shall pass it:
Even good men like to make the public stare—
But to my subject—let me see—what was it?
Oh!—the third canto—and the pretty par—
Their loves, and feasts, and house; and dress, and
Of living in their insular abode: [mode

LXXXIII.
Their port, a sad trimmer, but no less
In company a very pleasant fellow,
Had been the favorite of full many a mess [low;
Of men, and made them speeches when half mel-
And though his meaning they could rarely guess,
Yet still they desir'd to hiccoup or to bellow,
The glorious need of popular applause,
Of which the first ne'er knows the second cause.

LXXXIV.
He had travell'd 'mong the Arabs, Turks, and Franks
And knew the self-loves of the different nations
And, having lived with people of all ranks,
Had something ready upon most occasions—
Which got him a few presents and some thanks.
He varied with some skill his aditations;
To "do at Rome as Romans do," a piece
Of conduct was which he observed in Greece.

LXXXV.
Thus, usually, when he was ask'd to sing,
He gave the different nations something nations
"Twas all the same to him—"God save the King"
Or "Callira," according to the fashion all;
His muse made increment of any thing,
From the high lyrical to the low rational;
If Pindar sang horsemens, what should hinder
Himself from being as pliable as Pindar?

LXXXVI.
In France, for instance, he would write a chanson;
In England, a six-canto quarto tale;
In Spain, he'd make a ballad or romance
On the last war—much the same in Portugal;
In Germany, the Pegasus he'd prance on
Would be old Goethe's—(see what says de Staél)
In Italy, he'd ape the "Trecentisti;"
In Greece, he'd sing some sort of hymn like this t'ye

The isles of Greece! the isles of Greece!
Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
Where grew the arts of war and peace,—
Where Delos rose and Phœbus sprung!

Ethernal summer gilds them yet,
But all, except their sun, is set

The Scian and the Teian muse,
The hero's harp, the lover's lute,
Have found the fame your shores refuse;
Their place of birth alone is mute
To sounds which echo further west
Than your sires' "Islands of the Bless'd;"

The mountains look on Marathon—
And Marathon looks on the sea;
And musing there an hour alone,
I dream'd that Greece might still be free;
For, standing on the Persians' grave,
I could not deem myself a slave.

A king sate on the rocky brow
Which looks o'er sea-born Salamis;
And ships, by thousands, lay below,
And men in nations—all were his!
He count'd them at break of day—
And when the sun set, where were they?

And where are they! and where art thou,
My country! On thy voiceless shore
The heroic lay is timeless now—
The heroic bosom beats no more!
And must thy lyre, so long divine,
Degenerate into hands like mine?
Tis something, in the death of fame,
Though link'd among a fetter'd race,
To feel at least a patriot's shame,
Even as I sing, suffuse my face;
For what is left the poet here?
For Greeks a blush—for Greece a tear.

Must see but weep o'er days more blase'd?
Must we but blush?—Our fathers bled.
Earth! render back from out thy breast
A remnant of our Spartan dead!
Of the three hundred grant but three,
To make a new Thermopylae.

What, silent still? and silent all?
Ah! no;—the voices of the dead
Sound like a distant torrent's fall,
And answer, "Let one living head,
But one arise,—we come, we come!"
'Tis but the living who are dumb.

In vain—in vain: strike other chords;
Fill high the cup with Samian wine!
Leave battles to the Turkish hordes,
And shed the blood of Scio's vine!
Hark! rising to the ignoble call—
How answers each bold bacchanal!

You have the Pyrrhic dance as yet,
Where is the Pyrrhic phalanx gone?
Of two such lessons, why forget
The nobler and the manlier one?
You have the letters Cadmus gave—
Think ye he meant them for a slave?

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
We will not think of themes like these!
It made Anacreon's song divine;
He served—but served Polycrates—
A tyrant; but our masters then
Were still, at least, our countrymen.

The tyrant or the Chersonese
Was freedom's best and bravest friend;
That tyrant was Miltiades!
Oh! that the present hour would lend
Another despot of the kind!
Such chains as his were sure to bind.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
On Suli's rock, and Parga's shore,
Exists the remnant of a line
Such as the Doric mothers bore;
And there, perhaps, some seed is sown,
The Heracleidan blood might own.

Trust not for freedom to the Franks—
They have a king who buys and sells;
In native swords, and native ranks,
The only hope of courage dwells:
But Turkish force, and Latin fraud,
Would break your shield, however broad.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
Our virgins dance beneath the shade—
I see their glorious black eyes shine;
But, gazing on each glowing maid,
My own the burning tear-drop laves,
To think such breasts must suckle slaves.

Place me on Sunium's marble steep—
Where nothing, save the waves and I,
May hear our mutual murmurs sweep;
There, swan-like, let me sing and die;
A land of slaves shall ne'er be mine—
Dash down you cup of Samian wine!

LXXXVII.
Thus sung, or would, or could, or should have sung
The modern Greek, in tolerable verse;
If not like Orpheus quite, when Greece was young
Yet in these times he might have done much worse.
His strain display'd some feeling—right or wrong;
And feeling, in a poet, is the source
Of other's feeling; but they are such liars,
And take all colors—like the hands of dyers.

LXXXVIII.
But words are things, and a small drop of ink
Falling like dew upon a thought, produces things
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions
'Tis strange, the shortest letter which man uses,
Instead of speech, may form a lasting link
Of ages; to what straits old Time reduces
Frail man, when paper—even a rag like this,
Survives himself, his tomb, and all that's his.

LXXXIX.
And when his bones are dust, his grave a blank,
His station, generation, even his nation,
Become a thing, or nothing, save to rank
In chronological commemoration,
Some dull MS. oblivion long has sank,
Or graven stone found in a barrack's station,
In digging the foundation of a closet,
May turn his name up as a rare deposit.

XC.
And glory long has made the sages smile,
'Tis something, nothing, words, illusion, wind—
Depending more upon the historian's style
Than on the name a person leaves behind.
Troy owes to Homer what whist owes to Hoyle;
The present century was growing blind
To the great Marlborough's skill in giving knocks,
Until his late Life by Archdeacon Coxe.

XCI.
Milton's the prince of poets—so we say;
A little heavy, but no less divine;
An independent being in his days—
Learn'd, pious, temperate in love and wine;
But his life falling into Johnson's way,
We're told this great high priest of all the Nine
Was whipt at college—a harsh sire—odd spouse,
For the first Mrs. Milton left his house.

XCII.
All these are, certes, entertaining facts,
Like Shakespeare's stealing deer, Lora Bacon's
Like Titus' youth, and Caesar's earliest acts;
Like Burns, (whom Doctor Currie well describes);
Like Cromwell's pranks—but although truth exacts
These amiable descriptions from the scribes,
As most essential to their hero's story,
They do not much contribute to his glory.
XCIII.
All are not moralists like Southey, when
He prated to the world of "Pantisocracy;"
Or Wordsworth unexcised, unhired, who then
Season'd his pedlar poems with democracy;
Or Coleridge long before his flighty pen
Let to theMorning Post its aristocracy;
When he and Southey, following the same path,
Espoused two partners, (milliners of Bath.)

XCIV.
Such names at present cut a convict figure,
The very Botany Bay in moral geography;
Their loyal treason, renegado vigor,
Are good examples for their more bare biography.
Wordsworth's last quarto, by the way, is bigger
Than any since the birthday of typography:
A clumsy frowzy poem, call'd the "Excursion,"
Writ in a manner which is my aversion.

XCV.
He there builds up a formidable dyke
Between his own and others' intellect;
But Wordsworth's poem, and his followers, like
Joanna Southcote's Shiloh and her sect,
Are things which in this century don't strike
The public mind, so few are the elect;
And the new births of both their stale virginities
Have proved but dropses taken for divinities.

XCVI.
But let me to my story: I must own
If I have any fault, it is digression;
Leaving my people to proceed alone,
While I soliloquize beyond expression;
But these are my addresses from the throne,
Which put off business to the ensuing session:
Forgetting each omission is a loss to
The world, not quite so great as Aristost.

XCVII.
I know that what our neighbors call "longeurs",
(We've not so good a word, but have the thing
In that complete perfection, which ensures
An epile from Bob Southey every spring)—
Form not the true temptation which allure
The reader; but 'twould not be hard to bring
Some fine examples of the épopée,
To prove its grand ingredient is ennui.

XCVIII.
We learn from Horace, Homer sometimes sleeps,
We feel without him, Wordsworth sometimes
To show what complacency he creeps, [wakes,
With his dear "Wagons," around his lakes
He wishes for "a boat" to sail the deeps—
Of Ocean—no, of air; and then he makes
Another outcry for "a little boat,
And drivels seas to set it well afloat.

XCIX.
If he must faint sweeps o'er the ethereal plain,
And Pegasus runs restive in his "wagon,"
Could he not beg the loan of Charles's wain?
Or pray Medea for a single dragon?
Or if, too classic for his vulgar brain,
He fear'd his neck to venture such a nag on,
And he must needs mount nearer to the moon,
Could not the blockhead ask for a balloon?

C.
"Pedlars," and "boats," and "wagon," Oh!
"Of Pope and Dryden, are we come to this? [shades
That trash of such sort not alone evades
Contempt, but from the bathos' vast abyss
Floats scum-like uppermost, and these Jack Cades
Of sense and song above your graves may hiss—
The "little boatman" and his 'Peter Bell'
Can sneer at him who drew "Achitoehel!"

CI
'T our tale,—The feast was over, the slaves gone,
The dwarfs and dancing girls had all retired;
The Arab lore and poet's song were done,
And every sound of revelry expired;
The lady and her lover, left alone,
The rosy flood of twilight sky admired;—
Ave Maria! o'er the earth and sea,
That heaviest hour of Heaven is worthiest 

CII.
Ave Maria! blessed be the hour!
The time, the clime, the spot, where I so oft
Have felt that moment in its fullest power
Sink o'er the earth so beautiful and soft,
While swung the deep bell in the distant tower,
Or the faint dying day-hymn stole aloft,
And not a breath crept through the rosy air,
And yet the forest leaves seem stirr'd with prayer

CIII.
Ave Maria! 'tis the hour of prayer!
Ave Maria! 'tis the hour of love!
Ave Maria! may our spirits dare
Look up to thine and to thy Son's above!
Ave Maria! oh that face so fair!
Those downcast eyes beneath the almighty dome—
What though 'tis but a pictured image strike—
That painting is no idol, 'tis too like.

CIV.
Some kind casuists are pleased to say,
In nameless print—that I have no devotion,
But set those persons down with me to pray,
And you shall see who has the properest notion
Of getting into heaven the shortest way;
My altars are the mountains and the ocean,
Earth, air, stars,—all that springs from the great whole,
Who hath produced, and will receive the soul

CV.
Sweet hour of twilight!—in the solitude
Of the pine forest, and the silent shore
Which bounds Ravenna's immemorial wood,
Rooted where once the Adriatic wave flow'd o'er
To where the last Cesarion fortress stood,
Ever-green forest! which Boccaccio's lore
And Dryden's lay made haunted ground to me.
How have I loved the twilight hour and thee

CVI.
The shrill cicadas, people of the pine,
Making their summer lives one ceaseless song,
Were the sole echoes, save my steed's and mine,
And vesper-bell's that rose the boughs along;
The spectre huntsman of Onesti's line,
His hell-dogs, and their chase, and the fair throng
Which learn'd from this example not to fly
From a true lover, shadow'd my mind's eye
DON JUAN.

CIVIL.

Oh Hesperus, thou bringest all good things—
Home to the weary, to the hungry cheer,
To the young bird the parent’s brooding wings,
The welcome stall to the o’erlabor’d steer;
Whate’er of peace about our hearthstone clings,
Whate’er our household gods protect of dear,
Are gather’d round us by thy look of rest;
Thou bring’st the child, too, to the mother’s breast.

CVIII.

Soft hour! which wakes the wish and melts the tear
Of those who sail the seas, on the first day [heart
When they from their sweet friends are torn apart;
Or fills with love the pilgrim on his way,
As the far bell of vespers makes him start,
Seeming to weep the dying day’s decay;
Is this a fancy which our reason scorns?
Ah! surely nothing dies but something morns!

CIX.

When Nero perish’d by the justest doom
Which ever the destroyer yet destroy’d
Amid the roar of liberated Rome,
Of nations freed, and the world overjoy’d,
Some hands unseen strew’d flowers upon his tomb;
Perhaps the weakness of a heart not void
Of feeling for some kindness done, when power
Had left the wretch an uncorrupted hour.

CX.

But I’m digressing: what on earth has Nero,
Or any such like sovereign buffoons,
To do with the transactions of my hero, [moon’s?
More than such madmen’s fellow-man—the
Sure my invention must be down at zero,
And I grow one of many “wooden spoons”
Of verse, (the name with which we Cantabas please
To dub the last of honors in degrees.)

CXI.

I feel this tediousness will never do—
’Tis being too epic, and I must cut down
(In copying) this long canto into two:
They’ll never find it out, unless I own
The fact, excepting some experienced few;
And then as an improvement ’twill be shown:
I’ll prove that such the opinion of the critic is,
From Aristotle passim.—See Don Juan.

CANTO IV.

I.

NOTHING so difficult as a beginning
In poesy, unless perhaps the end:
For oftentimes when Pegasus seems winning
The race, he sprains a wing, and down we tend,
Like Lucifer when hurl’d from heaven for sinning;
Our sin the same, and hard as his to mend,
Being pride, which leads the mind to soar too far,
Till our own weakness shows us what we are.

II.

But time, which brings all beings to their level,
And sharp adversity, will teach at last
Man,—and, as we would hope,—perhaps the devil
That neither of their intellects are vast:
While youth’s hot wishes in our red veins revel,
We know not this—the blood flows on too fast;
But as the torrent widens towards the ocean,
We ponder deeply on each past emotion.

III.

As boy, I thought myself a clever fellow,
And wish’d that others held the same opinion:
They took it up when my days grew more mellow,
And other minds acknowledged my dominion:
Now my sere fancy “falls into the yellow Leaf,”
And imagination droops her pinion,
And the sad truth which hovers o’er my desk
Turns what was once romantic to burlesque.

IV.

And if I laugh at any mortal thing,
’Tis that I may not weep; and if I weep,
’Tis that our nature cannot always bring
Itself to apathy, which we must steep,
First in the icy depths of Lethe’s spring,
Ere what we least wish to behold will sleep:
Thetis baptized her mortal son in Styx;
A mortal mother would on Lethe fix.

V.

Some have accused me of a strange design
Against the creed and morals of the land,
And trace it in this poem every line:
I don’t pretend that I quite understand
My own meaning when I would be very fine;
But the fact is that I have nothing plann’d,
Unless it was to be a moment merry,
A novel word in my vocabulary.

VI.

To the kind reader of our sober clime,
This way of writing will appear exotic;
Pulci was sire of, the half-serious rhyme;
Who sung when chivalry was more Quixotic,
And revel’d in the fancies of the time,—[despotic
True knights, chase dames, huge giants, kings
But all these, save the last, being obsolete,
I chose a modern subject as more meet.

VII.

How I have treated it, I do not know—
Perhaps no better than they have treated me
Who nave imputed such designs as show,
Not what they saw, but what they wish’d to see;
But if it gives them pleasure, be it so.—
This is a liberal age, and thoughts are free:
Meantim: Apoll’ plucks me by the ear,
And tells me to resume my story here.

VIII.

Young Juan and his lady-love were left
To their own hearts’ most sweet society;
Even Time the pitiless in sorrow cleft
With his rude seythe such gentle bosoms; he
Sigh’d to behold them of their hours bereft,
Though foe to love; and yet they could not
Meant to grow old, but die in happy spring
Before one chum or hope had taken vine
IX.
Their faces were not made for wrinkles, their
Pure blood to stagnate, their great hearts to fail;
The blank gray was not made to blast their hair,
But, like the climes that know nor snow nor hail,
They were all summer: lightening might assail
And shiver them to ashes, but to trail
A long and snake-like life of dull decay
Was not for them—they had too little clay.

X.
They were alone once more; for them to be
Thus was another Eden; they were never
Weary, unless when separate: the tree
Cut from its forest root of years—the river
Damn'd from its fountain—the child from the knee
And breast maternal wean'd at once for ever,
Would wither less than these two torn apart;
Alas! there is no instinct like the heart—

XI.
The heart—which may be broken: happy they!
Thrice fortunate! who, of that fragile mould,
The precious porcelain of human clay.
Break with the first fall: they can ne'er behold
The long year link'd with heavy day on day,
And all which must be borne, and never told;
White life's strange principle will often lie
Deepest in those who long the most to die.

XII.
Whom the gods love die young," was said of yore,
And many deaths do they escape by this:
The death of friends, and that which slay's even,
The death of friendship, love, youth, all that is,
Except mere breath; and since the silent shore
Awaits at last even those whom longest miss
The old archer's shafts, perhaps the early grave
Which men weep over may be meant to save.

XIII.
Haidee and Juan thought not of the dead; [them:
The heavens, and earth, and air, seem'd made for
They found no fault with time, save that he fled;
They saw not in themselves ought to condemn;
Each was the other's mirror, and but read
Joy sparkling in their dark eyes like a gem,
And knew such brightness was but the reflection
Of their exchanging glances of affection.

XIV.
The gentle pressure, and the thrilling touch,
The least glance better understood than words,
Which still said all, and ne'er could say too much;
A language, too, but like to that of birds,
Known but to them, at least appearing such,
As but to lovers a true sense affords:
Sweet playful phrases, which would seem absurd:
'those who have ceased to hear such, or ne'er heard:

XV.
All these were theirs, for they were children still,
And children still they should have ever been;
They were not made in the real world to fill
A busy character in the dull scene;
But like two beings born from out a rill,
A nymph and her beloved, all unseen
To pass their lives in fountains and on flowers,
And never know the weight of human hours.

XVI.
Moons changing had roll'd on, and changeless found
Those their bright rise had lighted to such joys
As rarely they beheld throughout their round:
And these were not of the vain kind which cloys
For theirs were buoyant spirits, never bound
By the mere senses; and that which destroys
Most love, possession, unto them appear'd
A thing which each endurance more endure'd.

XVII.
Oh beautiful! and rare as beautiful!
But theirs was love in which the mind delights
To lose itself, when the whole world grows dull,
And we are sick of its hack sounds and sights,
Intrigues, adventures of the common school,
Its petty passions, marriages, and flights,
Where Hymen's torch but brands one strumpet more
Whose husband only knows her not a wh—re.

XVIII.
Hard words; harsh truth; a truth which many know
Enough.—The faithful and the fairy pair,
Who never found a single hour too slow,
What was it made them thus exempt from care?
Young innate feelings all have felt below,
Which perish in the rest, but in them were
Inherent; what we mortals call romantic,
And always envy, though we deem it frantic.

XIX.
This is in others a factitious state,
An opium dream of too much youth and reading,
But was in them their nature or their fate;
No novels o'er had set their young hearts bleeding,
For Haidee's knowledge was by no means great,
And Juan was a boy of saintly breeding,
So that there was no reason for their loves,
More than for those of nightingales or doves.

XX.
They gazed upon the sunset; 'tis an hour
Dear unto all, but dearest to their eyes,
For it had made them what they were: the power
Of love had first o'erwhelm'd them from such
When happiness had been their only dower, [skies,
And twilight saw them link'd in passion's ties;
Charm'd with each other, all things charm'd that
brought
The past still welcome as the present thought.

XXI.
I know not why, but in that hour to-night,
Even as they gazed, a sudden tremor came,
And swept, as 'twere, across their hearts' delight,
Like the wind o'er a harp-string, or a flame,
When one is shock'd in sound, and one in sight;
And thus some binding flush'd through either frame.
And call'd from Juan's breast a faint low sigh,
While one new tear arose in Haidee's eye.

XXII.
That large black prophet eye seem'd to dilate
And follow far the disappearing sun,
As if their last day of a happy date,
With his brow, bright, and dropping orb were
Juan gazed on her as to ask his fate—
[gone
He felt a grief, but knowing cause for none,
His glance inquired of hers for some excuse
For feelings causeless, or at least abstruse.
XXIII.
Their lips to hers, and silenced him with this,
And then dismiss'd the omen from her breast,
And no doubt of all method's 'tis the best:
Some people prefer wine—'tis not amiss:
May choose between the headache and the heart-ache.

XXIV.
Juan would question further, but she press'd
With swimming looks of speechless tenderness,
All that the best can mingle and express,
And love too much, and yet can not love less;
But almost sanctify the sweet excess
By the immorta. wish and power to bless.

XXV.
Juan and Haidee gazed upon each other,
With swimming looks of speechless tenderness,
Which mix'd all feelings, friend, child, lover, brother,
For both sides I could many reasons show,
And then decide, without great wrong to either,
It was much better to have both than neither.

XXVI.
Mix'd in each other's arms, and heart in heart,
Why did they not then die?—they had lived too long;
Should an hour come to bid them breathe apart;
The world was not for them, nor the world's art
It was their very spirit—not a sense.

XXVII.
They should have lived together deep in woods,
Sees the nightingale; they were
Unseen by the thick solitude;
Flock o'er their carion, just as mortals do.

XXVIII.
New pillow'd, cheek to cheek, in loving sleep,
And Haidee and Juan their siesta took,
A gentle slumber, but it was not deep,
And shuddering o'er his frame would creep;
And Haidee's sweet lips murmur'd like a brook,
Stirr'd with her dream as rose-leaves with the air:

XXIX.
Or as the stirring of a deep clear stream
Walks over it, was she shaken by the dream,
The mystical surfer of the mind—
O'erpowering us to be what'er may seem
Good to the soul which we no more can bind:
Strange state of being! (for 'tis still to be,) Senseless to feel, and with seal'd eyes to see.

XXX.
She dream'd of being alone on the seashore,
Chain'd to a rock; she knew not how, but stir
She could not from the spot, and the loud roar
Grew, and each wave rose roughly, threatening.
And o'er her upper lip they seem'd to pour,
Unti until she sobb'd for breath, and soon they were Foaming o'er her lone head, so fierce and high Each broke to drown her, yet she could not die.

XXXI.
Anon—she was released, and then she stray'd
O'er the sharp shingles with her bleeding feet,
And stumbled almost every step she made;
And something roll'd before her in a sheet,
For she must still pursue howe'er afraid;
'Twas white and indistinct, nor stopp'd to meet Her glance nor grasp, for still she gazed and grasp'd
And ran, but it escaped her as she clasp'd.

XXXII.
The dream chang'd: in a cave she stood, its walls Were hung with marble icicles; the work Of ages on its water-fretted halls, and lurt;
Where waves might wash, and seals might breed her hair was dripping, and the very balls Of her black eyes seem'd turn'd to tears, and murk The sharp rocks look'd below each drop they caught, Which froze to marble as it fell, she thought.

XXXIII.
And wet, and cold, and lifeless at her feet,
Pale as the form that froth'd on his dead brow
Which she essay'd in vain to clear, (how sweet Were once her cares, how idle seem'd they now) Lay Juan, nor could aught renew the beat Of his quench'd heart; and the sea-dirges low Rang in her sad ears like a mermaid's song,
And that brief dream appear'd a life too long.

XXXIV.
And gazing on the dead, she thought his face Faded, or alter'd into something new— Like to her father's features, till each trace More like and like to Lambro's aspect grew— With all his keen worn look and Grecian grace; And starting, she awoke, and what to view! Oh! Powers of Heaven! what dark eye meets she 'Tis—'tis her father's—fixed upon the pair! (there!}

XXXV.
Haidee, and Juan their siesta took,
A gentle slumber, but it was not deep,
For ever and anon a something shook
Juan, and shuddering o'er his frame would creep;
And Haidee's sweet lips murmur'd like a brook,
A worldless music, and her face so fair
Stirr'd with her dream as rose-leaves with the air:
XXXVII.

Up Juan sprang to Haidee's bitter shriek,
And caught her failing, and from off the wall
Snatch'd down his sabre, in hot haste to wreak
Vengeance on him who was the cause of all:
Then Lambro, who till now forbore to speak,
Smiled scornfully, and said, "Within my call
A thousand scimitars await the word:
Put up, young man, put up your silly sword."

XXXVIII.

Aud Haidee clung around him; "Juan, 'tis-
Tis Lambro—'tis my father! Kneel with me—
He will forgive you, but gave no reply.
Oh! dearest father, in this agony
Of pleasure and of pain—even while I kiss
Thy garment's hem with transport, can it be
That doubt should mingle with my filial joy?
Deal with me as thou wilt, but spare this boy."

XXXIX.

High and inscrutable the old man stood,
Calm in his voice, and calm within his eye—
Not always signs with him of calmest mood:
He look'd upon her, but gave no reply.
Then turn'd to Juan, in whose cheek the blood
Oft came and went, as there resolv'd to die;
In arms, at least, he stood, in act to spring
On the first foe whom Lambro's call might bring.

XL.

"Young man, your sword;" so Lambro once more
Juan replied, "Not while this arm is free;" [said:
The old man's cheek grew pale, but not with dread,
And drawing from his belt a pistol, he
Replied, "Your blood be then on your own head:"
Then look'd close at the flint, as if to see
Twas fresh—for he had lately used the lock—
And next proceeded quietly to cock.

XLI.

It has a strange quick jar upon the ear,
That cocking of a pistol, when you know
A moment more will bring the sight to bear
Upon your person, twelve yards off, or so;
A gentlemanly distance, not too near,
If you have got a friender friend for foe;
But after being fired at once, in twice,
The ear becomes more Irish, and less nice.

XLII.

Lambro presented, and one instant more
Had stopp'd this canto, and Don Juan's breath
When Haidee threw herself her boy before,
Stern as her sire: "On me" she cried, "let death
Descend—the fault is mine; this fatal shore
He found—but sought not. I have pledged my faith;
I love him—I will die with him: I knew
Your nature's firmness—know your daughter's too."

XLIII.

A minute past, and she had been all tears,
And tenderness and infancy: but now
She stood as one who champion'd human fears—
Pale, statue-like, and stern, she wou'd the blow:
And tall beyond her sex and their compères,
She drew up to her height, as if to show
A fairer mark; and with a fix'd eye scannd
Her father's face—but never stopp'd his hand.

XLIV.

He gazed on her, and she on him: 'twas strange
How like they look'd! the expression was the
Serenely savage, with a little change [same
In the large dark eye's mutual-ardent flame,
For she too was as one who could avenge,
If cause should be—a lioness, though tame,
Her father's blood before her father's face
Boil'd up, and proved her truly of his race.

XLV.

I said they were alike, their features and
Their stature differing but in sex and years;
Even to the delicacy of their hair—yes.
There was resemblance, such as true blood wears
And now to see them, thus divided, stand
In fix'd ferocity, when joyous tears,
And sweet sensations, should have welcomed both,
Show what the passions are in their full growth.

XLVI.

The father paused a moment, then withdraw
His weapon, and replaced it; but stood still,
And looking on her, as to look her through,
"Not I," he said, "I have sought this stranger's ill;
Not I have made this desolation: few
Would bear such outrage, and forbear to kill;
But I must do my duty—how thou hast
Done thine, the present vouches for the past.

XLVII.

"Let him disarm; or, by my father's head,
His own shall roll before you like a ball!"
He rais'd his whistle, as the word he said,
And blew; another answer'd to the call,
And rushing in disorderly, though led.
And arm'd from boot to turban, one and all,
Some twenty of his train came, rank on rank:
He gave the word, "Arrest or slay the Frank."

XLVIII.

Then, with a sudden movement, he withdrew
His daughter; while compress'd within his grasp,
Twist her and Juan interposed the crew;
In vain she struggled in her father's grasp,—
His arms were like a serpent's coil: then flew
Upon their prey, as darts an angry sap,
The file of pirates; save the foremost, who
Had fallen, with his right shoulder half cut through

XLIX.

The second had his cheek laid open; but
The third, a wary, cool old swordsman, took
The blows upon his countlass, and then put
His own well in: so well, ere you could look;
His man was foon'd, and helpless at his foot,
With the blood running like a little brook
From two smart sabre gashes, deep and red—
One on the arm, the other on the head.

L.

And then they bound him where he fell, and bore
Juan from the apartment: with a sign
Old Lambro bade them take him to the shore,
Where lay some ships which were to sail at nine
They laid him in a boat, and plied the oar
Until they reach'd some galliots, placed in line;
On board of one of these, and under hatches,
They stow'd him, with strict orders to the watches
LI.
The world is full of strange vicissitudes,  
And here was one exceedingly unpleasant:  
A gentleman so rich in the world's goods,  
Handsome and young, enjoying all the present,  
Just at the very time when he least broods  
On such a thing, is suddenly to sea sent,  
Wounded and cha'n'd, so that he cannot move,  
And all because a lady fell in love.

LII.
Her: I must leave him, for I grow pathetic,  
Moved by the Chinese nymph of tears, green tea.  
Than whom Cassandra was not more prophetic;  
For if my pure libations exceed three,  
I feel my heart become so sympathetic,  
That I must have recourse to black Bohea:  
'Tis pity wine should be so deleterious,  
For tea and coffee leave us much more serious.

LIII.
Unless when qualified with thee, Cognac!  
Sweet Nalaid of the Phlegthonitic rill!  
Ah! why the liver wilt thou thus attack,  
And make, like other nymphs, thy lover ill?  
I would take refuge in weak punch, but rack,  
(How each sense of the word,) whene'er I fill  
My mild and midnight beakers to the brim,  
Wakes me next morning with its synonym.

LIV.
I leave Don Juan for the present safe—  
Not sound, poor fellow, but severely wounded;  
Yet could his corporal pangs amount to half  
Of those with which his Haidée's bosom bounded?  
She was not one to weep, and rave, and chafe,  
And then give way, subdued because surrounded;  
Her mother was a Moorish maid, from Fez,  
Where all is Eden, or a wilderness.

LV.
There the large olive rains its amber store  
In marble fonts; there grain, and flower, and fruit,  
Gush from the earth until the land runs o'er;  
But there, too, many a poison-tree has root,  
And midnight listens to the lion's roar,  
And long, long deserts scorch the camel's foot,  
Or, heaving, whelm the helpless caravan,  
And as the soil is, so the heart of man.

LVI.
Afri' is all the sun's, and as her earth  
Her human clay is kindled: full of power  
For good or evil, burning from its birth,  
The Moorish blood partakes the planet's hour,  
And like the soil beneath it will bring forth:  
Beauty and love were Haidée's mother's dower:  
But her large dark eye show'd deep passion's force  
Though sleeping like a lion near a source.

LVII.
Her daughter, temper'd with a milder ray,  
Like summer clouds all silvery, smooth, and fair  
Till slowly charged with thunder they display  
Terror to earth, and tempest to the air,  
Had held till now her soft and milky way;  
But, overwrought with passion and despair,  
The fire burst forth from her Numidian veins  
Ever as the simoom sweeps the blasted plains.

LVIII.
The last sight which she saw was Juan's gore,  
And he himself o'ermaster'd and cut down  
His blood was running on the very floor  
Where late he trod, her beautiful, her own.  
Thus much she view'd an instant and no more,  
Her struggles ceased with one convulsive groan  
On her sire's arm, which until now scarce held  
Her writhing fell she like a cedar fell'd

LIX.
A vein had burst, and her sweet lips' pure dyes,  
Were dabbled with the deep blood which ran o'er;  
And her head droop'd as when the lily lies  
Bore  
O'charged with rain; her summon'd am'ids  
Their lady to her couch with gushing eyes;  
Of herbs and cordials they produced their store,  
But she defied all means they could employ,  
Like one life could not hold, nor death destroy

LX.
Days lay she in that state unchanged, though chill  
With nothing livid, still her lips were red;  
She had no pulse, but death seem'd absent still;  
No hideous sign proclaim'd her surely dead;  
Corruption came not in each mind to kill  
All hope; to look upon her sweet face bred  
New thoughts of life, for it seem'd full of soul,  
She had so much, earth could not claim the whole.

LXI.
The ruling passion, such as marble shows  
When exquisitely chisel'd, still lay there,  
But fix'd as marble's unchanged aspect throw'd  
O'er the fair Venus, but for ever fair:  
O'er the Laocoön's all eternal throes,  
And ever-dying Gladiator's air,  
Their energy like life forms all their fame,  
Yet looks not life, for they are still the same.

LXII.
She woke at length, but not as sleepers wake,  
Rather the dead, for life seem'd something new,  
A strange sensation which she must partake  
Perforce, since whatsoever met her view  
Struck not on memory, though a heavy ache  
Lay at her heart, whose earliest beat still true,  
Brought back the sense of pain without the cause  
For, for a while, the furies made a pause.

LXIII.
She look'd on many a face with vacant eye,  
On many a token without knowing what;  
She saw them watch her without asking why,  
And reck'd not who around her pillow sat;  
Not speechless, though she spoke not: not a sigh  
Reveal'd her thoughts; dull silence and quick chat  
Were tried in vain by those who served; she sate  
No sign, save breath, of having left the grave.

LXIV.
Her handmaids tended, but she heed not;  
Her father watch'd, she turn'd her eyes away;  
She recognized no being, and no spot,  
However dear or cherish'd in their day;  
They changed from room to room, but all forgot  
Gentle, but without memory, she lay;  
And yet those eyes, which they would fain be wearing  
Back to old thoughts, seem'd full of fearful meaning.
And then a slave bethought her of a harp; -  
And tuned his instrument;  
At the first notes, irregular and sharp,  
On him her flashing eyes a moment bent,  
Then to the wall she turn'd, as if to warp,  
Her thoughts from sorrow through her heart re-  
And he began a long low island song  
Of ancient days, ere tyranny grew strong.

A non her thin wan fingers beat the wall  
In time to his old tune; he changed the theme,  
And sung of love—the fierce name struck through all  
Her recollection; on her flash'd the dream  
Of what she was, and is, if ye could call  
To be so being; in a gushing stream  
The tears rush'd forth from her o'erclouded brain,  
Like mountain mists at length dissolved in rain.

Short solace, vain relief!—thought came too quick,  
And whirl'd her brain to madness; she arose  
As one who ne'er had dwelt among the sick,  
And flew at all she met, as on her foes;  
But no one ever heard her speak or shriek,  
Although her path was now towards its close:  
Here was a frenzy which disdain'd to rave,  
Even when they smote her, in the hope to save.

Yet she betray'd at times a gleam of sense;  
Nothing could make her meet her father's face,  
Though on all other things with looks intense  
She gazed, but none she ever could retrace;  
Food she refused, and raiment; no pretence  
Avail'd for either; neither change of place,  
Nor time, nor skill, nor remedy, could give her  
Senses to sleep—the power seem'd gone for ever.

Twelve days and nights she wither'd thus; at last,  
Without a groan, or sigh, or glance, to show  
A parting pang, the spirit from her pass'd;  
And they who watch'd her nearest could not know  
The very instant, till the change that east  
Her sweet face into shadow, dull and slow,  
Glazed o'er her eyes—the beautiful, the black—  
Oh! to possess such lustre—and then lack!

She died, but not alone; she held within  
A second principle of live, which might  
Have dawnd a fair and sinless child of sin:  
But closed its little being without light,  
And went down to the grave unborn, wherein  
Illoosion and bough lie wither'd with one blight;  
In vain the dews of heaven descend above  
The bleeding flower and blasted fruit of love.

Thus lived—thus died she: never more on her,  
Shall sorrow light or shame. She was not made  
Through years or moons the inner weight to bear,  
Which colder hearts endure till they are laid  
By age in earth; her days and pleasures were  
Brief, but delightful—such as had not stay'd  
Long with her destiny; but she slept well  
By the sea-shore whereon she loved to dwell.

That isle is now all desolate and bare,  
Its dwellings down, its tenants pass'd away  
None but her own and father's grave is there,  
And nothing outward tells of human clay:  
Ye could not know where lies a thing so fair,  
No stone is there to show, no tongue to say  
What was; no dirge, except the hollow sea's,  
Mourns o'er the beauty of the Cyclades.

But many a Greek maid in a loving song  
Sighs o'er her name, and many an islander  
With her sire's story makes the night less long;  
Valor was his, and beauty dwelt with her;  
If she loved rashly, her life paid for wrong—  
A heavy price must all pay who thus err,  
In some shape; let none think to fly the danger,  
For soon or late Love is his own avenger.

But let me change this theme, which grows too sad  
And lay this sheet of sorrow on the shelf;  
I don't much like describing people mad,  
For fear of seeming rather touch'd myself—  
Besides, I've no more on this head to add;  
And as my Muse is a capricious elf,  
We'll put about and try another tack  
With Juan, left half-kill'd some stanzas back.

Wounded and fetter'd, "cabin'd, cribb'd, confined,"  
Some days and nights elapsed before that he  
Could altogether call the past to mind;  
And when he did, he found himself at sea,  
Sailing six knots an hour before the wind;  
The shores of Ilion lay beneath their lee—  
Another time he might have liked to see 'em,  
But now was not much pleased with Cape Sigeum.

There, on the green and village-cotted hill, is  
(Flank'd by the Hellespont and by the sea)  
Entomb'd the bravest of the brave, Achilles:  
They say so—(Bryant says the contrary;)  
And further downward, tall and towering, still is  
The tumulus—of whom? Heaven knows; 't may  
Patroclus, Ajax, or Patroclus,—  
All heroes, who if living still would slay us.

High barrows, without marble or a name,  
A vast, until'd, and mountain-skirted plain,  
And Ida in the distance, still the same,  
And old Scamander (if 'tis he) remain;  
The situation seems still form'd for fame—  
A hundred thousand men might fight again  
With ease; but where I sought for Ilion's walls,  
The quiet sheep feeds, and the tortoise crawls;

Troops of untended horses: here and there  
Some little hamlets, with new names uncouth;  
Some shepherds, (unlike Paris,) led to stare  
A moment at the European youth  
Whom to the spot their schoolboy feelings bear;  
A Turk, with beads in hand and pipe in mouth,  
Extremely taken with his own religion,  
Are what I found there—but the devil a Phrygian
LXXXIX.

Don Juan, here permitted to emerge
From his dull cabin, found himself a slave;
Forlorn, and gazing on the deep blue surge,
O'ershadow'd there by many a hero's grave:
Weak still with loss of blood, he scarce could urge
A few brief questions; and the answers gave
No very satisfactory information
About his past or present situation.

LXXX.

He saw some fellow-captives, who appear'd
To be Italians—as they were, in fact;
From them, at least; their destiny he heard,
Which was an odd one; a troop going to act
In Sicily—all singers, duly rear'd
In their vocation,—had been attack'd,
In sailing from Livorno, by the pirate,
But sold by the impresario at no high rate.

LXXXI.

By one of these, the buffo of the party,
Juan was told about their curious case;
For, although destined to the Turkish mart, he
Still kept his spirits up—at least his face;
The little fellow really look'd quite hearty,
And bore him with some gaiety and grace,
Showing a much more reconciled d'menour
Than did the prima donna and the tenor.

LXXXII.

In a few words he told their hapless story,
Saying, "Our Machiavelian impresario,
Making a signal off some promontory,
Hail'd a strange brig; Corso di Caio Mario!
We were transferr'd on-board her in a hurry,
Without a single scudo of salario;
But, if the sultan has a taste for song,
We will revive our fortunes before long.

LXXXIII.

"The prima donna, though a little old,
And haggard with a dissipated life,
And subject, when the house is thin, to cold,
Has some good notes; and then the tenor's wife,
With no great voice is pleasing to behold;
Last carnival she made a deal of strife,
By carrying off Count Cassare Cicogna,
From an old Roman princess at Bologna.

LXXXIV.

"And then there are the dancers; there's the Nini,
With more than one profession, gains by all;
Then there's that laughing slut, the Pelegrini,
She too was fortunate last carnival,
And made at least five hundred zecchini,
But spends so fast, she has not now a paul;
And then there's the Grotesca—such a dancer!
Where men have souls or bodies, she must answer.

LXXXV.

"As for the figurant, they are like
The rest of all that tribe; with here and there
A pretty person, which perhaps may strike,
The rest are hardly fitted for a fair;
There's one, though tall, and stiffer than a pike,
Yet has a sentimental kind of air,
Which might go far, but she don't dance with vigor,
The more's the pity, with her face and figure.

LXXXVI.

"As for the men, they are a medling set;
The music is but a crack'd old basin,
But, being qualified in one way yet,
May the seraglio do to set his face in,
And as a servant some preferment get;
His singing I no further trust can place in;
From all the pope's makes yearly, 'twould perplex
To find three perfect pipes of the theò sex.

LXXXVII.

"The tenor's voice is spoilt by affectation,
And for the bass, the beast can only bellow,
In fact, he had no singing education
An ignorant, noteless, timeless, tun. less fellow
But being the prima donna's near relation,
Whose voice was very rich and mellow,
They hired him, though to hear him you'd believe
An ass was practising recitative.

LXXXVIII.

"Twould not become myself to dwell upon
My own merits, and though young—I see, sir—you
Have got a travell'd air, which shows you one
To whom the opera is by no means new;
You've heard of Raucocanti?—I'm the man;
The time may come when you may hear me too,
You was not last year at the fair of Lugo,
But next, when I'm engaged to sing there—do go.

LXXXIX.

"Our baritone I almost had forgot,
A pretty lad but bursting with conceit
With graceful action, science not a jot,
A voice of no great compass, and not sweet
He always is complaining of his lot,
Forsooth, scarce fit for ballads in the street,
In lovers' parts, his passion more to breathe,
Having no heart to show, he shows his teeth."

XC.

Here Raucocanti's eloquent recital
Was interrupted by the pirate crew,
Who came at stated moments to invite all
The captives back to their sad berths; each there
A rueful glance upon the waves, (which bright all,
From the blue skies derived a double blue,
Dancing all free and happy in the sult.,)
And then went down the hatchway one by one.

XCI.

They heard, next day, that in the Dardanelle
Waiting for his sublimity's firman—
The most imperative of sovereign spells,
Which every body does without who can,—
More to secure them in their naval cells,
Lady to lady, well as man to man,
Were to be chained and lotted out per couple,
For the slave-market of Constantinople.

XCII.

It seems when this allotment was made out,
There chanced to be an odd male and odd female
Who (after some discussion and some doubt
If the sopranos might be seem'd to be male,
They placed him o'er the women as a scout)
Were link'd together, and it happen'd the male
Was Juan, who—an awkward thing at his age—
Pair'd off with a Bacchante's blooming visage
XIII.
With Raucoesanti lucklessly was chain’d
The tenor; these two hated with a hate
Found only on the stage, and each more pain’d
With this his tuneful neighbor than his fate;
Sad strife arose, for they were so cross-grain’d,
Instead of hearing up without debate.
That each pull’d different ways with many an oath,
‘Areades ambo,’ id est—blackguards both.

XCV.
But all that power was wasted upon him,
For sorrow o’er each sense held stern command;
Her eye might flash on his, but found it dim;
And though thus chain’d, as natural her hand
Touched his arm, nor—nor any handsome limb
(And she had some not easy to withstand)
Could stir his pulse, or make his faith feel brittle,
Perhaps his recent wounds might help a little.

XCVI.
No matter; we should ne’er too much inquire,
But facts are facts: no knight could be more true.
And firmer faith no ladye-love desire;
We will omit the proofs, save one or two:
‘Tis said no one in hand ‘can a fire
By thought of frosty Caucasus;’ but few,
I really think; yet Juan’s then ordeal
Was more triumphant, and not much less real.

XCVII.
Here I might enter on a chaste description,
Having withstood temptation in my youth,
But hear that several people take exception
At the first two books having too much truth;
Therefore I’ll make Don Juan leave the ship soon,
Because the publisher declares, in sooth,
Through needles’ eyes it easier for the camel is
To pass, than those two cantos into families.

XCVIII.
Tis all the same to me; I’m fond of yielding,
And therefore leave them to the purer page
Of Smollet, Prior, Ariosto, Fielding,
Who say strange things for so correct an age;
I once had great alacrity in wielding
My pen, and liked poetic war to wage,
And recollect the time when all this cant
Would have provoked remarks which now it shan’t.

XCIX.
As boys love rows, my boyhood liked a squabble;
But at this hour I wish to part in peace,
Leavi’g such to the literary rabble,
Whit’er my verse’s fame be doom’d to cease
While the right hand which wrote it still is able,
Or of some centuries to take a lease:
The grass upon my grave will grow as long,
And sigh to midnight winds, but not to song.

CI.
And so great names are nothing more than criminal
And love of glory’s but an airy lust,
Too often in its fury overcoming all
Who would as ‘twere identify their dust.
From out the wide destruction, which, entombing all
Leaves nothing till “the coming of the just”
Save change: I’ve stood upon Achilles’ tomb,
And heard Troy doubted; time will doubt of Rome.

CII.
The very generations of the dead
Are swept away, and tomb inherits tomb,
Until the memory of an age is fled,
And, buried, sinks beneath its offspring’s doom.
Where are the epitaphs our father’s read?
Save a few gleam’d from the sepulchral gloom
Which once-named myriads nameless lie beneath
And lose their own in universal death.

CIV.
I canter by the spot each afternoon
Where perish’d in his fame the horo-boy,
Who lived too long for men, but died too soon
For human vanity, the young De Foix!
A broken pillar, not uncouthly hewn,
But which neglect is hastening to destroy,
Records Ravenna’s carnage on its face,
While weeds and ordure raddle round the base.

CV.
With human blood that column was cemented,
With human filth that column is defiled,
As if the peasant’s coarse contempt were vented
To show his loathing of the spot he spoli’d;
Thus is the trophy used, and thus lamented
Should ever be those bloodhounds, from whose wild
Instinct of gore and glory earth has known
Those sufferings Dante saw in hell alone.

CVL.
Yet there will still be bards; though fame is smoke
Its fumes are frankincense to human thought,
And the unquiet feelings which first woke
Song in the world, will seek what then they sought
As on the beach the waves at last are broke,
Thus to their extreme verge the passions brought
Dash into poetry, which is but passion,
Or at least was so ere it grew a fashion.
Don Juan

Canto V

I.

When amatory poets sing their loves
In liquid lines mellifluously bland,
And pair their rhymes as Venus yokes her doves
They little think what mischief is in hand;
The greater their success the worse it proves,
As Ovid's verse may make you understand:
Even Petrarch's self, if judged with due severity
Is the Platonic pimp of all posterity.

II.

I therefore do denounce all amorous writing
Except in such a way as not to attract;
Plain—simple—short, and by no means inviting,
But with a moral to each error tack'd,
For I'd rather for instructing than delighting,
And with all passions in their turn attack'd;
Now, if my Pegasus should not be shod ill,
This poem will become a moral model.
III.
The European with the Asian shore
Sprinkled with palaces; the ocean stream,
Here and there studded with a seventy-four
Sophia's cupola with golden gleam;
The cypress groves; Olympus high and hoar;
The twelve isles, and the more than I could dream,
Far less describe, present the very view
Which charm'd the charming Mary Montagu.

IV.
I have a passion for the name of "Mary,"
For once it was a magic sound to me,
And still it half calls up the realms of fairy,
Where I beheld what never was to be;
All feelings change, but this was last to vary,
A spell from which even yet I am not quite free:
But I grow sad—and let a tale grow cold,
Which must not be pathetically told.

V.
The wind swept down the Euxine, and the wave
Broke foaming o'er the blue Symplegades,
'Tis a grand sight, from off "the Giants's Grave,"
To watch the progress of those rolling seas
Between the Bosphorus, as they lash and lave
Europe and Asia, you being quite at ease;
There's not a sea the passenger e'er pukes in
Turns up more dangerous breakers than the Euxine.

VI.
Twas a raw day of Autumn's bleak beginning,
When nights are equal, but not so the days;
The Parce then cut short the further spinning
Of seamen's fates, and the loud tempests raise
The waters, and repentance for past sinning
In all who o'er the great deep take their ways:
They now to amend their lives, and yet they don't;
Because if drown'd, they can't—if spared, they won't.

VII.
A crowd of shivering slaves of every nation,
And age, and sex, were in the market ranged;
Each bery with the merchant in his station:
Poor creatures! their good looks were sadly changed.
All save the blacks seem'd jaded with vexation,
From friends, and home, and freedom far estranged;
The negroes more philosophy display'd,—
Used to it, no doubt, as cels are to flay'd.

VIII.
I am was juvenile, and thus was full,
As most at his age are, of hope, and health;
Yet I must own he look'd a little dull,
And now and then a tear stole down by stealth;
Perhaps his recent loss of blood might pull
His spirit down; and then the loss of wealth,
A mistress, and such comfortable quarters,
To be put up for auction among Tartars.

IX.
Were things to shake a stoic; nevertheless,
From the time the carriage was sent
His figure, and the splendor of his dress,
Of which some gilded remnants still were seen,
Crew all eyes on him, giving them to guess
He was above the vulgar by his mien;
And then though pale, he was so very handsome
And then—they calculated on his ransom.

X.
Like a backgammon-board the place was dotted
With whites and blacks, in groups on show for sale,
Though rather more irregularly spotted.
Some bought the jet, while others chose the pale
It chanced, among the other people lotted,
A man of thirty, rather stout and pale,
With resolution in his dark gray eye,
Next Juan stood, till some might choose to buy

XI.
He had an English look; that is, was square
In make, of a complexion white and ruddy
Good teeth, with curling rather dark brown hair,
And, it might be from thought, or toil, or study,
An open brow, a little marked with care;
One arm had on a bandage rather bloody;
And there he stood with such sang froid, that great
Could scarce been shown even by a mere spectator

XII.
But seeing at his elbow a mere lad,
Of high spirit evidently, though
At present weigh'd down by a doom which had
O'erthrown even men, he soon began to show
A kind of blunt compassion for the sad
Lot of so young a partner in the wo,
Which for himself he seem'd to deem no worse
Than any other scrape, a thing of course.

XIII.
"My boy!"—said he, "amid this motley crew
Of Georgians, Russians, Nubians, and what not,
All ragamuffins differing but in hue,
With whom it is our luck to cast our lot,
The only gentlemen seem I and you,
So let us be acquainted, as we ought;
If I could yield you any consolation,
"Twould give me pleasure.—Pray, what is your nation?

XIV.
When Juan answer'd "Spanish!" he replied,
"I thought, in fact, you could not be a Greek;
Those servile dogs are not so proudly eyed:
Fortune has play'd you here a pretty freak,
But that's the way with all men till they're tried;
But never mind,—she'll turn, perhaps, next week,
She has served me also much the same as you,
Except I have found it nothing new."

XV.
"Pray, sir," said Juan, "if I may presume, [rare—
What brought you here?"
"Oh nothing very Six Tartars and a drag-chain—"—"To this doom
But conducted, if the question's fair,
Is that which I would learn."—"I served for some
Months with the Russian army here and there,
And taking lately, by Suvarrow's bidding,
A town, was ta'en myself instead of Widdin."

XVI.
"Have you no friends?"—"I had—but, by God's
Blessing,
Have not been troubled with them lately. Now
I have answer'd all your questions without pressing,
And you an equal courtesy should show."
"Alas!" said Juan, 'twere a tale distressing,
And long besides."—"Oh! if 'tis really so
You're right on both accounts to hold your tongue
A sad tale saddens doubly when 'tis long.
XVII.
But dross not.
"Fortune, at your time of life, although a female moderately sickle, will hardly leave you (as she's not your wife)
For any length of days in such a pickle.
To strive, too, with our fate were such a strife
As if the corn-sheaf should oppose the sickle;
Men are the sport of circumstances, when
The circumstances seem the sport of men."

XVIII.
"Tis not," said Juan, "for my present doom
I warm, but for the past—'I loved a maid':"
He paused, and his dark eye grew full of gloom;
A single tear upon his eyelash stood
A moment, and then dropped; "but to resume,
'Tis not my present lot, as I have said,
Which I deplore so much; for I have borne
Hardships which have the hardest overworn,

On the rough deep. But this last blow—" and here
He stopp'd again, and turn'd away his face.
'Ay," quoth his friend, "I thought it would appear
That there had been a lady in the case;
And these are things which ask a tender tear,
Such as I, too, would shed, if in your place:
I cried upon my first wife's dying day,
And also when my second ran away:

'Your third'—"Your third!" quoth Juan, turning round;
"You scarcely can be thirty; have you three?"
'No—only two at present above ground;—
Surely 'tis nothing wonderful to see
One person thrice in holy wedlock bound!" [she?
"Well, then, your third," said Juan; "what did
She did not run away, too,—did she, sir?"
"No, faith."—"What then?"—"I ran away from her."

You take things coolly, sir," said Juan. "Why?"
Replied the other, "what can a man do?
There still are many rainbows in your sky,
But mine have vanish'd. All, when life is new,
Commence with feelings warm, and prospects high;
But time strips our illusions of their hue,
And one by one in turn, some grand mistake
Casts off its bright skin yearly, like the snake.

"Tis true, it gets another bright and fresh,
Or fresher, brighter; but, the year gone through,
This skin must go the way, too, of all flesh,
Or sometimes, only wear a week or two.
Love's the first net which spreads its deadly mesh;
Ambition, avarice, vengeance, glory, glare
The glittering lime-twigs of our latter days,
Where still we flutter on for pence or praise."

"All this is very fine, and may be true,"
Said Juan; "but I really don't see how
It better presents times with me or you."
"No!" quoth the other; "yet you will allow,
By setting things in their right point of view,
Knowledge, at least, is gain'd; for instance, now,
We know what slavery is, and our disasters
May teach us better to behave when masters

XXIV.
"Would we were masters now, if but to try
Their present lessons on our pagan friends here,
Said Juan—swallowing a heart-turning sigh:
"Heav'n help the scholar whom his fortune sends
Perhaps we shall be one day, by and by, [here!]
Rejoin'd the other, "when our bad luck mends
Meantime (you old black eunuch seems to eye us)
I wish to G—d that somebody would buy us!

"But after all, what is our present state?
'Tis bad, and may be better—all men's lot:
Most men are slaves, none more so than the great,
To their own whims and passions, and what not:
Society itself, which should create
Kindness, destroys what little we had got:
To feel for none is the true social art
Of the world's stoics—men without a heart."

XXVI.
Just now a black old neutral personage
Of the third sex stepp'd up, and peering over
The captives, seemed to mark their looks, and age,
And capabilities, as to discover
If they were fitted for the purpose'd cage:
No lady e'er is ogled by a lover,
Horse by a blackleg, broadcloth by a tailor
Fee by a counsel, felon by a jailer,

As is a slave by his intended bidder.
"Tis pleasant purchasing our fellow-creatures;
And all are to be sold, if you consider
Their passions, and are dext'rous; some by features
Are bought up, others by a warlike leader,
Some by a place—as tend their years or natures;
The most by ready cash—but all have prices,
From crowns to kicks, according to their vices.

The eunuch, having eyed them o'er with care,
Turn'd to the merchant, and began to bid,
First, but for one, and after, for the pair;
They bargained, wrangled, swore, too—so they did!
As though they were in a mere Christian fair,
Cheaping an ox, an ass, a lamb, or k.d.
So that their bargain sounded like a battle
For this superior yoke of human cattle.

At last they settled into simple grumbling,
And pulling out reluctant purses, and
Turning each piece of silver o'er, and tumbling
Some down, and weighing others in their hand.
And by mistake sequins with paras jumbling,
Until the sum was accurately scan'd,
And then the merchant, giving change and
Receipts in full, began to think of dining.

I wonder if his appetite was good;
Or, if it were, if also his digestion.
Methinks at meals some odd thoughts might intrude
And conscience ask a curious sort of question,
About the right divine, how far we should
Sell flesh and blood. When dinner has oppress'd
I think it is, perhaps, the gloomiest hour
Which turns up out of the sad twenty-four.
Voïtaire says, "No:" he tells you that Candide
And life most tolerable after meals;
He's wrong—unless man was a pig, indeed,
Repulsion rather adds to what he feels;
Unless he's drunk, and then, no doubt, he's freed
From his own brain's oppression while it reels.
Of food I think with Philip's son, or rather
Ammon's, (ill pleased with one world and one father;)

I think with Alexander, that the act
Of eating, with another act or two,
Makes us feel our mortality in fact
Redoubled; when a roast and a ragout,
And fish and soup, by some side-dishes back'd,
Can give us either pain or pleasure, who
Would plique himself on intellects, whose use
Depends so much upon the gastric juice?

The other evening, ( 'twas on Friday last)—
This is a fact, and no poetic fable—
Just as my great coat was about me cast,
My hat and gloves still lying on the table,
I heard a shot— 'twas eight o'clock scarce past—
And running out as fast as I was able, I
Found the military commandant
Stretch'd in the street, and able scarce to pant.

I gazed upon him, for I knew him well;
And, though I have seen many corpses, never
Saw one, whom such an accident befell, (and liver,
So calm; though pierced through stomach, heart,
He seemed to sleep, for you could scarcely tell
(As he bled inwardly, no hideous river
Of gore divulged the cause) that he was dead:—
So as I gazed on him, I thought or said—

"Can this be death? then what is life or death?
Speak!" bu' he spoke not: "wake!" but still he
But yesterday, and who had mightier breath? I slept;
A thousand warriors by his word were kept
In awe: he said, as the centurion saith,
'Go,' and he goeth; 'come,' and forth he stepp'd.
The trump and bugle till he spake were dumb—
And now nought left him but the muffled drum.

And they who waited once and worshipp'd— they
With their rough faces throng'd about the bed,
To gaze once more on the commanding clay
Which for the last, though not the first, time bled;
And such an end! that he who many a day
Had faced Napoleon's foes until they fled,—
The foremost in the charge or in the sally,
Should ne'er be utter'd in a civic alley.

The scars of his old wounds were near his brow,
Those honor'd scars which brought him fame;
And horrid was the contrast to the view—
But let me quit the theme, as such things claim
Perhaps, even more attention than is due
From me: I gazed (as oft I have gazed the same,
To try if I could waken ought out of death,
Which should confirm, or shake, or make a faith;

But it was all a mystery. Here we are,
And there we go—but where? five bits of lead,
Or three, or two, or one, send very far!
And is this blood, then, form'd but to be shed
Can every element our elements mar?
And air—earth—water—fire live—and we dead?
We, whose minds comprehend all things? No more:
But let us to the story as before.

Here there conductor tapping at the wicket
Of a small iron door, 'twas open'd, and
He led them onward, first through a low thicket,
Flank'd by large groves which tower'd on either hand:
They almost lost their way, and had to pick it—
For night was closing ere they came to land.
The eunuch made a sign to those on board,
Who row'd off, leaving them without a word.

As they were plodding on their winding way,
Through orange bowers, and jasmine, and so forth,
(Of which I might have a good deal to say,
There being no such profusion in the North Of
oriental plants, "et cetera."
But that of late your scribblers think it worth
Their while to rear whole hotbeds in their works;
Because one poet travel'd 'mongst the Turks:)

As they were threading on their way, there came
Into Don Juan's head a thought, which he
Whisper'd to his companion:— 'twas the same
Which might have then occur'd to you or me.
"Mothinks,"—said he;—"it would be no great shame
If we should strike a stroke to set us free;
Let's knock that old black fellow on the head,
And march away—'twere easier done than said."

"Yes," said the other, "and when done, what then?
How get out? how the devil got we in?
And when we once were fairly out, and when .
From Saint Bartholomew we have saved our skin.
To-morrow did we see in some other den,
And worse off than we hitherto have been;
Besides, I'm hungry, and just now would take.
Like Esau, for my birthright a beef-steak
XLV.

* We must be near some place of man's abode;  
For the old negro's confidence in creeping,  
With his two captives, by so queer a road,  
Shows that he thinks his friends have not a road.  
A single cry would bring the mail abroad: *sleeping;  
'Tis therefore better looking before leaping—  
And there, you see, this turn has brought us through,  
By Jove, a noble palace!—lighted, too.*

XLVI.

It was indeed a wide extensive building  
Which open'd on their view, and o'er the front  
There seem'd to be bespren a deal of gilding  
And various hues, as is the Turkish wont,—  
A gaudy taste; for they are little skill'd in  
The arts of which these lands were once the font:  
Each villa on the Bosphorus looks a screen  
New painted, or a pretty opera-scene.

XLVII.

And nearer as they came, a genial savor  
Of certain stews, and roast meats, and pilmaus,  
'Hings which in hungry mortals' eyes find favor,  
Made Juan in his harsh intentions pause,  
And put himself upon his good behavior:  
His friend, too, adding a new saving clause,  
Said, "In Heaven's name let's get some supper now,  
And then I'm with you, if you're for a row."

XLVIII.

Some talk of an appeal unto some passion,  
Some to men's feelings, others to their reason;  
The last of these was never much the fashion,  
For reason thinks all reasoning out of season.  
Some speakers whine, and others lay the lash on,  
But more or less continue still to tease on,  
With arguments according to their "forte:;"  
But no one ever dreams of being short.

XLIX.

But I digress: of all appeals,—although  
I grant the power of paths, and of gold,  
Of beauty, flattery, threats, a shilling,—no  
Method's more sure at moments to take hold  
Of the best feelings of mankind, which grow  
More tender, as we every day behold,  
Than that all-soften ing, overpowering knoll,  
The tocsin of the soul—the dinner-bell.

L.

Turkey contains no bells, and yet men dine:  
And Juan and his friend, albeit they heard  
No Christian knoll to table, saw no line  
Of Jacquemus usher to the feast prepared,  
Yet smelt roast-meat, beheld a huge fire shine,  
And cooks in motion with their clean arms bare,  
And gazed around them to the left and right  
With the prophetic eye of appetite.

LI.

And giving up all notions of resistance,  
They follow'd close behind their sable guide,  
Who little thought that his own knack'd existence  
Was on the point of being set aside;  
He motion'd them to stop at some small distance,  
And knocking at the gate, 'twas open'd wide,  
And a magnificent large hall display'd  
The Asian pomp of Ottoman parade.

LII.

I won't describe; description is my forte;  
But every fool describes in these bright days  
His wond'rous journey to some foreign court,  
And swarms his quarto, and demands your praise—  
Death to his publisher, to him 'tis sport;  
While nature, tortured twenty thousand ways,  
Resigns herself with exemplary patience  
To guide-books, rhymes, tours, sketches, illustration.

LIII.

Along this hall, and up and down, some, squatted  
Upon their hams, were occupied at chess;  
Others in monosyllable talk chatted,  
Dressed, and some seem'd much in love with their own  
And divers smoked superb pipes decorated  
With amber mouths of greater price or less;  
And several stratted, others slept, and some  
Prepared for supper with a glass of rum."

LIV.

As the black eunuch enter'd with his brace  
Of purchased infidels, some raised their eyes  
A moment without slackening from their pace;  
But those who sate ne'er stir'd in any wise:  
One or two stared the captives in the face,  
Just as one views a horse to guess his price:  
Some nodded to the negro from their station.  
But no one troubled him with conversation.

LV.

He leads them through the hall, and, without stop—  
On through a farther range of goodly rooms  
Splendid but silent, save in one, where, dropping  
A marble fountain echoes, through the glooms  
Of night, which robe the chamber, or where popping  
Some female head most curiously presumes  
To thrust its black eyes through the door or lattice  
As wondering what the devil noise that is.

LVI.

Some faint lamps gleaming from the lofty walls  
Gave light enough to hint their farther way,  
But not enough to show the imperial halls,  
In all the flashing of their full array;  
Perhaps there's nothing—I'll not say appalls,  
But saithens more by night as well as day  
Than an enormous room without a soul  
To break the lifeless splendor of the whole.

LVII.

Two or three seem so little, one seems nothing;  
In deserts, forests, crowds, or by the shore,  
There solitude, we know, has her full growth in  
The spots which were her realms for evermore:  
But in a mighty hall or gallery, both in  
More modern buildings and those built of yore,  
A kind of death comes o'er us all along,  
Seeing what's meant for many with but one.

LVIII.

A neat, snug study on a winter's night,  
A book, friend, single lady, or a glass  
Of claret, sandwich, and an appetite,  
Are things which make an English evening pass  
Though certain by no means so grand a sight  
As is a theatre lit up by gas.  
I pass my evenings in long galleries solely,  
And that's the reason I'm so melancholy.
LIX.

Alas. ma’am makes that great which makes him little;—
grant you in a church ‘tis very well;
what speaks of Heaven should by no means be brittle.
But strong and lasting, till no tongue can tell
Their names who reared it; but huge houses fit—
And huge tombs worse—mankind, since Adam fell.
Methinks the story of the tower of Babel
Might teach them this much better than I’m able.

LX.

Babel was Nimrod’s hunting-seat, and then
A town of gardens, walls, and wealth amazing,
Where Nebuchadnezzar, king of men,
Reign’d, till one summer’s day he took to grazing,
And Daniel tamed the lions in their den,
The people’s awe and admiration raising;
Twas famous, too, for Thisbe, and for Pyramus,
And the calumniated Queen Semiramis.

LXI.

That injured Queen, by chroniclers so coarse,
Has been accused (I doubt not by conspiracy)
Of an improper friendship for her horse,
(Love, like religion, sometimes runs to heresy:)
This monstrous tale had probably its source
(For such exaggerations here and there I see)
In writing “Courser” by mistake for “Courrier”:
I wish the case could come before a jury here.

LXII.

But to resume,—should there be, (what may not be in these days?) some infidels, who don’t,
Because they can’t find out the very spot
Of that same Babel, or because they won’t,
(Though Claudius Rich, esquire, some bricks has got, and written lately two memoirs upon ’t.)
Believe the Jews, those unbelievers, who
Must be believed, though they believe not you—

LXIII.

Yet let them think that Horace has express’d
Shortly and sweetly the masonic folly
Of those, forgetting the great place of rest,
Who give themselves to architecture wholly;
We know where things and men must end at last,
A mori (like all morals) melancholy,
And “Et sepulcri immemor struis domos”
Shows that we build when we should but entomb us.

LXIV.

At last they reach’d a quarter most retired,
Where echo woke as if from a long slumber:
Though full of all things which could be desired,
One wonder’d what to do with such a number
Of articles which nobody required;
Here wealth had done its utmost to encumber
With furniture an exquisite apartment,
Which puzzled nature much to know what art meant.

LXV.

It seem’d, however, but to open on
A range or suit of further chambers, which
Might lead to, heaven knows where; but in this one
The moveables were prodigally rich;
Sofas ‘twas half a sin to sit upon,
So costly were they; carpets every stitch
Of workmanship so rare, that made you wish
You could glide o’er them like a golden fish.

LXVI.

The black, however, without hardly deign’d,
A glance at that which rapt the slaves in wonder
Trampled what they scarce trod for fear of staining
As if the milky way their feet was under
With all its stars: and with a stretch attaining
A certain press or cupboard, niched in yonder
In that remote recess which you may see—
Or if you don’t, the fault is not in me:

LXVII.

I wish to be perspicuous: and the black,
I say, unlocking the recess, pull’d forth
A quantity of clothes, fit for the back
Of any Mussulman, whate’er his worth,
And of variety there was no lack—
And yet, though I have said there was no depth,
He chose himself to point out what he thought
Most proper for the Christians he had bought.

LXVIII.

The suit he thought most suitable to each
Was, for the elder and the stoutest, first
A Candiate cloak, which to the knee might reach,
And trowsers not so tight that they would burst.
But such as fit an Asiatic breech;
A shawl, whose folds in Cashmere had been nest;
Slippers of saffron, dagger rich and handy;
In short, all things which form a Turkish Dandy

LXIX.

While he was dressing, Baba, their black friend,
Hinted the vast advantages which they
Might probably attain both in the end,
If they would but pursue the proper way
Which fortune plainly seem’d to recommend,
And then he added, that he needs must say,
"Twould greatly tend to better their condition,
If they would condescend to circumcision.

LXX.

"For his own part, he really should rejoice
To see them true believers, but no less
Would leave his proposition to their choice."
The other, thanking him for this excess
Of goodness in thus leaving them a voice
In such a tryst, scarcely could express
"Sufficiently (he said,) his approbation
Of all the customs of this polish’d nation.

LXXI.

"For his own share—he saw but small objection
To so respectable an ancient rite,
And after swallowing down a slight reflection,
For which he own’d a present appetite,
He doubted not a few hours of reflection
Would reconcile him to the business quite—
"Will it?" said Juan, sharply; "Strike me dead,
But they as soon shall circumcise my head—

LXXII.

"Cut off a thousand heads, before—"—"Now
Replied the other, "do not interrupt: [pray,]
You put me out in what I had to say.
Sir,—as I said, as soon as I have supp’d,
I shall perpend if your proposals may
Be such as I can properly accept;
Provided always your great goodness still
Remit the matter to our own free-will."
LXXXIII.

Baba eyed Juan, and said, "Be so good As dress yourself"—and pointed out a suit In which a princess with great pleasure would Array her limbs; but Juan standing mute, As not being in a masquerading mood, Gave it a slight kick with his Christian foot; And when the old negro told him to "Get ready," Replied, "Old gentleman, I'm not a lady."

LXXXIV.

"What you may be, I neither know nor care," Said Baba, "but pray do as I desire, I have no more time nor many words to spare."

"At least," said Juan, "sure I may inquire The cause of this odd travesty?"—"Forbear," Said Baba, "to be curious: 'twill transpire, No doubt, in proper place, and time, and season: I have no authority to tell the reason."

LXXXV.

"Then if I do," said Juan, "I'll be—" "Hold!"

Rejoin'd the negro, "pray be not provoking This spirit's well, but it may wax too bold, And you will find us not too fond of joking." "What, sir," said Juan, "shall it e'er be told That I unseck'd my dress?" But Baba, stroking The things down, said—"Incense me, and I call Those who will leave you of no sex at all."

LXXXVI.

"I offer you a handsom suite of clothes: A woman's truce; then there is a cause Why you should wear them."—"What, though my soul loathes The effeminate garb?"—Thus, after a short pause, Sigh'd Juan, muttering also some slight oaths, "What the devil shall I do with all this gauze?" Thus he profanely term'd the finest lace Which e'er set off a marriage-morning face.

LXXXVII.

And then he swore; and, sighing, on he slipp'd A pair of trowsers of flesh-color'd silk; Next with a virgin zone he was equip'y'd, Which girt a slight chemise as white as milk, But tugging on his petticoat, he tripp'd. Which—as we say—or, as the Scotch say, whilk, (The rhyme obliges me to this:—sometimes Kings are not more imperious than rhymes)—

LXXXVIII.

Whilk, which (or what you please) was owing to His garment's novelty, and his being awkward: And yet at last he managed to get through His toilet, though no doubt a little backward; The negro Baba help'd a little too, When some untoward part of raiment stuck hard; And, wrestling both his arms into a gown, He paused and took a survey up and down.

LXXXIX.

One difficulty still remain'd,—his hair Was hardly long enough; but Baba found So many false long tresses all to spare, That soon his head was most completely crown'd, After the manner then in fashion there; And this addition with such gems was bound As suited the ensemble of his toilet, While Baba made him comb his head and oil it.

LXXX.

And now being femininely all array'd, [tweezers, With some small aid from scissors, paint, and He look'd in almost all respects a maid, And Baba smilingly exclaim'd, "You see, sirs, A perfect transformation here display'd; [sirs, And now, then, you must come along with me,— That is—the lady:"—clapping his hands twice, Four blacks were at his elbow in a trice.

LXXXI.

"Yon, sir," said Baba nodding to the one, "Will please to accompany those gentlemen To supper; but you, worthy Christian nun, Will follow me: no trifling, sir: for when I say a thing, it must at once be done. What fear you? think you this a lion's den? Why, 'tis a palace; where the truly wise Anticipate the Prophet's paradise.

LXXXII.

"You fool! I tell you no one means you harm "So much the better," Juan said, "for them Else they shall feel the weight of this my arm, Which is not quite so light as you may deem. I yield thus far; but soon will break the charm If any take me for that which I seem; So that I trust, for every body's sake, That this disguise may lead to no mistake.

LXXXIII.

"Blockhead! come on, and see," quoth Baba; while Don Juan, turning to his comrade, who, [smile Though somewhat grieved, could scarce forbear a Upon the metamorphosis in view,— "Farewell!" they mutually exclaim'd: 'this soil Seems fertile in adventures strange and new; One's turn'd half Mussulman, and one a maid, By this old black enchanter's unsought aid.

LXXXIV.

"Farewell!" said Juan; "should we meet no more, I wish you a good appetite."—"Farewell!" Replied the other; "though it grieves me sore; When we next meet we'll have a tale to tell; We needs must follow when Fate puts from shore Keep your good name; though Eve herself once fell." [carry me, "Nay," quoth the maid, "the Sultan's self shan't Unless his highness promises to marry me."

LXXXV.

And thus they parted, each by separate doors; Baba led Juan onward, room by room, Through glittering galleries and o'er marble floors, Till a gigantic portal through the gloom, Haughty and huge, along the distance towers; And wafted far arose a rich perfume: It seem'd as though they came upon a shrine For all was vast, still, fragrant, and divine.

LXXXVI.

The giant door was broad, and bright, and high, Of gilded bronze, and carved in curious guise; Warriors thereon were battling furiously; Here stalks the victor, there the vanquish'd lies There captives led in triumph drop the eye, And in perspective many a squadron flies: It seems the work of times before the line Of Rome transplanted fell with Constantine
LXXXVII.
This massy portal stood at the wide close
Of a huge hall, and on its either side
Two little dwarfs, the least you could suppose,
Were sate, like ugly imps, as if allied
In mockery to the enormous gate which rose
O'er them in almost pyramidal pride:
The gate so splendid was in all its features,
You never thought about these little creatures,

LXXXVIII.
Until you nearly trod on them, and then
You started back in horror to survey
The wondrous hideousness of those small men,
Whose color was not black, nor white, nor gray,
But an extraneous mixture, which no pen
Can trace, although perhaps the pencil may;
They were misshapen pignities, deaf and dumb—
Monsters, who cost a no less monstrous sum.

LXXXIX.
Their duty was—for they were strong, and though
They look'd so little, did strong things at times—
To ope this door, which they could really do,
The hinges being as smooth as Rogers' rhymes;
And now and then, with tough strings of the bow,
As is the custom of those eastern climes,
To give some rebel Pacha a cravat;
For mutes are generally used for that.

XC.
They spoke by signs—that is not spoke at all;
And, looking like two incubi, they glared
As Baba with his fingers made them fall
To heaving back the portal folds: it scared
Juan a moment, as this pair so small,
With shrinking serpent optics on him stared;
It was as if their little looks could poison
Or fascinate whome'er they fix'd their eyes on.

XCI.
Before they enter'd, Baba paused to hint
To Juan some slight lessons as his guide:
"If you could just contrive," he said, "to stint
That somewhat manly majesty of stride, (sn't)—
'Twould be as well, and—(though there's not much)
To swing a little less from side to side,
Which has, at times, an aspect of the oddest;
And also, could you look a little modest,

"'Twould be convenient; for these mutes have eyes
Like needles, which might pierce those petticoats;
And if they should discover your disguise,
You know how near us the deep Bosporus floats;
And you and I may chance, ere morning rise,
To find our way to Marmora without boats,
Stich'd up in sacks—a mode of navigation
A good deal practised here upon occasion."

XCII.
With this encouragement, he led the way
Into a room still nobler than the last;
A rich confusion form'd a disarray
In such sort, that the eye along it cast
Could hardly carry any thing away,
Object on object flash'd so bright and fast;
A dazzling mass of gems, and gold and glitter,
Magnificently mingled in a litter.

XCV.
Wealth had done wonders—taste not much; such
Occur in orient palaces, and even
In the more chasten'd domes of western kings,
(Of which I've also seen some six or seven,)
Where I can't say or gold or diamond flings
Much lustre, there is much to be forgiven;
Groups of bad statues, tables, chairs, and pictures,
On which I cannot pause to make my strictures.

XCIII.
In this imperial hall, at distance lay
Under a canopy, and there reclined,
Quite in a confidential queenly way,
A lady; Baba stop'd, and kneeling, sign'd
To Juan, who, though not much used to pray,
Kneel'd down by instinct, wondering in his mind
What all this meant: while Baba bow'd and bended
His head, until the ceremony ended.

XCIV.
The lady, rising up with such an air
As Venus rose with from the wave, on them
Bent like an antelope a Paphian pair
Of eyes, which put out each surrounding gem;
And, raising up an arm as moonlight fair,
She sign'd to Baba, who first kiss'd the hem
Of her deep-purple robe, and, speaking low
Pointed to Juan, who remain'd below.

XCV.
Her presence was as lofty as her state;
Her beauty of that overpowering kind,
Whose force description only would abate.
I'd rather leave it much to your own mind,
Than lessen it by what I could relate
Of forms and features; it would strike you blind
Could I do justice to the full detail;
So, luckily for both, my phrases fail.

 XCVI.
This much however I may add—her years [springs,
Were ripe—they might make six-and-twenty
But there are forms which Time to touch forbear,
And turns aside his scythe to vulgar things,
Such as was Mary's, Queen of Scots; true—tears
And love destroy; and sapping sorrow wings
Charms from the chamber—yet some never grow
Ugly; for instance—Ninon de l'Enclos.

XCVI.
She spake some words to her attendants, who
Composed a choir of girls, ten or a dozen,
And were all clad alike; like Juan, too,
Who wore their uniform, by Baba chosen.
They form'd a very nymph-like looking crew
Which might have call'd Diana's chorus "cousin,
As far as outward show may correspond;
I won't be baul'd for any thing beyond.

C.
They bow'd obedience and withdrew, retiring,
But not by the same door through which came
Baba and Juan, which last stood admiring,
At some small distance, all he saw within
This strange saloon, much fitted for inspiring
Marvel and praise: for both or none things win;
And I must say I ne'er could see the very
Great happiness of the "Nil Admirari."
CI

‘Not to admire is all the art I know
(Plain truth, dear Murray, needs few flowers of
To make men happy, or to keep them so;’

(So take it in the very words of Creech.)

Thus Horace wrote, we all know, long ago:
And thus Pope quotes the precept, to re-teach
From his translation: but had none admired,
Would Pope have sung, or Horace been inspired?

CII.

Baba, when all the damsels were withdrawn,
Motion’d to Juan to approach, and then
A second time desired him to kneel down
And kiss the lady’s foot, which maxim when
He heard repeated, Juan with a frown
Drew himself up to his full height again,
And said ‘It grieved him, but he could not stoop
To any shoe, unless it shod the Pope.’

CIII.

Baba, indignant at this ill-timed pride,
Made fierce remonstrances, and then a threat
He mutter’d (but the last was given aside)
About a bowstring—quite in vain; not yet [bride:
Would Juan stoop, though ’twere to Mahomet’s
There’s nothing in the world like etiquette,
In kingy chambers or imperial halls,
As also at the race and county balls.

CIV.

He stood like Atlas, with a world of words
About his cars, and nathless would not bend;
The blood of all his line’s Castilian lords
Boil’d in his veins, and rather than descend
To stain his pedigree, a thousand swords
A thousand times of him had made an end;
At length perceiving the ‘foot’ could not stand,
Baba proposed that he should kiss the hand.

CV.

Here was an honorable compromise;
A half-way house of diplomatic rest, [guise;
Where they might meet in much more peaceful
And Juan now his willingness express’d
To use all fit and proper courtesies,
Adding, that this was commonest and best,
For through the South the custom still commands
The gentleman to kiss the lady’s hands.

CVI.

And he advanced, though with but a bad grace,
Though on more thorough-bred’s or fairer fingers
No lips e’er left their transitory trace;
On such as these the lip too fondly lingers,
And for one kiss would fain imprint a brace,
As you will see, if she you love will bring her
In contact; and sometimes even a fair stranger’s
An almost twelvemonth’s constancy endangers.

CVII.

The lady eyed him o’er and o’er, and bade
Baba retire, which he obey’d in style,
As if well used to the retreating trade;
And taking hints in good part all the while,
He whisper’d Juan not to be afraid,
And, looking on him with a sort of smile,
Took leave with such a face of satisfaction,
As good men wear who have done a virtuous action.

CVIII.

When he was gone, there was a sudden change,
I know not what might be the lady’s thought,
But o’er her bright brow flash’d a tumult strange,
And into her clear cheek the blood was brought,
Blood-red as sunset summer clouds which range
The verge of heaven; and in her large eyes
A mixture of sensations might be scan’d, [wrought
Of half voluptuousness and half command.

CIX.

Her form had all the softness of her sex,
Her features all the sweetness of the devil,
When he put on the cherub to perplex
Eve, and paved (God knows how) the road to evil
The sun himself was scarce more free from specks
Than she from aught at which the eye could cavi
Yet somehow there was something somewhere want
As if she rather order’d than was granting.— [ing.

CX.

Something imperial, or imperious, threw
A chain o’er all she did; that is, a chain
Was thrown, as ’twere, about the neck of you,—
And rapture’s self will seem almost a palu
With aught which looks like despotism in view
Our souls at least are free, and ’tis in vain
We would against them make the flesh obey—
The spirit, in the end, will have its way

CXI.

Her very smile was haughty, though so sweet;
Her very nod was not an inclination;
There was a self-will even in her small feet, [th
As though they were quite conscious of her sta
They trod as upon necks; and to complete
Her state, (it is the custom of her nation,) a
Poniard deck’d her girdle, as the sign
She was a sultan’s bride, (thank Heaven, not mine)

CXII.

“To hear and to obey” had been from birth
The law of all around her; to fulfil
All phantasies which yielded joy or birth,
Had been her slaves’ chief pleasure, as her will;
Her blood was high, her beauty scarce of earth;
Judge, then, if her caprices e’er stood still;
Had she but been a Christian, I’ve a notion
We should have found out the “perpetual motion.”

CXIII.

Whate’er she saw and coveted was brought;
Whate’er she did not see, if she supposed
It might be seen, with diligence was sought,
And when ’twas found straightforward the bargain
Closed:
There was no end unto the things she bought,
Nor to the trouble which her fancies caused;
Yet even her tyranny had such a grace,
The women pardon’d all except her face

CXIV.

Juan, the latest of her whims, had caught
Her eye in passing on his way to sale:
She order’d him directly to be bought,
And Baba, who had ne’er been known to fail
In any kind of mischief to be wrought,
Had his instructions where and how to deal:
She had no prudence, but he had; and this
Explains the garb which Juan took amiss
CXV.

His youth and features favor'd the disguise,
And should you ask how she, a sultan's bride,
Could risk or compass such strange phantasies,
This I must leave sultanas to decide:
Emperors are only husbands in wives' eyes,
And kings and consorts oft are mystified.
As we may ascertain with due precision,
Some by experience, others by tradition.

CXVI.

But to the main point, where we have been tending:
She now conceived all difficulties past,
And deem'd herself extremely condescending
When being made her property at last,
Without more preface, in her blue eyes blending
Passion and power, a glance on him she cast,
And merely saying, "Christian, canst thou love?"
Conceived that phrase was quite enough to move.

CXVII.

And so it was, in proper time and place,
But Juan, who had still his mind o'erflowing
With Haidee's isle and soft Ionian face,
Felt the warm blood, which in his face was glowing,
Rush back upon his heart, which fill'd his space,
And left his cheeks as pale as snowdrops blowing:
These words went through his soul like Arab spears,
So that he spoke not, but burst into tears.

CXVIII.

She was a good deal shock'd; not shock'd at tears,
For women shed and use them at their liking;
But there is something when man's eye appears
Wet, still more disagreeable and striking:
A woman's tear-drop melts, a man's half tears,
Like molten lead, as if you thrust a pike in
His heart, to force it out, for (to be shorter)
To them 'tis a relief, to us a torture.

CXIX.

And she would have consol'd, but knew not how;
Having no equals, nothing which had e'er
Infected her with sympathy till now,
And never having dream'd what 'twas to bear
Aught of a serious sorrowing kind, although
There might arise some pouting petty care
To cross her brow, she wonder'd how so near
Her eyes another's eye could shed a tear.

CX.

But nature teaches more than power can spoil,
And when a strong although a strange sensation
Move—female hearts are such a genial soil
For tender feelings, whatsoever their nation,
They naturally pour the "wine and oil,"
Samaritans in every situation;
And thus Gulbeyaz, though she knew not why,
Felt an odd glistening moisture in her eye.

CXI.

But tears must stop like all things else; and soon
Juan, who for an instant had been moved
To such a sorrow by the intrusive tone
Of one who dared to ask if "he had loved,"
Call'd back the stoic to his eyes, which shone
Bright with the very weakness he reproved;
And although sensitive to beauty, he
Felt most indignant still at not being free.

CXII.

Gulbeyaz, for the first time in her days,
Was much embarrass'd, never having met
In all her life with aught save prayers and praise:
And as she also risk'd her life to get
Him whom she meant to tutor in love's ways
Into a comfortable tete-a-tete,
To lose the hour would make her quite a martyr,
And they had wasted now almost a quarter.

CXIII.

I also would suggest the fitting time,
To gentlemen in any such case like,
That is to say—in a meridian clime;
With us there is more law given to the case,
But here a small delay forms a great crime:
So recollect that the extremest grace
Is just two minutes for your declaration—
A moment more would hurt your reputation.

CXIV.

Juan's was good; and might have been still better
But he had got Haidee into his head:
However strange, he could not yet forget her,
Which made him seem exceedingly ill-bred.
Gulbeyaz, who look'd on him as her debtor
For having had him to the palace led,
Began to blush up to the eyes, and then
Grow deadly pale, and then blush back again.

CXV.

At length, in an imperial way, she said
Her hand on his, and bending on his eyes,
Which needed not an empire to persuade,
Look'd into his for love, where none replies:
Her brow grew black, but she would not upbraid,
That being the last thing a proud woman tries.
She rose, and, pausing one chaste moment, threw
Herself upon his breast, and there she grew.

CXVI.

This was an awkward test, as Juan found,
But he was steel'd by sorrow, wrath, and pride;
With gentle force her white arms he unwound,
And seated her all drooping by his side.
Then rising haughtily he glanced around,
And looking coldly in her face, he cried,
"The prison'd eagle will not pair, nor I
Serve a sultana's sensual phantasy.

CXVII.

"Thou ask'st if I can love? be this the proof
How much I have loved—that I love not thee"
In this vile garb, the distaff, web, andwoof,
Were fitter for me: love is for the free!
I am not dazzled by this splendid roof;
Whate'er thy power, and great it seems to be—
Heads bow, knees bend, eyes watch around a trone
And hands obey—our hearts are still our own.

CXVIII.

This was a truth to us extremely trite,
Not so to her who ne'er had heard such things;
She deem'd her least command must yield delight,
Earth being only made for queens and kings.
If hearts lay on the left side or the right
She hardly knew, to such perfection brings
Legitimacy its born votaries, when
Aware of their due royal rights o'er men.
CXXIX.  

Besides, as has been said, she was so fair  
As even in a much humbler lot had made  
A kingdom or confusion any where;  
And also, as may be presumed, she laid  
Some stress upon those charms which seldom are  
By the possessors thrown into the shade;—  
She thought hers gave a double "right divine,"  
And half of that opinion's also mine.

CXXX.  

Remember, or (if you cannot) imagine,  
Ye! who have kept your chastity when young,  
While some more desperate dowager has been waging  
Love with you, and been in the dog-days stung  
By your refusal, recollect her raging!  
Or recollect all that was said or sung  
On such a subject: then suppose the face  
Of a young downright beauty in the case.

CXXXI.  

Suppose,—but you already have supposed,  
The spouse of Potiphar, the Lady Booby.  
Phadra, and all which story has disclosed  
Of good examples; pity that so few by  
Poets and private tutores are exposed,  
To educate—ye youth of Europe—you by!  
But when you have supposed the few we know,  
You can't suppose Gulbeyaz' angry brow.

CXXXII.  

A tigress robb'd of young, a lioness,  
Or any interesting beast of prey,  
Are similes at hand for the distress  
Of ladies, who can not have their own way;  
But though my turn will not be served with less,  
These don't express one half what I should say:  
For what is stealing young ones, few or many,  
To cutting short their hopes of having any?

CXXXIII.  

The love of offspring's nature's general law,  
From tigresses and cubs to ducks and ducklings;  
There's nothing whets the beak, orarms the claw,  
Like an invasion on their babies and sucklings;  
And all who have seen a human nursery, saw  
How mothers love their children's squalls and chucklings;  
This strong extreme effect (to tire no longer  
Your patience) shows the cause must still be stronger.

CXXXIV.  

If I said fire flash'd from Gulbeyaz' eyes,  
'Twere nothing—for her eyes flash'd always fire;  
Or said her cheeks assumed the deepest dyes,  
I should but bring disgrace upon the dyer,  
So supernatural was her passion's rise;  
For ne'er till now she knew a cheek'd desire:  
Even ye who know what a check'd woman is,  
(Enough, God knows!) would much fall short of this.

CXXXV.  

Her rage was but a minute's, and 'twas well—  
A moment's more had slain her; but the while  
It lasted 'twas like a short glimpse of hell:  
Nought's more sublime than energetic bile,  
Though horrible to see yet grand to tell,  
Like ocean warring 'gainst a rocky isle;  
And the deep passions flashing through her form  
Made her a beautiful crucified storm.

CXXXVI.  

A vulgar tempest twere to a typhoon  
To match a common fury with her rage,  
And yet she did not want to reach the moon,  
Like moderate Hotspur on the immortal page;  
Her anger pitch'd into a lower tune,  
Perhaps the fault of her soft sex and age—  
Her wish was but to "kill, kill, kill," like Lear's,  
And then her thirst of blood was quench'd in tears.

CXXXVII.  

A storm it raged, and like the storm it pass'd,  
Pass'd without words—in fact she could not speak  
And then her sex's shame broke in at last,  
A sentiment till then in her but weak,  
But now it flow'd in natural and fast,  
As water through an unexpected leak,  
For she felt humbled—and humiliation  
Is sometimes good for people in her station.

CXXXVIII.  

It teaches them that they are flesh and blood,  
It also gently hints to them that others,  
Although of clay, are yet not quite of mud;  
That urns and pipkins are but fragile brothers,  
And works of the same pottery, bad or good,  
Though not all born of the same sires and mothers  
It teaches—Heaven knows only what it teaches,  
But sometimes it may mend, and often reaches.

CXXXIX.  

Her first thought was to cut off Juan's head,  
Her second, to cut only his—acquaintance;  
Her third, to ask him where he had been bred;  
Her fourth, to rally him into repentance;  
Her fifth, to call her maids and go to bed;  
Her sixth, to stab herself; her seventh, to send  
The lash to Baba—but her grand resource  
Was to sit down again, and cry of course.

CXLI.  

She thought to stab herself, but then she had  
The dagger close at hand, which made it awk  
For Eastern stays are little made to pad,  
[ward  
So that a peniard pierces if 'tis struck hard:  
She thought of killing Juan—but, poor lad!  
Though he deserved it well for being so backward  
The cutting off his head was not the art  
Most likely to attain her aim—his heart.

CXL.  

Juan was moved: he had made up his mind  
To be impaled, or quarter'd as a dish  
For dogs, or to be slain with pangs refined,  
Or thrown to lions, or made baits for fish,  
And thus heroically stood resign'd,  
Rather than sin,—except to his own wish:  
But all his great preparatives for dying  
Dissolved like snow before a woman crying.

CXLII.  

As through his palms Bob Acres' valor oozed,  
So Juan's virtue eb'd, I know not how;  
And first he wonder'd why he had refused;  
And then, if matters could be made up now,  
And next his savage virtue he accused,  
Just as a friar may accuse his vow,  
Or as a dame repents her of her oath,  
Which mostly ends in some small breach of bota
So he began to stammer some excuses;  
But words are not enough in such a matter,  
Although you borrow'd all that e'er the muses  
Have sung, or even a Dandy's dandiest chatter,  
Or all the figures Castlereagh abuses;  
Just as a languid smile began to flatter  
His peace was making, but before he ventured  
Further, old Baba rather briskly enter'd.

He saw with his own eyes the moon was round  
Was also certain that the earth was square,  
Because he had journey'd fifty miles, and found  
No sign that it was circular any where;  
His empire also was without a bound:  
'Tis true, a little troubled here and there,  
By rebel pachas, and encroaching gazours,  
But then they never came to "the Seven Towers.

Except in shape of envoys, who were sent  
To lodge there when a war broke out, according  
To the true law of nations, which ne'er meant  
Those soundrels who have never had a sword in  
Their dirty diplomatic hands, to vent  
Their spleen in making strife, and safely wording  
Their lies, yeolep despatches, without risk, or  
The singing of a single inky whisker.

His sons were kept in prison till they grew  
Of years to fill a bowstring or the throne,  
One or the other, but which of the two  
Could yet be known unto the Fates alone;  
Meantime the education they went through  
Was princely, as the proofs have always shown.  
So that the heir apparent still was found  
No less deserving to be hang'd than crown'd.

His majesty saluted his fourth spouse  
With all the ceremonies of his rank,  
Who clear'd her sparkling eyes and smooth'd her  
As suits a matron who has play'd a prank:  
These must seem doubly mindful of their vows,  
To save the credit of their breaking bank;  
To no men are such cordial greetings given  
As those whose wives have made them fit for heaven.

His highness cast around his great black eyes,  
And looking, as he always look'd, perceived  
Juan among the damsels in disguise,  
At which he seem'd no whit surpris'd, nor grieve'd  
But just remark'd with air sedate and wise,  
While still a fluttering sigh Gulbeyaz heaved  
"I see you've bought another girl, 'tis pity  
That a mere Christian should be half so pretty.

This compliment, which drew all eyes upon  
The new-bought virgin, made her blush and shake  
Her comrades, also, thought themselves undone:  
Oh, Mahomet! that his majesty should take  
Such notice of a glazour, while scarce to one  
Of them his lips imperial ever spoke!  
There was a general whisper, toss, and wriggle,  
But etiquette forbade them all to giggle.
CLVII.

The Turks do well to shut—at least, sometimes—
The women up—because, in sad reality,
Their chastity in these unhappy climes
Is not a thing of that astringent quality
Which in the North prevents precocious crimes;
And makes our snow less pure than our morality;
The sun, which yearly melts the polar ice,
Has quite the contrary effect on vice.

CLVIII.

Thus far our chronicle; and now we pause,
Though not for want of matter; but 'tis time,
According to the ancient epic laws,
To slacken sail, and anchor with our rhyme.
Let this fifth canto meet with due applause,
The sixth shall have a touch of the sublime;
Meanwhile, as Homer sometimes sleeps, perhaps
You'll pardon to my muse a few short naps.

PREFACE

TO

CANTOS VI. VII. AND VIII.

The details of the siege of Ismail in two of the following cantos (i.e. the 7th and 8th) are taken from a French work, entitled, "Histoire de la Nouvelle Russie," Some of the incidents attributed to Don Juan really occurred, particularly the circumstance of his saving the infant, which was the actual case of the late Duc de Richelieu, then a young volunteer in the Russian service, and afterwards the founder and benefactor of Odessa, where his name and memory can never cease to be regarded with reverence. In the course of these cantos, a stanza or two will be found relative to the late Marquis of Londonderry, but written some time before his decease. Had that person's oligarchy died with him, they would have been suppressed; as it is, I am aware of nothing in the manner of his death or of his life to prevent the free expression of the opinions of all whom his whole existence was consumed in endeavoring to enslave. That he was an amiable man in private life, may or may not be true; but with this the public have nothing to do: and as to lamenting his death, it will be time enough when Ireland has ceased to mourn for his birth. As a minister, I, for one of millions, looked upon him as the most despotic in intention, and the weakest in intellect that ever tyrannized over a country. It is the first time, indeed, since the Normans, that England has been insulted by a minister (at least) who could not speak English, and that Parliament permitted to be dictated to in the language of Mrs. Malaprop.

Of the manner of his death little need be said, except that if a poor radical, such as Waddington or Watson, had cut his throat, he would have been buried in a cross-road, with the usual appurtenances of the stake and mallet. But the minister was an elegant lunatic—a sentimental suicide—he merely cut the "carotid artery" (blessings on their learning!)—and lo! the pageant, and the abbey, and the syllables of colo'r yelled forth" by the news-papers—and the harangue of the coroner in an eulogy, over the bleeding body of the deceased—(an Antony worthy of such a Caesar)—and the nauseous and atrocious cant of a degraded crew of conspirators against all that is sincere or honorable. In his death he was necessarily one of two things by the law—a felon or a madman—and in either case no great subject for panegyric. * In his life he was—what all the world knows, and half of it will feel for years to come, unless his death prove a "moral lesson" to the surviving Sejanit of Europe. It may at least serve as a consolation to the nations that their oppressors are not happy, and in some instances judge so justly of their own actions as to anticipate the sentence of mankind.—Let us hear no more of this man, and let Ireland remove the ashes of her Grattan from the sanctuary of Westminster. Shall the Patriot of Humanity repose by the Werther of Polities!*

With regard to the objections which have been made to an adoration to the already published cantos of this poem, I shall content myself with two quotations from Voltaire:

"La pudeur s'est ensuite des cours, et s'est refugie sur les lèvres."

"Plus les morts sont depauprées, plus les expressions deviennent mesurées; on croit regagner en langage ce qu'on a perdu en vertu."

This is the real fact, as applicable to the degraded and hypocritical mass which levans the present English generation, and is the only answer they deserve. The hackneyed and livished title of blasphemer, which, with radical, liberal, jacobin, reformer, &c., are the changes which the hirelings are daily ringing in the ears of those who will listen—should be welcome to all who recollect on whom it was originally bestowed. Socrates and Jesus Christ were put to death publicly as blasphemers, and so have been and may be many who dare to oppose the most notorious abuses of the name of God and the mind of man. But persecution is not refutation, nor even triumph: the wretched infidel, as he is called, is probably happier in his prison than he was in the state of his assailants. With his opinions I have nothing to do—they may be right or wrong—but he has suffered for them, and that very suffering for conscience' sake will make more proselytes to Deism than the example of heterodox prelates to Christianity, suicide statesmen to oppression, or over-pensioned h Jacobs to the impious alliance which insults the world with the name of "Holy!" I have no wish to trample on the dishonored or the dead; but it would be well if the adherents to the classes from whence some person may spring, should abate a little of the caust which is the crying sin of this double-dealing and false-speaking time of selfish spoilers, and—

* But the love of the land—the laws of humanity judge more greatly; but as the legitimate have always the law in their own mouths, let them save the most of it.

* From the number must be excepted Canning. Canning is a genius, almost a universal one: an orator, a writer, a poet, a statesman; and no man of talent can long pursue the path of his late predecessor, Lord G. If ever man saved his country, Canning can; but will he? I, for one, hope so.

* When Lord Sandwich said "he did not know the difference between orthodoxy and heresy,"—Washington, the bishop, replied, "Orthodoxy my lord, is my costly, and heresy is another man's doxy." A period of the present day has discovered, it seems, a third kind of doxy, which we not greatly social in the eyes of the idiot, but which Boylston only.

* Church of Englandman.
CANTO VI.

I.
"There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood—_you know the rest;
And most of us have found it, now and then;
At least we think so, though but few have guess'd
The moment, till too late to come again.
But no doubt every thing is for the best—
Of which the surest sign is in the end;
When things are at the worst, they sometimes mend.

II.
There is a tide in the affairs of women [where!]
"Which, taken at the flood, leads—_God knows,
Those navigators must be able seamen
Whose charts lay down its currents to a hair;
Not all the reveries of Jacob Behmen
With its strange whirls and eddies can compare:
Men, with their heads, reflect on this and that—
But women, with their hearts, on heaven knows what.

III.
And yet a headlong, headstrong, downright she,
Young, beautiful, and daring—who would risk
A throne, the world, the universe, to be
Beloved in her own way, and rather whisk
The stars from out the sky, than not be free
As are the billows when the breeze is brisk—
Though such a she's a devil, (if that there be one,) Yet she would make full many a Manichean.

IV.
Thrones, worlds, _et cetera_, are so oft upset
By commonest ambition, that when passion
O'erthrews the same, we readily forget,
Or at the least forgive, the loving rash one.
If Antony be well remember'd yet,
'Tis not his conquests keep his name in fashion;
But Actium, lost for Cleopatra's eyes,
Outbalance all the Caesar's victories.

V.
He died at fifty for a queen of forty;
I wish their years had been fifteen and twenty,
For then wealth, kingdoms, worlds, are but a sport—I
Remember when, though I had no great plenty
Of worlds to lose, yet still, to pay my court, I
Gave what I had—a heart: as the world went, I
Gave what was worth a world: for worlds could never
Restore me those pure feelings, gone for ever.

VI.
Twas the boy's "mite," and like the "widow's.
Perhaps be weigh'd hereafter, if not now; [may
But whether such things do or do not weigh,
All who have loved, or love, will still allow
Life has nought like it. God is love, they say,
And Love's a God, or was before the brow
Of earth was wrinkled by the sins and tears
Of—but Chronology best knows the years

VII.
We left our hero and third heroine in
A kind of state more awkward than uncommon.
For gentlemen must sometimes risk their skin
For that sad tempter, a forbidden woman:
Sultans too much abhor this sort of sin,
And don't agree at all with the wise Roman
Heroic, stoic Cato, the sententious,
Who lent his lady to his friend Hortensius.

VIII.
I know Gulbeyaz was extremely wrong;
I own it, I deplore it, I condemn it;
But I detest all fiction, even in song,
And so must tell the truth, however ye blame it
Her reason being weak, her passions strong,
She thought that her lord's heart (even could she)
Was scarce enough; for he had fifty-nine (claim it)
Years, and a fifteen-hundredth concubine.

IX.
I am not, like Cassio, "an arithmetician,"
But by "the bookish theorie" it appears,
If 'tis summ'd up with feminine precision,
That, adding to the account his highness' years
The fair Sultana er'd from inanition
For, were the Sultan just to all his dears,
She could but claim the fifteen-hundredth part
Of what should be monoply—the heart.

X.
It is observed that ladies are litigious
Upon all legal objects of possession,
And not the least so when they are religious, [sic].
Which doubles what they think of the transgress
With suits and prosecutions they besiege us,
As the tribunal shows through many a session,
When they suspect that any one goes shares
In that to which the law makes them sole heirs.

XI.
Now, if this holds good in a Christian land,
The heathens also, though with lesser latitude,
Are apt to carry things with a high hand,
And take what kings call "an imposing attitude;"
And for their rights connubial make a stand, [tude
When their liege husbands treat them with ingrati
And as four wives must have quadruple claims,
The Tigris hath its jealousies like Thames.

XII.
Gulbeyaz was the fourth, and (as I said)
The favorite; but what's his favor among four?
Polygamy may well be held in dread,
Not only as a sin, but as a _bore_:
Most wise men, with one moderate woman wed,
Will scarcely find philosophy for more;
And all (except Mahometans) forbear
To make the nuptial couch a "Bed of Ware."

XIII.
His highness, the sublimest of mankind,—
So styled according to the usual forms
Of every monarch, till they are consigned
To those sad hungry jacobins, the worms,
Who on the very loftiest kings have dined,—
His highness gazed upon Gulbeyaz' charms,
Expecting all the welcome of a lover,
(A "Highland welcome" all the wide world over
DON JUAN.

XIV.
Now here we should distinguish: for how'er
Kisses, sweet words, embraces, and all that,
May look like what is—not here nor there:
They are put on as easily as a hat,
Or rather bonnet, which the fair sex wear,
Trimm'd either heads or hearts to decorate,
Which form an ornament, but no more part
Of heads, than their caresses of the heart.

XV.
A slight blush, a soft tremor, a calm kind
Of gentle feminine delight, and shown
More in the eyelids than the eyes, resign'd
Rather to hide what pleaseth most unknown,
Are the best tokens (to a modest mind)
Of love, when scated on his loveliest throne,
A sincere woman's breast,—for over warm
Or over cold, annihilates the charm.

XVI.
For over warmth, if false, is worse than truth;
If true, 'tis no great lease of its own fire;
For no one, save in very early youth,
Would like (I think) to trust all to desire,
Which is but a precarious bond, in sooth,
And apt to be transferr'd to the first buyer
At a sad discount: while your over chilly
Women, on 'tother hand, seem somewhat silly.

XVII.
That is, we cannot pardon their bad taste,
For so it seems to lovers swift or slow,
Who fain would have a mutual flame confess'd,
And see a sentimental passion glow,
Even were St. Francis' paramour their guest,
In his monastic concubine of snow;
In short, the maxim for the armorous tribe is
Horatian, "Medio tu tutissimus ibis."

XVIII.
The "tu" is too much,—but let it stand—the verse
Requires it, that's to say, the English rhyme,
And not the pink of old Hexameters;
But, after all, there's neither tune nor time
In the last line, which cannot well be worse,
And was thrust in to close the octave's chime.
I own no prosody can ever rate it
As a rule, but Truth may, if you translate it.

XIX.
If fair Gulbeyaz overdid her part,
I know not—it succeeded, and success
As much in most things, not less in the heart
Than other articles of female dress,
Self-love in man, too, beats all female art;
They lie, we lie, all lie, but love no less:
And no one virtue yet, except starvation,
Could stop that worst of vices—propagation.

XX.
We leave this royal couple to repose;
A bed is not a throne, and they may sleep,
What'ere their dreams be, if of joys or woes:
Yet disappointed joys are woes as deep
As any man's clay mixture undergoes.
Our least of sorrows are such as we weep;
Tis the vile daily drp on drop which wears
The soul out (like the stone) with petty cares.

XXI.
A scolding wife, a sullen son, a bill
To pay, unpaid, protested, or discounted
At a per-centage; a child cross, dog ill,
A favorite horse fallen lame just as he's mounted
A bad old woman making a worse will,
Which leaves you minus of the cash you count;
As certain,—these are paltry things, and yet
I've rarely seen the man they did not fret.

XXII.
I'm a philosopher: confound them all!
Bills, beasts, and men, and—no I not woman!
With one good hearty curse I vent my gall,
And then my stocicism leaves nought behind
Which it can either pain or evil call,
And I can give my whole soul up to mind;
Though what is soul or mind, their birth or growth,
Is more than I know—the deuce take them both.

XXIII.
So now all things are d—n'd, one feels at ease,
As after reading Athanasius' curse,
Which doth your true believer so much please:
I doubt if any now could make it worse
O'er his worst enemy when at his knees,
'Tis so sententious, positive, and terse,
And decorates the book of Common Prayer
As doth a rainbow the just clearing air.

XXIV.
Gulbeyaz and her lord were sleeping, or
At least one of them—Oh the heavy night
When wicked wives who love some bachelor
Lie down in dudgeon to sigh for the light
Of the gray morning, and look vainly for
Its twinkle through the lattice dusky quite,
To toss, to tumble, doze, revive and quake,
Lest their too lawful bedfellow should wake.

XXV.
These are beneath the canopy of heaven.
Also beneath the canopy of beds,
Four-posted and silk-curtained, which are given
For rich men and their brides to lay their heads
Upon, in sheets white as what bards call "driven Snow."
Well! 'tis all hap-hazard when one weds
Gulbeyaz was an empress, but had been
Perhaps as wretched if a peasant's queen.

XXVI.
Don Juan, in his feminine disguise,
With all the damsels in their long array,
Had bow'd themselves before the imperial eye,
And, at the usual signal, ta'en their way
Back to their chambers, those long galleries
In the seraglio, where the ladies say
Their delicate limbs; a thousand bosoms there
Beating for love, as the caged bird's for air.

XXVII.
I love the sex, and sometimes would reverse
The tyrant's wish "that mankind only had
One neck, which he with one fell stroke might pierce;"
My wish is quite as wide, but not so bad,
And much more tender on the whole than fierce.
It being (not now, but only while a lad)
That womankind had but one rosy mouth,
To kiss them all at once from North to South.
BYRON'S WORKS.

XXVIII.

Oh vileable Briareus! with thy hands
And heads, if thou hadst all things multiplied
In such proportion!—But my muse withstands
The giant thought of being a Titan's bride,
Or travelling in Patagonian lands;
So let us back to Lilliput, and guide
Our hero through the labyrinth of love
In which we left him several lines above.

XXIX.

He went forth with the lovely Odalisques,
At the given signal join'd to their array;
And though he certainly ran many risks,
Yet he could not at times keep by the way.
(Although the consequences of such frikks
Are worse than the worst damages men pay
In moral England, where the thing's a tax,)...
XLII.

A kind of sleepy Venus seem’d Duddi,
Yet very fit to “murder sleep” in those
Who gazed upon her cheek’s transcendent hue,
Her Attic forehead, and her Phidian nose;
Few angles were there in her form, “tis true,
Thinner she might have been, and yet scarce lose;
Yet, after all, ’twould puzzle to say where
It would not spoil some separate charm to pare.

XLIII.

She was not violently lively, but
Stole on your spirit like a May-day breaking;
Her eyes were not too sparkling, yet, half shut,
They put beholders in a tender taking;
She look’d (this simile’s quite new) just cut
From marble, like Pygmalion’s statue waking,
The mortal and the marble still at strife,
And timidly expanding into life.

XLIV.

Lolah demanded the new damsel’s name—
“Juanna.”—Well, a pretty name enough.
Katinka ask’d her also whence she came—
“From Spain.”—“But where is Spain?”—“Don’t
ask such stuff.
Nor show your Georgian ignorance—for shame!”
Said Lolah, with an accent rather rough,
To poor Katinka: “Spain’s an island near
Morocco, betwixt Egypt and Tangier.”

XLV.

Duddi said nothing, but sat down beside
Juanna, playing with her veil or hair;
And looking at her steadfastly, she sigh’d,
As if she pitied her for being there,
A pretty stranger, without friend or guide,
And all abash’d, too, at the general stare
Which welcomes hapless strangers in all places,
With kind remarks upon their mien and faces.

XLVI.

But here the Mother of the Maids drew near,
With, “Ladies, it is time to go to rest.
I’m puzzled what to do with you, my dears,”
She added, to Juanna, their new guest:
“Your coming has been unexpected here,
And every couch is occupied; you had best
Partake of mine; but by to-morrow early
We will have all things settled for you fairly.”

XLVII.

Here Lolah interposed—“Mamma, you know
You don’t sleep soundly, and I cannot bear
That any body should disturb you; so
I’ll take Juanna; we’re a slenderer pair
Than you would make the half of;—don’t say no;
And I of your young charge will take due care .
But here Katinka interfered, and said,
‘She also had compassion and a bed.’

XLVIII.

‘Besides, I hate to sleep alone,’ quoth she.
The matron frown’d: “Why so?”—“For fear of
Replied Katinka: “I am sure I see [ghosts,]
A phantom upon each of the four posts;
And then I have the worst dreams that can be, [ghosts.]”
Of Guebres, Gläours, and Ginns, and Goûls in
The dame repli’d, “Between your dreams and you,
I fear Juanna’s dreams would be but few.

XLIX.

“You, Lolah, must continue still: lie
Alone, for reasons which don’t matter; you
The same, Katinka, until by and by;
And I shall place Juanna with Duddi,
Who’s quiet, inoffensive, silent, shy,
And will not toss and chatter the night through.

What say you, child?” Duddi said nothing, as
Her talents were of the more silent class;

L.

But she rose up and kiss’d the matron’s brow
Between the eyes, and Lolah on both cheeks,
Katinka, too, and with a gentle bow,
(Certainties are neither used by Turks nor Greeks,
She took Juanna by the hand to show
Their place of rest, and left to both their piqûes.
The others pouting at the matron’s preference
Of Duddi, though they held their tongues from decency.

LI.

It was a spacious chamber, (Oda is
The Turkish title,) and ranged round the wall
Were couches, toilets—and much more than this
I might describe, as I have seen it all.
But it sufficed—little was amiss;
’Twas on the whole a nobly furnish’d hall,
With all things ladies want, save one or two,
And even those were nearer than they knew.

LII.

Duddi, as has been said, was a sweet creature,
Not very dashing, but extremely winning,
With the most regulated charms of feature,
Which painters cannot catch like faces sinning
Against proportion—the wild strokes of nature
Which they hit off at once in the beginning,
Full of expression, right or wrong, that strike,
And, pleasing or unpleasing, still are like.

LIII.

But she was a soft landscape of mild earth,
Where all was harmony, and calm, and quiet,
Luxuriant, budding; cheerful without mirth,
Which, if not happiness, is much more nigh it
Than are your mighty passions, and so forth, [it.
Which some call “the sublime;” I wish they’d try
I’ve seen your stormy seas and stormy women,
And pity lovers rather more than seamen.

LIV.

But she was pensive more than melancholy,
And serious more than pensive, and serene
It may be more than either—not unholy [been
Her thoughts, at least till now, appear to have
The strangest thing was, beauteous, she was wholly
Unconscious; albeit turn’d of quick seventeen.
That she was fair, or dark, or short, or tall,
She never thought about herself at all.

LV.

And therefore was she kind and gentle as
The Age of Gold (when gold was yet unknown
By which its nomenclature came to pass;
Thus must appropriately has been shown
Lucas a non lucendo, “not what seen,
But what was not;” a sort of style that’s grown
Extremely common in this age, whose metal
The devil may decompose, but never settle:
LVI.
I think it may be of "Corinthian Brass;"
Which was a mixture of all metals, but
The brass uppermost.) Kind reader! pass
This long parenthesis: I could not shut
It sooner for the soul of me, and class
[put My faults even with your own! which meaneth,
A kind construction upon them and me:
But that you won't—then don't—I'm not less free.

LVII.
'Tis time we should return to plain narration,
And thus my narrative proceeds,—Dudu,
With every kindness sort of ostentation,
Show'd Juan, or Juanna, through and through
This labyrinth of females, and each station [few:
Described—what's strange, in words extremely
I have but one simile, and that's a blunder,
For worldless women, which is silent thunder.

LVIII.
And next she gave her (I say her, because
The gender still was epicene, at least
In outward show, which is a saving clause)
An outline of the customs of the East,
With all their chaste integrity of laws,
By which the more a haram is increased,
The stricter doubtless grow the vestal duties
Of any supernumerary beauties.

LIX.
And then she gave Juanna a chaste kiss:
Dudu was fond of kissing—which I'm sure
That nobody can ever take amiss,
Because 'tis pleasant, so that it be pure,
And between females means no more than this—
That they have nothing better near, or newer.
"Kiss" rhymes to "bliss" in fact as well as verse—
I wish it never led to something worse.

LX.
In perfect innocence she then unmade
Her toilet, which cost little, for she was
A child of nature, carelessly array'd;—
If fond of a chance ogle at her glass,
"Twas like the fawn which, in the lake display'd,
Beholds her own shy shadowy image pass,
When first she starts, and then returns to peep,
Admiring this new native of the deep.

LXI.
And one by one her articles of dress
Were laid aside; but not before she offer'd
Her aid to fair Juanna, whose excess
Of modesty declined the assistance proffer'd—
Which pass'd well off—as she could do no less:
Though by this politeness she rather suffer'd,
Pricking her fingers with those cursed pins,
Which surely were intended for our sins,—

LXII.
Making a woman like a porcupine,
Not to be rashly touch'd. But still more dread,
Oh ye! whose fate it is, as once 'twas mine,
In early youth to turn a lady's maid;—
I did my very boyish best to shine
In tricking her out for a masquerade:
The pins were placed sufficiently, but not
Stuck all exactly in the proper spot.

LXIII.
But these are foolish things to all the wise—
And I love Wisdom more than she loves me
My tendency is to philosophize.
On most things, from a tyrant to a tree;
But still the spouseless virgin, Knowledge, dies.
What are we? and whence came we? what shall be
Our ultimate existence? what's our present?
Are questions answerless, and yet incessant.

LXIV.
There was deep silence in the chamber: dim
And distant from each other burn'd the lights,
And shrank hot'st'd o'er each lovely limb
Of the fair occupants: if there be sprites, [trim,
They should have walk'd there in their spritelest
By way of change from their sepulchral sites,
And shown themselves as ghosts of better taste,
Than haunting some old ruin or wild waste

LXV.
Many and beautiful lay those around,
Like flowers of different hue, and clime, and root
In some exotic garden sometimes found,
With cost, and care, and warmth induced to shoot
One with her auburn tresses lightly bound,
And fair brows gently drooping, as the fruit
Nods from the tree, was slumbering with soft breath,
And lips apart, which show'd the pears beneath.

LXVI.
One, with her flush'd cheek laid on her white arm,
And raven ringlets gather'd in dark crowd
Above her brow, lay dreaming soft and warm; [cloud
And, smiling through her dream, as through a
The moon breaks, half unveil'd each further charm,
As, slightly stirring in her snowy shroud,
Her beauties seized the unconscious hour of night
All bashfully to struggle into light.

LXVII.
This is no bull, although it sounds so; for [said.
'Twas night, but there were lamps, as hath been
A third's all pallid aspect offer'd more
The traits of sleeping sorrow, and betray'd [shore
Through the heaved breast the dream of some far
Behold'd and deplored; while slowly stray'd
(As night dew, on the cypress glittering, tinges
The black bough) tear-drops through her eyes' dark

LXVIII.
A fourth, as marble, statue-like and still,
Lay in a breathless, hush'd, and stony sleep;
White, cold, and pure, as looks a frozen rill,
Or the snow minaret on an Alpine steep,
Or Lot's wife done in salt,—or what you will;—
My similes are gather'd in a heap,
So pick and choose—perhaps you'll be content
With a carved lady on a monument.

LXIX.
And lo! a fifth appears:—and what is she?
A lady of "a certain age," which means
Certainly aged—what her years might be
I know not, never counting past their teens;
But there she slept, not quite so fair to see,
As ere that awful period intervened,
Which lays both men and women on the shelf
To meditate upon their sins and self.
DON JUAN.

LXX.
But all this time how slept, or dream d, Dud d ?
With strict inquiry I could ne'er discover,
And scorn to add a syllable untrue;
 But ere the middle watch was hardly over,
Just when the fading lamps wan'd dim and blue,
And phantoms hover'd, or might seem to hover,
To those who like their company, about
The apartment, on a sudden she scream'd out;

LXXI.
And that so loudly, that upstart all
The Oda, in a general commotion:
Matron and maids, and those whom you may call
Neither, came crowding like the waves of ocean,
One on the other, throughout the whole ball, [tion,
All trembling, wondering, without the least no-
More than I have myself, of what could make
The calm Dud d so turbulently wake.

LXXII.
But wide awake she was, and round her bed,
With floating draperies and with flying hair,
With eager eyes, and light but hurried tread,
And bosoms, arms, and ankles glancing bare,
And bright as any meteor ever bred
By the North Pole,—they sought her cause of care,
For she seem'd agitated, flush'd, and frighten'd,
Her eye dilated and her color heighten'd.

LXXIII.
But what is strange—and a strong proof how great
A blessing is sound sleep, Juanna lay
As fast as ever husband by his flame
In holy matrimonio smores away.
Not all the clamor broke her happy state
Of slumber, ere they shook her,—so they say,
At least,—and then she too unclosed her eyes,
And yawn'd a good deal with discreet surprise.

LXXIV.
And now commenced a strict investigation,
Which, as all spoke at once, and more than once,
Conjecturing, wondering, asking a narration,
Alike might puzzle either wit or dunce
To answer in a very clear oration.
Dud d had never pass'd for wanting sense,
But being "no orator, as Brutus is,"
Could not at first expound what was amiss.

LXXV.
At length she said, that, in a slumber sound,
She dream'd a dream of walking in a wood—
A "wood obscure," like that where Dante found
Himself in at the age when all grow good;
Life's half-way house, where dames with virtue crown'd;
Run much less risk of lovers turning rude;—
And that this wood was full of pleasant fruits,
And trees of goodly growth and spreading roots;

LXXVI.
And in the midst a golden apple grew,—
A most prodigious pippin,—but it hung
Rather too high and distant; that she threw
Her glances on it, and then, longing, flung
Stones, and whatever she could pick up, to
Bring down the fruit, which still perversely clung
To its own bough, and dangled yet in sight,
But was at a most provoking height—

LXXVII.
That on a sudden, when she least had hope,
It fell down of its own accord, before
Her feet; that her first movement was to stop
And pick it up, and bite it to the core;
That just as her young lip began to ope
Upon the golden fruit the vision bore,
A bee flew out and stung her to the heart,
And so,—she awoke with a great scream and start

LXXVIII.
All this she told with some confusion and
Dismay, the usual consequence of dreams
Of the unpleasant kind, with none at hand
To expound their vain and visionary gleams
I've known some odd ones which seem'd really
Prophetically, or that which one deems [plann'd
"A strange coincidence," to use a phrase
By which such things are settled now-a-days.

LXXIX.
The damsels, who had thoughts of some great harm
Began, as is the consequence of fear,
To scold a little at the false alarm
That broke for nothing on their sleeping ear
The matron, too, was wroth to leave her warm
Bed for the dream she had been obliged to hear
And chafed at poor Dud d, who only sigh'd,
And said that she was sorry she had cried

LXXX.
"I've heard of stories of a cock and bull;
But visions of an apple and a bee,
To take us from our natural rest, and pull
The whole Oda from their beds at half-past three
Would make us think the moon is at its full.
You surely are unwell, child! we must see
To-morrow, what his highness's physician
Will say to this hysterical of a vision.

LXXXI.
"And poor Juanna, too! the child's first night
Within these walls, to be broke in upon
With such a clamor—I had thought it right
That the young stranger should not lie alone,
And, as the quietest of all, she might
With you, Dud d, a good night's rest have known
But now I must transfer her to the charge
Of Lolah,—though her couch is not so large."

LXXXII.
Lolah's eyes sparkled at the proposition;
But poor Dud d, with large drops in her own
Resulting from the scolding or the vision,
Implied that present pardon might be shown
For this first fault, and that on no condition
(Shed she added in a soft and piteous tone)
Juanna should be taken from her, and
Her future dreams should all be kept in hand.

LXXXIII.
She promised never more to have a dream,
At least to dream so loudly as just now;
She wonder'd at herself how she could scream—
"Twas foolish, nervous, as she must allow,
A fond hallucination, and a theme
For laughter—but she felt her spirits low,
And begg'd they would excuse her; she'd get over
This weakness in a few hours, and recover
LXXXIV.
And here Juanna kindly interposed,
And said she felt herself extremely well
Where she then was, as her sound sleep disclosed,
When all around rang like a tocsin bell:
She did not find herself the least disposed
To quit her gentle partner, and to dwell
Apart from one who had no sin to show,
Save that of dreaming once "mal-o-propos."

LXXXV.
As thus Juanna spoke, Dudu turn’d round,
And hid her face within Juanna’s breast;
Her neck alone was seen, but that was found
The color of a budding rose’s crest.
I can’t tell why she blush’d, nor can expound
The mystery of this rupture of their rest:
All that I know is, that the facts I state
Are true as truth has ever been of late.

LXXXVI.
And so good night to them,—or, if you will,
Good morrow—for the cock had crowed, and light
Began to clothe each Asiatic hill,
And the mosque crescent struggled into sight
Of the long caravan, which in the chill
Of dewy dawn wound slowly round each height
That stretches to the stony belt which girds
Asia, where Kaff looks down upon the Kurds.

LXXXVII.
With the first ray, or rather gray of morn,
Gulbeyaz rose from restlessness; and pale
As Passion rises, with its bosom worn,
Array’d herself with mantle, gem, and veil.
The nightingale that sings with the deep thorn,
Which fable places in her breast of wail,
Is lighter of heart and voice than those
Whose headlong passions form their proper woes.

LXXXVIII.
And that’s the moral of this composition,
If people would but see its real drift:—
But that they will not do without suspicion,
Because all gentle readers have the gift
Of closing ‘gainst the light their orbs of vision;
While gentle writers also love to lift
Their voices ‘gainst each other, which is natural—
The numbers are too great for them to flatter all.

LXXXIX.
Rose the sultana from a bed of splendor,—
Softer than the soft Sybarite’s, who cried
Aloud, because his feelings were too tender
To brook a ruffled rose-leaf by his side,—
So beautiful that art could little mend her,
Though pale with conflicts between love and pride:
So agitated was she with her error,
She did not even look into the mirror.

XC.
Also arose, about the self-same time,
Perhaps a little later, her great lord,
Master of thirty kingdoms so sublime,
And of a wife by whom he was abhor’d;
A thing of much less import in that clime—
At least to those of incomes which afford
The filling up their whole connubial cargo—
Then where two wives are under an embargo.

XCI.
He did not think much on the matter, nor
Indeed on any other: as a man,
He liked to have a handsome paramour
At hand, as one may like to have a fan,
And therefore of Circassians had good store,
As an amusement after the Divan;
Though an unusual fit of love, or duty,
Had made him lately bask in his bride’s beauty

XCII.
And now he rose: and after due ablutions,
Exacted by the customs of the East,
And prayers, and other pious evolutions,
He drank six cups of coffee at the least,
And then withdrew to hear about the Russians,
Whose victories had recently increased,
In Catharine’s reign, whom glory still adores
As greatest of all sovereigns and—

XCIII.
But oh, thou grand legitimate Alexander!
Her son’s son,—let not this last phrase offend
Thine ear, if it should reach,—and now rhymes wan:
Almost as far as Petersburg, and lend
A dreadful impulse to each loud meander
Of murmuring Liberty’s wide waves, which blend
Their roar even with the Baltic’s,—so you be
Your father’s son, ’tis quite enough for me.

XCV.
To call men love-begotten, or proclaim
Their mothers as the antipodes of Timon,
That hater of man, would be a shame,
A libel, or what’er you please to rhyme on:
But people’s ancestors are history’s game;
And if one lady’s slip could leave a crime on
All generations, I should like to know
What pedigree the best would have to show?

XCVI.
Had Catherine and the sultan understood
Their own true interest, which kings rarely know,
Until ’tis taught by lessons rather rude,
There was a way to end their strife, although
Perhaps precarious, had they but thought good,
Without the aid of prince or plenipo:
She to dismiss her guards, and he his harem,
And for their other matters, meet and share ‘em.

XCVII.
But as it was, his highness had to hold
His daily council upon ways and means,
How to encounter with this martial scold,
This modern Amazon and queen of queens;
And the perplexity could not be told
Of all the pillars of the state, which leans
Sometimes a little heavy on the backs
Of those who cannot lay on a new tax.

Meantime Gulbeyaz, when her king was gone,
Retired into her boudoir, a sweet place
For love or breakfast; private, pleasing, lone,
And rich with all contrivances which grace
Those gay recesses,—many a precious stone
Sparkled along its roof, and many a vase
Of porcelain hold in the fitter’d flowers,
Those captive soothers of a captive’s hours.
XCVIII.

Mother of pearl, and porphry, and marble,
Vied with each other on this costly spot;
And singing birds without were heard to warble;
And the stain’d glass which lighted this fair grot
Varied each ray;—but all descriptions garble
The true effect, and so we had better not
Be too minute; an outline is the best,—
A lively reader’s fancy does the rest.

XCIX.

And here she summon’d Baba, and required
Don Juan at his hands, and information
Of what had pass’d since all the slaves retired,
And whether he had occupied their station;
If matters had been managed as desired,
And his disguise with due consideration
Kept up; and, above all, the where and how
He had pass’d the night, was what she wish’d to
know.

C.

Baba, with some embarrassment, replied
To this long catechism of questions, ask’d
More easily than answer’d,—that he had tried
His best to obey in what he had been task’d;
But there seem’d something that he wish’d to hide;
Which hesitation more betray’d than mask’d;
He scratch’d his ear, the infallible resource
To which embarrass’d people have recourse.

Cl.

Gulbeyaz was no model of true patience,
Nor much disposed to wait in word or deed;
She liked quick answers in all conversations;
And when she saw him stumbling like a steed
In his replies, she puzzled him for fresh ones;
And as his speech grew still more broken-kneed,
Her cheek began to flush, her eyes to sparkle,
And her proud brow’s blue veins to swell and darken.

CII.

When Baba saw these symptoms, which he knew
To bode him no great good, he deprecat’d
Her anger, and beseech’d she’d hear him through—
He could not help the thing which he related:
Then out it came at length, that to Dudu
Juan was given in charge, as hath been stated;
But not by Baba’s fault, he said, and swore on
The holy camel’s hump, besides the Koran.

CIII.

The chief dame of the Oda, upon whom
The discipline of the whole haram bore,
As soon as they reenter’d their own room,
For Baba’s function stopp’d short at the door,
Had settled all: nor could he then presume
(The aforesaid Baba) just then to do more,
Without exciting such suspicion as
Might make the matter still worse than it was.

CIV.

He hoped, indeed he thought, he could be sure
Juan had not betray’d himself; in fact,
Twas certain that his conduct had been pure,
Because a foolish or imprudent act
Would not alone have made him insecure,
But ended in his being found out and sack’d,
And thrown into the sea.—Thus Baba spoke
Of all save Dudu’s dream, which was no joke.

CV.

This he discreetly kept in the back ground,
And talk’d away—and might have talk’d till now
For any further answer that he found,
So deep an anguish wrung Gulbeyaz’ brow;
Her cheek turn’d ashes, ears rung, brain whirl’d
As if she had received a sudden blow, [round,
And the heart’s dew of pain sprang fast and chilly
O’er her fair front, like morning’s on a lily.

CVI.

Although she was not of the fainting sort,
Baba thought she would faint, but there he err’d—
It was but a convulsion, which, though short,
Can never be described; we all have heard,
And some of us have felt thus “all amort,”
When things beyond the common have occur’d;
Gulbeyaz proved in that brief agony
What she could ne’er express—then how should I?

CVII.

She stood a moment, as a Pythoness
Stands on her tripod, agonized, and full
Of inspiration gather’d from delicious
When all the heart-strings like wild horses pull
The heart asunder;—then, as more or less
Their speed abated, or their strength grew dull,
She sunk down on her seat by slow degrees,
And bow’d her throbbing head o’er trembling knees

CVIII.

Her face declined, and was unseen; her hair
Fell in long tresses like the weeping willow
Sweeping the marble underneath her chair,
Or rather soft, (for it was all pillow,—
A low, soft ottoman,) and black despair
Stirr’d up and down her bosom like a billow,
Which rushes to some shore, whose shingles check
Its farther course, but must receive its wreck.

CIX.

Her head hung down, and her long hair in stooping
Conceal’d her features better than a veil;
And one hand o’er the ottoman lay drooping.
White, waxen, and as alabaster pale;
Would that I were a painter! to be grouping
All that a poet drags into detail!
Oh that my words were colors! but their tints
May serve, perhaps, as outlines or slight hints.

CX.

Baba, who knew by experience when to talk
And when to hold his tongue, now held it till
This passion might blow o’er, nor dared to balk
Gulbeyaz’ taciturn or speaking will.
At length she rose up, and began to walk
Slowly along the room, but silent still,
And her brow clear’d, but not her troubled eye—
The wind was down, but still the sea ran high.

CXI.

She stopp’d, and raised her head to speak—hesitated
And then moved on again with rapid pace;
Then slacken’d it, which is the march most caused
By deep emotion— you may sometimes trace
A feeling in each footstep, as disclosed
By Sallust in his Catiline, who, chased
By all the demons of all passions, show’d
Their work even by the way in which he trode
BYRON'S WORKS.

CXII.
Gulbeyaz stopp'd and beckon'd Baba:—"Slave:
Bring the two slaves!" she said, in a low tone,
But one which Baba did not like to brave,
And yet he shudder'd, and seem'd rather prone
To prove reluctant, and begg'd leave to crave
(Though he well knew the meaning) to be shown
What slaves her highness wish'd to indicate,
For fear of any error like the late.

CXIII.
"The Georgian and her paramour," replied
The imperial bride—and added, "Let the boat
Be ready by the secret portal's side: [throat,
You know the rest." The words stuck in her
Despite her injured love and fliry pride;
And of this Baba willingly took note,
And begg'd, by every hair of Mahomet's beard,
She would revoke the order he had heard.

CXIV.
'To hear is to obey," he said; "but still,
Sultana, think upon the consequence:
It is not that I shall not all fulfil
Your orders, even in their severest sense;
But such precipitation may end ill,
Even at your own imperative expense;
I do not mean destruction and exposure,
In case of any premature disclosure;

CXV.
"But your own feelings.—Even should all the rest
Be hidden by the rolling waves, which hide
Already many a once love-beaten breast
Deep in the caverns of the deadly tide—
You love this boyish, new seraglio guest,
And—if this violent remedy be tried—
Excuse my freedom, when I here assure you,
That killing him is not the way to cure you."

CXVI.
"What dost thou know of love or feeling?—wretch!
Begone!" she cried, with kindling eyes, "and do
My bidding!" Baba vanish'd; for to stretch
His own remonstrance further, he well knew,
Might end in acting as his own "Jack Ketch;"
And, though he wish'd extremely to get through
This awkward business without harm to others,
He still preferr'd his own neck to another's.

CXVII.
Away he went then upon his commission,
Growling and grumbling in good Turkish phrase
Against all women, of whate'er condition,
Especially sultanas and their ways;
Their obstinacy, pride, and indecision,
Their never knowing their own mind two days,
The trouble that they gave, their immorality,
Which made him daily bless his own neutrality.

CXVIII.
And then he call'd his brethren to his aid,
And sent one on a summons to the pair,
that they must instantly be well array'd,
And, above all, be comb'd even to a hair,
And brought before the empress, who had made
Inquiries after them with kindest care:
At which Dudu look'd strange, and Juan silly;
But go they must at once, and will I—nill I.

CXIX.
And here I leave them at their preparation
For the imperial presence, wherein whether
Gulbeyaz show'd them both commiseration
Or got rid of the parties altogether—
Like other angry ladies of her nation,—
Are things the turning of a hair or feather,—
May settle; but far be 't from me to anticipate
In what way feminin caprice may dissipate.

CXX.
I leave them for the present, with good wishes,
Though doubts of their well-doing, to arrange
Another part of history; for the dishes
Of this our banquet we must sometimes change
And, trusting Juan may escape the fishes,
Although his situation now seems strange
And scarce secure, as such digressions are fair,
The muse will take a little touch at warfare.

CANTO VII.

I.
Oh love! Oh glory! what are ye? who art
Around us ever, rarely to alight:
There's not a meteor in the polar sky
Of such transcendent and more fleeting flight,
Chill, and chain'd to cold earth, we lift our sign
Our eyes in search of either lovely light;
A thousand and a thousand colors they
Assume, then leave us on our freezing way.

II.
And such as they are, such my present tale is,
A nondescript and ever-varying rhyme,
A versified Aurora Borealis,
Which flashes o'er a waste and icy clime.
When we know what all are, we must bewail us,
But ne'ertheless, I hope it is no crime
To laugh at all things: for I wish to know
What, after all, are all things—but a show?

III.
They accuse me—me—the present writer of
The present poem, of—I know not what,—
A tendency to underrate and scoff
At human power and virtue, and all that;
And this they say in language rather rough;
Good God! I wonder what they would be at?
I say no more than has been said in Dante's
Verse, and by Solomon, and by Cervantes,

IV.
By Swift, by Machiavel, by Rochefoncenc
By Fénelon, by Luther, and by Plato;
By Tillotson, and Wesley, and Rousseau,
Who knew this life was not worth a potato.
'Tis not their fault, nor mine, if this be so—
For my part, I pretend not to be Cato,
Nor even Diogenes.—We live and die,
But which is best you know no more than L
V.
Necrotes said, our only knowledge was, [pleasant
"To know that nothing could be known;" a
Science enough, which levels to an ass
Each man of wisdom, future, past, or present.
Newton, (that proverb of the mind,) alas!
Declared, with all his grand discoveries recent,
That he himself felt only "like a youth
Picking up shells by the great ocean—Truth."

VI.
Ecclesiastes said, that all is vanity—
Most modern preachers say the same, or show it
By their examples of true Christianity;
In short, all know, or very soon may know it;
And in this scene of all-confess'd inanity,
By saint, by sage, by preacher, and by poet,
Must I restrain me, through the fear of strife,
From holding up the nothingness of life?

VII.
Dogs, or men! (for I flatter you in saying
That ye are dogs—your betters far)—ye may
Read, or read not, what I am now essaying
To show ye what ye are in every way.
As little as the moon stops for the baying
Of wolves, will the bright Muse withdraw one ray
From out her skies;—then howl your idle wrath!—
While she still silvers o'er your gloomy path.

VIII.
"Fierce loves and faithless wars"—I am not sure
If this be the right reading—'tis no matter;
The fact's about the same; I am secure;—
I sing them both, and am about toatter
A town which did a famous siege endure,
And was beleaguer'd both by land and water
By Suvaroff, or Anglico Suwarrow,
Who loved blood as an alderman loves marrow.

IX.
The fortress is call'd Ismail, and is placed
Upon the Danube's left branch and left bank,
With buildings in the ornamental taste,
But still a fortress of the foremost rank,
Or was, at least, unless 'tis since defaced,
Which with your conquerors is a common prank;
It stands some eighty verstas from the high sea,
And measures round of toises thousands three.

X.
Within the extent of this fortification
A borough is comprised, along the height
Upon the left, which, from its loftier station,
Commands the city, and upon its site
A Greek had raised around this elevation
A quantity of palisades upright,
So placed as to impede the fire of those
Who held the place, and to assist the foe's.

XI.
This circumstance may serve to give a notion
Of the high talents of this new Vauban:
But the town ditch below was deep as ocean,
The ramrart higher than you'd wish to hang:
But then there was a great want of precaution,
(Prithee, excuse this engineering slang.)
Nor would advanced, nor cover'd way was there,
To hint at least "Here is no thoroughfare."

XII.
But a stone bastion, with a narrow gorge,
And walls as thick as most skulls born as yet.
Two batteries, cap-a-pie, as our Saint George,
Case-mated one, and 'tether a "barbette,
Of Danube's bank took formidable charge;
While two-and-twenty cannon, dully set,
Rose o'er the town's right side, in bristling tier
Forty feet high, upon a cavalier.

XIII.
But from the river the town's open quite,
Because the Turks could never be persuaded
A Russian vessel e'er would heave in sight;
And such their credo was, till they were invaded
When it grew rather late to set things right.
But as the Danube could not well be waded,
They look'd upon the Museovite flotilla,
And only shouted, "Allah!" and "Dis Millah!"

XIV.
The Russians now were ready to attack;
But oh, ye goddesses of war and glory!
How shall I spell the name of each Cossack
Who were immortal, could one tell their story?
Alas! what to their memory can lack?
Achilles' self was not more grim and gory
Than thousands of this new and polish'd nation,
Whose names want nothing but—pronunciation.

XV.
Still I'll record a few, if but to increase
Our enphony—there was Strongenoff, and Strokó-
Meknop, Serge Lwow, Arseniew of modern Greece,
And Tschitshakoff, and Roguenoff, and Choke-
And others of twelve consonants apiece:—
And more might be found out, if I could poke
Enough into gazettes; but Fame, (capricious trumpeter!) It seems, has got an ear as well as trumpet,

XVI.
And cannot tune those discords of narration,
Which may be names at Moscow, into rhyme,
Yet there were several worth commemoration,
As e'er was virgin of a nuptial chime;
Soft words, too, fitted for the peroration
Of Londonderry, drawing against time,
Ending in "'schakin," "'ouskin," "Iskidy:
"'ouski;"
Of whom we can insert but Rousamouski,

XVII.
Scherematoft and Chrematoft, Koklophiti,
Koklobski, Kourakini, and Mouskin Pouskin
All proper men of weapons, as e'er scoff'd high,
Against a foe, or ran a sabre through skin.
Little cared they for Mahomet or Mutti.
Unless to make their kettle-drums a new skin
Out of their hides, if parchment had grown dear,
And no more handy substitute been near.

XVIII.
Then there were foreigners of much renown,
Of various nations, and all volunteers;
Not fighting for their country or its crown,
But wishing to be one day brigadiers;
Also to have the sacking of a town—
A pleasant thing to young men at their years;
"Mongst them were several Englishmen of pith,
Sixteen call'd Thompson, and nineteen named Smith
XIX.

Jack Thompson and Bill Thompson;—all the rest
Had been call’d "Jemmy," after the great bard;
I don’t know whether they had arms or crest,
But such a godfather’s as good a card.
Three of the Smiths were Peters; but the best
Among them all, hard blows to inflict or ward,
Was he, since so renown’d "in country quarters
At Halifax;" but now he served the Tartars.

XX.

The rest were Jacks and Gills, and Wills and Bills;
But when I’ve added that the elder Jack Smith
Was born in Cumberland among the hills,
And that his father was an honest blacksmith,
I’ve said all I know of a name that fills [smith,]
Three lines of the despatch in taking "Schmack-
A village of Moldaviá’s waste, wherein
He fell, immortal in a bulletin.

XXI.

I wonder (although Mars no doubt’s a god I
Praise) if a man’s name in a bulletin
May make up for a bullet In his body?
I hope this little question is no sin,
Because, though I am but a simple noddy,
I think one Shakspeare puts the same thought in
The mouth of some one in his plays so doating,
Which many people pass for wits by quoting.

XXII.

Then there were Frenchmen, gallant, young, and
But I’m too great a patriot to record [gay:
Their Gallic names upon a glorious day;
I’d rather tell ten lies than say a word
Of truth;—such truths are treason: they betray
Their country, and, as traitors are abhor’d,
Who name the French and English, save to show
How peace should make John Bull the Frenchman’s foe.

XXIII.

The Russians, having built two batteries on
An isle near Ismáil, had two ends in view;
The first was to bombard it, and knock down
The public buildings, and the private too,
No matter what poor souls might be undone.
The city’s shape suggested this, ‘tis true;
Form’d like an amphitheatre, each dwelling
Presented a fine mark to throw a shell in.

XXIV.

The second object was to profit by
The moment of the general constellation,
To attack the Turk’s flotillas, which lay nigh,
Extremely tranquil, anchor’d at its station.
But a third motive was as probably
To frighten them into capitulation;
A phantasy which sometimes seizes warriors,
Unless they are game as bull-dogs and fox-terriers;

XXV.

A habit rather blameable, which is
That of despising those we combat with,
Common in many cases, was in this
The cause of killing Tchitchitzkoff and Smith,
One of the valorous “Smiths” whom we shall miss
Out of those nineteen who late rhymed to “pith;”
But ‘tis a name so spread o’er “Sir” and “Madam,”
That one would think the first who bore it “Adam.”

XXVI.

The Russian batteries were incomplete,
Because they were constructed in a hurry.
Thus, the same cause which makes a verse want rest
And throws a cloud o’er Longman and John Mur
When the sale of new books is not so fleet [raw
As they who print them think is necessary,
May like-wise put off for a time what story
Sometimes calls “muder,” and at others “glory.”

XXVII.

Whether it was their engineers’ stupidity,
Their haste, or waste, I neither know nor care,
Or some contractor’s personal cupidity,
Saving his soul by cheating in the ware
Of homicide; but there was no solidity
In the new batteries erected there;
They either miss’d, or they were never miss’d,
And added greatly to the missing list.

XXVIII.

A sad miscalculation about distance
Made all their naval matters incorrect;
Three fire-ships lost their amiable existence,
Before they reach’d a spot to take effect:
The match was lit too soon, and no assistance
Could remedy this lumberly defect;
They blew up in the middle of the river,
While, though ‘twas dawn, the Turks slept fast as ever.

XXIX.

At seven they rose, however, and survey’d
The Russ flotilla getting under way;
"Twas nine, when still advancing undismay’d,
Within a cable’s length their vessels lay
Off Ismáil, and commenced a cannonade,
Which was return’d with interest, I may say,
And by a fire of musquetry and grape,
And shells and shot of every size and shape.

XXX.

For six hours bore they without intermission
The Turkish fires; and, aided by their own [soon
Land batteries, work’d their guns with great preci-
At length they found mere cannonade alone
By no means would produce the town’s submission,
And made a signal to retreat at one.
One bark blew up; a second, near the works
Running aground, was taken by the Turks.

XXXI.

The Moslem, too, had lost both ships and men;
But when they saw the enemy retire,
Their Delhis mann’d some boats, and sail’d again.
And gall’d the Russians with a heavy fire,
And tried to make a landing on the main;
But here the effect fell short of their desire
Count Damas drove them back into the water
Pell-mell, and with a whole gazette of slaughter.

XXXII.

"If,” (says the historian here) "I could report
All that Russians did upon this day,
I think that several volumes would fall short,
And I should still have many things to say;
And so he says no more—but pays his court
To some distinguish’d strangers in that fray,
The Prince de Ligne, and Langeron, and Damas.
Names great as any that the roll of fame has
XXXIII.
This being the case, may show us what fame is:
For out of three "preux Chevaliers," how
Many of common readers give a guess
That such existed? (and they may live now
For aught we know.) Renown's all hit or miss;
There's fortune even in fame, we must allow.
"Tis true the Memoirs of the Prince de Ligne
Have half withdrawn from him oblivion's screen.

XXXIV.
But here are men who fought in gallant actions
As gallantly as ever heroes fought,
But buried in the heap of such transactions—
Their names are seldom found, nor often sought.
Thus even good fame may suffer sad contractions,
And is extinguish'd sooner than she ought:
Of all our modern battles, I will bet
You can't repeat nine names from each gazette.

XXXV.
In short, this last attack, though rich in glory,
Show'd that somewhere, somehow, there was a fault;
And Admiral Ribas (known in Russian story)
Most strongly recommended an assault;
In which he was opposed by young and hoary,
Which made a long debate:—but I must halt;
For if I wrote down every warrior's speech,
I doubt few readers e'er would mount the breach.

XXXVI.
There was a man, if that he was a man,—
Not that his manhood could be call'd in question,
For, had he not been Herencles, his span
Had been as short in youth as indigestion
Made his last illness, when, all worn and wan,
He died beneath a tree, as much unbliss'd on
The soil of the green province he had wasted,
As e'er was locust on the land it blasted:—

XXXVII.
This was Potemkin—a great thing in days
When homicide and harlotry made great,
If, stars and titles could entail long praise,
His glory might half equal his estate.
This fellow, being six foot high, could raise
A kind of pantomime proportionate
In the then sovereign of the Russian people,
Who measured men as you would do a steeple.

XXXVIII.
While things were in abeyance, Ribas sent
A courier to the prince, and he succeeded
In ordering the matters after his own bent,
I cannot tell the way in which he pleaded,
But shortly he had cause to entertain.
In the mean time the batteries proceeded,
And fourscore cannon on the Danube's border
Were briskly fired and answer'd in due order.

XXXIX.
But on the thirteenth, when already part
Of the troops were embark'd, the siege to raise,
A courier on the spur inspired new heart
Into all panthers for newspaper praise,
As well as dilettanti in war's art,
By his despatches couched in Pathy phrase,
Anouncing the appointment of that lover of
Battles to the command, Field-Marshal Suvaroff.

XL.
The letter of the prince to the same marshal
Was worthy of a Spartan, had the cause
Been one to which a good heart could be partial,
Defence of freedom, country, or of laws;
But as it was mere lust of power to o'er-arch all
With its proud brow, it merits slight applause.
Save for its style, which said, all in a trice,
"You will take Ismail, at whatever price."

XLI.
"Let there be light!" said God, "and there was light!"
"Let there be blood!" says man, and there's a sea.
The flat of this spoil'd child of the night
(For day ne'er saw his merits) could decreed
More evil in an hour, than thirty bright
Summers could renovate, though they should be
Lovely as those which ripen'd Eden's fruit—
For war cuts up not only branch but root.

XLII.
Our friends the Turks, who with loud "Allah" now
Began to signalize the Russ retreat,
Were damnsably mistaken; few are slow
In thinking that their enemy is beat,
(Or beaten, if you insist on grammar, though
I never think about it in a heat;) But here I say the Turks were much mistaken.
Who, hating hogs, yet wish'd to save their bacon.

XLIII.
For, on the sixteenth, at full gallop drew
In sight two horsemen, who were deem'd Cossacks
For some time, till they came in nearer view.
They had but little baggage at their backs,
For there were but three shirts between the two,
But on they rode upon two Ukraine hacks,
Till, in approaching, were at length descried
In this plain pair, Suvaroff and his guide.

XLIV.
"Great joy to London now!" says some great fool
When London had a grand illumination,
Which, to that battle conjurer, John Bull,
Is of all dreams the first hallucination;
So that the streets of color'd lamps are full,
That sage (said John) surrenders at discretion
His purse, his soul, his sense, and even his nonsense
To gratify, like a huge moth, this one sense.

XLV.
'Tis strange that he should further "damn his eyes,
For they are damn'd: that once all-famous oath
Is to the devil now no further prize,
Since John has lately lost the use of both.
Debt he calls wealth, and taxes paradise;
And Famine, with her gaunt and bony growth,
Which stares him in the face, he won't examine.
Or swear that Ceres hath begotten Famine.

XLVI.
But to the tale. Great joy unto the camp!
To Russian, Tartar, English, French, Cossass
O'er whom Suvaroff shone like a gas lamp
Presaging a most luminous attack;
Or, like a wisp along the marsh so damp,
Which leads beholders on a boggy walk,
He flitted to and fro, a dancing light.
Which all who saw it follow'd, wrong or right.
XLVII.
But certes matters took a different face;
There was enthusiasm and much applause,
The fleet and camp saluted with great grace,
And all pressed good fortune to their cause.
Within a cannon-shot length of the place
They drew, constructed ladders, repair’d flaws
In former works, made new, prepared fascines,
And all kinds of benevolent machines.

XLVIII.
Tis thus the spirit of a single mind
Makes that of multitudes take one direction,
As roll the waters to the breathing wind,
Or roars the herd beneath the bull’s protection;
Or as a little dog will lead the blind,
Or a bellwether form the flock’s connection
By tinkling sounds, when they go forth to victual:
Such is the sway of your great men o’er little.

XLIX.
The whole camp rung with joy; you would have
That they were going to a marriage-feast, [thought
(This metaphor, I think, holds good as aught,
Since there is discord after both at least.)
There was not now a luggage-boy but sought
Danger, and spoil with ardor much increased;
And why? because a little, odd, old man,
Stript to his shirt, was come to lead the van.

LI.
But so it was; and every preparation
Was made with all alacrity; the first
Detachment of three columns took its station,
And waited but for the signal’s voice to burst
Upon the foe; the second’s ordination
Was also in three columns, with a thrist
For glory gaping o’er a sea of slaughter:
The third, in columns two, attack’d by water.

LII.
New batteries were erected; and was hold
A general council, in which unanimity,
That stranger to most councils, here prevail’d,
As sometimes happens in a great extremity;
And every difficulty being dispell’d,
Glory began to dawn with due sublimity,
While Suvaroff, determined to obtain it,
Was teaching his recruits to use the bayonet. 1

LIII.
It is an actual fact, that he, commander-
In-chief, in proper person delign’d to drill
The awkward squad, and could afford to squander
His time, a corporal’s duties to fulfil;
Is as ye’d break a sucking salamander
To swallow flame, and never take it ill;
He shew’d them how to mount a ladder (which
Was not like Jacob’s) or to cross a ditch.

LIV.
Most thingswere in this post’re on the eye
Of the assault, and all the camp was in
A stern repose: which you would scarce conceiv’t
Yet men, resolved to dash through thick and thin
Are very silent when they once believe
That all is settled:—there was little din,
For some were thinking of their home and friends,
And others of themselves and latter ends.

LV.
Suvarrow chiefly was on the alert,
Surveying, drilling, ordering, jesting, pondering
For the man was, we safely may assert,
A thing to wonder at beyond most wondering;
Hero, buffoon, half-demon, and half dirt,
Praying, instructing, desolating, blundering;
Now Mars, now Monus; and when bent to storm
A fortress, Harlequin in uniform.

LVI.
The day before the assault, while upon drill—
For this great conqueror play’d the corporal—
Some Cossacks, hovering like hawks round a hill,
Had met a party, towards the twilight’s fall,
One of whom spoke their tongue—or well or ill,
’Twas much that he was understood at all;
But whether from his voice or speech, or manner,
They found that he had fought beneath their banner

LVII.
Whereon, immediately at his request, [ters:
They brought him and his comrades to head-quar-
Their dress was Moslem, but you might have guess’d
That these were merely masquerading Tartars,
And that beneath each Turkish-fashioned vest
Lurk’d Christianity; who sometimes barters
Her inward grace for outward show, and makes
It difficult to shun some strange mistakes.

LVIII.
Suvarrow, who was standing in his shirt,
Before a company of Calmucks, drilling,
Exclaiming, fooling, swearing at the inert,
And lecturing on the noble art of killing,—
Fer, deeming human clay but common dirt,
This great philosopher was thus instilling
His maxims, which, to martial comprehension,
Proved death in battle equal to a pension—

LIX.
Suvarrow, when he saw this company
Of Cossacks and their prey, turn’d round and cast
Upon them his slow brow and piercing eye:—[last
“Whence come ye?”—“From Constantinople
Captives just now escaped,” was the reply. [past
“What are ye?”—“What you see us.” Briefly
This dialogue; for he who answer’d knew
To whom he spoke, and made his words but few.

LX.
"Your names?"—"Mine’s Johnson, and my com-
rade’s Juan;
The other two are women, and the third
Is neither man nor woman.” The chief threw on
The party a slight glance, then said: “I have
Your name before, the second is a new one; [heard
To bring the other three here was absurd;
But let that pass:—I think I’ve heard your name
In the Nikolaiev regiment?—“The same."—
DON JUAN.

LXI.
You served at Widdin? — "Yes." — "You led the attack?"
"I did." — "What next?" — "I really hardly
You were the first of! the breach?" — "I was not
At least, to follow those who might be so." —
"What follow'd?" — "A shot laid me on my back,
And I became a prisoner to the foe." — [rounded]
"You shall have vengeance, for the town sur-
is twice as strong as that where you were wounded.

LXII.
"Where will you serve?" — "Where'er you please."
You like to be the hope of the forlorn, ["I know
And doubtless would be foremost on the foe
After the hardships you've already borne.
And this young fellow! say, what can he do? —
He with the beardless chin, and garments torn?"
"Why, general, if he hath no greater fault
To war than love, he had better lead the assault."

LXIII.
"He shall, if that he dare," Here Juan bow'd
Low as the compliment deserved. Suwarrow
Continued: "Your old regiment's allow'd,
By special providence, to lead to-morrow.
Or it may be to-night, the assault I've vow'd
To several saints, that shortly plough or harrow
Shall pass o'er what was Ismahl, and its sunk
Be unimpeded by the proudest mosque.

LXIV.
"So now, my lads, for glory!" — Here he turn'd,
And drill'd away in the most classic Russian,
Until each high, heroic bosom burn'd
For cash and conquest, as if from a cushion
A preacher had held forth, (who nobly spurn'd [on]
All earthly goods save tithes,) and bade them push
To slay the Pagans who resisted, battering
The armies of the Christian Empress Catherine.

LXV.
Johnson, who knew by this long colloquy,
Himself a favorite, ventured to address
Suwarrow, though engaged with accents high.
In his resumed amusement. "I confess
My debt, in being thus allow'd to die
Among the foremost; but if you'd express
Explicitly our several posts, my friend
And self would know what duty to attend." —

LXVI.
"Right! I was busy, and forgot. Why you
Will join your former regiment, which should be
Now under arms. Ho! Katskoff, take him to
(Here he call'd up a Polish orderly) —
His post, I meant the regiment Nikolaiow.
The stranger stripping may remain with me;
He's a fine boy. The women may be sent
To the other baggage, or to the sick tent."

LXVII.
But here a sort of scene began to ensue:
The ladies,—who by no means had been bred
To be disposed of in a way so new,
Although their haram education led
Doubtless to that of doctrines the most true,
Passive obedience,—now raised up the head,
With flashing eyes and starting tears, and flung
Their arms, a. hens their wings about their young,

LXVIII.
O'er the promoted couple of brave men
Who were thus honor'd by the greatest chief
That ever people shift with heroes slain,
Or plunged a province or a realm in grief.
Oh, foolish mortals! always taught in vain!
Oh, glorious laurel! since for one sole leaf
Of thine imaginary deathless tree,
Of blood and tears must flow the unebbing sea.

LXIX.
Suwarrow, who had small regard for tears,
And not much sympathy for blood, survey'd
The women with their hair about their ears,
And natural agonies, with a slight shade
Of feeling; for, however habit sears
Men's hearts against whole millions, when their
Is butchery, sometimes a single sorrow
Will touch even heroes—and such was Suwarrow

LXX.
He said—and in the kindest Calmuck tone—
"Why, Johnson, what the devil do you mean
By bringing women here? They shall be shown
All the attention possible, and seen
In safety to the wagons, where alone
In fact they can be safe. You should have been
Aware this kind of baggage never thrives:
Save wed a year, I hate recruits with wives."

LXXI.
"May it please your excellency," thus replied
Our British friend, "these are the wives of others
And not our own. I am too qualified
By service with my military brothers,
To break the rules by bringing one's own bride
Into a camp; I know that nought so bothers
The hearts of the heroic on a charge,
As leaving a small family at large.

LXXII.
"But these are but two Turkish ladies, who
With their attendant aided our escape,
And afterwards accompanied us through
A thousand perils in this dubious shape.
To me this kind of life is not so new;
To them, poor things! it is an awkward step;
I therefore, if you wish me to fight freely,
Request that they may both be used gentlyly."

LXXIII.
Meantime, these two poor girls, with swimming eyes
Look'd on as if in doubt if they could trust
Their own protectors; nor was their surprise
Less than their grief (and truly not less just)
To see an old man, rather wild than wise
In aspect, plainly clad, besmeared with dust,
Strip'd to his waistcoat, and that not too clean,
More fear'd than all the sultans ever seen.

LXXIV.
For every thing seem'd resting on his nod.
As they could read in all eyes. Now to them
Who were accustom'd, as a sort of god,
To see the sultan, rich in many a gem,
Like an imperial peacock stalk abroad,
(That royal bird, whose tail's a ciadem,)
With all the pomp of power, it was a doubt
How power could condescend to do without
LXXV.
John Jonsson, seeing their extreme dismay,
Though little versed in feelings oriental,
Suggested some slight comfort in his way.
Don Juan, who was much more sentimental,
Swore they should see him by the dawn of day,
Or that the Russian army should repent all:
And, strange to say, they found some consolation
In this—for females like exaggeration.

LXXVI.
And then, with tears, and sighs, and some slight
kisses,
They parted for the present—these to await,
According to the artillery's hits or misses,
What sages call Chance, Providence, or Fate—
(Uncertainty is one of many blisses,
A mortgage on Humanity's estate)—
While their beloved friends began to arm,
To burn a town which never did them harm.

LXXVII.
Suarrow, who but saw things in the gross—
Being much too gross to see them in detail;
Who calculated life as so much dross,
And as the wind a widow'd nation's wall,
And cared as little for his army's loss
(So that their efforts should at length prevail)
As wife and friends did for the boils of Job—
What was 't to him to hear two women sob?

LXXVIII.
Nothing. The work of glory still went on,
In preparations for a cannonade
As terrible as that of Ilion,
If Homer had found mortar's ready made;
But now, instead of slaying Priam's son,
We only can but talk of escalade,
[bullets,
Bombs, drums, guns, bastions, batteries, bayonets,
Hard words which stick in the soft Muses' gullets.

LXXIX.
Oh, thou eternal Homer! who couldst charm
All ears, though long—all ages, though so short,
By merely wondring with poetic arm
Arms to which men will never more resort,
Unless gunpowder should be found to harm
Much less than is the hope of every court,
Which now is leagued young Freedom to annoy;
But they will not find Liberty a Troy—

LXXX.
Oh, thou eternal Homer! I have now
To paint a siege, wherein more men were slain,
With deadlier engines and a speedier blow,
Than in thy Greek gazette of that campaign,
And yet, like all men else, I must allow,
To 'vie with thee, would be about as vain
As for a brook to cope with ocean's flood;
But still we moderns equal you in blood—

LXXXI.
If not in poetry, at least in fact;
And fact is truth, the grand desideratum!
Of which, how'er the Muse describes each act,
There should be, ne'ertheless, a slight substratum.
But now the town is going to be attack'd;
Great deeds are doing—how shall I relate 'em?
Souls of immortal generals! Phoebus watches
To color up his rays from your despatches.

LXXXII.
Oh, ye great bulletin of Buonaparte!
Oh, ye less grand long lists of kill'd and wound'd
Shade of Leonidas! who fought so hearty, (confounded)
When my poor Greece was once, as now sur
Oh, Caesar's Commentaries! now impart ye,
Shadows of glory! (lest I be confounded)
A portion of your fading twilight hues,
So beautiful, so fleeting, to the Muse.

LXXXIII.
When I call "fading" martial immortality,
I mean, that every age and every year,
And almost every day, in sad reality,
Some sucking hero is compell'd to rear,
Who, when we come to sum up the totality
Of deeds to human happiness most dear,
Turns out to be a butcher in great business,
Afflicting young folks with a sort of dizziness.

LXXXIV.
Medals, ranks, ribbands, lace, embroidery, scarlet,
Are things immortal to immortal man,
As purple to the Babylonian harlot:
An uniform to boys is like a fan
To women: there is scarce a crimson varlet
But deems himself the first in glory's van,
But glory's glory; and if you would find
What that is—ask the pig who sees the wind!

LXXXV.
At least he feels it, and some say he sees,
Because he runs before it like a pig;
Or, if that simple sentence should displease,
Say that he sends before it like a brig,
A schooner, or—but it is time to ease
This canto, ere my Muse perceives fatigue.
The next shall ring a peal to shake all people,
Like a bob-major from a village steeple.

LXXXVI.
Hark! through the silence of the cold dull night
The hum of armies gathering rank on rank,
Lo! dusky masses steal in dubious sight
Along the leaguer'd wall and bristling bank
Of the arm'd river, while with straggling light
The stars peep through the vapors dim and dank
Which curl in curious wreaths—How soon the smoke
Of hell shall pall them in a deeper cloak!

LXXXVII.
Here pause we for the present—as even then
That awful pause, dividing life from death,
Struck for an instant on the hearts of men,
Thousands of whom were drawing their last breath
A moment—and all will be life again!
The march! the charge! the shouts of either faith
Hurra! and Allah! and—one moment more—
The death-cry drowning in the battle's roar.
CANTO VIII.

I.

On blood and thunder! and oh blood and wounds!
These are but vulgar oaths, as you may deem,
Too gentle reader! and most shocking sounds
And so they are; yet thus is Glory's dream
Unriddled, and as my true Muse expounds
At present such things, since they are her theme,
So be they the inspi rers! Call them Mars,
Sellors, what you will—they mean but wars.

II.

All was prepared—the fire, the sword, the men
To wield them in their terrible array.
The army, like a lion from his den,
March'd forth with nerve and sinews bent to slay,—
A human Hydra, issuing from his den
To breathe destruction on its winding way,
Whose heads were heroes, which cut off in vain,
Immed iately in others grew again.

III.

History can only take things in the gross;
But could we know them in detail, perchance
In balancing the profit and the loss,
War's merit it by no means might enhance,
To waste so much gold for a little dross,
As hath been done, mere conquest to advance.
The drying up a single tear has more
Of honest fame, than shedding seas of gore.

IV.

And why? because it brings self - approbation;
Whereas the other, after all its glare,
Shouts, bridges, arches, pensions from a nation—
Which (it may be) has not much left to spare—
A higher title, or a loftier station,
Though they may make Corruption gape or stare,
Yet, in the end, except in Freedom's battles,
Are nothing but a child of Murder's rattles.

V.

And such are they—and such they will be found.
Not so Leonidas and Washington,
Whose every battle-field is holy ground,
[done.
Which breathes of nations saved, not worlds un-
How sweetly on the ear such echoes sound!
While the mere victors may appal or stun
The servile and the vain, such names will be
A watchword till the future shall be free.

VI.

The night was dark, and the thick mist allow'd
Nought to be seen, save the artillery's flame,
Which arch'd the horizon like a fiery cloud,
And in the Danube's waters shone the same,
A mirror'd hell! The volleysing roar, and loud
Long booming of each peal on peal, o'ercame
The ear far more than thunder; for Heaven's flashes
Spare, or smite rarely—Man's make millions ashes!

VII.

The column order'd on the assault scarce pass'd
Beyond the Russian batteries a few toises,
When up the bristling Moslem rose at last,
Answering the Christian thunders with like voices
Then one vast fire, air, earth, and stream embraced
Which rock'd as 'twere beneath the mighty noises
While the whole rampart blazed like Etna, when
The restless Titan hiccups in his den.

VIII.

And one enormous shout of "Allah!" rose
In the same moment, loud as ever the roar
Of war's most mortal engines, to their foes
Hurling defiance: city, stream, and shore
Resounded "Allah!" and the clouds, which close
With thickening canopy the conflict o'er,
Vibrate to the Eternal name. Hark! through
All sounds it piercest, "Allah! Allah! Hu!"

IX.

The columns were in movement, one and all:
But, of the portion which attack'd by water,
Thicker than leaves the lives began to fall,
[ter,
Though led by Arseniev, that great son of slavagh-
As brave as ever faced both boom and ball.
"Carnage (so Wordsworth tells you) is God's
daughter:"
If he speak truth, she is Christ's sister, and
Just now behaved as in, the Holy Land.

X.

The Prince de Ligne was wounded in the knee;
Count Chapeau-Bras, too, had a ball between
His cap and head, which proves the head to be
Aristocratic as was ever seen,
Because it then received no injury
More than the cap; in fact the ball could mean
No harm unto a right legitimate head:
"Ashes to ashes"—why not lead to lead?

XI.

Also the General Markow, Brigadier,
Insisting on removal of the prince,
Amidst some groaning thousands dying near—
All common fellows, who might with thee and win—
And shriek for water into a deaf ear,—
The General Markow, who could thus evince
His sympathy for rank, by the same token,
To teach him greater, had his own leg broken.

XII.

Three hundred cannon threw up their émectic
And thirty thousand muskets flung their pills
Like hail, to make a bloody diuretic.
Mortality thou hast thy monthly bills;
Thy plagues, thy famines, thy physiologists, yea. ti k
Like the death-watch, within our ears the ill
Past, present, and to come—but all may yiel d
To the true portrait of one battle-field.

XIII.

There the still varying pangs, which multiply
Until their very number makes men hard
By the infinities of agony,
Which meet the gaze, what'er it may regard
The groan, the roll in dust, the all-white eye
Turn'd back within its socket,—these reward
Your rank and file by thousands, while the rest
May win, perhaps, a ribband at the breast!
XIV.

Yet I love glory; glory's a great thing;
Think what it is to be, in your old age,
Maintain'd at the expense of your good king!
A moderate pension shall suffice, for a sage,
And heroes are but made for hards to sing,
Which is still better; thus in verse to wage
Your wars eternally, besides, enjoying
Half-pay for life, makes mankind worth destroying.

XV.

The troops, already disembark'd, push'd on
To take a battery on the right; the others,
When landed lower down, their landing done,
Had set to work as briskly as their brothers—
Being grenadiers, they mounted, one by one,
Cheerful as children climb the breasts of mothers—
Or the entrenched and the palisade,
Quite orderly, as if upon parade.

XVI.

And this was admirable; for so hot
The fire was, that were red Veuvisius loaded,
Besides its lava, with all sorts of shot
And shells, or hells, it could not more have goaded.
Of horses, a third fell; then a third,
A thing which victory by no means boded
To gentlemen engaged in the assault:
Hounds, when the huntsman tumbles, are at fault.

XVII.

But here I leave the general concern,
To track our hero on his path of fame:
He must his laurels separately earn;
For fifty thousand heroes, name by name,
Though all deserving equally to turn
A complete, or an elegy to claim,
Would form a lengthy lexicon of glory,
And, what is worse still, a much longer story.

XVIII.

And therefore we must give the greater number
To the gazette—which doubtless fairly dealt
By the deceased, who lie in famous slumber
In ditches, fields, or wherever 'e they felt
Their clay for the last time their souls encumber;
Thrice happy he whose name has been well spelt
In the despatch: I knew a man whose loss
Was printed Grose, although his name was Grose.

XIX.

Juan and Johnson join'd a certain corps, [ing
And fought away with might and main, not know-
The way which they had never trod before,
And still less guessing where they might be going;
But on they march'd, dead bodies trampling o'er,
Firing and thrusting, slashing, swearing, glowing,
But fighting thoughtlessly enough to win,
To their two selves, one whole bright bulletin.

XX.

Thus on they wallow'd in the bloody mire
Of dead and dying thousands—sometimes gaining
A yard or two of ground, which brought them nigher,
To some odd angle for which all were straining;
At others times, repulsed by the close fire,
Which really pour'd as if all hell were raining,
Instead of heaven, they stumbled backwards o'er
A wounded comrade, sprawling in his gore.

XXI.

Though 'twas Don Juan's first of fields, and thought
The nightly muster and the silent march
In the chill dark, when courage does not glow
So much as under a triumphal arch,
Perhaps might make him shiver, yawn, or throw
A glance on the dull clouds (as thick as starch,
Which stiffen'd heaven) as if he wish'd for day;—
Yet for all this he did not run away.

XXII.

Indeed he could not. But what if he had?
There have been and are heroes who begin
With something not much better, or as bad:
Frederic the Great from Malwitz sign'd to run,
For the first and last time; for, like a pad
Or hawk, or bride, most mortals, after one
Warm bont, are broken into their new tricks,
And fight like fiends for pay or politics.

XXIII.

He was what Erin calls, in her sublime
Old Erse or Irish, or it may be Punic,
(The antiquarians who can settle time,
Which settles all things, Romans, Greek, or Runic,
Swear that Pat's language sprung from the same elinse
With Hannibal, and wears the Tyrian tunic
Of Dido's alphabet; and this is rational
As any other notion, and not national.)

XXIV.

But Juan was quite "a broth of a boy,
A thing of impulse, and a child of song.
Now swimming in the sentiment of joy,
Or the sensation, (if that phrase seem wrong,) And afterwards, if he must needs destroy,
In such good company as always strong
To battles, sieges, and that kind of pleasure,
No less delighted to employ his leisure;

XXV.

But always without malice. If he warr'd
Or loved, it was with what we call "the best
Intentions," which form all mankind's trump cards,
To be produced when brought up to the test.
The statesman, hero, harlot, lawyer—ward
Off each attack when people are in quest
Of their designs, by saying they meant well;
'Tis pity "that such meaning should pave hell."

XXVI.

I almost lately have begun to doubt
Whether hell's pavement—if it be so paved—
Must not have latterly been quite worn out,
Not by the numbers good intent hath saved,
But by the mass who go below without
Those ancient good intentions, which once shone
And smooth'd the brimstone of that street of hell
Which bears the greatest likenesses to Pall Mall

XXVII.

Juan, by some strange chance, which oft divides
Warrior from warrior in their grim career,
Like chasteest wives from constant husbands' sides
Just at the close of the first bridial year,
By one of those odd turns of fortune's tides,
Was on a sudden rather puzzled here,
When, after a good deal of heavy firing,
He found himself alone, and friends retiring.
And, as he rush'd along, it came to pass he fell in with what was late the second column, under the orders of the General Lacey, but now reduced, as is a bulky volume, in an elegant extract (much less naysay) of heroism, and took his place with solemn air, 'mid the rest, who kept their valiant faces, and level'd weapons, still against the glacies.

And therefore, when he ran away, he did so upon reflection, knowing that behind he would find others who would face the world. Of idle apprehensions, which, like wind, trouble heroic stomachs. Though their sides sometimes were even closed, all heroes are not blind, but when they light upon immediate death, retire a little, merely to take breath.
XLII.

Egad! they found the second time what they
The first time thought quite terrible enough
To fly from, malgré all which people say
Of glory, and all that immortal stuff
Which fills a regiment, (besides their pay,
That daily shilling which makes warriors tough)—
They found on their return the self-same welcome,
Which made some think, and others know, a hell
come.

XLIII.

They fell as thick as harvests beneath hail,
Grass before scythes, or corn below the sickle,
Proving that trite old truth, that life’s as frail
As any other boon for which men stickle.
The Turkish batteries thrash’d them like a flail,
Or a good boxer, into a sad pickle,
Putting the very bravest, who were knock’d
Upon the head before their guns were cook’d.

XLIV.

The Turks, behind the traverses and banks
Of the next bastion, fired away like devils,
And swept, as gales sweep foam away, whole ranks:
However, Heaven knows how, the Fates who levels
Towns, nations, worlds, in her revolving pranks,
So order’d it, amid those sulphury revels,
That Johnson, and some few who had not scamper’d,
Reach’d the interior talus of the rampart.

XLV.

First one or two, then five, six, and a dozen,
Came mounting quickly up, for it was now
All neck or nothing, as, like pitch or rosin,
Flame was shower’d forth above as well’s below,
So that you scarce could say who best had chosen,—
The gentlemen that were the first to show
Their martial faces on the parapet,
Or those who thought it brave to wait as yet.

XLVI.

But those who scaled found out that their advance
Was favor’d by an accident or blunder:
The Greek or Turkish Cohorn’s ignorance
Had palpadoed in a way you’d wonder
To see in forts of Netherlands or France,
(Though these to our Gibraltar must knock under,)
Right in the middle of the parapet
Just named, these palisades were primly set:

XLVII.

So that on either side some nine or ten
Paces were left, whereon you could contrive
To march; a great convenience to our men,
At least to all those who were left alive,
Who thus could form a line and fight again:
And that which further aided them to strive
Was, that they could kick down the palisades,
Which scarcely rose much higher than grass blades.

XLVIII.

Among the first,—I will not say the first,
For such precedence upon such occasions
Will oftentimes make deadly quarrels burst
Out between friends as well as allied nations;
The Briton must be bold who really durst
Put to such trial John Bull’s partial patience,
As say that Wellington at Waterloo
Was beaten,—though the Prussians say so too;—

XLIX.

And that if Buecher, Bulow, Gneisenau
And God knows who besides in “au” and “ow,”
Had not come up in time to cast an awe
Into the hearts of those who fought till now
As tigers combat with an empty claw,
The Duke of Wellington had ceased to show
His orders, also to receive his pensions,
Which are the heaviest that our history mentions.

L.

But never mind:—“God save the king!” and kings
For if he don’t, I doubt if men will longer.
I think I hear a little bird, who sings,
The people by and by will be the stronger:
The veriest jade will wince whose harness wrings
So much into the raw as quite to wrong he
Beyond the rules of posting,—and the mob
At last fall sick of imitating Job.

LI.

At first it grumbles, then it swears, and then
Like David, flings smooth pebbles ’gainst a giant
At last it takes to weapons, such as men pliant;
Snatch when despair makes human hearts less
Then “comes the tug of war;” “twill come again,
I rather doubt; and I would fain say, “twiln’t,”
If I had not perceived that revolution
Alone can save the earth from hell’s pollution.

LII.

But to continue:—I say not the first,
But of the first, our little friend Don Juan
Walk’d o’er the walls of Ismail, as if nursed some
Amid such scenes—though this was quite a new
To him, and I should hope to most.
The thirst
Of glory, which so pierces through and through one.
Pervaded him—although a generous creature,
As warm in heart as feminine in feature.

LIII.

And here he was—who, upon woman’s breast
Even from a child, felt like a child; howe’er
The man in all the rest might be confess’d.
To him it was Elysium to be there;
And he could even withstand that awkward test
Which Rousseau points out to the dubious fair
“Observe your lover when he leaves your arms;”
But Juan never left them while they’d charms,

LIV.

Unless compell’d by fate, or wave, or wind,
Or near relations, who are much the same.
But here he was!—where each tie that can bind
Humanity must yield to steel and flame:
And he, whose very body was all mind,—
Flung here by fate or circumstance, which seems
The loftiest,—hurried by the time and place,—
Dash’d on like a spurr’d blood-horse in a race

LV.

So was his blood stirr’d while he found resistance,
As is the hunter’s at the five-bar gate,
Or double post and rail, where the existence
Of Britain’s youth depends upon their weight.
The lightest being the safest: at a distance
He hatred cruelty, as all men hate
Blood, until heated—and even there his own
At times would curl to o’er some heavy gown.
LVI.
The General Lasry, who had been hard press’d,
Seeing arrive an aid so opportune
As were some hundred youngsters all abreast,
Who came as if just dropp’d down from the moon,
To Juan, who was nearest him, address’d
His thanks, and hopes to take the city soon,
Not reckoning him to be a “base Bezonian,”
(As Pistol calls it,) but a young Livonian.

LVI.
Juan, to whom he spoke in German, knew
As much of German as of Sanscrit, and
In answer made an inclination to
The general who held him in command;
For, seeing one with ribbons black and blue,
Stars, medals, and a bloody sword in hand,
Addressing him in tones which seemed to thank,
He recognized an officer of rank.

LVIII.
Short speeches pass between two men who speak
No common language; and besides, in time
Of war and taking towns, when many a crime
Rings o’er the dialogue, and many a shriek
Is perpetrated ere a word can break
Upon the ear, and sounds of horror chime
In, like church-bells, with sigh, howl, groan, yell,
There cannot be much conversation there. [prayer,

LIX.
And therefore all we have related in
Two long octaves, pass’d in a little minute;
But in the same small minute, every sin
Contrived to get itself comprised within it.
The very cannon, deafen’d by the din,
Grew dumb, for you might almost hear a linnet,
As soon as thunder, ‘midst the general noise
Of human nature’s agonizing voice!

LX.
The town was enter’d. Oh eternity!—
“God made the country, and man made the town,”
So Cowper says—and I begin to be
Of his opinion, when I see cast down
Rome, Babylon, Tyre, Carthage, Nineveh—
All walls men know, and many never known;
And, pondering on the present and the past,
To deem the woods shall be our home at last.

LXI.
Of all men, saving Sylla the man-slayer,
Who passes for in life and death most lucky,
Of the great names, which in our faces stare,
The General Bonn, backwoodsman of Kentucky,
Was happiest among mortals any where;
For killing nothing but a bear or buck, he
Enjoy’d the lonely, vigorous, harmless days
Of his old age in wilds of deepest maze.

LXII.
Crime came not near him—he is not the child
Of solitude; heath shrank not from him—for
Her home is in the rarely-trodden wild,
Where if men seek her not, and death be more
Their choice than life, forgive them, as beguiled
By habit to what their own hearts abhor—
In cities caged. The present case in point I
Set is, that Bonn lived hunting up to ninety;

LXIII.
And what’s still stranger, left behind a name—
For which men vainly declamate the throng,—
Not only famous, but of that good fame
Without which glory’s but a tavern song—
Simple, serene, the antipodes of shame
Which hate or envy e’er could tinge with wrong
An active hermit, even in age the child
Of nature, or the Man of Ross run wild.

LXIV.
’Tis true he shrank from men, even of his nation
When they built up unto his darling trees,—
He moved some hundred miles off, for a station
Where there were fewer houses and more ease—
The inconvenience of civilization
Is, that you neither can be pleased nor please
But, where he met the individual man,
He show’d himself as kind as mortal can

LXV.
He was not all alone: around him grew
A sylvan tribe of children of the chase,
Whose young, unwaken’d world was ever new
Nor sword nor sorrow yet had left a trace
On her unbroken brow, nor could you view,
A frown on nature’s or on human face;—
The free-born forest found and kept them free,
And fresh as is a torrent or a tree.

LXVI.
And tall and strong, and swift of foot were they,
Beyond the dwarfing city’s pale abortions,
Because their thoughts had never been the prey
Of care or gain: the green woods were their por
No sinking spirits told them they grew gray; [tions
No fashion made them apes of her distortions;
Simple they were, not savage; and their rifles
Though very true, were not yet used for trifles.

LXVII.
Motion was in their days, rest in their slumbers,
And cheerfulness the handmaid of their toil;
Nor yet too many nor too few their numbers;
Corruption could not make their hearts her soil:
The lust which stings, the splendor which encom
With the free foresters divide no spoil;
Serene, not sullen, were the solitudes
Of this unsighing people of the woods

LXVIII.
So much for nature,—by way of variety,
Now back to thy great joys, civilization;
And the sweet consequence of large society,
War, pestilence, the despot’s desolation,
The kingly scourge, the lust of notoriety,
The millions slain by soldiers for their ration,
The scenes like Catherine’s boudoir at threecents
With Ismail’s storm to soften it the more.

LXIX.
The town was enter’d: first one column made
Its sanctuary way good—then another,
The reeking bayonet and the flashing blade.
Clash’d gainst the seimitar, and binte and mothe
With distant shriekers were heard heaven to upbrai
Still closer sulphur clouds began to smother
The breath of morn and man, where, foot by foot
The madden d Turks their city still dispute.
LXX.
Koutousow, he who afterwards beat back
(With some assistance from the frost and snow)
Napoleon on his bold and bloody track,
It happen'd was himself beat back just now.
He was a jolly fellow, and could crack
His jest alike in face of friend or foe,
Though life, and death, and victory were at stake—
But here it seem'd his jokes had ceased to take:

LXXI.
For, having thrown himself into a ditch,
Follow'd in haste by various grenadiers,
Whose blood the puddle greatly did enrich,
He climb'd to where the parapet appears;
But there his project reach'd its utmost pitch—
(‘Mong other deaths the General Ribauquier's
Was much regretted)—for the Moslem men
Threw them all down into the ditch again:

LXXII.
And, had it not been for some stray troops landing
They knew not where,—being carried by the stream
To some spot, where they lost their understanding,
And wander'd up and down as in a dream,
Until they reach'd, as daybreak was expanding,
That which a portal to their eyes did seem,—
The great and gaily Koutousow might have lain
Where three parts of his column yet remain:

LXXIII.
And, scrambling round the rampart, these same
After the taking of the “cavalier,” [troops,
Just as Koutousow's most “forlorn” of “hopes”
Took, like chameleons, some slight tinge of fear,
Open'd the gate call’d “Kilia” to the groups
Of baffled heroes who stood shyly near,
Sliding knee-deep in lately-frozen mud,
Now thaw'd into a marsh of human blood.

LXXIV.
The Koraks, or if so you please, Cossacks—
(I don't much pique myself upon orthography,
So that I do not grossly err in facts,
Statistics, tactics, politics, and geography)—
Having been used to serve on horses' backs,
And no great dilettanti in topography
Of fortresses, but fighting where it pleases
Their chiefs to order,—were all cut to pieces.

LXXV.
Their column, though the Turkish batteries thunder'd
Upon them, ne'ertheless had reach'd the rampart,
And naturally thought they could have plunder'd
The city, without being further hamper'd;
But, as it happens to brave men, they blunder'd—
The Turks at first pretended to have scamper'd,
Only to draw them 'twixt two bastion corners,
From whence they sallied on those Christian scorners.

LXXVI.
Then being taken by the tail—a taking
Fatal to bishops as to soldiers—these
Cossacks were all cut off as day was breaking,
And found their lives were let at a short lease
But perish'd without shivering or shaking,
Leaving as ladders their heap'd carcasses,
O'er which Lieutenant-Colonel Yesouskoi
March'd with the brave battalion of Polouski—

LXXX.
This valiant man kill'd all the Turks he met,
But could not eat them, being in his turn
Slain by some Mussulmans, who would not yet,
Without resistance, see their city burn.
The walls were won, but 'twas an even bet
Which of the armies would have cause to mourn
'Twas bow for blow, disputing inch by inch,
For one would not retreat, nor t'other flinch.

LXXVII.
Another column also suffer'd much:
And here we may remark with the historian,
You should but give few caricatures to such
Troops as are meant to march with greatest glory
When matters must be carried by the touch
Of the bright bayonets, and they all should hurry on,
They sometimes, with a hankering for existence,
Keep merely firing at a foolish distance.

LXXVIII.
A junction of the General Meknop's men
(Without the General, who had fallen some time
Before, being badly seconded just then)
climb
Was made at length, with those who dared to
The death-disgorging rampart once again;
And, though the Turks' resistance was sublime,
They took the bastion, which the Seraskier
Defended at a price extremely dear.

LXXIX.
Juan and Johnson, and some volunteers,
Among the formost, offer'd him good quarter,
A word which little suits with Seraskiers,
Or at least suited not this valiant Twistar.—
He died, deserving well his country's aras,
A savage sort of military martyr.
An English naval officer, who wish'd To make him prisoner, was also dish'd.

LXXX.
For all the answer to his proposition
Was from a pistol-shot that laid him dead;
On which the rest, without more intermission,
Began to lay about with steel and lead,—
The pious metals most in requisition
On such occasions: not a single head
Was spared,—three thousand Moslem.S perish'd here
And sixteen bayonets pierced the Seraskier.

LXXXI.
The city's taken—only part by part—
And death is drunk with gore: there's not a street
Where fights not to the last some desperate heart
For those for whom it soon shall cease to beat.
Here War forgot his own destructive art
In more destroying nature; and the heat
Of carnage, like the Nile's sun-sodden slime,
Engender'd monstrous shapes of every crime.

LXXXII.
A Russian officer, in martial tread
Over a heap of bodies, felt his heel
Seized fast, as if 'twere by the serpent's head,
Whose fangs Eve taught her human seed to feel
In vain he kick'd, and swore, and writhed, and bled
And howl'd for help as wolves do for a meal—
The teeth still kept their gratifying hold,
As do the subtle snakes described of old.
A dying Moslem, who had felt the foot
Of a foe o'er him, snatch'd at it, and bit
The very tendon which is most acute—
(That which some ancient Muse or modern wit
Named after thee, Achilles) and quite through 't
He made the teeth meet, nor relinquish'd it
Even with his life—for (but they lie) 'tis said
To the live leg still clung the sever'd head.

However this may be, 'tis pretty sure
The Russian officer for life was lamed,
For the Turk's teeth stuck faster than a skewer,
And left him 'nmid the invalid and main'd:
The regimental surgeon could not cure
His patient; and perhaps was to be blamed
More than the head of the inveterate foe,
Which was cut off, and scarce even then let go

But then the fact's a fact—and 'tis the part
Of a true poet to escape from fiction
Where'er he can; for there is little art
In leaving verse more free from the restriction
Of truth than prose, unless to suit the mart
For what is sometimes call'd poetic diction,
And that outrageous appetite for lies
Which Satan angles with for souls, like flies.

The city's taken, but not render'd—No
There's not a Moslem that hath yielded sword:
The blood may gush out as the Danube's flow
Rolls by the city wall; nor deed nor word
Acknowledge aught of dread or death of foe;
In vain the yell of victory is roar'd
By the advancing Muscovite—the groan
Of the last foe is echoed by his own.

The bayonet pierces and the sabre cleaves,
And human lives are lavish'd every where,
As the year closing whirls the scarlet leaves,
When the stripp'd forest bows to the bleak air,
And groans; and thus the peopled city grieves,
Shorn of its best and loveliest, and left bare;
But still it falls with vast and awful splinters,
As oaks blown down with all their thousand winters.

It is an awful topic—but 'tis not
My cue for any time to be terrific:
For checker'd as it seems our human lot
With good, and bad, and worse, alike prolific
Of melancholy merriment, to quote
Too much of one sort would be soporific;
Without, or with, offence to friends or foes,
I sketch your world exactly as it goes.

And one good action in the midst of crimes
Is "quite refreshing"—in the affected phrase
Of these ambrosial, Pharaonic times,
With all their pretty milk-and-water ways,—
And may serve therefore to bedew these rhymes,
A little scourch'd at present with the blaze
Of conquest and its consequences, which
Make epic poetry so rare and rich.

Upon a taken bastion, where there lay
Thousands of slaughter'd men, a yet warm group
Of murder'd women, who had found their way
To this vain refuge, made the good heart droop
And shudder;—while, as beautiful as May,
A female child of ten years tried to stoop
And hide her little palpitating breast.
Among the bodies lull'd in bloody rest

Two villains Cossacks pursued the child
With flashing eyes and weapons; match'd with
The rudest brute that roams Siberia's wild
With feelings pure and polish'd as a gem,—
The bear is civilized, the wolf is mild:
And whom for this at last must we condemn?
Their natures? or their sovereigns, who employ
All arts to teach their subjects to destroy?

Their sabres glitter'd o'er her little head,
Whence her fair hair rose twining with alight,
Her hidden face was plunged amid the dead:
When Juan caught a glimpse of this sad sight
I shall not say exactly what he said,
Because it might not solace "ears polite;"
But what he did, was to lay on their backs,—
The readiest way of reasoning with Cossacks.

One's hip he slash'd, and split the other's shoulder;
And drove them with their brutal yells to seek
If there might be chirurgeon's who could solder
The wounds they richly merited, and shriek
Their baffled rage and pain; while waxing colder,
As he turn'd o'er each pale and gory cheek,
Don Juan rais'd his little captive from
The heap a moment more had made her tomb.

And she was chill as they, and on her face
A slender streak of blood announced how near
Her fate had been to that of all her race;
For the same blow which laid her mother here
Had scar'd her brow, and left its crimson trace
As the last link with all she had held dear;
But else unhurt, she open'd her large eyes.
And gaz'd on Juan with a wild surprise.

Just at this instant, while their eyes were fix'd
Upon each other, with dilated glance,
In Juan's look, pain, pleasure, hope, fear, mix'd
With joy to save, and dread of some mischance
Upon his protege; while hers, transfixed
With infant terrors, gazed as from a trance.
A pure, transparent, pale, yet radiant face,
Like to a lighted alabaster vase:—

Up came John Johnson—(I will not say "Jack,"
For that were vulgar, cold, and common place
On great occasions, such as an attack
On cities, as hath been the present case)—
Up Johnson came, with hundreds at his back
Exclaiming,—"Juan! Juan! On boy! brace
Your arm, and I'll bet Moscow to a dollar,
That you and I will win St. George's collar"
XCVIII.

"The Seraskier's knock'd upon the head,
But the stone bastion still remains, wherein
The old pacha sits among some hundreds dead
Smoking his pipe quite calmly, 'mid the din
Of our artillery and his own; 'tis said
Our kill'd, already piled up to the chin,
Till round the battery; but still it batters,
And grape in volleys, like a vineyard, scatters.

XCIX.

Then up with me!"—But Juan answer'd, "Look
Upon this child—I saw her—must not leave
Her life to chance; but point me out some nook
Of safety, where she less may shriek and grieve,
And I am with you."—Whereon Johnson took
A glance around—and shrugg'd—and twitch'd his
(left);
And black silk neckcloth—and replied, "You're
Poor thing! what's to be done? I'm puzzled quite."

C.

Said Juan,—"Whatsoever is to be
Done, I'll not quit her till she seems secure
Of present life a good deal more than we."—
Quoth Johnson,—"Neither will I quite insure
But at the least you may die gloriously!"
Juan replied,—"At least I will endure
Whatever is to be borne—but not resign
This child, who's parentless, and therefore mine."

CI.

Johnson said,—"Juan, we've no time to lose;
The child's a pretty child—a very pretty—
I never saw such eyes—but hark! now choose
Between your fame and feelings, pride and pity:
Hark! how the roar increases!—no excuse
Will serve when there is plunder in a city;
I should be loth to march without you, but,
By God! we'll be too late for the first cut."

CII.

But Juan was immovable; until
Johnson, who really loved him in his way,
Pick'd out among his followers with some skill
Such as he thought the least given up to prey:
And swearing if the infant came to ill
That they should all be shot on the next day,
But if she were delivered safe and sound,
They should at least have fifty rounds round,

CIII.

And all allowances besides of plunder
In fair proportion with their comrades,—then
Juan consented to march on through thunder,
Which thinn'd, at every step, their ranks of men:
And yet the rest rush'd eagerly—no wonder,
For they were heated by the hope of gain,
A thing which happens every where each day—
No hero trusteth wholly to half-pay.

CIV.

And such is victory! and such is man!
At last nine-tenths of what we call so:—
God
May have another name for half we scan
As human beings, or his ways are odd.
But to our subject: a brave Tartar Khan,—
Or 'sultan,' as the author (to whose nod
In presence I bend my humble verse) doth call
This sharifn—somehow would not yield at all:

CV.

But flank'd by free brave sons (such is polygamy,
That she spawns warriors by the score, where none
Are prosecuted for that false crime bigotry)
He never would believe the city won,
While courage clung but to a single twig.—Am i
Describing Priam's, Pegasus', or Jove's son?
Neither,—but a good, plain, old, temperate man,
Who fought with his five children in the van.

CVI.

To take him was the point. The truly brave,
When they behold the brave oppress'd with odds,
Are touch'd with a desire to shield or save;
A mixture of wild beasts and demigods
Are they—now furious as the sweeping wave,
Now moved with pity: even as sometimes nads
The rugged tree unto the summer wind,
Compassion breathes along the savage mind.

CVII.

But he would not be taken, and replied
To all the propositions of surrender
By moving Christians down on every side,
As obstinate as Swedish Charles at Bender
His five brave boys no less the foe defied:
Whereon the Russian pathos grew less tender.
As being a virtue, like terrestrial patience,
Apt to wear out on trifling provocations.

CVIII.

And spite of Johnson and of Juan, who
Expended all their Eastern phraseology
In begging him, for God's sake, just to show
So much less fight as might form an apology
For them in saving such a desperate foe—
He hew'd away, like doctors of theology
When they dispute with skeptics; and with curses
Struck at his friends, as babies beat their nurses.

CIX.

Nay, he had wounded, though but sligantly,—
Juan and Johnson, whereupon they rei——
The first with sighs, the second with an oath—
Upon his angry sultanhanship, pell-mell,
And all around were grown exceeding wroth
At such a pertinacious infidel,
And pour'd upon him and his sons like rain,
Which they resisted like a sandy plain,

CX.

That drinks and still is dry. At last they perish'd:
His second son was levell'd by a shot;
His third was sabred; and the fourth, most cherish'd
Of all the five, on bayonets met his lot;
The fifth, who, by a Christian mother nourish'd,
Had been neglected, ill-used, and what not,
Because deform'd, yet died all game and bottom,
To save a sire who blush'd that he begot him.

CXI.

The eldest was a true and blameless Tartar,
As great a scorners of the Nazarene
As ever Mahomet pick'd out for a martyr,
Who only saw the black-eyed girls in green,
Who make the beds of those who won't take quarter
On earth, in Paradise; and, when once seen,
Those hours, like all other pretty creatures,
Do just whate'er they please, by dint of features
CXII.
And what they pleased to do with the young Khan
In heaven, I know not, nor pretend to guess;
But doubtless they prefer a fine young man
To tough old heroes, and can do no less;
And that's the cause, no doubt, why, if we scan
A field of battle's ghastly wilderness,
For one rough, weather-beaten, veteran body,
You'll find ten thousand handsome coxcombs bloody.

CXIII.
Your hours also have a natural pleasure
In lopping off your lately married men
Before the bridal hours have danced their measure,
And the sad second moon grows dim again,
Or dull Repentance hath had dreary leisure
To wish him back a bachelor now and then.
And thus your hour (it may be) disputes
Of these brief blossoms the immediate fruits.

CXIV.
Thus the young Khan, with hours in his sight,
Thought not upon the charms of four young brides,
But bravely rush'd on his first heavenly night.
In short, how'er our better faith derides,
These black-eyed virgins make the Moslems' fight,
As though 'twere one heaven and none be
Whereas, if all be true we hear of heaven's sides:
And hell, there must at least be six or seven.

CXV.
So fully flash'd the phantom on his eye,
That when the very lance was in his heart,
He shouted "Allah!" and saw Paradise
With all its veil of mystery drawn apart,
And bright eternity without disguise
On his soul, like a ceaseless sunrise, dart,
With prophets, hours, angels, saints, deserted
In one voluptuous blaze,—and then he died.

CXVI.
But, with a heavenly rapture on his face,
The good old Khan—who long had ceased to see
Hours, or aught except his florid race,
Who grew like cedars round him gloriously—
When he beheld his latest hero grace
The earth, which he became like a fell'd tree,
Paused for a moment from the fight, and cast
A glance on that slain son, his first and last.

CXVII.
The soldiers, who beheld him drop his point,
Stopp'd as if once more willing to concede
Quarter, in case he bade them not "aryst!"
As he before had done. He did not heed
Their pause nor signs: his heart was out of joint,
And shook (till now unshaken) like a reed,
As he look'd down upon his children gone,
And felt—though done with life—he was alone.

CXVIII.
But 'twas a transient tremor:—with a spring
Upon the Russian steel his breast he flung,
As careless as huris the moth her wing
Against the light wherein she dies: he clung
Closer, that all the deadlier they might wring,
Unto the bayonets which had pierced his young
And throwing back a dim look on his sons,
In one wide wound pour'd forth his soul at once.

CXIX.
'Tis strange enough—the rough, tough soldiers, who
Spared neither sex nor age in their career
Of carnage, when this old man was pierced through,
And lay before them with his children near,
Touch'd by the heroism of him they slew,
Were melted for a moment; though no tear
Flow'd from their blood-shot eyes. all red with strife
They honor'd such determined scorn of life

CXX.
But the stone bastion still kept up its fire,
Where the chief Pacha calmly held his post:
Some twenty times he made the Russ retire,
And bailed the assaults of all their host;
At length he condescended to inquire
If yet the city's rest were won or lost,
And, being told the latter, sent a Bey
To answer Ribas' summons to give way.

CXXI.
In the mean time, cross-legg'd, with great sang-froid,
Among the scorching ruins he sat smoking
Tobacco on a little carpet:—Troy
Saw nothing like the scene around;—yet, looking
With martial stoicism, nought seem'd to annoy
His stern philosophy: but gently stroking
His beard, he puff'd his pipe's ambrosial gales.
As if he had three lives, as well as tails.

CXXII.
The town was taken—whether he might yield
Himself or bastion, little matter'd now;
His stubborn valor was no future shield.
Isma'il's no more! The crescent's silver bow
Sunk, and the crimson cross glare'd o'er the field,
But red with no redeeming gore: the glow
Of burning streets, like moonlight on the water,
Was image'd back in blood, the sea of slaughters

CXXIII.
All that the mind would shrink from of excesses
All that the body perpetrates of bad;
All that we read, hear, dream, of man's distresses
All that the devil would do if run stark mad;
All that defies which pen expresses;
All by which hell is peopled, or as sad
As hell—mere mortals who their power abuse—
Was here (as heretofore and since) let loose.

CXXIV.
If here and there some transient trait of pity,
Was shown, and some more noble heart broke through
Its bloody bond, and saved perhaps some pretty
Child, or an aged, helpless man or two—
What's this in one annihilated city,
Where thousand loves, and ties, and duties grew;
Cockneys of London! Muscadins of Paris!
Just ponder what a pious pastime war is.

CXXV.
Think how the joys of reading a gazette
Are purchased by all agonies and crimes:
Or, if these do not move you, don't forget
Such doom may be your own in after times.
Meantime the taxes, Castlereagh, and debt,
Are hints as good as sermons, or as rhymes.
Read your own hearts and Ireland's present story
Then feed her famine fat with Wellesley's glory
CXXVI.

But still there is unto a patriot nation,
Which loves so well its country and its king,
A subject of sublimest exultation—
Bear it, ye Muse's, on your brightest wing!
How'er the mighty locust, Desolation,
Strip your green fields, and to your harvests cling,
Gaunt Famine never shall approach the throne—
Though Ireland starve, great George weighs twenty stone.

CXXVII.

But let me put an end unto my theme:
There was an end of ismail—hapless town!
Far flash'd her burning towers o'er Danube's stream,
And redly ran his blushing waters down.
The horrid war-whoop and the shriller scream
Rose still; but fainter were the thunders grown;
Of forty thousand who had mann'd the wall,
Some hundreds breathed,—the rest were silent all!

CXXVIII.

In one thing, ne'ertheless, 'tis fit to praise
The Russian army upon this occasion,
A virtue much in fashion now-a-days,
And therefore worthy of commemoration:
The topic's tender, so shall be my phrase—
Perhaps the season's chill, and their long station
In winter's depth, or want of rest and victual,
Had made them chaste,—they ravish'd very little.

CXXIX.

Much did they sly, more plunder, and no less
Might here and there occur some violation
In the other line—but not to such excess
As when the French, that dissipated nation,
Take towns by storm: no causes can I guess,
Except cold weather and commissation;
'At all the ladies, save some twenty score,
Were almost as much virgins as before.

CXXX.

Some odd mistakes, too, happen'd in the dark,
Which show'd a want of lanterns, or of taste—
Indeed the smoke was such they scarce could mark
Their friends from foes,—besides, such things from
Occur, though rarely, when there is a spark [haste
Of light to save the venerable chaste:—
But six old damsels, each of seventy years,
Were all delover'd by different grenadiers.

CXXXI.

But on the whole their continence was great,
So that some disappointment there ensued
To those who had felt the inconvenient state
Of "single blessedness," and thought it good
(Since it was not their fault, but only fate,
To bear these crosses) for each waning pride
To make: Roman sort of Sabine wedding,
Without the expense and the suspense of bedding.

CXXXII.

Some voices of the luxum middle-aged
Were also heard to wonder in the din,
"Widows of forty were these birds long caged,"
"Wherefore the ravishing did not begin!"
But, while the thirst for gore and plunder raged,
There was small leisure for superfluous sin;
But whether they escaped or no, lies hid
In darkness—I can only hope they did.

CXXXIII.

Suwarrow now was conqueror—a match
For Timour or for Zinghis in his trade. [thatch
While mosques and streets, beneath his eyes, like
Blazed, and the cannon's roar was scarceelay'd,
With bloody hands he wrote his first despatch,
And here exactly follows what he said:—
"Glory to God and to the Empress!" (Powers
Eternal! such names mingled!) "Ismail's ours!"

CXXXIV.

Methinks these are the most tremendous words,
Since "Mené, Mené, Tolèk," and "Upharm,
Which hands or pens have ever traced of swords.
Heaven help me! I'm but little of a parson:
What Daniel read was short-hand of the Lord's,
Severe, sublime; the prophets wrote no farce or
The fate of nations—but this Russ, so witty,
Could rhyme, like Nero, o'er a burning city.

CXXXV.

He wrote this Polar melody, and set it,
Duly accompanied by shrieks and groans,
Which few will sing, I trust, but none forget it—
For I will teach, if possible, the stones
To rise against earth's tyrants. Never let it
Be said, that we still truckle unto thrones;
But ye—our children's children! think how we
Show'd what things were before the world was free.

CXXXVI.

That hour is not for us, but 'tis for you;
And as, in the great joy of your millennium,
You hardly will believe such things were true
As now occur, I thought that I would pen you cm
But may their very memory perish too!—
Yet, if perchance remember'd, still disdain you cm
More than you scorn the savages of yore,
Who painted their bare limbs, but not with gore.

CXXXVII.

And when you hear historians talk of thrones,
And those that sat upon them, let it be
As we now gaze upon the mammoth's bones,
And wonder what old world such things could see
Or hieroglyphics on Egyptian stones,
The pleasant riddles of futurity—
Guessing at what shall happily be hid,
As the real purpose of a pyramid.

CXXXVIII.

Reader! I have kept my word,—at least so far
As the first canto promised. You have now
Had sketches of love, tempest, travel, war—
All very accurate, you must allow,
And epic, if plain truth should prove no bar;
For I have drawn much less with a long bow
Than my forerunners. Carelessly I sing,
But Phoebus lends me now and then a string,

CXXXIX.

With which I still can harp, and carp, and fiddle.
What further hath befallen or may befall
The hero of this grand poetic riddle,
I by and by may tell you, if at all:
But now I choose to break off in the middle,
Worn out with battering Ismail's stubborn wall
While Juan is sent off with the despatch,
For which all Petersburg is on the watch.
CXL.

The special honor was conferred, because
He had behaved with courage and humanity;—
Which last men like, when they have time to pause
From their ferocities produced by vanity.
His little captive gain'd him some applause,
For saving her amid the wild insanity
Of carnage, and I think he was more glad in her
Safety, than his new order of St. Vladimir.

CXLII.

The Moslem orphan went with her protector,
For she was homeless, houseless, helpless: all
Her friends, like the sad family of Hector,
Had perish'd in the field or by the wall:
Her very place of birth was but a spectre
Of what it had been: there the Muezzin's call
To prayer was heard no more!—and Juan wept,
And made 1 v to shield her, which he kept.

CANTO IX.

I.

Oh, Wellington! (or "Villainton"—for fame
Sounds the heroic syllables both ways;
France could not even conquer your great name,
But pun'd it down to this facetious phrase—
Beating or beaten she will laugh the same) —
You have obtain'd great pensions and much praise;
Glory like yours should any dare gain say,
Humac v would rise, and thunder. "Nay!" I

II.

I don't think that you used Kinsaird quite well
In Marinet's affair—in fact 'twas shabby,
And, like some other things, won't do to tell
Upon your tomb in Westminster's old abbey.
Upon the rest 'tis not worth while to dwell,
Such tales being for the tea hours of some tabby;
But though your years as man tend fast to zero,
In fact your grace is still but a young hero.

III.

Though Britain owes (and pays you too) so much,
Yet Europe doubtless owes you greatly more:
You have repair'd legitimacy's crutch—
A prop not quite so certain as before:
The Spanish, and the French, as well as Dutch,
Have seen, and felt, how strongly you restore;
And Waterloo has made the world your debtor—
(I wish your bards would sing it rather better.)

IV.

You are "the best of cut-throats;"—do not start;
The phrase is Shakespeare's, and not misapplied;
War's a brain-spattering, windpipe-slitting art,
Unless her cause by right be sanctified.
If you have acted once a generous part,
The world, not the world's masters, will decide,
And I shall be delighted to learn who,
Save you and yours, have gain'd by Waterloo?

V.

I am no flatterer—you've supp'd full of flattery;
They say you like it too—'tis no great wonder;
He whose whole life has been assault and battery,
At last may get a little tired of thunder;
And, swallowing cullage much more than satire, h.
May like being praised for every lucky blunder:
Call'd" Saviour of the Nations"—not yet savea,
And "Europe's Liberator"—still enslaved.

VI.

I've done. Now go and dine from off the plate
Presented by the Prince of the Brazils,
And send the sentinel before your gate;
A slice or two from your luxurious meals:
He fought, but has not fed so well of late,
Some hunger, too, they say the people feels:
There is no doubt that you deserve your ration—
But pray give back a little to the nation.

VII.

I don't mean to reflect—a man so great as
You, my Lord Duke! is far above reflection.
The high Roman fashion, too, of Cincinnatus
With modern history has but small connection;
Though as an Irishman you love potatoes,
You need not take them under your direction:
And half a million for your Sabine farm
Is rather dear!—I'm sure I mean no harm.

VIII.

Great men have always scorn'd great recompenaes
Epaminondas saved his Thebes, and died,
Not leaving even his funeral expenses:
George Washington had thanks and nought beside,
Except the all-cloudless glory (which few men is)
To free his country: Pitt, too, had his pride,
And, as a high-soul'd minister of state, is
Renowned for ruining Great Britain, gratis.

IX.

Never had mortal man such opportunity,
Except Napoleon, or abused it more:
You might have freed fall'n Europe from the unity
Of tyrants, and been bless'd from shore to shore;
And none—what is your fame? Shall the Muse tune
It ye?
Now—that the rable's first vain shouts are o'er!
Go, hear it in your fanish'd country's cries!
Behold the world! and curse your victories!

X.

As these new cantos touch on warlike feats,
To you the unflattering Muse daigns to inscribe
Truths that you will not read in the gazettes,
But which, 'tis time to teach the hireling tribe
Who fatten on their country's gore and debts,
Must be recited, and—without a bribe:
You did great things; but, not being great in mind,
Have left undone the greatest—and mankind.

XI.

Death laughs—Go ponder o'er the skeleton
With which men image out the unknown thing
That hides the past world, like to a set sun
Which still elsewhere may rouse a brighter spring
Death laughs at all you weep for;—look upon
This hourly dread of all whose threaten'd sting
Turns life to terror, even though in its sheath!
Mark! how its lipless mouth grins without breath.
Mark! how it laughs and scorns at all you are!
And yet sees what you are: from ear to ear
It laughs not—there is now no flimsy bar
So call'd; the antic long hath ceased to hear.
But still he smiles; and whether near or far,
He strips from man that mantle—(far more dear
than even the tailor's)—his incarnate skin,
White, black, or copper—the dead bones will grin.

And thus Death laughs,—it is sad merriment,
But still it is so—and with such example
Why should not Life be equally content,
With his superior, in a smile to trample
Upon the nothings which are daily spent
Like bubbles on an ocean much less ample
Than the eternal deluge, which devours
Suns as rays—worlds like atoms—years like ours?

"To be, or not to be! that is the question,
Says Shakspeare, who just now is much in fashion.
I am neither Alexander nor Heptesion,
Nor ever had for abstract fame much passion;
But would much rather have a sound digest,
Then Bonaparte's cancer: could I dash on
Through fifty victories to shame or fame,
Without a stomach—what were a good name?

"Oh, durum illa messorum!"—"Oh, ye rigid guts of reapers!"—I translate
I or the great benefit of those who know
What indigestion—is that inward fate
Which makes all Styx through one small liver flow.
A peasant's sweat is worth his lord's estate:
Let this one toil for bread—that rack for rent,—
He who sleeps best may be the most content.

"To be, or not to be!"—Ste Evre decide,
I should be glad to know that which is being.
'Tis true we speculate both far and wide,
Deem, because we see, we are all-seeing:
For my part, I'll enlist on neither side,
Until I see both sides for once agreeing.
For me, I sometimes think that life is death,
Rather than life a mere affair of breath.

"Que scis je?" was the motto of Montaigne,
As also of the first academicians:
That all is doubtful which man may attain,
Was one of their most favorite positions.
Here's no such thing as certainty, that's plain
As any of mortality's conditions:
So little do we know what we're about in
This world, I doubt if doubt itself be doubting.

It is a pleasant voyage perhaps to float,
Like Pyrrho, on a sea of speculation;
But what if carrying sail capsize the boat?
Your wise men don't know much of navigation;
And swimming long in the abyss of thought
Is apt to tire: a calm and shallow station
[that gathers
Well nigh the shore, where one stoops down and
Some pretty shell, is best for moderate bathers.
DON JUAN

XXVI.
The consequence is, being of no party,
I shall offend all parties:—never mind!
My words, at least, are more sincere and hearty
Than if I sought to sail before the wind.
He who has nought to gain can have small art: he
Who neither wishes to be bound nor bind
May still expatiate freely, as will I,
Nor give my voice to slavery's jackal cry.

XXVII.
That's an appropriate simile, that jackal;
I've heard them in the Ephesian ruins howl!
By night, as do that mercenary pack all,
Power's base purveyors, who for pickings prowl,
And scent the prey their masters would attack all.
However, the poor jackals are less foul,
(As being the brave lion's keen providers)
Than human insects, catering for spiders.

XXVIII.
Raise but an arm! 'twill brush their web away,
And without that, their poison and their claws
Are useless. Mind, good people! what I say—
(Or rather peoples)—go on without pause!
The web of these tarantulas each day
Increases, till you shall make common cause;
None, save the Spanish fly and Attic bee,
As yet are strongly stinging to be free.

XXIX.
Don Juan, who had shone in the late slaughter,
Was left upon his way with the despatch,
Where blood was talk'd of as we would of water;
And carcasses that lay as thick as thatch
O'er silenced cities, merely served to flatter
Fair Catherine's pastime—who look'd on the
Between these nations as a main of cocks, [match
Wherein she liked her own to stand like rocks.

XXX.
And there in a kibitka he roll'd on,
(A cursed sort of carriage without springs,
Which on rough roads leaves scarcely a whole bone,)—
Pondering on glory, chivalry, and kings,
And orders, and on all that he had done—
And wishing that post-horses had the wings
Of Pegasus, or at the least post-chaises
Had feathers, when a traveller on deep ways is.

XXXI.
At every jolt—and there were many—still
He turn'd his eyes upon his little charge,
As if he wish'd that she should fare less ill
Than he, in these sad highways left at large
To ruts and flints, and lovely nature's skill,
Who is no pavir, nor admits a barge
On her canals, where God takes sea and land,
Fishery and farm, both into his own hand.

XXXII.
At least he pays no rent, and has best right
To be the first of what we used to call
"Gentlemen farmers"—a race worn out quite,
Since lately there have been no rents at all,
And "gentlemen" are in a piteous plight,
And "farmers" can't raise Ceres from her fall:
She fell with Bonaparte:—what strange thoughts
Arise, when we see emperors fall with oats!

XXXIII.
But Juan turn'd his eyes on the sweet child
Whom he had saved from slaughter,—what a trophy
Oh! ye who build up monuments, defiled
With gore, like Nadir Shah, that costive sophy
Who, after leaving Hindostan a wild,
And scarce to the Mogul a cup of coffee
To sooth his woes withal, was slain, the sinner
Because he could no more digest his dinner.

XXXIV.
Oh ye! or we! or she! or he! or reflect,
That one life saved, especially if young
Or pretty, is a thing to recollect
Far sweeter than the greenest laurels sprung
From the manure of human clay, though deck'd
With all the praises ever said or sung:
Though hymn'd by every harp, unless within
Your heart joins chorus, fame is but a din.

XXXV.
Oh, ye great authors luminous, voluminous!
Yet twice ten hundred thousand daily scribal
Whose pamphlets, volumes, newspapers illumine us
Whether you're paid by government in bribes,
To prove the public debt is not consuming us—
Or, roughly treading on the "courtier's kibes"
With clownish heel, your popular circulation
Feeds you by printing half the realm's starvation.

XXXVI.
Oh, ye great authors!—"Apropos des bottes"—
I have forgotten what I meant to say,
As sometimes have been greater sage's lots
'Twas something calculated to allay
All wrath in barracks, palaces, or cot's
Cerite it would have been but thrown away
And that's one comfort for my lost advice,
Although no doubt it was beyond all price.

XXXVII.
But let it go: it will one day be found
With other relics of "a former world,"
When this world shall be former, undergr. nd
Thrown topsy-turvy, twisted, crisp'd, and curl'd
Baked, fried, or burnt, turn'd inside out, or drown'd
Like all the worlds before, which have been hurl'd
First out of and then back again to chaos,
The superstratum which will overlay us.

XXXVIII.
So Cuvier says:—and then shall come again
Unto the new creation, rising out
From our old crash, some mystic, ancient straw
Of things destroy'd and left in airy doubt:
Like to the notions we now entertain
Of Titans, giants, fellows of about
Some hundred feet in height, not to say miles,
And mammnths, and your winged crocodiles

XXXIX.
Think if then George the Fourth should be dug up
How the new wordings of the then new East
Will wonder where such animals could sup!
(For they themselves will be but of the least:
Even worlds miscarry, when too off they pop.
And every new creation hath decreas'd
In size, from overworking the material—
Men are but maggots of some huge earth's outril.
XL.
How will—to these young people, just thrust out
From some fresh paradise, and set to plough,
And dig, and sweat, and turn themselves about;
And plant, and reap, and spin, and grind, and sow,
Till all the arts at length are brought about,
Especially of war and taxing—how,
I say, will these great relics, when they see 'em,
Look like the monsters of a new museum?

XLI.
Ext I am apt to grow too metaphysical:
"The time is out of joint,"—and so am I;
I quite forget this poem's merely quizzical,
And deviate into matters rather dry.
I ne'er decide what I shall say, and this I call
Much too poetical: men should know why
They write, and for what end; but, note or text,
I never know the word which will come next.

XLII.
So on I ramble, now and then narrating,
Now pondering:—it is time we should narrate:
I left Don Juan with his horses baiting—
Now we'll get o'er the ground at a great rate.
I shall not be particular of words all in a row.
His journey, we've so many tours of late:
Suppose him then at Petersburg; suppose
That pleasant capital of painted snows:

XLIII.
Suppose him in a handsome uniform;
A scarlet coat, black facings, a long plume,
Waving, like sails new shivered in a storm,
Over a cock'd hat in a crowded room,
And brilliant breeches, bright as a Cairn Gorme,
Of yellow kerseymere we may presume,
White stockings drawn, uncurled as new milk,
O'er limbs whose symmetry set off the silk:

XLIV.
Suppose him, sword by side, and hat in hand,
Made up by youth, fame, and an army tailor—
That great enhancer, at whose rod's command
Beauty springs forth, and nature's self turns paler,
Seeing how art can make her work more grand,
(When she don't pin men's limbs in line)
Behold him placed as if upon a pillar! He [jaile]
Seems Love turn'd a lieutenant of artillery.

XLV.
His bandage alip'd down into a cravat;
His wings subdued to cephalis: his quiver
Shrunk to a scabbard, with his arrows at
His side as a small-sword, but sharp as ever;
His bow converted into a cock'd hat;
But still so like, Psyche were more clever
1 can some wives (who make blunders no less stupid)
If she had not mistaken him for Cupid.

XLVI.
The courtiers stared, the ladies whisper'd, and
The empress smiled; the reigning favorite crown'd:
I quite forgot which of them was in hand
Just then, as they are rather numerous found,
Who took by turns that difficult command,
Since first her majesty was singly crown'd:
But they were mostly nervous six-foot fellows,
All fit to make a Pataganean jealous.

XLVII.
Juan was none of these, but sight and slim,
Blushing and beardless; and yet ne'ertheless
There was a something in his turn of limb,
And still more in his eye, which seem'd to express
That thought he look'd one of the seraphim,
There luck'd a man beneath the spirit's dress
Besides, the empress sometimes liked a boy,
And had just buried the fair-faced Lanskoj

XLVIII.
No wonder then that Yermoloff, or Momonoff,
Or Scherbatoff, or any other off,
Or one might dread her majesty had not room enough
Within her bosom (which was not too tough)
For a raw flame; a thought to cast off gloom enough
Along the aspect, whether smooth or rough,
Of him who, in the language of his station,
Then held that "high official situation."

XLIX.
Oh, gentle ladies! should you seek to know
The import of this diplomatic phrase,
Bid Ireland's Londonderry's Marquess show
His parts of speech; and in the strange displays
Of that odd string of words all in a row
Which none divine, and every one obeys,
Perhaps you may pick out some queer no-meaning;
Of that weak wordy harvest the sole gleaning.

L.
I think I can explain myself without
That sad inexplicable beast of prey—
That sphinx, whose words would ever be a doubt,
Did not his deeds unridge them each day—
That monstrous hieroglyphic—that long spout
Of blood and water, leaden Castlereagh!—
And here I must an anecdote relate,
But luckily of no great length or weight.

LI.
An English lady ask'd of an Italian,
What were the actual and official duties
Of the strange thing some women set a value on,
Which hovers o'er about some married beauties,
Call'd "Cavaller Servente"—"a Pygmalion
Whose statues warm (I fear, alas! too true'tis)
Beneath his art. The dame, pressed to disclose
Said—"Lady, I beseech you to suppose them." [them

LII.
And thus I supplicate your supposition,
And mildest, matron-like interpretation,
Of the imperial favorite's condition.
"Twas a high place, the highest in the nation
In fact, if not in rank; and the suspicion
Of any one's attaining to his station,
No doubt gave pain, where each new pair of shoulders
If rather broad, made stocks rise and their holders.

LIII.
Juan. I said, was a most beauteous boy,
And had retain'd his boyish look beyond
The usual histrionic seasons which destroy,
With beard and whiskers, and the like, the fond
 Purdue aspect, which upset all Troy
And founded Doctors' Commons: I have confide
The history of divorces, which, though check'd, do,
Calls Ilion's the first damages on record.
DON JUAN.

LIV.  The two first feelings ran their course complete,  
And lighted first her eye and then her mouth:  
The whole court look'd immediately most sweet,  
Like flowers well water'd after a long drouth:—  
But when on the lieutenant, at her feet,  
Her majesty—who liked to gaze on youth  
Almost as much as on a new despatch—  
Glanced mildly, all the world was on the watch."

LXII.  Though somewhat large, exuberant, and truculent,  
When wrath; waile pleased, she was as fine a figure  
As those who like things rosy, ripe, and succulent  
Would wish to look on, while they are in vigor  
She could repay each amatory look you lent  
With interest, and in turn was wont with rigor  
To exact of Cupid's bills the full amount  
At sight, nor would permit you to discount.

LXIII.  With her the latter, though at times convenient,  
Was not so necessary: for they tell [lentient,  
That she was handsome, and, though fierce, look'd  
And always used her favours too well.  
If once beyond her boudoir's precincts in ye went,  
Your "fortune" was in a fair way "to swell  
A man," as Giles says, & for, though she would widow  
Nations, she liked man as an individual. [all

LXIV.  What a strange thing is man! and what a stranger  
Is woman! What a whirlwind is her head,  
And what a whirlpool full of depth and danger  
Is all the rest about her! whether wed,  
Or widow, maid, or mother, she can change her  
Mind like the wind; whatever she has said  
Or done, is light to what she'll say or do:—  
The oldest thing on record, and yet new!

LXV.  Oh, Catherine! (for of all interjections  
To thee both oh! and ah! belong of right  
In love and war) how odd are the connections  
Of human thoughts, which jostle in their flight!  
Just now yours were cut out in different sections:  
First, Ismail's capture caught your fancy quite;  
Next, of new knights the fresh and glorious batch  
And thirdly, he who brought you the despatch!

LXVI.  Shakspeare talks of "the herald Mercury  
New lighted on a heaven-kissing hill;"  
And some such visions cross'd her majesty,  
While her young herald knelt before her stile.  
'Tis very true the hill seem'd rather high  
For a lieutenant to climb up; but skill [bazzng  
Smooth'd even the Simpion's steep, and, by God'  
With youth and health all kisses are "heaven-kiss  

LXVII.  Her majesty look'd down, the youth look'd up  
And so they fell in love;—she with his face,  
His grace, his God-knows-what: for Cupid's cup  
With the first draught intoxicates apace,  
A quintessential laudanum or "black drop,"  
Which makes one drunk at once, without the base  
Expedient of full bursers; for the eye  
In love drinks all life's fountains (save tears) dry.
LXVIII.

He, on the other hand, if not in love,
Fell into that no less imperious passion,
Self-love—which, when some sort of thing above
Ourselves, a singer, dancer, much in fashion,
Or duchess, princess, empress, "deigns to prove,"
(Tis Pope's phrase,) a great longing, though a
For one especial person out of many, [ rash one,
Makes us believe ourselves as good as any.

LXIX.

Besides, he was of that delighted age
'Which makes all female ages equal—when
We don't much care with whom we may engage,
As bold as Daniel in the lions' den,
So that we can native sun assuage
In the next ocean, which may flow just then,
To make a twilight in—just as Sol's heat is
Quench'd in the lap of the salt sea, or Thetis.

LXX.

And Catherine (we must say thus much for Catherine)
Though bold and bloody, was the kind of thing
Whose temporary passion was quite flattering,
Because each lover look'd a sort of king,
Made up upon an amatory pattern—
A royal husband in all save the ring—
Which being the damn'dest part of matrimony,
Seem'd taking out the sting to leave the honey.

LXXI.

And when you add to this, her womanhood
In its meridian, her blue eyes, or gray—
(The last, if they have soul, are quite as good,
Or better, as the best examples say:
Napoleon's, Mary's, (Queen of Scotland,) should
Lend to that color a transcendent ray;
And Pallas also sanctions the same hue—
Too wise to look through optics black or blue—

LXXII.

Her sweet smile, and her then majestic figure,
Her plumpness, her imperial condescension,
Her preference of a boy to men much bigger,
(Fellows whom Messalina's self would pension,)
Her prime of life, just now in juicy vigor,
With other extras which we need not mention.—
All these, or any one of these, explain
Enough to make a stirpling very vain.

LXXIII.

And that's enough, for love is vanity,
Selfish in its beginning as its end,
Except where 'tis a mere insanity,
A maddening spirit which would strive to blend
itself with beauty's frail inanity,
On which the passion's self seems to depend:
And hence some heathenish philosophers
Make love the mainspring of the universe.

LXXIV.

Besides Platonic love, besides the love
Of God, the love of sentiment, the loving
Of faithful pairs—(I needs must rhyme with dove,
That good old steamboat which keeps verses mov-
Gainst reason—reason ne'er was hand-and-glove (ing
With rhyme, but always lean'd less to improving
The sound than sense)—besides all these pretences
to love, there are those things which words name
senses;

LXXV.

Those movements, those improvements in our bodies
Which make all bodies anxious to get out
Of their own sandpits to mix with a goddess—
For such all women are at first, no doubt.
How beautiful that moment! and how odd is
That fever which precedes the languid rout
Of our sensations! What a curious way
The whole thing is of clothing souls in clay.

LXXVI.

The noblest kind of love is love Platonical.
To end or to begin with; the next grand
Is that which may be christen'd love canonical,
Because the clergy take the thing in hand;
The third sort to be noted in our chronicle,
As flourishing in every Christian land,
Is, when chaste matrons to their other ties
Add what may be call'd marriage in disguise

LXXVII.

Well, we won't analyze—our story must
Tell for itself: the sov'reign was smitten,
Juan much flatter'd by her love, or lust—
I cannot stop to alter words once written,
And the two are so mix'd with human dust,
That he who names one, both perechance may hit on
But in such matters Russia's mighty empress
Behaved no better than a common sempstress.

LXXVIII.

The whole court melted into one wide whisper,
And all lips were applied unto all ears!
The elder ladies' wrinkles curl'd much crisper
As they held up to alter words once leers
On one another, and each lovely lisper
Smil'd as she talk'd the matter o'er; but tears
Of rivalry rose in each clotted eye
Of all the standing army who stood by.

LXXIX.

All the ambassadors of all the powers
Inquired, who was this very new young man,
Who promised to be great in some few hours?
Which is full soon, (though life is but a span.)
Already they beheld the silver showers
Of roubles rain, as fast as specie can,
Upon his cabinet, besides the presents
Of several ribbands and some thousand peasants.

LXXX.

Catherine was generous,—all such ladies are;
Love, that great opener of the heart and all
The ways that lead there, be they near or far:
Above, below, by turnpikes great or small,—
Love—(though she had a cursed taste for war,
And was not the best wife, unless we call
Such Clytemnestra; though perhaps 'tis better
That one should die, than two drug on theetter)

LXXXI.

Love had made Catherine make each lover's fortune,
Unlike our own half chaste Elizabeth,
Whose avarice all disbursements did importune,
If history, the grand liar, ever saith [shorten,
The truth; and though grief her old age might
Because she put a favorite to death,
Her vile ambiguous method of dishartation,
And stinginess, disgrace her sex and station
LXXXII.

But when the levee rose, and all was bustle
In the dissolving circle, all the nations' Ambassadors began as 'twere to bustle
Round the young man with their congratulations.
Also the softer silks were heard to rustle
Of gentle dames, among whose recreations It is to speculate on handsome faces, Especially when such lead to high places.

LXXXIII.

Juan, who found himself, he knew not how,
A general object of attention, made
His answers with a very graceful bow,
As if born for the ministerial trade.
Though modest, on his unembarrass'd brow
Nature had written "Gentleman." He said Little, but to the purpose; and his manner Flung hovering graces o'er him like a banner.

LXXXIV.

An order from her majesty consign'd
Our young lieutenant to the genial care Of those in office: all the world look'd kind, (As it will look sometimes with the first stare, Which youth would not act ill to keep in mind;) As also did Miss Protasoff then there, Named, from her mystic office, "l'Éprouveuse," A term inexplicable to the Muse.

LXXXV.

With her, then, as in humble duty bound, Juan retired,—and so will I, until My Pegasus shall tire of touching ground. We have just lit on a "heaven-kissing hill," So lofty that I feel my brain turn round, And all my fancies whirling like a mill; Which is a signal to my nerves and brain To take a quiet ride in some green lane.

CANTO X.

I.

When Newton saw an apple fall, he found
In that slight startle from his contemplation—
Tis said (for I'll not answer above ground For any sage's creed or calculation)—
A mode of proving that the earth turn round In a most natural whirl, call'd "gravitation;"
And this is the sole mortal who could grapple, Since Adam, with a fall or with an apple.

II.

Man fell with apples, and with apples rose,
If this be true; for we must deem the mode In which Sir Isaac Newton could disclose, Through the then unpaved stars, the turnpike road, A thing to counterbalance human woes;
For, ever since, immortal man hath glow'd With all kinds of mechanisms, and full soon Steam engines will conduct him to the moon.

III.

And wherefore this exordium?—Why just now, In taking up this paltry sheet of paper, My bosom underwent a glorious glow, And my internal spirit cut a caper: And though so much inferior, as I know, To those who, by the dint of glass and vapor, Discover stars, and sail in the wind's eye, I wish to do as much by poesy.

IV.

In the wind's eye I have sail'd, and sail; but for The stars, I own my telescope is dim;
But at the least I've shunn'd the common shore, And, leaving land far out of sight, would skim The ocean of eternity: the roar Of breakers has not daunted my slight, trim, But still sea-worthy skiff; and she may float Where ships have founder'd, as doth many a boat.

V.

We left our hero, Juan, in the bloom Of favoritism, but not yet in the blush; And far be it from my Muses to presume (For I have more than one Muse at a push) To follow him beyond the drawing-room:
It is enough that fortune found him flush Of youth and vigor, beauty, and those things Which for an instant clip enjoyment's wings

VI.

But soon they grow again, and leave their nest. "Oh!" saith the Psalmist, "that I had a dove's Pinions, to flee away and be at rest!" And who, that recollects young years and loves,— Though hoary now, and with a withering breast, And palesd fancy, which no longer roves [rather Beyond its dimm'd eye's sphere,—but would much Sigh like his son, than cough like his grandfather?

VII.

But sighs subside, and tears (even widow's) shrink Like Arno, in the summer, to a shallow, So narrow as to shame their wintry brink, Which threatens inundations deep and yellow! Such difference doth a few months make. You'd think Grief a rich field which never would lie fallow; No more it doth, its ploughs but change their boys, Who furrow some new soil to sow for joys.

VIII.

But coughs will come when sighs depart—and now And then before sighs cease; for oft the one Will bring the other, ere the lake-like brow Is ruffled by a wrinkle, or the sun Of life reach ten o'clock: and while a glow, Hectic and brief as summer's day nigh done, O'erspreads the cheek which seems too pure for clay, Thousands blaze, love, hope, die—how happy they?

IX.

But Juan was not meant to die so soon. We left him in the focus of such glory As may be won by favor of the moon, Or ladies' fancies—rather transitory Perhaps: but who would scorn the month of June Because December, with his breath so hoary, Must come? Much rather should he court the ray, To hoard up warmth against a wintry day
X.
Besides, he had some qualities which fix
Middle-aged ladies even more than young: [chicks
The former know what's what; while new fledg'd
Know little more of love than what is sung
In rhymes, or dream'd, (for fancy will play tricks,)
In visions of those skies from whence love sprung.
Some reckon women by their suns or years—
I rather think the moon should date the dears.

XI.
And why? because she's changeable and chaste.
I know no other reason, whatsoever:
Suspicious people, who find fault in haste,
May choose to tax me with; which is not fair,
Nor flattering to "their temper or their taste,"
As my friend Jeffrey writes with such an air:
However, I forgive him, and I trust
He will forgive himself;—if not, I must

XII.
Old enemies who have become new friends
Should so continue—"tis a point of honor;
And I know nothing which could make amends
For a return to hatred: I would shun her
Like garlic, howsoever she extends
Her hundred arms and legs, and fan out run her.
Old flames, new wives, become our bitterest foes—
Converted foes should scorn to join with those.

XIII.
This were the worst desertion: renegadoes,
Even shuffling Southerny—that incarne lie—
Would scarcely join again the "reformadoes,"
Whom he forsook to fill the laureate's sty:—
And honest men, from Iceland to Barbadoes,
Whether in Caledon or Italy,
Should not ne'er round with every breath, nor seize
To pain, the moment when you cease to please.

XIV.
The lawyer and the critic but behold
The baser sides of literature and life,
And nought remains unseen, but much untold,
By those who scour those double vales of strife.
While common men grow ignorantly old,
The lawyer's brief is like the surgeon's knife,
Dissecting the whole inside of a question,
And with it all the process of digestion.

XV.
A legal broom's a moral chimney-sweeper,
And that's the reason he himself's so dirty;
The endless soot bestows a tint far deeper
Than can be hid by altering his shirt:—he
Retains the sable stains of the dark creeper—
At least some twenty-nine, do out of thirty,
In all their habits: not so you, I own;
As Cæsar wore his robe you wear your gown.

XVI.
And all our little feuds, at least all mine,
Dear Jeffrey, once my most redoubted foe,
(As far as rhyme and criticism combine
To make such puppets of us things below,)
Are over: Here's a health to "Auld Lang Syne!"
I do not know you, and may never know
Your face—but you have acted on the whole
Most kindly, and I own it from my soul.

XVII.
And when I use the phrase of "Auld Lang Syne!
'Tis not address'd to you—the more's the pity
For me, for I would rather take my wine
With you, than aught (save Scott) in your proud
But somehow,—it may seem a schoolboy's whine,
And yet I seek not to be grand nor witty,
But I am half a Scot by birth, and bred
A whole one, and my heart dies to my head:

XVIII.
As "Auld Lang Syne" brings Scotland one and all,
Scotch plaid, Scotch scoffs; the blue hills, and
clear streams,
The Dee, the Don, Balgounie's Brig's black wall,
All my boy feelings, all my gentler dreams
Of what I then dream'd, clothed in their own pall,
Like Banquo's offspring—floating past me seems
My childhood in this childishness of mine:
I care not—"tis a glimpse of "Auld Lang Syne."

XIX.
And though, as you remember, in a fit
Of wrath and rhyme, when juvenile and curly.
I rail'd at Scots to show my wrath and wit,
Which must be own'd was sensitive and surly,
Yet 'tis in vain such sallies to permit;
They cannot quench young feelings fresh and early;
I "sootch'd, not kill'd," the Scotchman in my blood,
And love the land of "mountain and of flood."

XX.
Don Juan, who was real or ideal,—
For both are much the same, since what men think
Exists when the once thinkers are less real,
Than what they thought, for mind can never sink.
And 'gainst the body makes a strong appeal;
And yet 'tis very puzzling on the brink
Of what is call'd eternity, to stare,
And know no more of what is here than there:

XXI.
Don Juan grew a very polish'd Russian—
How we won't mention, why we need not say
Few youthful minds can stand the strong concussion
Of any slight temptation in their way;
But his just now were spread as is a cushion
Smooth'd for a monarch's seat of honor: gay
Damsels, and dances, revels, ready money,
Made ice seem paradise, and winter sunny.

XXII.
The favor of the empress was agreeable;
And though the duty wax'd a little hard,
Young people at his time of life should be able
To come off handomely in that regard.
He was now growing up like a green tree, able
For love, war, or ambition, which reward
Their luckier votaries, till old age's edium
Make some prefer the circulating medium.

XXIII.
About this time, as might have been anticipated,
Seduced by youth and dangerous examples,
Don Juan grew, I fear, a little dissipated;
Which is a sad thing, and not only tramples
On our fresh feelings, but—as being participated
With all kinds of incorrigible samples
Of frail humanity—must make us selfish,
And shut our souls up in us like a shell-fish.
DON JUAN.

XXIV.
This we pass over. We will also pass
The usual progress of intrigues between
Unequal matches, such as are, alas!
A young lieutenant's with a not old queen,
But one who is not so youthful as she was
In all the royalty of sweet seventeen.
Sovereigns may sway materials, but not matter,
And wrinkles (the d—d democrats) won't flatter.

XXV.
And Death, the sovereign's sovereign, though the
Gracchus of all mortality, who levels [great
With his Agrarian laws, the high estate
Of him who feasts, and fights, and roars, and revels,
To or small grass-grown patch (which must await
Corruption for its crop) with the poor devils
Who never had a foot of land till now,—
Death's a reformer, all men must allow.

XXVI.
He lived (not Death, but Juan) in a hurry [glitter,
Of waste, and haste, and glare, and gloss, and
In this gay clime of bear-skins black and furry—
Which (though I hate to say a thing that's bitter)
Peep out sometimes, when things are in a flurry,
Through all the "purple and fine linen," flutter
For Babylon's [he Russia's royal harlot—
And neutralize her outward show of scarlet.

XXVII.
And this same state we won't describe: we could
Perhaps from hearsay, or from recollection;
But getting nigh grim Dante's "obscure wood,"
That horrid equinox, that hateful section
Of human years, that half-way house, that rude
Hut, whence wise travellers drive with circumspec-
Life's sad post-horses o'er the dreary frontier (tion
Of age, and, looking back to youth, give one tear;—

XXVIII.
I won't describe—that is, if I can help
Description; and I won't reflect—that is,
If I can stave off thought, which—as a whelp
Clings to its test—sticks to me through the abyss
Of this odd labyrinth; or as the kelp
Holds by the rock; or as a lover's kiss
Drains its first draught of lips: but, as I said,
I won't philosophise, and will be read.

XXIX.
Juan, instead of courting courts, was courted,
A thing which happens rarely; this he owed
Much to his youth, and much to his reported
Valor; much also to the blood he show'd,
Like a racehorse: much to each dress he sported,
Which set the beauty off in which he glow'd,
As purple clouds befog the sun; but most
He owed to an old woman and his post.

XXX.
He wrote to Spain:—and all his near relations,
Perceiving he was in a handsome way
Of getting on himself, and finding stations
For cousins also, answ'er'd the same day.
Several prepared themselves for emigrations;
And, eating ices, were o'erheard to say,
That with the addition of a slight pelisse,
Madrid's and Moscow's climes were of a piece.

XXXI.
His mother, Donna Inez, finding, too,
That in the lieu of drawing on his banker,
Where his assets were waxing rather few, [chor
He had brought his spending to a handsome an
Replied, "that she was glad to see him through
Those pleasure after which wild youth will hang
As the sole sign of man's being in his senses
Is, learning to reduce his past expenses.

XXXII.
"She also recommended him to God,
And no less to God's Son, as well as Mother,
Warn'd him against Greek worship, which looks odd
In Catholic eyes; but told him too to smoother
Outward disliking, which don’t look well abroad
Inform'd him that he had a little brother
Born in a second wedlock; and above
All, praised the empress's maternal love.

XXXIII.
"She could not too much give her approbation
Unto an empress, who preferr'd young men
Whose age, and, what was better still, whose . . . tion
And climate, stopp'd all scandal, (now and then:)
At home it might have given her some vexation;
But where thermometers sunk down to ten,
Or five, or one, or zero, she could never
Believe that virtue th'ad before the river.

XXXIV.
Oh, for a forty-parson power to chant
Thy praise, hypocrisy! Oh for a hymn
Loud as the virtues thou dost loudly vaunt,
Not practise! Oh for trumps of cherubim
Or the ear-trumpet of my good old aunt,
Who, though her spectacles at last grew dim,
Drew quiet consolation through its hint
When she no more could read the pious print.

XXXV.
She was no hypocrite, at least, poor soul!
But went to heaven in as sincere a way
As any body on the elected roll,
Which portions out upon the judgment day
Heaven's freeholds, in a sort of doomsday roll,
Such as the Conqueror William did repay
His knights with, lotting others' properties
Into some sixty thousand new knights' fees.

XXXVI.
I can't complain, whose ancestors are the
Erneis, Radulphus—eight and forty manors
(If that my memory doth not greatly err)
Were their reward for following Billy's banne
And, though I can't help thinking 'twas scarce fair
To strip the Saxons of their Aydes, like tanners
Yet as they founded churches with the produce,
You'll deem, no doubt, they put it to a good use.

XXXVII.
The gentle Juan flourish'd, though at times
He felt like other plants—call'd sensitive,
Which shrink from touch, as monarchs do from
Save such as Southey can afford to give. [rhymes
Perhaps he long'd, in bitter frost, for climes
In which the Neva's ice would cease to live
Before May-day: perhaps, despite his duty,
In royalty's vast arms he sigh'd for beauty:
XXXVIII.

Perhaps,—but, save perhaps, we need not seek
For causes young or old: the canker-worn
Will feed upon the fairest, freest cheek,
As well as further drain the wither'd form:
Care, like a housekeeper, brings every week
His bills in, and, however we may storm,
They must be paid: though six days smoothly run,
The seventh will bring blue devils or a dun.

XXXIX.

I don’t know how it was, but he grew sick:
The empress was alarmed, and her physician
(The same who physicked Peter) found the tick
Of his fierce pulse betoken a condition
Which augur’d of the dead, however quick
Itself, and showed a feverish disposition;
At which the whole court was extremely troubled,
The sovereign shock’d, and all his medicines doubled.

XL.

Low were the whispers, manifold the rumors:
Some said he had been poison’d by Potemkin;
Others talk’d learnedly of certain tumors,
Exhaustion, or disorders of the same kin;
Some said ’twas a concoction of the humors,
Which with the blood too readily will claim kin;
Others again were ready to maintain,
“’Twas only the fatigue of last campaign.”

XLI.

But here is one prescription out of many:
“Sode sulphat. 3 vj. 3 l. Manna optim.
Ag. fervent. f. 3 f. 3. j. tinct. Semno [him]
Haustus” (And here the surgeon came and cupp’d
“R. Pulv. Com. gr. ii. Psecacauana”
(With more beside if Juan had not stopp’d ‘em,
“Bolus Potassum Sulphurat. sumendus,
Et haustus ter in die capiendus.”

XLII.

This is the way physicians mend or end us,
Secundum artem: but although we sneer
In health—when ill, we call them to attend us,
Without the least propensity to jeer;
While that “hasta maxime defendas,”
To be fill’d up by spade or mattock, is near,
Instead of gliding gracefully down Lethe,
We tease mild Baillie, or soft Abernethy.

XLIII.

Juan demurr’d at this first notice to [tion,
Quilt; and, though death had threaten’d an ejec-
His youth and constitution bore him through,
And sent the doctors in a new direction.
But still his state was delicate: the hue
Of health but flicker’d with a faint reflection
Along his wasted cheeks, and seemed to grave
The faculty—who said that he must travel.

XLIV.

The climate was too cold, they said, for him,
Meridian-born, to bloom in. This opinion
Made the chaste Catherine look a little grim,
Who did not like at first to lose her minion:
But when she saw his dazzling eye wax dim,
And drooping like an eagle’s with clipp’d pinion,
She then resolved to send him on a mission,
But in a style becoming his condition.

XLV.

There was just then a kind of a discussion
A sort of treaty or negotiation
Between the British cabinet and Russian,
Maintain’d with all the due provarication [on
With which great states such things are apt to push
Something about the Baltic’s navigation,
Hides, train-oil, fallow, and the rights of Thetis
Which Britons deem their “uti possidetis.”

XLVI.

So Catherine, who had a handsome way
Of fitting out her favorites, confer’d
This secret charge on Juan, to display
At once her royal splendor, and reward
His services. He kiss’d hands the next day,
Received instructions how to play his card,
Was laden with all kinds of gifts and honors,
Which show’d what great discernment was the donor’s.

XLVII.

But she was lucky, and luck’s all. Your queens
Are generally prosperous in reigning;
Which puzzles us to know what fortune means.
But to continue: though her years were waning
Her climacteric teasing her like her teens;
And though her dignity brook’d no complaining,
So much did Juan’s setting off distress her,
She could not find at first a fit successor.

XLVIII.

But time, the comforter, will come at last;
And four-and-twenty hours, and twice that number
Of candidates requesting to be placed,
Made Catherine taste next night a quiet slumber
Not that she meant to fix again in haste,
Nor did she find the quantity encumber,
But, always choosing with deliberation,
Kept the place open for their emulation.

XLIX.

While this high post of honor’s in abeyance,
For one or two days, reader, we request
You’ll mount with your young hero the conveyance
Which wafted him from Petersburg; the best
Barouche, which had the glory to display once
The fair Clarissa’s autocratic crest.
(When, a new Iphigenia, she went to Tauris,)
Was given to her favorite, and now bore his.

L.

A bull-dog, and a bull-finch, and an ermine,
All private favorites of Don Juan; for
(Let deeper sages the true cause determine)
He had a kind of inclination, or
Weakness, for what most people deem mere vermin—
Live animals—an old maid of three score
For cats and birds more penchant never display’d
Although he was not old, nor even a maid.

LI.

The animals aforesaid occupied
Their station: there were valets, secretaries,
In other vehicles; but at his side
Sat little Leila, who survived the parries
He made ’gainst Cossack sabres, in the wide
Slaughter of Ismail. Though my wild Muse varies
Her note, she don’t forget the infant girl
Whom he preserved, a pure and living pearl.
As rare in living beings as a fossil [Olivier!]

Man, 'mid thy mouldy mammoths, "grand
ill fitted was her ignorance to jo-te
With this overwhelming world, where all must err:
But she was yet but ten years old, and therefore
Was tranquil, though she knew not why or wherefor.

LII.

Don Juan loved her, and she loved him, as
Nor brother, father, sister, daughter love.
I cannot tell exactly what it was:
He was not yet quite old enough to prove
Parental feelings, and the other class,
Call'd brotherly affection, could not move
His bosom—for he never had a sister:
Ah! if he had how much he would have miss'd her!

LIV.

and still less was it sensual; for besides
That he was not an ancient debauchee,
(Who like sour fruit to stir their veins' salt tides,
As acids rouse a dormant alkali.)
Although (t'lest happen as our planet guides)
His youth was not the chasteest that might be,
There was the purest Platonism at bottom
Of all his feelings—only he forgot 'em.

LV.

Just now there was no peril of temptation;
He loved the infant orphan he had saved,
As patriots (now and then) may love a nation;
His pride too felt that she was not enslaved,
Owing to him;—as also her salvation,
[paved.
Through his means and the church's, might be
But one thing's odd, which here must be inserted—
The little Turk refused to be converted.

LVI.

'Twas strange enough she should retain the im-
pression [slaughter;
Through such a scene of change, and dread, and
But, though three bishops told her the transgression,
She show'd a great dislike to holy water:
She also had no passion for confession;—
Perhaps she had nothing to confess;—no matter
Whate'er the cause, the church made little of it—
She still held out that Mahomet was a prophet.

LVII.

In fact, the only Christian she could bear
Was Juan, whom she seem'd to have selected
In place of what her home and friends once were.
He naturally loved what he protected;
And thus they form'd a rather curious pair:
A guardian green in years, a ward connected
In neither clime, time, blood, with her defender;
And yet this want of ties made theirs more tender.

LVIII.

They journey'd on through Poland and through
Warsaw,
Famous for mines of salt and yokes of iron:
Through Courland also, which that famous false saw,
Which gave her dukes? the graceless name of
"Biron."
This the same landscape which the modern Mars
Who marched to Moscow, led by fame, the syren!
To lose, by one month's frost, some twenty years
Of conquest, and his guard of grenadiers.

LIX.

Let not this seem an anti-climax:—"Oh! clay—
My guard! my old guard!" exclaim'd that god of
Think of the Thunderer's falling down below
Carotid—artery—cutting Castlereagh!
Alas! that glory should be chill'd by snow!
Bu', should we wish to warm us on our way
Through Poland, there is Kosciusko's name
Might scatter fire through ice, like Hecla's flame.

LX.

From Poland they came on th. agph Prussia proper.
And Konigsberg the capital, whose vaunt,
Besides some veins of iron, lead, or copper,
Has lately been the great Professor Kant.
Juan, who cared not a tobacco-stopper
About philosophy, pursued his jaunt
To Germany, whose somewhat tardy millions
Have princes who spurn more than their postillions.

LXI.

And thence through Berlin, Dresden, and the like
Until he reached the castellated Rhine:
Ye glorious Gothic scenes! how much ye strike
All phantasies, not even excepting mine:
A gray wall, a green ruin, rusty pike,
Make my soul pass the equinoctial line
Between the present and past worlds, and hover
Upon their airy confines, half-seas-over.

LXII.

But Juan posted on through Manheim, Bonn,
Which Drachdenfels frowns over like a spectre
Of the go--feudal times for ever gone,
On which I have not time just now to lecture.
From thence he was drawn onwards to Cologne.
A city which presents to the inspector
Eleven thousand maidenheads of bone,
The greatest number flesh hath ever known.

LXIII.

From thence to Holland's Hague and Helvoetsluyys
That watery land of Dutchmen and of ditches,
Where Junipero expresses its best juice—
The poor man's sparkling substitute for riches.
Senates and sages have condemn'd its use—
But to deny the mob a cordial which is
Too often all the clothing, meat, or fuel,
Good government has left them, seems but cruel.

LXIV.

Here he embark'd, and, with a flowing sail,
Went bounding for the island of the free,
Towards which the impatient wind blew half a gale
High dash'd the spray, the bows dipp'd in the sea
And sea-sick passengers turn'd somewhat pale:
But Juan, season'd, as he well might be
By former voyages, stood to watch the skiffs
Which pass'd, or catch the first glimpse of the cliffs.

LXV.

At length they rose, like a white wall along
The blue sea's border; and Don Juan felt—
What even young strangers feel a little strong
At the first sight of Albion's chalky belt—
A kind of pride that he should be among
Those haughty shopkeepers, who sternly dealt
Their goods and edicts oft from pole to pole,
And made the very billows pay them toll.
LXVI.
I've no great cause to love that spot of earth,
Which holds what might have been the noblest!
But though I owe it little but my birth,
[Nation;]
I feel a mix'd regret and veneration.
For its decaying fame and former worth.
Seven years (the usual term of transportation)
Of absence lay one's old resentments level,
When a man's country's going to the devil.

LXVII.
Alas! could she but fully, truly know
How her great name is now throughout abhorr'd;
How eager all the earth is for the blow
Which shall lay bare her bosom to the sword;
How all the nations deem her worst foe;
That worse than worst of foes, the once adored
False friend, who held out freedom to mankind,
And now would chain them, to the very mind:—

LXVIII.
Would she be proud, or boast herself the free,
Who is but first of slaves? The nations are
In prison,—but the jailer, what is he?
No less a victim to the bolt and bar
Is the poor privilege to turn the key
Upon the captive, freedom? He's as far
From the enjoyment of the earth and air
Who watches o'er the chain, as they who wear.

LXIX.
Don Juan now saw Albion's earliest beauties,
Thy cliffs, dear Dover! harbor, and hotel;
Thy custom-house, with all its delicate duties;
Thy waiters running mACKS at every bell;
Thy packets, all whose passengers are booties
To those who upon land or water dwell;
And last, not least, to strangers un instructed,
Thy long, long bills, whence nothing is deducted.

LXX.
Juan, though careless, young, and magnifique,
And rich in roubles, diamonds, cash, and credit,
Who did not limit much his bills per week,
Yet stared at this a little, though he paid it—
(His majesty domo, a smart subtle Greek.
Before him summon'd the awful scroll and read it:)
But doubtless as the air, though seldom sunny,
Is free, the respirations's worth the money.

LXXX.
On with the horses! Off to Canterbury!
Tramp, tramp o'er pebble, and splash, splash
through puddle;
Hurrah! how swiftly speeds the post so merry!
Not like slow Germany, wherein they muddle
Along the road, as if they went to bury
Their fare; and also pause, besides, to fuddle
With "schnappes"—sad dogs! whom "Hundsfot" or
"Ferfuctor"
Affect no more than lightning a conductor.

LXXI.
Now, there is nothing gives a man such spirits,
Leavening his blood as Cayenne doth a curry,
As going at full speed—no matter where its
Direction be, so 'tis but in a hurry,
And merely for the sake of its own merits:
For the less cause there is for all this flurry,
The greater is the pleasure in arriving
At the great era of travel—which is driving.

LXXII.
They saw at Canterbury the Cathedral;
Black Edward's helm, and Becket's bloody stone,
Were pointed out as usual by the bedral,
In the same quaint, uninterested tone:
There's glory again for you, gentle reader! all
Ends in a rusty casque and dubious bone.
Half-solvo into these sodas or magנציs,
Which form that bitter draught, the human species.

LXXIII.
The effect on Juan was of course sublime:
He breathed a thousand Cressays, as he saw
That casque, which never stoop'd except to Time.
Even the bold Churchman's tomb excited awe,
Who died in the then great attempt to climb
O'er kings, who now at least must talk of law,
Before they butcher. Little Leila gazed,
And asked why such a structure had been raised:

LXXIV.
And being told it was "God's house," she said
He was well lodged, but only wonder'd how
He suffer'd infidels in his homestead,
The cruel Nazarenes, who had laid low
His holy temples in the lands which bred
The true believers:—and her infant brow
Was bent with grief that Mahomet should resign
A mosque so noble, flung like pearls to swine.

LXXV.
On, on! through meadows, managed like a garden,
A paradise of hops and high production;
For, after years of travel by a bard in
Countries of greater heat but lesser suction,
A green field is a sight which makes him pardon
The absence of that more sublime construction
Which mixes up vines, olives, precipices,
Glaciers, volcanoes, oranges, and ices.

LXXVI.
And when I think upon a pot of beer—
But I won't weep!—and so, drive on, postillions!
As the smart boys spur'd fast in their career,
Juan admired these highways of free millions;
A country in all senses the most dear!
To foreigner or native, save some silly ones,
Who "kick against the pricks" just at this juncture
And for their pains get only a fresh puncture.

LXXVII.
What a delightful thing's a turnpike road!
So smooth, so level, such a mode of shaving
The earth, as scarce the eagle in the broad
Air can accomplish, with his wide wings waving.
Had such been cut in Phaeton's time, the god
Had told his son to satisfy his craving
With the York mail—but, onward as we roll,
"Surgit avari aliquid"—the toll!

LXXVIII.
Alas! how deeply painful is all payment! [purses,
Take lives, take wives, take aught except men]
As Machiavel shows those in purple raiment.
Such is the shortest way to general curses.
They hate a murderer much less than a claimant
On that sweet ore, which every body nurses—
Kill a man's family, and he may brook it;
But keep your hands out of his breeches' pocket.
LXXX.

so said the Florentine: ye monarchs, hearken
T. your instructor. Juan now was borne,
Yet as the day began to wane and darken;
O'er the high hill which looks with pride or scorn Toward the great city—ye who have a spark in Your veins of cockney spirit, smile or mourn, According as you take things well or ill—
But Britons, we are now on Shooter's Hill!

LXXXI.
The sun went down, the smoke rose up, as from A half-unquench'd volcano, o'er a space Which well beseech'd the "Devil's drawing-room," As some have qualified that wondrous place. But Juan felt, though not approaching home, As one who, though he were not of the race, Revered the soul, of those true sons the mother, Who butcher'd half the earth, and bullied t'other.

LXXXII.
A mighty mass of brick, and smoke, and shipping, Dirty and dusky, but as wide as eye Could reach, with here and there a sail just skipping In sight, then lost amid the forestry Of masts; a wilderness peopling On tiptoe, through their sea-coal canopy; A huge dun cupola, like a foolscap crown On a fool's head—and there is London town!

LXXXIII.
But Juan saw not this: each wreath of smoke Appeard to him but as the magic vapor Of some alchymic furnace, from whence broke The wealth of worlds, (a wealth of tax and paper;) The gloomy clouds, which o'er it as a yoke Are bow'd, and put the sun out like a taper, Were nothing but the natural atmosphere— Extremely wholesome, though but rarely clear.

LXXXIV.
He paused—and so will I—as doth a crew Before they give their broadside. By and by, My gentle countrymen, we will renew Our old acquaintance, and at least I'll try To tell you truths you will not take as true, Because they are so,—a male Mrs. Fry, With a soft besom will I sweep your halls, And brush a web or two from off the walls.

LXXXV.
Oh, Mrs. Fry! why go to Newgate? Why Preach to poor rogues? And wherfore not begin With Carlton, or with other houses? Try Your hand at harden'd and imperial sin. To mend the people's an absolute, A jargon, a mere philanthropic din, Unless you make their better better.—Fie! I thought you had more religion, Mrs. Fry.

LXXXVI.
Reach them the decencies of good threescore:— Cure them of theirs, Hussar and Highland dresses; Tell them that youth once gone returns no more; That hired huzzazs redeem no land's distresses: Tell them Sir William Curtis is a bore, Too dull even for the dullest of excesses— The witless Falstaff of a hoary Hai, A fool whose bells have ceased to ring at all,—

LXXXVII.
Tell them, though it may be perhaps too late, On life's worn confine, jaded, blunted, sated. To set up vain pretences of being great, 'Tis not so to be good; and be it stated, The worthiest kings have ever loved least state; And tell them—but you won't, and I have prated Just now enough; but by and by I'll prattle Like Roland's horn in Roncesvalles' battle.

CANTO XI.

I.

When Bishop Berkley said "there was no matter," And proved it—'twas no matter what he said: They say his system 'tis in vain to batter, Too subtle for the airiest human head; And yet who can believe it? I would shatter, Gladly, all matters down to stone or lead. Or adamant, to find the world a spirit, And wear my head, denying that I wear it.

II.

What a sublime discovery 'twas, to make the Universe universal egotism! That all's ideal—all ourselfs? I'll stake the World (be it what you will) that that's no schism. Oh, doubt!—if thou be'st doubt, for which some take But which I doubt extremely—thou sole prism thee, Of the truth's rays, spoil not my draught of spirit Heaven's brandy—though our brain can hardly bear it.

III.

For, ever and anon comes indigestion, (Not the most 'dainty Ariel,' and perplexes Our sorrows with another sort of question: And that which, after all, my spirit vexes Is, that I find no spot where man can rest eye on, Without confusion of the sorts and sexes, Of beings, stars, and this unriddled wonder, The world, which at the worst's a glorious blunder—

IV.

If it be chance; or if it be according To the old text, still better! lest it should Turn out so, we'll say nothing 'gainst the wording As several people think such hazards rude: They're right; our days are too brief for affording Space to dispute what no one ever could Decide, and every body one day will Know very clearly—or at least lie still.

V.

And therefore will I leave off metaphysical Discussions, which is neither here and there. If I agree that what is, is—then this I call Being quite perspicuous and extremely fair. The truth is, I've grown lately rather phthisical I don't know what the reason is—the air Perhaps; but as I suffer from the shocks Of illness, I grow much more orthodox.
VI.
The first attack at once proved the divinity,
(But that I never doubted, nor the devil;)
The next, the Virgin's mystical virginity;
The third, the usual origin of evil;
The fourth at once established the whole Trinity
On so incontrovertible a level,
That I devoutly wished the three were four,
On purpose to believe so much the more.

VII.
To our theme:—The man who has stood on the
And look'd down over Attica; or he [Acropolis
Who has sail'd where picturesque Constantinople is,
Or seen Timbuctoo, or hath taken tea
In small-eyed China's crockery-ware metropolis,
Or sat amid the bricks of Nineveh.
May not think much of London's first appearance—
But ask him what he thinks of it a year hence?

VIII.
Don Juan had got out on Shooter's Hill—
Sunset the time, the place the same declivity
Which looks along that vale of good and ill
Where London streets ferment in full activity,
While every thing around was calm and still,
Except the creak of wheels, which on their pivot
Heard—and that bee-like, bustling, busy hum
Of cities, that boil over with their scum:—

IX.
I say, Don Juan, wrap't in contemplation,
Walk'd on behind his carriage, o'er the summit,
And, lost in wonder of so great a nation,
Gave way to, since he could not overcome it.
"And here," he cried, "is Freedom's chosen station;
Here peals the people's voice, nor can entomb it
Racks, prisons, inquisitions; resurrection
Awaits it, each new meeting or election.

X.
"Here are chaste wives, pure lives; here people pay
But what they please; and if that things be dear,
'Tis only that they love to throw away
Their cash, to show how much they have a year.
Here laws are all inviolate; none may
Traps for the traveller, every highway's clear:
Here— "I" he was interrupted by a knife,
With "Damn your eyes! your money or your life!"

XI.
These free-born sounds proceeded from four pads,
In ambush laid, who had perceived him loiter
Behind his carriage; and, like handy lads,
Had seized the lucky hour to reconnoitre,
In which the heeless gentleman who gads
Upon the road, unless he prove a fighter,
My fin't herself, within that isle of riches,
Exposed to lose his life as well as breeches.

XII.
Juan, who did not understand a word
Of English, save their shibboleth, "God damn!"
And even that he had so rarely heard,
He sometimes thought "twas only their "salam;"
Or "God be with you,"—and 'tis not absurd
To think so; for, half English as I am,
(To my misfortune,) never can I say
I heard them wish "Go with you," save that way:

XIII.
Juan yet quickly understood their gesture,
And, being somewhat choleric and sudden,
Drew forth a pocket-pistol from his vesture,
And fired it into one assailant's pudding—
Who fell, as rolls an ox 'er in his pasture,
And roared out, as he writhed his native mud in,
Unto his nearest follower or henchman.
"Oh Jack! I'm floor'd by that 'ere bloody French
man!"

XIV.
On which Jack and his train set off at speed,
And Juan's suite, late scatter'd at a distance,
Came up, all marvelling at such a deed,
And offering, as usual, late assistance.
Juan, who saw the moon's late minion bleed
As if his veins would pour out his existence,
Stood calling out for bandages and lint,
And wish'd he'd been less hasty with his flint.

XV.
"Perhaps," thought he, "it is the country's wont
To welcome foreigners in this way: now
I recollect some innkeepers who don't
Differ, except in robbing with a bow,
In lieu of a bare blade and brazen front.
But what is to be done? I can't allow
The fellow to lie groaning on the road:
So take him up; I'll help you with the load."

XVI.
But, ere they could perform this pious duty,
The dying man cried, "Hold! I've got my gruel!
Oh! for a glass of max! We've miss'd our booty;
Let me die where I am." And, as the fiend
Of life shrunk in his heart, and thick and sooty
The drops fell from his death-wound, and he drew
His breath, he from his swelling throat untied
[f11]
A kerchief, crying, "Give Sal that!"—and died.

XVII.
The cravat, stain'd with bloody drops, fell down
Before Don Juan's feet: he could not tell
Exactly why it was before him thrown,
Nor what the meaning of the man's farewell.
Poor Tom was once a kiddy upon town,
A thorough varmint, and a real swell,
Full flash, all fancy, until fairly diddled—
His pockets first, and then his body riddled.

XVIII.
Don Juan, having done the best he could
In all the circumstances of the case,
As soon as "crowners' quest" allow'd, pursued
His travels to the capital space;
Resteeming it a little hard he should
In twelve hours' time, a very little space,
Have been obliged to slay a free-born native
In self-defence: this made him meditative.

XIX.
He from the world had cut off a great man,
Who in his time had made heroic bustle
Who in a row like Tom could lead the van,
Booze in the ken, or at the spellken hustle?
Who queer a flat? Who (spite of Bow-street's ban)
On the high toby-spice so flash the muzzle?
Who on a lark, with black-eyed Sal, (his blowing)
So prime, so swell, so nutty, and so knowing?
XX.
But Tom's no more—and no more of Tom.  
Heroes must die: and by God's blessing, 'tis  
Not long before the most of them go home.  
Hail! Thamus, hail! Upon thy verge it is  
That Juan's chariot, rolling like a drum  
In thunder, holds the way it can't well miss,  
Through Kennington and all the other "tons,"  
Which make us wish ourselves in town at once;  

XXI.
Through groves, so call'd as being void of trees,  
(Like theirs from no light;) through prospects named  
Mount Pleasant, as containing nought to please,  
Nor much to climb; through little boxes framed  
Of bricks, to let the dust in at your ease,  
With "To be let," upon their doors proclaim'd;  
Through "rooms" most modestly call'd "Paradise,"  
Which Eve might quit without much sacrifice;—  

XXII.
Through coaches, drays, choked turnpikes, and a  
Of wheels, and roar of voices, and confusion; [whirl  
Here taverns woom to a pint of "purl,"  
There mails fast flying off like a delusion;  
There barbers' blocks with periwigs in curl  
In windows; here the lamp-lighter's infusion  
Slowly distill'd into the glimmering glass,—  
(For in those days we had not got to gas:)  

XXIII.
Through this, and much, and more, is the approach  
Of travellers to mighty Babylon:  
Whether they come by horse, or chaise, or coach,  
With slight exceptions, all the ways seem one.  
I could say more, but do not choose to encroach  
Upon the guide-book's privilege. The sun  
Had set some time, and night was on the ridge  
Of twilight, as the party cross'd the bridge.  

XXIV.
That's rather fine, the gentle sound of Thamus—  
Who vindicates a moment too his stream—[mes"  
Though hardly heard through multifarious "dam"—  
The lamps of Westminster's more regular gleam  
The breadth of pavement, and your shrine where  
A spectral resident—whose pallid beam  [Fame is  
In shape of moonshine hovers o'er the pile—  
Make this a sacred part of Albion's isle.  

XXV.
The Druids' groves are gone—so much the better;  
Stone-Henge is not—but what the devil is it?—  
But Bedlam still exists with its sage fetter,  
That madmen may not bite you on a visit;  
The Bench too seats or suits full many a debtor;  
The mansion-house, too, (though some people quiz  
To me appears a stiff yet grand creation: [It,)  
But then the Abbey's worth the whole collection.  

XXVI.
The line of lights, too, up to Charing-Cross,  
Pall-Mall, and so forth, have a coruscation,  
Like gold as in comparison to dross,  
Match'd with the continent's illumination,  
Whose cities night by no means deigns to glose;  
The French were not yet a lamp-lighting nation,  
And when they grew so—on their new-found lantern,  
Instead of wicks, they made a wicked man turn.  

XXVII.
A row of gentleman along the streets  
Suspended, may illuminate mankind,  
As also bonfires made of country-seats  
But the old way is best for the purblind  
The other looks like phosphorus on sheets,  
A sort of ignis-fatuus to the mind,  
Which, though 'tis certain to perplex and frighten,  
Must burn more mildly ere it can enlighten.  

XXVIII.
But London's so well lit, that if Diogenes  
Could recommence to hunt his honest man,  
And found him not amid the various progenies  
Of this enormous city's spreading spawn,  
'Twere not for want of lamps to aid his dodging his  
Yet undiscover'd treasure. What I can,  
I've done to find the same throughout life's journey,  
But see the world is only one attorney.  

XXIX.
Over the stones still rattling, up Pall-Mall,  
Through crowds and carriages—but waxing thinner  
As thunder'd knockers broke the long-sea'd spell  
Of doors 'gainst doors, and to an early dinner  
Admitted a small party as night fell.—  
Don Juan, our young diplomatic sinner,  
Pursued his path, and drove past some hotels,  
St. James's Palace and St. James's "Hells,"

XXX.
They reach'd the hotel: forth stream'd from the lit  
A tide of well-clad waiters. and around  [door  
The mob stood, and as usual several score  
Of those pedestrian Paplians who abound  
In decent London when the daylight's o'er;  
Commodious but immoral, they are found  
Useful, like Malthus, in promoting marriage  
But Juan now is stepping from his carriage.  

XXXI.
Into one of the sweetest of hotels,  
Especially for foreigners—and mostly  
For those whom favor or whom fortune swells,  
And cannot find a bill's small items costly.  
There many an envoy either dwelt or dwells,  
(The den of many a diplomatic lost lie,)  
Until to some conspicuous square they pass,  
And blazon o'er the door their names in brass.  

XXXII.
Juan, whose was a delicate commission,  
Private, though publicly important, bore  
No title to point out with due precision  
The exact affair on which he was sent o'er.  
'Twas merely known that on a secret mission  
A foreigner of rank had graced our shore,  
Young, handsome, and accomplish'd, who was  
(Whispers) to have turn'd his sovereign's head.  

XXXIII.
Some rumor also of some strange adventures  
Had gone before him, and his wars and loves.  
And as romantic heads are pretty painters,  
And above all, an English woman's roves  
Into the excursive, breaking the indentures  
Of sober reason, where soerer it moves,  
He found himself extremely in the fashion,  
Which serves our thinking people for a passion.
XXXIV.
I don't mean that they are passionless, but quite
The contrary; but then 'tis in the head;
Yet, as the consequences are as bright
As if they acted with the heart instead,
What after all can signify the site
Of ladies' lucubrations! So they lead
In safety to the place for which you start,
What matters if the road be head or heart?

XXXV.
Juan presented in the proper place,
To proper placemen, every Russ credential;
And was received with all the due grimace,
By those who govern in the mood potential,
Who, seeing a handsome stripling with smooth face,
Thought (what in state affairs is most essential)
That they as easily might do the youngest,
As hawks may pounce upon a woodland songster.

XXXVI.
They err'd, as aged men will do; but by
And by we'll talk of that; and if we don't,
'Twill be because our notion is not high
Of politicians and their double front,
Who live by lies, yet dare not boldly lie:
Now what I love in women is, they won't
Or can't do otherwise than lie, but do it
So well, the very truth seems falsehood to it.

XXXVII.
And, after all, what is a lie? 'Tis but
The truth in masquerade; and I defy
Historians, heroes, lawyers, priests, to put
A fact without some leaven of a lie.
The very shadow of true truth would shut
Up annals, revelations, poesy,
And prophecy—except it should be dated
Some years before the incidents related.

XXXVIII.
Praised be all liars and all lies! Who now
Can tax my mild Muse with misanthropy?
She rings the world's "Te Deum," and her brow
Blushes for those who will not—but to sigh
Is idle; let us, like most others, bow,
Kiss hands, feet—any part of Majesty,
After the good example of "Green Erin,"
Whose shamrock now seems rather worse for wearing.

XXXIX.
Don Juan was presented, and his dress
And mine excited general admiration—
I don't know which was more admired or less:
One monstrous diamond drew much observation,
Which Catherine, in a moment of "Ivresse,"
(In love or brandy's fervent fermentation,)—
Bestow'd upon him as the public learn'd—
And, to say truth, it had been fairly earn'd.

XL.
Besides the ministers and underlings,
Who must be courteous to the accredited
Diplomatists of rather wavering kings,
Until their royal riddle's fully read,
The very clerks—those somewhat dirty springs
Of office, or the house of office, fed
By foul corruption into streams—even they
Were hardly rude enough to earn their pay:

XLI.
And insolence no doubt is what they are
Employ'd for, since it is their daily labor,
In the dear offices of peace or war;
[neighbors]
And should you doubt, pray ask of your next
When for a passport, or some other bar
To freedom, he applied, (a grief and a bore,)—
If he found not this spawn of tax-born riches
Like lap-dogs, the least civil sons of b——.

XLII.
But Juan was received with much "empirempt;
These phrases of refinement I must borrow [man,
From our next neighbor's land, where, like a chess-
There is a move set down for joy or sorrow,
Not only in mere talking but the press. Man,
In islands, is, it seems, downright and thorough,
More than on continents—as if the sea
(See Billingsgate) made even the tongue more free.

XLIII.
And yet the British "dam'me" 's rather Attic:
Your continental oaths are but incontinent,
And turn on things which no aristocratic [anem
Spirit would name, and therefore even I won't
This subject quote, as it would be schismatic
In polite, and have a sound affronting in 't:—
But "dam'me" 's quite ethereal, though too daring—
Platonic blasphemy, the soul of swearing.

XLIV.
For downright rudeness, ye may stay at home;
For true or false politeness (and scarce that
Now) you may cross the blue deep and white foam—
The first the emblem (rarely enough) of what
You leave behind, the next of much you come
To meet. However, 'tis no time to chat
On general topics: poems must confine
Themselves to unity, like this of mine.

XLV.
In the great world,—which, being interpreted,
Meaneth the west or worst end of a city,
And about twice two thousand people bred
By no means to be very wise or witty,
But to sit up while others lie in bed,
And look down on the universe with pity
Juan, as an inveterate patronic,
Was well received by persons of condition.

XLVI.
He was a bachelor, which is a matter
Of import both to virgin and to bride,
The former's hymeneal hopes to flatter:
And (should she not hold fast by love or pride)
'Tis also of some moment to the latter:
A rib's a thorn in a wed gallant's side,
Requires decorum, and is apt to double
The horrid sin—and, what's still worse, the trouble.

XLVII.
But Juan was a bachelor—of arts.
And parts, and hearts: he danced and sung, and
An air as sentimental as Mozart's
Softest of melodies; and could be sad
Or cheerful, without any "flaws or starts,"
Just at the proper time; and, though a lad,
Had seen the world—which is a curious sight,
And very much unlike what people write.
XLVIII.

War virgins blush'd upon him; wedded dames
Bloom'd also in less transitory hues;
For both commodities dwell by the Thames,
The painting and the painted; youth, censure,
Against his heart prefer'd their usual claims,
Such as no gentlewoman can quite refuse;
Daughters admired his dress, and pious mothers
Required his income, and if he had brothers.

XLIX.

The milliners who furnish "drapey misses" 4
Throughout the season, upon speculation
Of payment ere the honeymoon's last kisses
Have waned into a crescent's corruption,
Thought such an opportunity as this is,
Of a rich foreigner's initiation,
Not to be overlook'd, and gave such credit,
That future bridegrooms aware, and sigh'd, and paid it.

L.

The blues, that tender tribe, who sigh o'er sonsnets,
And with the pages of the last review
Lame in the interior of their heads or bonnets,
Advanced in all their azure's highest hue:
They talk'd bad French or Spanish, and upon its
Late authors ask'd 'em aim for a hint or two;
And which was best, Russian or Castilian?
And whether in his travels he saw Ilion?

LI.

Juan, who was a little superficial,
And not in literature a great Drawcansir,
Examined by this learned and especial
Jury of matrons, scarce knew what to answer:
His duties warlike, loving, or official,
His steady application as a dancer,
Had kept him from the brink of Hippocrate,
Which now he found was blue instead of green.

LII.

However, he replied at hazard, with
A modest confidence and calm assurance,
Which lent his learned lucubrations pith,
And pass'd for arguments of good endurance.
That prodigy, Miss Arabinta Smith,
(Who at sixteen, translated "Hercules Furens"
Into as furious English,) with her best look,
Set down his sayings in her common-place book.

LIII.

Juan knew several languages— as well
He might—and brought them up with skill, in time
To save his fame with each accomplish'd belle,
Who still regretted that he did not rhym'e.
There wanted but this requisite to swell
His qualities (with them) into sublime:
Lady Fitz-Frisky, and Miss Mavia Mannish,
Both long'd extremely to be sung in Spanish.

LIV.

However he did pretty well, and was
Admited as an aspirant to all
The coteries, and, as in Banquo's glass,
At great assemblies or in parties small,
He saw ten thousand living authors pass,
That being about their average numeral;
Also the eighty "greatest living poets,"
As every paltry magazine can show its.

LV.

In twice five years the "greatest living poet,"
Like to the champion in the stydy ring,
Is call'd on to support his claim, or show it,
Although 'tis an imaginary thing.
Even I—albeit I'm sure I did not know it,
Nor sought of foolscap subjects to be king—
Was reckon'd, a considerable time,
The grand Napoleon of the realms of rhyme.

LVI.

But Juan was my Moscow, and Faliero
My Leipsic, and my Mont-Saint-Jean seems Caius
"La Belle Alliance" of dunces down at zero,
Now that the lion's fall'm, may rise again.
But I will fall at least as fell my hero;
Nor reign at all, or as a monarch reign;
Or to some lonely isle of jailers go,
With turncoat Southey for my turnkey Lowe.

LVII.

Sir Walter reign'd before me; Moore and Campion
Before and after; but now, grown more holy.
The Muses upon Sion's hill must ramble
With poets almost clergymen, or wholly;
And Pegasus has a psalmody amble
Beneath the very Reverend Rowley Powley,
Who shoes the glorious animal with stilts,
A modern Ancient Pistol—by the hilts!

LVIII.

Still he excels that artificial hard
Laborer in the same vineyard, though the vine
Yields him but vinegar for his reward,—
That neutralized dull Dorus of the Nine;
That swarthy Sporus, neither man nor bard;
That ox of verse, who ploughs for every line—
Cambyse's roaring Romans beat at least
The howling Hebrews of Cybele's priest.

LIX.

Then there's my gentle Ephues, who, they say,
Sets up for being a sort of moral man;
He'll find it rather difficult some day
To turn out both, or either, it may be.
Some persons think that Coleridge hath the sway
And Wordsworth has supporters, two or three;
And that deep-mouth'd Bocotian, "Savage Landor,
Has taken for a swan rogue Southey's gander.

LXI.

John Keats—who was kill'd off by one critique
Just as he really promised something great,
If not intelligible, without Greek
Contrived to talk about the goos of late
Much as they might have been supposed to speak.
Poor fellow! his was an untoward fate:
'Tis strange the mind, that very fiery particle,
Should let itself be snuff'd out by an article.

LXII.

The list grows long of live and dead pretenders
To that which none will gain—or none will know.
The conqueror at least; who, ere Time renders
His last award, will have the long grass grow
Above his burnt-out brain and sapless cinder.
If I might augur, I should rate but low
Their chances; they're too numerous, like the thirty
Mock tyrants, when Rome's annals wax'd but dirty
LXII.

This is the literary Byron's empire,
Where the Pratorian bands take up the matter:—
A "dreadful trade," like his who "gathers sam-
The insolent soldiery to sooth and flatten, [phire,"
With the same feelings as you'd coax a vampire.
Now, were I once at home, and in good satire,
I'd try conclusions with those Janizaries,
And show them what an intellectual war is.

LXIII.

I think I know a trick or two, would turn
Their flanks;—but it is hardly worth my while
With such small gear to give myself concern:
Indeed I've not the necessary bile;
My natural temper really aught but stern,
And even my Muse's worst reproof's a smile;
And then she drops a brief and modest curtsey,
And glides away, assured she never hurts ye.

LXIV.

My Juan, whom I left in deadly peril
Among live poets and blue ladies, pass'd
With some small profit through that field so sterile.
Being tired in time, and neither last nor last,
Left it before he had been treated very ill;
And henceforth found himself more gaily class'd
Among the higher spirits of the day,
The sun's true son—no vapor, but a ray.

LXV.

His morns he pass'd in business—which, dissected
Was like all business, a laborious nothing,
That leads to lasitude, the most infected
And Centaur Nessus garb of mortal clothing,
And on our sofas makes us lie deblected,
And talk in tender horrors of our loathing
All kinds of toil, save for our country's good—
Which grows no better, though 'tis time it should.

LXVI.

His afternoons he pass'd in visits, luncheons,
Lounging, and boxing; and the twilight hour
In riding round those vegetable puncteons, (flower Call'd "Parks," where there is neither fruit nor
to gratify a bee's slight munchings;
But, after all, it is the only "bower"
(In Moore's phrase) where the fashionable fair
can form a slight acquaintance with fresh air.

LXVII.

Then dress, then dinner, then awakes the world!
Then glare the lamps, then whirl the wheels, then roar
[jur'd Through street and square fast-flashing chariots.
Like harness'd meteors! then along the floor
Chalk mimies painting; then festoons are twirl'd;
Then roll the brazen thunders of the door,
Which opens to: the thousand happy few
An earthly paradise of "Or Molu."

LXVIII.

There stands the noble hostess, nor shall sink
With the three-thousandth curtsey; there the waltz—
The only dance which teaches girls to think—
Makes one in love even with its very faults.
Saloon, room, hall overflow beyond their drink,
And long the latest of arrivals halts,
Mid royal dukes and dames condemn'd to climb,
And gain an inch of staircase at a time.

LXIX.

Three happy he who, after a survey
Of the good company, can win a corner,
A door that's in, or bound out of the way,
Where he may fix himself, like small "Jars
And let the Babel round run as it may, [Horner,
And look on as a mourner, or a seconer,
Or an approver or a mere spectator.
Yawning a little as the night grows later

LXX.

But this won't do, save by and by; and he
Who, like Don Juan, takes an active share,
Must steer with care through all that glittering seas
Of gems and plumes and pearls and silks, to where
He deems it is his proper place to be;
Dissolving in the waltz to some soft air,
Or proudler prancing with mercurial skill,
Where Science marshals forth her own quadrille.

LXXI.

Or, if he dance not, but hath higher views
Upon an heiress or his neighbor's bride,
Let him take care that that which he pursues
Is not at once too palpably described.
Full many an eager gentleman oft cues
His haste: impatience is a blundering guide,
Amongst a people famous for reflection,
Who like to play the fool with circumcision.

LXXII.

But, if you can contrive, get next at supper;
Or, if forestall'd, get opposite and ogle—
Oh, ye ambrosial moments! always upper
In mind, a sort of sentimental bogle,
Which sits forever upon memory's crupper,
The ghost of vanish'd pleasures once in vogue!
If can tender souls relate the rise and fall
Of hopes and fears which shake a single ball.

LXXIII.

But these precautionary hints can touch
Only the common run, w.o must pursue,
And watch, and ward; whose plans a word too much.
Or little overturns; and not the few
Or many (for the number's sometimes such)
Whom a good mien, especially if new,
Or fame, or name, for wit, war, sense, or nonsense.
Permits whate'er they please, or did not long since

LXXIV.

Our hero, as a hero, young and handsome.
Noble, rich, celebrated, and a stranger,
Like other slaves of course must pay his ransom.
Before he can escape from so much danger
As will eniron a conspicuous man. Some
Talk about poetry, and "rack and manger,"
And ugliness, disease, as toil and trouble—
I wish they knew the life of a young noble

LXXV.

They are young, but know not youth—it is anticipat-
ed;
Handsome but wasted, rich without a sous;
Their vigor in a thousand arms is dissipated; [Jew
Their cash comes from, their wealth goes to,
Both senates see their nightly votes participated
Between the tyrant's and the tribunes' crew,
And, having voted, dined, drank, games, and
The family vault receives another lord. [whored
LXXVI.

'Where is the world?' 'cries Young, at eighty—

"Where
The world in which a man was born?" Alas!
Where is the world of eight years past? 'Twas there—
I look for it—'tis gone, a globe of glass!
Crack'd, shiver'd, vanish'd, scarcely gason, ere
A silent change dissolves the glittering mass.
Statesmen, 'kings, actiors, queens, patriots, kings,
And dandies, all are gone on the wind's wings.

LXXXI.

Where is Napoleon the Grand? God knows:
Where little Castlereagh! The devil can tell:
Where Grantan, Curran, Sheridan, all those
Who bound the bar or senate in their spell?
Where is the unhappy Queen, with all her woes?
And where the Daughter, whom the Isles loved well?
Where are those martyr'd saints, the Five per Centa?
And where—oh, where the devil are the Rents?

LXXXVII.

Where's Brummel? Dish'd. Where's Long Pole
Wellesley? Diddled. [The Third?]
Where is his will? (That's not so soon unriddled.)
And where is "Fum" the Fourth, our "royal bird?"
Gone down, it seems, to Scotland to be fiddled
Unto by Sawney's violin, we have heard: [ing
"Caw me, caw thee," for six months hath been hatch-
This scene of royal itch and loyal scratching.

LXXXVIII.

Where is Lord This? And where my Lady That?
The Honorable Mistresses and Misses?
Some laid aside like an old opera hat,
Married, unmarried, and remarried: (this is
An evolution oft perform'd of late.)
Where are the Dublin shouts—and London hisses?
Where are the Grenvilles? Turn'd as usual. Where
My friends the Whigs? Exactly where they were.

LXXX.

Where the Lady Carolines and Franceses?
Divorced or doing thereence. Ye annals
So brilliant, where the list of routes and dances is,—
Thou Morning Post, sole record of the panels
Broken in carriages, and all the phantasies [nels?]
Of fashion,—say what streams now fill those chas-
Some die, some fly, some languish on the Continent,
Because the times have hardly left them one tenant.

LXXXI.

Some who once set their caps at cautious dukes,
Have taken up at length with younger brothers;
Some heiresses have bit at sharper's hooks: [mothers;
Some maids have been made wive—some merely
Others have lost their fresh and fairy looks.
In short, the list of alterations bothers.
[Is
There's little strange in this, but something strange
The unusual quickness of these common changes.

LXXXII.

Talk not of seventy years as age; in seven
I have seen more changes, down from monarchs to
The humbliest individual under heaven,
Than might suffice a moderate century through.
I knew that nought was lasting, but not even
Change grows too changeable, without being new.
Nought's permanent among the human race,
Except the Whigs not getting into place.

LXXXIII.

I have seen Napoleon, who seem'd quite a Jupiter
Shrink to a Saturn. I have seen a Duke
(No matter which) turn politician stupid,
If that can well be, than his wooden look.
But it is time that I should hoist my "blue Peter,"
And sail for a new theme: I have seen—and shook
To see it—the king hiss'd, and then caress'd;
But don't pretend to settle which was best.

LXXXIV.

I have seen the landholders without a rap—
I have seen Joanna Southcote—I have seen
The House of Commons turn'd to a tax-trap—
I have seen that sad affair of the late queen
I have seen crowns worn instead of a fool's cap—
I have seen a Congress doing all that's mean—
I have seen some nations, like over-lodased assers,
Kick off their burdens—meaning the high classes.

LXXXV.

I have seen small poets, and great prosers, and
Interminable—not eternal—speakers—
I have seen the funds at war with house and land—
I have seen the country gentlemens turn speakers—
I have seen the people ridden o'er like sand
By slaves on horseback—I have seen malt liquor
Exchang'd for "thin potations" by John Bull—
I have seen John half detect himself a fool.

LXXXVI.

But "carpe diem," Juan, "carpe, carpe;
To-morrow sees another race as gay
And transient, and devour'd by the same happy.
"Life's a poor player"—then "play out the pla
Ye villains!" and, above all, keep a sharp eye
Much less on what you do than what you say:
Be hypocritical, be cautious, be
Not what you seem, but always what you see.

LXXXVII.

But how shall I relate in other cantos
Of what befell our hero, in the land
Which 'tis the common cry and lie to vaunt as
A moral country? But I hold my hand—
For I disdain to write an Atalantis;
But 'tis as well at once to understand,
You are not a moral people, and you know 't
Without the aid of too sincere a poet

LXXXVIII.

What Juan saw and underwent shall be
My topic, with, of course, the due restriction
Which is required by proper courtesy;
And recollect the work is only fiction,
And that I sing of neither mine nor me.
Though every scribe, in some slight turn of diction
Will hint allusions never meant. Ne'er doubt
This—when I speak, I don't hint; but speak out

LXXXIX.

Whether he married with the third or fourth [ess
Offspring of some sage, husband-hunting count
Or whether with some virgin of more worth
(I mean in fortune's matrimonial bounties)
He took to regularly popling earth,
Of which your lawful awful wedlock found,
Is or whether he was taken in for damages,
For being too exercice in his homages—
XC.  byron's works.  
Is yet within the unread events of time.
Thus far, go forth, thou lay, which I will back
Against the same given quantity of rhyme.
For being as much the subject of attack
As ever yet was any work sublime,
By those who love to say that white is black.
So much the better!—I may stand alone,
But would not change my free thoughts for a throne.

CANTO XII.  

I.
Of all the barbarous middle ages, that
Which is most barbarous is the middle age
Of man; it is—I really scarce know what;
And don't know justly what we would be at—
A period something like a printed page,
Black-letter upon foolscap, while our hair
Grows grizzled, and we are not what we were—

II.
Too old for youth—too young, at thirty-five,
To herd with boys, or hoard with good threasure—
I wonder people should be left alive;
But, since they are, that epoch is a bore;
Love lingers still, although 'twere late to wive;
And as for other love, the illusion's oer;
And money, that most pure imagination,
Gleams only through the dawn of its creation.

III.
Oh gold! why call we misers miserable?
Their is the pleasure that can never pall;
Their is the best bower-anchor, the chain cable
Which holds fast other pleasures great and small.
Ye who but see the saving man at table,
And scorn his temperate board, as none at all,
And wonder how the wealthy can be sparing,
Know not what visions spring from each cheeseparing.

IV.
Love or lust makes man sick, and wine much sicker;
Ambition rends, and gaming gains a loss;
But making money, slowly first, then quicker,
And adding still a little through each cross
Which will come over things,) beats love or liquor,
The gamester's counter, or the statesman's cress.
Oh gold! I still prefer thee unto paper,
Which makes bank credit like a bark of vapor.

V.
Who hold the balance of the world? Who reign
O'er Congress, whether royalist or liberal?
Who rouse the shirtless patriots of Spain [her all?]
That make old Europe's Journals squeak and gib!
He keep the world, both old and new, in pain
Or pleasure? Who make politics run gibber all?
[he shade of Bonaparte's noble daryx?

VI.
Those, and the truly liberal Lafayette,
Are the true lords of Europe. Every loan
Is not a merely speculative hit,
But seats a nation or upsets a throne.
Republics also get involved a bit;
Colombia's stock hath holders not unknown
On 'Change; and even thy silver soil, Peru,
Must get itself discounted by a Jew.

VII.
Why call the miser miserable? as
I said before: the frugal life is his,
Which in a saint or cynic ever was;
The theme of praise: a hermit would not miss
Canonization for the selfsame cause,
And wherefore blame gaunt wealth's austerities?
Because, you'll say, nought calls for such a trial:
Then there's more merit in his self-denial.

VIII.
He is your only poet—passion, pure
And sparkling on from heap to heap, displays
Possess'd, the ore, of which more hopes allure
Nations athwart the breast: the golden rays
Flash up in ingots from the mine obscure;
On him the diamond pours its brilliant blaze;
While the mild emerald's beam shades down the dye.
Of other stones, to soothe the miser's eyes.

IX.
The lands on either side are his: the ship
From Ceylon, Inde, or far Cathay, unloads
For him the fragrant produce of each trip;
Beneath his cars of Ceres groan the roads,
And the vine blushes like Aurora's lip;
His very collars might be kings' abodes;
While he, despoiling every sensual call,
Commands—the intellectual lord of all.

X.
Perhaps he hath great projects in his mind,
To build a college, or to found a race,
A hospital, a church—and leave behind
Some dome surmounted by his meagre face:
Perhaps he fain would liberate mankind
Even with the very ore which makes them base;
Perhaps he would wealthiest of his nation,
Or revel in the joys of calculation.

XI.
But whether all, or each, or none of these
May be the hourid's principle of action,
The fool will call such mania a disease:
What is his own? Go—look at each transaction
Wars, revells, loves—do these bring men more ease
Than the mere plopping through each 's vulgar
Or do they benefit mankind? Lean miser! (fraction?)
Let spendthrift's heirs inquire of yours—who's wiser?

XII.
How 'eautious are rouleaus! how charming chest
Containing ingots, bags of dollars, coins
(Not of old victors, all whose hands and crests
Weigh not the thin ore where their visage shines)
But of fine unclipp'd gold, where dully rests
Some likeness which the glittering cirque confuses
Of modern, regning,—sterling, stupid stamp:
Yes! ready money is Aladdin's lamp.
XII.
"Love rules the camp, the court, the grove;" for love
Is heaven, and heaven is love:—so sings the bard;
Which it were rather difficult to prove,
(A thing with poetry in general hard.)
Perhaps there may be something in "the grove,"
At least it rhymes to "love;" but I'm prepared
To doubt no less than landlords of their rental.
If "courts" and "camps" be quite so sentimental.

XIV.
But if love don't, cash does, and cash alone:
Cash rules the grove, and sells it too besides:
Without cash, camps were thin and courts were none,
Without cash, Malthus tells you, "take no brides."
So cash rules love the ruler, on his own
High ground, as Virgin Cynthia sways the tides;
And, as for "heaven" being "love," why not say
Is wax? Heaven is not love, 'tis matrimony. [honey

XV.
Is not all love prohibited wherever,
Excepting marriage? which is love, no doubt,
After a sort: but somehow people never
Would have the same thought the two words have help'd
Love may exist with marriage, and should ever,
And marriage also may exist without,
But love sans bans is both a sin and shame,
And ought to go by quite another name.

XVII.
Well, if I don't succeed, I have succeeded,
And that's enough; succeeded in my youth,
The only time when much success is needed:
And my success produced what I sooth
cared most about; it need not now be pleaded—
Whate'er it was, 'twas mine: I've paid, ir. truth,
Of late, the penalty of such success,
But have not learnt to wish it any less.

XVIII.
That suit in Chancery,—which some persons pleaded
In an appeal to the unborn, whom they,
In the faith of their procreative creed,
Baptize postcory, or future clay,—
To me seems but a dubious kind of reed
To lean on for support in any way;
Since odds are that postcerity will know
No more of them, than they of her, I trow.

XIX.
Why, I'm postcory—and so are you;
And whom do we remember? Not a hundred.
Were every memory written down all true, [ther'd:
The tenth or twentieth name would be but blum;
Even Plutarch's Lives have but pick'd out a few,
And 'gainst those few you annalists have thun;
And Mitford, in the nineteenth century, [der'd;
Gives, with Greek truth, the good old Greek the lie,
XXVII.
The little Leila, with her orient eyes,
And taciturn Asiatic disposition,
(Which saw all western things with small surprise)
To the surprise of people of condition,
Who think that novelties are butterflies
To be pursued as food for inanition,)
Her charming figure and romantic history,
Became a kind of fashionable mystery.

The women much divided—as is usual
Among the sex in little things or great. [all—
Think not, fair creatures, that I mean to abuse you
I have always liked you better than I state,
Since I've grown moral: still I must accuse you all
Of being apt to talk at a great rate;
And now there was a general sensation
Among you, about Leila's education.

In one point only were you settled—and
You had reason; 'twas that a young child of grace,
As beautiful as her own native land,
And far away, the last bud of her race,
Honor to our friend Don Juan might command
Himself for five, four, three, or two years' space,
Would be much better taught beneath the eye
Of peeresses whose follies had run dry.

So first there was a generous emulation,
And then there was a general competition
To undertake the orphan's education.
As Juan was a person of condition,
It had been an affront on this occasion
To talk of a subscription or petition,
But sixteen dowagers, ten unused she sages,
Whose tale belongs to "Hallam's Middle Ages."

And one or two sad, separate wives, without
A fruit to bloom upon their withering bough—
Begg'd to bring up the little girl, and "out,"
For that's the phrase that settles all things now,
Meaning a virgin's first blush at a rout,
And all her points as that object desired to show:
And I assure you, that like virgin honey
Tastes their first season (mostly if they have money.)

How all the needy honorable mistresses,
Each out-at-elbow peer, or desperate dandy,
The watchful mothers and the careful sisters,
(Who, by the by, when clever, are more handy
At matching matches, where "'tis gold that glisters,
Than their Ae relatives,) like flies o'er candy,
Buzz round "the Fortune" with their busy battery,
To turn her head with waltzing and with flattery!

Each aunt, each cousin hath her speculation;
Nay, married dames will now and then discover
Such pure disinterestedness of passion,
I've known them court an heiress for their lover.
"Tantame!" Such the virtues of high station,
Even in the hopeful Isle, whose outlet's "Dover!"
While the poor rich wretch, object of these cares,
Has cause to wish her sire had had male heirs.

Some are soon bagg'd, but some reject three fores.
"Tis fine to see them scattering refusals
And wild dismay o'er every angry cousin,
(Friends of the party,) who begin accusals
Such as—"Unless Miss (Blank) meant to have chosen
Poor Frederick, why did she accord pursals
To his billets? Why Waltz with him? Why, I pray
Look you last night, and yet say no to-day?

"Why?—Why?—Besides, Fred. really was attach'd
'Twas not her fortune—he has enough without:
The time will come she'll wish that she had snatch'd
So good an opportunity, no doubt—
But the old marchioness some plan had hatch'd,
As I'll tell Aurea at to-morrow's rout:
And after all poor Frederick may do better—
Pray, did you see her answer to his letter?"

Smart uniforms and sparkling coronets
Are spurn'd in turn, until her turn arrives,
After male loss of time, and hearts, and bets.
Upon the sweep-stakes for substantial wives:
And when at last the pretty creature gets
Some gentleman who fights, or writes, or drives,
It soothes the awkward squad of the deflected
To find how very badly she selected.

For sometimes they accept some long pursuer,
Worn out with importunity: or fall
(But here perhaps the instances are fewer)
To the lot of him who scarce pursuer at all.
A hazy widower turn'd of forty's sure
(If 'tis not vain examples to recall)
To draw a high prize: now, however she got her, I
See nought more strange in this than t'other lottery

I, for my part— (one "modern instance" more)
"True, 'tis a pity—pity 'tis, 'tis true"—
Was chosen from out an amatory score,
Abundant years were less discreet than few:
But though I also had reform'd before
Those became one who soon were to be two,
I'll not gainsay the generous public's voice—
That the young lady made a monstrous choice.

Oh, pardon my digression—or at least
Perverse! 'Tis always with a moral end
That I discourse, like grace before a feast:
For like an aged aunt, or tiresome friend,
A rigid guardian, or a zealous priest,
My Muse by exhortation means to mend
All people, at all times, and in most places,
Which puts my Pegasus to these grave paces.

But now I'm going to be immoral; now
I mean to show things really as they are,
Not as they ought to be: for I avow,
That till we see what's in what, in fact, we're far
From much improvement with that virtuous plug,
Which skims the surface, leaving scarce a scar
Upon the black loam long manured by Vice,
Only to keep its corn at the old price.
XLI.
But first of little Leita we'll dispose,
For, like a day-dawn, she was young and pure,
Or like the old comparison of snows
Which are more pure than pleasant to be sure.
Like many people every body knows,
Don Juan was delighted to secure
A goodly guardian for his infant charge,
Who might not profit much by being at large.

XLII.
Besides, he had found out he was no tutor,
(I wish that others would find out the same!)
And rather wish'd in such things to stand neuter,
For silly wards will bring their guardians blame:
So, when he saw each ancient dame a suitor,
To make his little wild Asiatic tame,
Consulting the "Society for Vice Suppression," Lady Pinchbeck was his choice.

XLIII.
Olden she was—but had been very young:
Virtuous she was—and had been, I believe.
Although the world has such an evil tongue
That—but my chaster ear will not receive
An echo of a syllable that's wrong:
In fact, there's nothing makes me so much grieve
As that abominable tittle-tattle,
Which is the cud eschew'd by human cattle.

XLIV.
Moreover I've remark'd, (and I was once
A slighter observer in a modest way,)
And so may every one except a dance,
That ladies in their youth a little gay,
Besides their knowledge of the world, and sense
Of the sad consequence of going astray,
Are wiser in their warnings than the woe
Which the mere passionless can never know.

XLV.
While the harsh prude indemnifies her virtue
By railing at the unknown and envied passion,
Seeking far less to save you than to hurt you,
Or what's still worse, to put you out of fashion,—
The kinder veteran with calm words will court you,
Entreat you to pause before you dash on;
Expounding and illustrating the riddle
Of epic Love's beginning, end, and middle.

XLVI.
Now, whether it be thus, or that they are stricter,
As better knowing why they should be so,
I think you'll find from many a family picture,
That daughters of such mothers as may know
The world by experience rather than by lecture,
Turn out much better for the Smithfield show
Of vestals brought into the marriage mart,
Than those bred up by prudes without a heart.

XLVII.
said that Lady Pinchbeck had been talk'd about—
As who has not, if female, young, and pretty?
But now no more the ghost of scandal stalk'd about;
She merely was deem'd amiable and witty,
And several of her best bon-mots were hawk'd about;
Then she was given to charity and pity,
And pass'd (at least the latter years of life)
For being a most exemplary wife.

XLVIII.
High in high circles, gentle in her own,
She was the mild reprover of the young.
Whenever—which means every day—they'd shown
An awkward inclination to go wrong.
The quantity of good she did's unknown,
Or, at the least, would lengthen out my song:
In brief, the little orphan of the East
Had raised an interest in her which increased.

XLIX.
Juan, too, was a sort of favorite with her,
Because she thought him a good heart at bottom.
A little spoil'd, but not so altogether;
Which was a wonder, if you think who got him,
And how he had been toss'd, he scarce know whither:
Though this might ruin others, it did not him,
At least entirely—for he had seen too many
Changes in youth, to be surprised at ans.

L.
And these vicissitudes tell best in youth;
For when they happen at a riper age,
People are apt to blame the fates, forswoon,
And wonder Providence is not more sage.
Adversity is the first path to truth:
He who hath proved war, storms, or woman's rage,
Whether his winters be eighteen or eighty,
Hath won the experience which is deem'd so weighty

LI.
How far it profits is another matter,—
Our hero gladly saw his little charge
Safe with a lady, whose last grown-up daughter
Being long married, and thus set at large,
Had left all the accomplishments she taught her
To be transmitted, like the lord mayor's barge.
To the next comer; or—as it will tell
More Muse-like—like Cytherea's shell.

LII.
I call such things transmission; for there is
A floating balance of accomplishment
Which forms a pedigree from Miss to Miss,
According as their minds or backs are bent.
Some waltz; some draw; some fathom the abyss
Of metaphysics; others are content
With music; the most moderate shine as wits,
While others have a genius turn'd for fits.

LIII.
But whether fits, or wits, or harpsichords,
Theology, fine arts, or finer stays,
May be the baits for gentlemen or lords
With regular descent, in these our days,
The last year to the new transfers its hoards;
New vestals claim men's eyes with the same praise
Of "elegant" et cetera, in fresh batches—
All matchless creatures, and yet bent on matches.

LIV.
But now I will begin my poem. 'Tis
Perhaps a little strange, if not quite new,
That from the first of cantos up to this,
I've not begun what we have to go through.
These first twelve books are merely flourishes
Preludios, trying just a string or two
Upon my lyre, or making the pegs sure,
And when so, you shall have the overture.
BYRON'S WORKS.

LV.
My Muses do not care a pinch of rosin
About what's call'd success, or not succeeding.
Such thoughts are quite below the strain they've
chosen;
'Tis a "great moral lesson" they are reading.
I thought, at setting off, about two dozen
Cantos would do; but, at Apollo's pleading,
If that my Pegasus should not be founder'd,
I think to canter gently through a hundred.

LVI.
Don Juan saw that microcosm on stilts,
Yclept the great world; for it is the least,
Although the highest: but as swords have hilts
By which their power of mischief is increased,
When man in battle or in quarril tilts,
Thus the low world, north, south, or west, or east,
Must still obey the high—which is their handle,
Their moon, their sun, their gas, their farthing candle.

LVII.
He had many friends who had many wives, and was
Well look'd upon by both, to that extent
Of friendship which you may accept or pass;
In does nor good nor harm, being merely meant
To keep the wheels going of the higher class,
And draw them nightly when a ticket's sent:
And what with masquerades, and fêtes, and balls,
For the first season such a life scarce falls.

LVIII.
A young unmarried man, with a good name
And fortune, has an awkward part to play;
For good society is but a game,
"The royal game of goose," as I may say,
Where every body has some separate aim,
An end to answer, or a plan to lay—
The single ladies wishing to be double,
The married ones to save the virgins trouble.

LIX.
I don't mean this as general, but particular
Examples may be found of such pursuits:
Though several also keep their perpendicular
Like poplars, with good principles for roots;
Yet many have a method more reticular—
"Fishes for men," like sirens with soft lutes;
For talk six times with the same single lady,
And you may get the wedding-dresses ready.

LX.
Perhaps you'll have a letter from the mother,
To say her daughter's feelings are trepann'd;
Perhaps you'll have a visit from the brother,
All strut, and stays, and whiskers, to demand
What "your intentions are?"—One way or other
It seems the virgin's heart expects your hand;
And 'tween pity for her case and yours,
You'll add to matrimony's list of eues.

LXI.
I've known a dozen weddings made even thus,
And some of them high names: I have also known
Young men who—though they hated to discuss
Pretensions which they never dream'd to have
Yet neither frighten'd by a female fuss. [shawn—
Nor by mustachios moved, were let alone,
And lived, as did the broken-hearted fair,
In happier plight than if they form'd a pair.

LXII.
There's also nightly, to the uninitiated,
A peril—not indeed like love or marriage,
But not the less for this to be depreciated.
It is—I meant and mean not to disparage
The show of virtue even in the vitiated—
It adds an outward grace unto their carriage—
But to denounce the amphibious sort of harlot,
"Couleur de rose," who's neither white nor scarlet.

LXIII.
Such is your cold coquette, who can't say "No,"
And won't say "Yes," and keeps you on and
On a lee-shore, till it begins to blow— [off-ing,
Then sees your heart's dead, with an inward
This works a world of sentimental wo, [ scoffing;
And sends new Warters yearly to their coffin;
But yet is merely innocent flirtation,
Not quite adultery, but adulteration.

LXIV.
"Ye gods, I grow a talker!" Let us prate.
The next of perils, though I place it sternest,
Is when, without regard to "Church or State,"
A wife makes or takes love in upright earnest.
Abroad, such things decide few women's fate—
(Such, early traveller! is the truth thou learnest)—
But in old England, when a young bride errs,
Poor thing! Eve's was a trifling case to hers;

LXV.
For 'tis a low, newspaper, humdrum, lawsuit
Country, where a young couple of the same age
Can't form a friendship but the world o'erawes it.
Then there's the vulgar trick of those d—damages!
A verdict—grievous fee to those who cause it—
Forms a sad climax to romantic homages;
Besides those soothing speeches of the pleaders,
And evidences which regale all readers!

LXVI.
But they who blunder thus are raw beginners;
A little geneal sprinkling of hypocrisy
Has saved the fame of thousand splendid sinners,
The loveliest oligarchs of our gynocracy;
You may see such at all the balls and dinners,
Among the proudest of our aristocracy,
So gentle, charming, charitable, chaste—
And all by having tact as well as taste.

LXVII.
Juan, who did not stand in the prediciament
Of a mere novice, had one safeguard more;
For he was sick—no, 'twas not the word sick I meant
But he had seen so much good love before,
That he was not in heart so very weak—"I meant
But this much, and no sneer against the shore
Of white cliffs, white necks, blue eyes, bluer stock ings,
Tithes, taxes, duns, and doors with double knockings.

LXVIII.
But coming young from lands and scenes romantic
Where lives, not lawsuits, must be risk'd for passion's self must have a spice of frantic, [sion
Into a country where 'tis half a fashion,
Seem'd to him half co'ernicel, half pedantic;
How'er he might esteem this moral nation:
Besides, (alas! his taste—forgive and pity I)
At first he did not think the women pretty.
DON JUAN.

LXIX.
I say at first—for he found out at last,
But by degrees, that they were fairer far
Than the more glowing dames whose lot is east
Beneath the influence of the Eastern star—
A further proof we should not judge in haste;
Yet inexperience could not be his bar
To taste:—the truth is, if men would confess,
That novelties please less than they impress.

LXX.
Though travell’d, I have never had the luck to
Trace up those shuffling negroes, Nile or Niger,
To that impracticable place, Timbuctoo,
Where geography finds no one to oblige her
With such a chart as may be safely stuck to—
For Europe ploughs in Afric like “bos piger:”
But if I had been at Timbuctoo, there
No doubt I should be told that black is fair.

LXXI.
It is. I will not swear that black is white;
But I suspect in fact that white is black,
And the whole matter rests upon eyesight.
As a blind man, the best judge. You’ll attack
Perhaps this new position—but I’m right;
Or if I’m wrong, I’ll not be ta’en aback:
He hath no morn nor night, but all is dark
Within; and what seest thou? A dubious spark.

LXXII.
But I’m relaxing into metaphysics,
That labyrinth, whose clue is of the same
Construction as your cures for hectic phthisies,
Those bright moths flitting round a dying flame;
And this reflection brings me to plain physies,
And to the beauties of a foreign dame,
Compared with those of our pure pearls of price,
Those Polar summers, all sun, and some ice.

LXXIII.
Or say they are like virtuous mermaids, whose
Beginnings are fair faces, ends mere flakes:—
Not that there’s not a quantity of those
Who have a due respect for their own wishes,
Like Russians rushing from hot baths to snows
Are they, at bottom virtuous even when vicious:
They warm into a scrape, but keep of course,
As a reserve, a plunge into remore.

LXXIV.
But this was nought to do with their outsides.
I said that Juan did not think them pretty
At the first blush; for a fair Briton hides
Half her attractions—probably from pity—and
Rather calmly into the heart glides,
That storms it as a foe would take a city;
But once there (if you doubt this, prithee try)
She keeps it for you like a true ally.

LXXV.
She cannot step as does an Arab bab,
Or Andalusian girl from mass returning,
Nor weaer as gracefully as Gauls her garb,
Nor, in her eye Ausonia’s glance is burning;
Her voice, though sweet, is not so fit to warble
Those bravurias (which I still am learning)
To like, though I have been seven years in Italy,
And have, or had, an ear that served me prettily).

LXXVI.
She cannot do these things, nor one or two
Others, in that off-hand and dashing style
Which takes so much—so give the devil his due.
Nor is she quite so ready with her smile,
Nor settles all things in one interview,
(A thing approved as saving time and toil;
But though the soil may give you time and troup
Well cultivated, it will render double.

LXXVII.
And if in fact she takes to a “grande passion,”
It is a very serious thing indeed;
Nine times in ten ’tis but caprice or fashion,
Coquetry, or a wish to take the lead,
The pride of a mere child with a new sash on,
Or wish to make a rival’s bosom bleed;
But the tenth instance will be a tornado,
For there’s no saying what they will or may do.

LXXVIII.
The reason’s obvious: if there’s an eclat,
They lose their caste at once, as do the Parias;
And when the delicacies of the law
Have fill’d their papers with their comments,
The pride of a mere child with a new sash on,
(The hypocrite!) will banish them like Marus,
To sit amid the ruins of their guilt:
For Fame’s a Carthage not so soon rebuilt.

LXXIX.
Perhaps this is as it should be;—it is
A comment on the Gospel’s “Sin no more
And be thy sins forgiven:”—but upon us
I leave the saints to settle their own score.
Abroad, though doubtless they do much amiss.
An erring woman finds an opener door
For her return to virtue—as they call
The lady who should be at home to all.

LXXX.
For me, I leave the matter where I find it,
Knowing that such uneasy virtue leads
People some ten times less in fact to mind it,
And care but for disc. and not deeds.
And as for chastity, you’ll never bind it
By all the laws the strictest lawyer pleads,
But aggravate the crime you have not prevented
By rendering desperate those who had else repented.

LXXXI.
But Juan was no casuist, nor had ponder’d
Upon the moral lessons of mankind:
Besides, he had not seen, of several hundred,
A lady altogether to his mind.
A little “blaze”—it’s not to be wonder’d
At, that his heart had got a tougher rind:
And though not vainer from his past success,
No doubt his sensibilities were less.

LXXXII.
He also had been busy seeing sights—
The parliament and all the other houses;
Had sate beneath the gallery at nights,
To hear debates whose thunder roused not (rufous)
The world to gaze upon those northern lights,
Which flash’d as far as where the musk-bull browses:
He had also stood at times behind the throne—
But Grey was not arrived, and Chatham gone.
LXXXIII.
He saw, however, at the closing session,
That noble sight, when really free the nation,
A king in constitutional possession
Of such a throne as is the proudest station,
Though despots know it not—till the progressio
Of freedom shall complete their education.
'Tis not mere splendor makes the show august
To eye or heart—it is the people's trust.

LXXXIV.
There too he saw (what'er he may be now)
A prince, the prince of princes, at the time,
With fascination in his very bow,
And full of promise, as the spring of prime.
Though royalty was written on his brow,
He had then the grace too, rare in every clime,
Of being, without alloy of fop or beau,
A finish'd gentleman from top to toe.

LXXXV.
And Juan was received, as hath been said,
Into the best society: and there
Occur'd what often happens, I'm afraid,
However disciplined and debonnaire:
The talent and good humor he display'd,
Besides the mark'd distinction of his air,
Exposed him, as was natural, to temptation,
Even though himself avoided the occasion.

LXXXVI.
But what, and where, with whom, and when, and
Is not to be put hastily together; [why,
And as my object is morality,
(Whatever people say,) I don't know whether
I'll leave a single reader's eyelid dry,
But harrow up his feelings till they wither,
And hew out a huge monument of pathos,
As Philip's son proposed to do with Athos.*

LXXXVII.
Here the twelfth canto of our introduction
Envis. When the body of the book's begun,
You'll find it of a different construction
From what some people say 'twill be when done:
The plan at present's simply in connexion.
I can't oblige you, reader, to read on;
That's your affair, not mine: a real spirit
Should neither court neglect, nor dread to bear it;—

LXXXVIII.
And if my thunderbolt not always rattles,
Rememb'r, reader! you have had before
The worst of tempests and the best of battles
That e'er were brew'd from elements of gore,
Besides the most sublime of—Heaven knows what else:
An usurper could scarce expect much more—
But my ben' canto, save one on astronomy,
Will turn upon 'political economy.'

LXXXIX.
That is your present theme for popularity:
Now that the public hedge hath scarce a stake,
't grows an act of patriotic charity,
To show the people the best way to break.
My plan (but I, 't for but singularity,
Reserve it) will be very sure to take,
Meantime read all the national debt-sinkers,
And tell me what you think of our great thinkers.

CANTO XIII.

I.
I now mean to be serious:—it is time,
Since laughter now-a-days is deem'd to o' serious
A jest at vice by virtue's call'd a crime,
And critically held as deleterious;
Besides, the sad's a source of the sublime,
Although when long a little apt to weary us;
And therefore shall my lay soar high and solemn,
As an old temple dwindled to a column.

II.
The Lady Adeline Amundville
('Tis an old Norman name, and to be found
In pedigrees by those who wander still
Among the last fields of that Gothic ground)
Was high-born, wealthy by her father's will,
And beauteous, even where beauties most abound
In Britain—which of course true patriots find
The goodliest soul of body and of mind.

III.
I'll not gainsay them; it is not my cue:
I leave them to their taste, no doubt the best
An eye's an eye, and whether black or blue,
Is no great matter, so 'tis in request:
'Tis nonsense to dispute about a hue—
The kindest may be taken as a test.
The fair sex should be always fair; and no man
Till thirty, should perceive there's a plain woman.

IV.
And after that serene and somewhat dull
Epoch, that awkward corner turn'd for days
More quiet, when our moon's no more at full,
We may presume to criticise or praise;
Because indifference begins to lull
Our passions, and we walk in wisdom's ways;
Also because the figure and the face
Hint, that 'tis time to give the younger place.

V.
I know that some would fain postpone this era,
Reluctant as all placemen to resign
Their post; but theirs is merely a chimera,
For they have pass'd life's equinoctial line;
But then they have their claret and Madeira
To irrigate the dryness of decline;
And county meetings and the Parliament,
And debt, and what not, for their solace sent.

VI.
And is there not religion and reform, [tion t
Peace, war, the taxes, and what's call'd the 'na
The struggle to be pilots in a storm?
The landed and the money'd speculation?
The joys of mutual hate to keep them warm,
Instead of love, that mere hallucination?
Now hatred is by far the longest pleasure;
Men love in haste, but they detest at leisure
VII.

Rough Johnson, the great moralist, profess'd,
Right: honestly, "he liked an honest hater—"1
The only truth that yet has been confess'd
Within these latest thousand years or later.
Perhaps the fine old fellow spoke in jest:—
For my part, I am but a mere spectator,
And gaze where'er the palace or the hovel is,
Much in the mode of Goethe's Mephistopheles;

VIII.

But neither love, nor hate in much excess;
Though 'twas not once so. If I sneer sometimes,
It is because I cannot well do less,
And now and then it also suits my rhymes.
I should be very willing to redress
Men's wrongs, and rather check than punish crimes,
Had not Cervantes, in that too true tale
Of Quixote, shown how all such efforts fail.

IX.

Of all tales, 'tis the saddest—and more sad,
Because it makes us smile; his hero's right,
And still pursues the right;—to curb the bad,
His only object, and 'gainst odds to fight,
His guardian, 'tis his virtue makes him mad!
But his adventures form a sorry sight:—
A sorrier still is the great moral taught
By that real epic unto all who have thought.

X.

Redressing injury, revenging wrong,
To aid the damsel and destroy the caitiff;
Opposing singly the united strong,
From foreign yoke to free the helpless native;—
Alas: must noblest views, like an old song,
Be for mere fancy's sport a theme creative?
A jest, a riddle, fame through thick thin and sought?
And Socrates himself but Wisdom's Quixote?

XII.

Cervantes smiled Spain's chivalry away;
A single laugh demolish'd the right arm
Of his own country;—seldom since that day [charm,
Has Spain had heroes. While Romance could
The world gave ground before her bright array;
And therefore have his volumes done such harm,
That all their glory as a composition
Was dearly purchased by his land's perdition.

XIII.

I'm at my old Lunes"—digression, and forget
The Lady Adelina Amundeville;
The fair most fatal Juan ever met,
Although she was not evil nor meant ill:
But Destiny and Passion spread the net,
(Fate is a good excuse for our own will,) And caught them: what do they not catch, methinks?
But I'm not Ædipus; and life's a sphinx.

XIV.

Chaste was she to detraction's desperation,
And wedded unto one she had loved well—
A man known in the councils of the nation,
Cool, and quite English, imperturbable,
Though apt to act with fire upon occasion,
Proud of himself and her; the world could tell
Nought against either, and both seem'd secure
She in her virtue, he in his hauteur.

XV.

It chanced some diplomatical relations,
Arising out of business, often brought
Himself and Juan in their mutual stations
Into close contact. Though reserved, nor caught
By specious seeming, Juan's youth, and patience,
And talent, on his haughty spirit wrought,
And form'd a basis of esteem, which ends
In making men what courtesy calls friends.

XVI.

And thus Lord Henry, who was cautious as
Reserve and pride could make him, and full slow
In judging men—when once his judgment was
Determined, right or wrong, on friend or foe,
Had all the pertinacity pride has,
Which knows no ebb to its imperious flow,
And loves or hates, disdaining to be guided,
Because its own good pleasure hath decided.

XVII.

His friendships, therefore, and no less aversions,
Though oft well founded, which confirm'd but
His prepossessions, like the laws of Persians [more
And Medes, would ne'er revoke what went before.
His feelings had not those strange fits, like tertiains,
Of common likings, which make some deplore
What they should laugh at—the mere ague still
Of men's regard, the fever or the chill.

XVIII.

"'Tis not in mortals to command success;
But do you more, Sempronius—don't desire it "
And take my word, you won't have any less:
Be wary, watch the time, and always serve it;
Give gently way, where there's too great a press;
And for your conscience, only learn to nerve it;—
For, like a racer or a boxer training,
'Twill make, if proved, vast efforts without pain

XIX.

Lord Henry also liked to be superior,
As most men do, the little or the great;
The very lowest find out an inferior,
At least they think so, to exert their state
Upon: for there are very few things wearier
Than solitary pride's oppressive weight,
Which mortals generously would divide,
By bidding others carry while they ride.

XX.

In birth, in rank, in fortune likewise equal,
O'er Juan he could no distinction claim;
In years he had the advantage of time's sequel;
And, as he thought, in country much the same.
Because bold Britons have a tongue and free quill,
At which all modern nations vainly aim;
And the Lord Henry was a great debater,
So that few members kept the House up later.
XXI.

These were advantages: and then he thought—
It was his foible, but by no means sinister—
'Tw as few or none more than himself had caught
Court mysteries, having been himself a minister:
He liked to teach that which he had been taught,
And greatly shone whenever there had been a stir;
And reconciled all qualities which grace man,
Always a patriot, and sometimes a placeman.

XXII.

He liked the gentle Spaniard for his gravity;
He almost honor'd him for his docility,
Because, though young, he acquiesced with suavity,
Or contradicted but with proud humility.
He knew the world, and would not see depravity
In faults which sometimes show the soil's fertility,
If that the weeds o'erlive not the first crop,—
For then they are very difficult to stop.

XXIII.

And then he talk'd with him about Madrid,
Constantinople, and such distant places;
Where people always did as they were bid,
Or did what they should not with foreign graces.
Of courses also spake they: Henry rid
Well, like most Englishmen, and loved the races:
And Juan, like a trueborn Andalusian,
Could back a horse, as despots ride a Russian.

XXIV.

And thus acquaintance grew, at noble routs,
And diplomatic dinners, or at other—
For Juan stood well both with Ins and Outs,
As in Freemasonry a higher brother.
Upon his talent Henry had no doubts,
His manner show'd him sprung from a high mother;
And all men like to show their hospitality
To him whose breeding matches with his quality.

XXV.

At Blank-Blank Square—for we will break no squares
By naming streets: since men are so censorious,
And apt to savor an author's wheat with tares,
Reaping allusions private and inglorious,
Where none were dreamt of, unto love's affairs,
Which were, or are, or are to be notorious,
That therefore do I previously declare,
Lord Henry's mansion was in Blank-Blank Square.

XXVI.

Also there bin another pious reason
For making squares and streets anonymous;
Which is, that there is scarce a single season
Which doth not shake some very splendid house
With some slight heat-quake of domestic treason—
A topic scandal doth delight to rouse:
Such I might stumble over unawares,
Unless I knew the very chastest squares.

XXVII.

Tis true, I might have chosen Piccadilly,
A place where peccadillos are unknown;
But I have motives, whether wise or silly,
For letting that pure sanctuary alone.
Therefore I name not square, street, place, until I
Find one where nothing naughty can be shown,
A vestal shrine of inno'ence of heart:
Such arr—but I have lost the London chart.

XXVIII.

At Henry's mansion, then, in Blank-Blank Square
Was Juan a recheareh, welcome guest,
As many other noble scions were;
And some who had but talent for their crest;
Or wealth, which is a passport every where;
Or even mere fashion, which indeed's the best
Recommendation, and to be well dress'd
Will very often supersede the rest.

XXIX.

And since "there's safety in a multitude
Of counsellors," as Solomon has said,
Or some one for him, in some sage grave mood—
Indeed we see the daily proof display'd
In senate, at the bar, in wordy feud,
Where'er collective wisdom can parade,
Which is the only cause that we can guess
Of Britain's present wealth and happiness—

XXX.

But as "there's safety crafted in the number
Of counsellors" for men,—thus for the sex
A large acquaintance lets not virtue slumber:
Or, should it shake, the choice will more perplex—
Variety itself will more encumber.
'Mid many rocks we guard more against wrecks;
And thus with women: howsoever it shocks some's
Self-love, there's safety in a crowd of coxcombs.

XXXI.

But Adeline had not the least occasion
For such a shield, which leaves but little merit
To virtue proper, or good education.
Her chief resource was in her own high spirit,
Which judged mankind at their due estimation,
And for coquetry, she disdained to wear it:
Secure of admiration, its impression
Was faint, as of an every-day possession.

XXXII.

To all she was polite without parade:
'Tq some she show'd attention of that kind
Which flatters, but is flatly convey'd
In such a sort as cannot leave behind
A trace unworthy either wife or maid—
A gentle genial courtesy of mind,
To those who were, or pass'd for, meritorious,
Just to console sad glory for being glorious:

XXXIII.

Which is in all respects, save now and then,
A dull and desolate appendage. Gaze
Upon the shades of those distinguish'd men
Who were or are the puppet shows of praise,
The praise of persecution. Gaze again
On the most favor'd; and, amid the blaze
Of sunset halos o'er the laurel-brow'd,
What can ye recognise?—A gilded cloud

XXXIV.

There also was of course in Adeline
That calm patrician polish in the address,
Which no'er can pass the equinocial line
Of any thing which nature would express
Just as a Mandarin finds nothing fine,—
At least his manner suffers not to guess
That any thing he views can greatly please.
Perhaps we have borrow'd this from the Chinese—
XXXV.
Perhaps from Horace: his "Nil admirari"
Was what he call'd the "Art of Happiness;"
An art on which the artists greatly vary,
And have not yet attain'd to much success.
However, 'tis expedient to wary:
Indifference cutees don't produce Distress;
And rash enthusiasm in good society
Were nothing but a moral inebriety.

XXXVI.
But Adeline was not indifferent: for,
(Now for a common-place:) benaead the snows,
As a volcano holds the lava more
Within—et cetera. Shall I go on?—No.
I hate to hunt down a tired metaphor:
So let the often-used volcano go.
Poor thing! how frequently, by me and others,
It hath been stir'd up, till its smoke quite smotheres.

XXXVII.
I'll have another figure in a trice:
What say you to a bottle of champagne?
Frozen into a very vinous ice,
Which leaves few drops of that immortal rain,
Yet in the very centre, past all price,
About a liquid glassful will remain:
And this is stronger than the strongest grape
Could e'er express in its expanded shape:

XXXVIII.
Tis the whole spirit brought to a quintessence;
And thus the chilliest aspects may concentrate
A hidden nectar under a cold presence,
And such are many—though I only meant her
From which I now deduce these moral lessons,
On which the Muse has always sought to enter:
And your cold people are beyond all price,
When once you've broken their confounded ice.

XXXIX.
But after all they are a North-West passage
Unto the glowing India of the soul;
And as the good ships sent upon that message
Have not exactly ascertain'd the Pole,
(Though Parry's efforts look a lucky presage,) Thus gentlemen may run upon a shoul;
For if the Pole's not open, but all frost,
(A chance still,) 'tis a voyage or vessel lost.

XL.
And young beginners may as well commence
With quiet cruising e'er the ocean woman:
While those who're not beginners, should have sense
Enough to make for port, ere Time shall summon
With his gray signal-flag; and the past tense,
The dreary "faimus" of all things human,
Must be declined, whilst life's thin thread's spun out
Between the gaping heir and gnawing gout.

XLI.
But heaven must be diverted: its diversion
Is sometimes truant—but never mind:
The world upon the whole is worth the assertion
(If but for comfort) that all things are kind:
And that same devilish doctrine of the Persian,
Of the two principles, but leaves behind
As many doubts as any other doctrine
has ever puzzled faith withal, or yoked her in.

XLII.
The English winter—ending in July
To recommence in August—now was one.
'Tis the postillion's paradise: wheels fly;
On roads east, south, north, west, there is a run
But for post-horses who finds sympathy?
Man's pity's for himself or for his son,
Always promising that said son at college
Has not contracted much more debt than now edge.

XLIII.
The London winter's ended in July—
Sometimes a little later. I don't err
In this: whatever other blunders lie
Upon my shoulders, here I must aver
My Muse a glass of weatherology,
For Parliament is our barometer;
Let Radicals its other acts attack,
Its sessions form our only almanac.

XLIV.
When its quicksilver's down at zero,—io!
Coach, chariot, luggage, baggage, equipage.
Wheels whirled from Carlton Palace to Soho,
And happiest they who horses can engage;
The turnpikes glow with dust, and Rotten Row
Sleeps from the chirality of this bright age:
And tradesmen, with long bills and longer faces.
Sigh—as the postboys fasten on the traces

XLV.
They and their bills, "Arcadians both," are left
To the Greek kalends of another session.
Alas! to them of ready cash bereft,
What hope remains? Of hope the full possession:
Or generous draft, conceded as a gift,
At a long date—till they can get a fresh one,
Hawk'd about at a discount, small or large:—
Also the solace of an overcharge.

XLVI.
But these are trifles. Downward flies my Lord,
Nodding beside my Lady in his carriage.
Away! away! "Fresh horses!" are the word,
And changed as quickly as hearts after marriage.
The obsequious landlord hath the change restored;
The postboys have no reason to disparage
Their fee; but, ere the water'd wheels may hiss hence
The ostler plods too for a small reminiscence.

XLVII.
'Tis granted; and the valet mounts the dickey—
That gentleman of lords and gentlemen;
Also my Lady's gentlewoman, tricky,
Trick'd out, but modest more than poet's pen
Can paint, "Così viaggio e ricchi!"
(Excuse a foreign slipslap now and then,
If but to show I've travell'd: and what's travel,
Unless it teaches one to quote and cavil?)

XLVIII.
The London winter and the country summer
Were well nigh over. 'Tis perhaps a pity,
When Nature wears the gown that doth become her,
To lose those best months in a sweaty city,
And wait until the nightingale grows dumber,
Listening debates not very wise or witty,
Ere patriots their true country can remember,
But there's no shooting (save grouse) till September.
I've done with my tirade. The world was gone;
The twice two thousand for whom earth was made
Were vanishing to be what they call alone,—
That is, with thirty servants for parade,
As many guests or more; before whom groan
As many covers, duly, daily, laid.
Let none accuse old England's hospitality—
Its quantity is but condensed to quality.

L.
Lord Henry and the Lady Adeline
Departed, like the rest of their companions,
To peerage, to a mansion very fine;
The Gothic Babel of a thousand years.
None of them selves could boast a longer line,
Where time through heroes and through beauties
And oaks, as olden as their pedigree. [steers;
Told of their sires, a tomb in every tree.

A paragraph in every paper told
Of their departure: such is modern fame:
'Tis pity that it takes no further hold
Than an advertisement, or much the same;
When, ere the ink be dry, the sound grows cold.
The Morning Post was foremost to proclaim—
"Departure, for his country-seat to-day,
Lord H. Amundeville and Lady A.

"We understand the splendid host intends
To entertain, this autumn, a select
And numerous party of his noble friends; [correct,
'Mid whom, we have heard from sources quite
The Duke of D—— the shooting season spends,
With many more by rank and fashion deck'd;
Also a foreigner of high condition,
The envoy of the secret Russian mission."

And thus we see—who doubts the Morning Post?
(Whose articles are like the "thirty-nine,"
Which those most swear to who believe them most)—
Our gay Russ Spaniard was ordain'd to shine,
Deck'd by the rays reflected from host,
With those who Pope says, "greatly daring dine."
'Tis odd but true,—last war, the news abounded
More with these dinners than the kill'd or wounded.

As thus: "On Thursday there was a grand dinner;
Present, lords A. B. C. — Earls, dukes, by name
Announced with no less pomp than victory's winner:
Then underneath, and in the very same [here
Column: date, "Falmouth. There has lately been
The slap-dash regiment, so well known to fame:
Whose loss in the late action we regret:
The vacancies are fill'd up—see Gazette."

To Norman Abbey whirl'd the noble pair,
An old, old monastery once, and now
Still older mansion, of a rich and rare
Mix'd Gothic, such as artists all allow
Few specimens yet left us can compare
Withal: it lies perhaps a little low,
Because the marks prefer'd a hill behind,
To shelter their devotion from the wind.

It stood embosom'd in a happy valley,
Crown'd by high woodlands, where the Druid oak
Stood like Caratacus in act to rally [stroke
His host, with broad arms 'paint the thunder
And from beneath his boughs were seen to rally
The dappled foresters—as day awoke,
The branching stag swept down with all his herd,
To quaff a brook which murmur'd like a bird.

Before the mansion lay a lucid lake,
Broad as transparent, deep, and freshly fed
By a river, which its softest way did take
In currents through the calmer water spread
Around: the wild fowl nestled in the brake
And sedges, brooding in their liquid bed:
The woods sloped downwards to its brink, and stood
With their green faces fix'd upon the flood

Its outlet dash'd into a deep cascade,
Sparkling with foam, until again subsiding
Its shriller echoes—like an infant made
Quiet—sink into softer ripples, gliding
Into a rivulet; and, thus allay'd,
Pursued its course, now gleaming, and now hiding
Its windings through the woods; now clear, now blue,
According as the skies their shadows threw.

A glorious remnant of the Gothic pile [part
(While yet the church was Rome's) stood half
In a grand arch, which once screen'd many an aisle.
These last had disappear'd—a loss to art:
The first yet frown'd superbly o'er the soil,
And kindled feelings in the roughest heart,
Which mourn'd the power of time's or tempest's
In gazing on that venerable arch. [march,

Within a niche, nigh to its pinnacle,
Twelve saints had once stood sanctified in stone:
But these had fallen not, when the friars fell.
But in the war which struck Charles from his
When each house was a fortress—as tell [throne,
The annals of full many a line undone,—
The gallant cavaliers, who fought in vain
For those who knew not to resign or reign.

But in a higher niche, alone, but crown'd,
The Virgin Mother of the God-born child,
With her son in her blessed arms, look'd round,
Sparely by some chance when all beside was
She made the earth below seem holy ground. [spoil'd,
This may be superstition, weak or wild,
But even the faintest relics of a shrine
Of any worship wake some thoughts divine.

A mighty window, hollow in the centre,
Shorn of its glass of thousand colorings,
Through which the deepen'd glory once could enter
Streaming from off the sun like seraph's wings.
Now yawns all desolate: now loud, now fainter,
The gale sweeps through its fretwork, and oft sings
The owl his anthem, where the silenced choir
Lie with their halalelujahs quench'd like fire.
THE LAKE. — Page 702.
LXIII.
But in the noontide of the moon, and when
The wind is wing'd from one point of heaven,
There moans a strange unsu]^rly sound, which then
Is musical—a dying accent driven.
Through the huge arch, which soars and sinks again.
Some deem it but the distant echo given
Back to the night-wind by the waterfall,
And harmonized by the old choral wall:

LXIV.
Others, that some original shape or form,
Shaped by decay perchance, hath given the power
Though less than that of Memnon's statue, warm
In Egypt's rays, to harp at a fix'd hour)
To this gray ruin, with a voice to charm.
Sad, but serene, it sweeps o'er tree or tower;
The cause I know not, nor can solve; but such
The fact—I've heard it,—once perhaps too much.

LXV.
Amid the court a Gothic fountain play'd,
Symmetrical, but deck'd with carvings quaint—
Strange faces, like to men in masquerade,
And here perhaps a monster, there a saint;
The spring gush'd through grim mouths, of granite
And sparkled into basins, where it spent [made.
Its little torrent in a thousand bubbles,
Like man's vain glory, and his vainer troubles.

LXVI.
The mansion's self was vast and venerable,
With more of the monastic than has been
Elsewhere preserved: the cloisters still were stable,
The cells, too, and refectory, I ween:
An exquisite small chapel had been able,
Still unimpair'd, to decorate the scene;
The rest had been reform'd, replaced, or sunk,
And spoke more of the baron than the monk.

LXVII.
Huge halls, long galleries, spacious chambers, join'd
By no quite lawful marriage of the arts,
Might shock a connoisseur; but, when combined,
Form'd a whole which, irregular in parts,
Yet left a grand impression on the mind,
At least of those whose eyes are in their hearts.
We gaze upon a giant for his stature,
Nor judge at first if all be true to nature.

LXVIII.
Steel barons, melt the next generation
To silken rows of gay and gartered ears,
Glanced from the walls in goodly preservation;
And Lady Marys, blooming into girls,
With fair long locks, had also kept their station;
And countesses mature in robes and pearls:
Also some beauties of Sir Peter Lely,
Whose drapery bits we may admire them freely.

LXIX.
Judges, in very formidable crinie,
Were there, with brows that did not much invite
The accused to think their lordships would determine
His cause by leaning much from might to right:
Bishops, who had not left a single sermon;
Attorneys-general, awful to the sight,
As hinting more (unless our judgments warp us)
Of the "Sta. Chamber" than of "Habeas Corpus

LXX.
Generals, some all in armor, of he old
And iron time, ere lead had ta'en the lead;
Others in wigs of Marlborough's martial fold,
Huger than twelve of our degenerate breed;
Lordlings, with staves of white or keys of gold:
Nimrods, whose canvas scarce contain'd the steed.
And here and there some stern high patriot stood,
Who could not get the place for which he sued.

LXXI.
But, ever and anon, to soothe your vision,
Fatigued with these hereditary glories,
There rose a Carlo Dolce or a Titian,
Or wilder group of savage Salvatores;
Here danced Albano's boys, and here the sea shore
In Vernet's ocean lights; and there the stories
Of martyrs awed, as Spagnoletto tainted
His brush with all the blood of all the sainted.

LXXII.
Here sweetly spread a landscape of Lorraine;
There Rembrandt made his darkness equal light,
Or gloom Caravaggio's gloomier stain
Browned o'er the fancy of some and stoe anchorite—
But lo ! a Teniers woods, and not in vain
Your eyes to revel in a livelier sight,
His bell-mouth'd goblet makes me feel quite Danish!
Or Dutch with thirst—What ho! a flask of Rhenish.

LXXIII.
Oh, reader! if that thou canst read,—and know
'Tis not enough to spell, or even to read,
To constitute a reader; there must go
Virtues of which both you and I have need.
Firstly, begin with the beginning, (though
That clause is hard,) and so, undo, proceed;
Thirdly, commence not with the end—or, sinning
In this sort, end at least with the beginning.

LXXIV.
But, reader, thou hast patient been of late,
While I, without remorse of rhyme, or fear,
Have built and laid out ground at such a rate,
Dan Phoebus takes me for an auctioneer.
That poets were so from their earliest date,
By Homer's "Catalogue of Ships" is clear:
But a mere modern must be moderate,—
I spare you, then, the furniture and plate.

LXXV.
The mellow autumn came, and with it came
The promised party, to enjoy its sweets.
The corn is cut, the manor full of game;
The pointer ranges, and the sportsman beats
In russet jacket—lynx-like is his aim,
Full grows his bag, and wonderful his feats.
Ah, nut-brown partridges! ah, brilliant pheasants
Anshah, ye poachers—tis no sport for peacocks.

LXXVI.
An English autumn, though it hath no vines,
Blushing with Bachelot coronals along
The paths, o'er which the fair festoon entwines
The red grape in the sunny lands of song,
Hath yet a purchased choice of choicest wines;
The clarët light, and the Madère strong.
If Britain mourn her bleakness, we can tell her
The very best of vineyards is the cellar
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LXXVII.</th>
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<td>Then, if she hath not that serene decline</td>
<td>There was Parolles, too, the legal by ly,</td>
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<td>Which makes the southern autumn's day appear</td>
<td>Who limits all his battles to the bar</td>
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<td>As if 'twould to a second spring resign</td>
<td>And senate: when invited elsewhere, truly,</td>
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<td>The season, rather than to winter drear,—</td>
<td>He shows more appetite for words than war.</td>
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<td>Of in-door comforts still she hath a mine,—</td>
<td>There was the young bard Rackrhyne, who had newly</td>
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<td>The sea-coal fires, the earliest of the year;</td>
<td>Come out and glimmer'd as a six-weeks' star</td>
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<td>Without doors, too, she may compete in mellow,</td>
<td>There was Lord Fyrrho, too, the great freethinker</td>
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<tr>
<td>As what is lost in green is gain'd in yellow.</td>
<td>And Sir John Pcketideep, the mighty drinker.</td>
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<th>LXXXVIII.</th>
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<tr>
<td>And for the effeminate villeggiatura— [chase</td>
<td>There was the Duke of Dash, who was a--duke,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rife with more horns than hounds—she hath the</td>
<td>&quot;Ay, every inch a&quot; duke; there were twelve peers</td>
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<td>So animated that it might allure</td>
<td>Like Charlemagne's—and all such peers in look</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint from his beads to join the jocund race;</td>
<td>And intellect, that neither eyes nor ears</td>
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<tr>
<td>Even Nimrod's self might leave the plains of Durà,</td>
<td>For commoners had ever them mistook.</td>
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<tr>
<td>And wear the Melton jacket for a space:—</td>
<td>There were the six Miss Rawbolds—pretty dears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If she hath no wild boars, she hath a tame</td>
<td>All song and sentiment; whose hearts were set</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preserve of bores, who ought to be made game.</td>
<td>Less on a convent than a coronet.</td>
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<th>LXXXIX.</th>
<th>LXXXVI.</th>
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<tr>
<td>The noble guests, assembled at the Abbey,</td>
<td>There were four Honorable Misters, whose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consisted of—we give the sex the pas—</td>
<td>Honor was more before their names than after;</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Duchess of Fitz-Fulke; the Countess Crabby;</td>
<td>There was the preux Chevalier de la Basse, [here,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ladies, Scilly, Busey; Miss Eclat,</td>
<td>Whom France and fortune lately decoy'd to waft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Bombazeen, Miss Mackstay, Miss O'Tabby,</td>
<td>Whose chiefly harmless talent was to amuse;</td>
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<tr>
<td>And Mrs. Rabbi, the rich banker's squaw:</td>
<td>But the Clubs found it rather serious laughter,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Also the Honorable Mrs. Sleep,</td>
<td>Because—such was his magic power to please,—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who look'd a white lamb, yet was a black sheep.</td>
<td>The dice seem'd charm'd too with his repartees.</td>
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<th>LXXX.</th>
<th>LXXXVII.</th>
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<tr>
<td>With other Countesses of Blank—but rank;</td>
<td>There was Dick Dubious, the metaphysician,</td>
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<tr>
<td>At once the &quot;lie&quot; and the &quot;elite&quot; of crowds;</td>
<td>Who loved philosophy and a good dinner;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who pass like water filter'd in a tank,</td>
<td>Angle, the soi-distant mathematician;</td>
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<tr>
<td>All purged and pious from their native clouds;</td>
<td>Sir Henry Silver-cup, the great race-winner;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or paper turn'd to money by the Bank:</td>
<td>There was the Reverend Rodomont Precision;</td>
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<tr>
<td>No matter how or why, the passport shrouds</td>
<td>Who did not hate so much the sin as sinner;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The &quot;passée&quot; and the past; for good society</td>
<td>And Lord Augustus Fitz-Plantagenet,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is no less famed for tolerance than piety.</td>
<td>Good at all things, but better at a bet.</td>
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<th>LXXXVIII.</th>
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<td>That is, up to a certain point; which point</td>
<td>There was Jack Jargon, the gigantic guardsman;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forms the most difficult in punctuation.</td>
<td>And General Fireface, famous in the field,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appearances appear to form the joint</td>
<td>A great tactician, and no less a swordsman,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On which it hinges in a higher station;</td>
<td>Who ate, last war, more Yankees than he kill'd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>And so that no explosion cry &quot;Aroint</td>
<td>There was the waggish Welsh Judge, Jefferies Hard;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thee, witch!&quot; or each Medea has her Jason;</td>
<td>In his grave office so completely skill'd, [max,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or (to the point with Horace and with Pulci)</td>
<td>That when a culprit came for condemnation,</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Omne tulit punctum, qua miscuit utile dulci.&quot;</td>
<td>He had his judge's joke for consolation.</td>
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<tr>
<th>LXXXII.</th>
<th>LXXXIX.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I can't exactly trace their rule of right,</td>
<td>Good company's a chess-board—there are kings,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Which hath a little leaning to a lottery;</td>
<td>Queens, bishops, knights, rooks, pawns; the</td>
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<tr>
<td>I've seen a virtuous woman put down quite</td>
<td>world's a game;</td>
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<tr>
<td>By the mere combination of a coterie</td>
<td>Save that the puppets pull at their own strings;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Also a so-so matron boldly fight</td>
<td>Menthinks gay Punch hath something of the same.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Her way back to the world by dint of plottery,</td>
<td>My Muse, the butterfly, hath but her wings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>And shine the very Síria of the spheres,</td>
<td>Not stings, and dit's through other without aim,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escaping with a few slight, scarless sneers.</td>
<td>Alighting rarely: were she but a hornet,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I've seen more than I'll say,—but we will see</td>
<td>Perhaps there might be vices which would mourn it.</td>
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<tr>
<th>LXXXIII.</th>
<th>XC.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How our villeggiatura will get on.</td>
<td>I had forgotten—but must not forget—</td>
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<tr>
<td>The party might consist of thirty-three</td>
<td>An orator, the latest of the session,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of highest caste—the Brahmins of the ton.</td>
<td>Who had deliver'd well a very set.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I've named a few, not foremost in degree,</td>
<td>Smooth speech, his first and maidenly transegregation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But ta'en at hazard as the rhyme may run.</td>
<td>Upon debate: the papers echoed yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By way of sprinkling, scatter'd among these,</td>
<td>With this debut, which made a strong impression,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There also were some Irish absentes.</td>
<td>And rank'd with what is every day display'd—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The best first speech that ever yet was made.&quot;</td>
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XCII.
There also were two wits by acclamation, Longbow from Ireland, Strongbow from the Tweed, Both lawyers, and both men of education; But Strongbow's wit was of more polish'd breed: Longbow was rich in an imagination, As beautiful and bounding as a steed, But sometimes stumbling over a potato,— While Strongbow's best things might have come from Cato.

XCIII.
Strongbow was like a new tuned harpsichord; But Longbow wild as an Æolian harp, With which the winds of heaven can claim accord, And make a music, (whether flat or sharp, Of Strongbow's talk you would not change a word; At Longbow's phrases you might sometimes carp: Both wits—one born so, and the other bred, This by his heart—his rival by his head.

XCIV.
‘T’ all these seem a heterogeneous mass, To be assembled at a country-seat, Yet think a specimen of every class Is better than a hundrum tête-à-tête. The days of comedy are gone, alas! [bête; When Congreve's fool could vie with Molière's Society is smooth'd to that excess, That manners hardly differ more than dress.

XCV.
Our ridicules are kept in the background, Ridiculous enough, but also dull; Professins, too, are no more to be found Professional; and there is nought to cull Of folly's fruit; for though your fools abound, They're barren, and not worth the pains to pull. Society is now one polishes'd herd, Form'd of two mighty tribes, the Bores and Bored.

XCVI.
But from being farmers, we turn gleaners, gleaning The scanty but right-well thresh'd ears of truth; And, gentle reader! when you gather meaning, You may be Boaz, and I—modest Ruth. Further I'd quote, but Scripture, intervening, Forbids. A great impression in my youth Was made by Mrs. Adams, where she cries "That Scriptures out of church are blasphemies."

XCVII.
But what we can we glean in this vile age Of chaff, although our gleanings be not grist, I must not quite omit the talking sage, Kit-Cat, the famous conversationist, Who, in his common-place book had a page, [list!— Prepared each morn for evenings. "List, oh, 'Alas, poor ghost!'—What unexpected woes await those who have studied their bons-mots!

XCVIII.
Firstly, they must allure the conversation By many windings to their clever clinch; And secondly, must let slip no occasion, Nor bate (alake) their hearers of an inch, But take an ell—and make a great sensation, If possible; and thirdly, never clinch When some smart talker puts them to the test, But seize the last word, which no doubt's the best

XCIX.
Lord Henry and his lady were the hosts; The party we have touch'd on were the guests: Their table was a board to tempt ev'n ghosts To pass the Styx for more substantial feasts I will not dwell upon ragouts or roasts, Albiet all human history attests That happiness for man—the hungry sinner!— Since Eve ate apples, much depends on dinner.

C.
Witness the lands which "flow'd with milk and Held out unto the hungry Israelites: (honey," To this we've added since the love of money, The only sort of pleasure which requires. Youth fades, and leaves our days no longer sunny; We tire of mistresses and parasites: But oh, ambrosial cash! Ah! who would lose tace! When we no more can use, or even abuse thee!

CII.
The gentlemen got up betimes to shoot, Or hunt; the young because they liked the sport— The first thing boys like after play and fruit: The middle-aged, to make the day more short; For ennui is a growth of English root, Though nameless in our language; we retort The fact for words, and let the French translate That awful yawn which sleep cannot abate.

CIII.
The elderly walk'd through the library, And tumbled books, and criticised the pictures, Or saunter'd through the gardens piteously, And made up the hot-house several strictries, Or rode a nag which trotted not too high, Or on the morning papers read their lectures, Or on the watch their longing eyes would fix, Longing, at sixty, for the hour of six.

CIV.
But none were "géné;" the great hour of union Was rung by dinner's knell; till then all were Masters of their own time—or in communion, Or solitary, as they chose to bear The hours, which how to pass is but to few known Each rose up at his own, and had to spare What time he chose for dress, and broke his fast When, where, and how he chose for that repast.

CIV.
The ladies—some rouged, some a little pale Met the morn as they might. If fine, they rode Or walk'd; if foul, they read, or told a tale, Sung, or rehearsed the last dance from abroad; Discuss'd the fashion which might next prevail; And settled bonnets by the newest code; Or cramm'd twelve sheets into one little letter. To make each correspondent a new debt
CV.
For some had absent lovers, all had friends;
The earth has nothing like a she epistle,
And hardly heaven—because it never ends.
I love the mystery of a female missal,
Which, like a creed, no'er says all it intends.
But full of cunning as Ulysses' whistle,
When he allured poor Dolon—you had better
Take care what you reply to such a letter.

CVI.
Then there were billiards; cards too, but no dice;
Save in the Clubs no man of honor plays;—
Boats when 'twas water, skating when 'twas ice,
And the hard frosts destroy'd the scenting days:
And angling, too, that solitary vice,
Whatever Isaac Walton sings or says:
The quaint, old, cruel coxcomb, in his gullet
Should have a hook, and a small trout to pull it.

CVII.
With evening came the banquet and the wine;
The conversazion; the duet,
Attuned by voices more or less divine,
(My heart or head aches with the memory yet.)
The four Miss Rawbolts in a glee would shine;
But the two youngest loved more to be set
Down to the harp—because to music's charms
They added graceful necks, white hands and arms.

CVIII.
Sometimes a dance (though rarely on field days,
For then the gentlemen were rather tired)
Display'd some sylph-like figures in its maze:
Then there was small-talk ready when required;
Flirtation—but decorous; the mere praise
Of charms that should or should not be admired;
The hunters fought their fox-hunt o'er again,
And then retreated soberly—at ten.

CIX.
The politicians, in a nook apart,
Discuss'd the world, and settled all the spheres;
The wise watch'd every loop-hole for their art,
To introduce a bon-mot head and ears;
Small is the rest of those who would be smart—
A moment's good thing may have cost them years
Before they find an hour to introduce it,
And then, even then, some bore may make them
lose it.

CX.
but all was gentle and aristocratic
In this our party; polish'd, smooth, and cold,
As Phidian forms cut out of marble Attic,
There now are no Squire Westerns, as of old;
And our Sophias are not so emphatic,
But fair as then, or fairer to behold.
[Jones,
We've no accomplish'd blackguards, like Tom,
But gentlemen in stays, as stiff as stones.

CXI.
They separated at an early hour;
That is, ere midnight—which is London's noon:
But in the country, ladies seek their bower
A little earlier than the waning moon.
Peace to the slumbers of each folded flower—
May the rose call back its true color soon!
Good hours of fair cheeks are the fairest tinters,
And lower the price of rouge—at least some winters.
VII.

But what's this to the purpose? you will say.
Gent. reader, nothing: a mere speculation,
For which my sole excuse is—'tis my way.
Sometimes with and sometimes without occasion,
I write what's uppermost without delay;
This narrative is not meant for narration,
But a mere airy and fantastic basis,
To build up common things with common-places.

VIII.

You know, or don't know, that great Bacon saith,
"Fling up a straw, 'twill show the way the wind blows;" 
And such a straw, borne on by human breath,
Is poesy, according as the mind glows;
A paper kite which flies 'twixt life and death,
A shadow which the onward soul throws,
And mine's a bubble not blown up for praise,
But just to play with, 'tis an infant plays.

IX.

The world is all before me—or behind;
For I have seen a portion of that same,
And quite enough for me to keep in mind:—
Of passions, too, I've proved enough to blame,
To the great pleasure of our friends, mankind;
Who like to mix some slight alloy with fame:
For I was rather famous in my time,
Until I fairly knock'd it up with rhyme.

X.

I have brought this world about my ears, and eke
The other: that's to say, the clergy—who
Upon my head have bid their thunders break
In pious libels by no means a few,
And yet I can't help scribbling once a week,
Tiring old readers, nor discovering new.
In youth I wrote because my mind is full,
And now because I feel it growing dull.

XI.

But "why then publish?"—There are no rewards
Of fame or profit, when the world grows weary
I ask in turn,—why do you play at cards? [dreamy]
Why drink? Why read?—To make some hour less
It occupies me to turn back regards
On what I've seen or ponder'd sad or cheery;
And what I write I cast upon the stream,
To swim or sink—I have had at least my dream.

XII.

I think that were I certain of success,
I hardly could compose another line:
So long I've battled either more or less
That no defeat can drive me from the Nine.
This feeling 'tis not easy to express,
And yet 'tis not affected, I opine.
In play, there are two pleasures for your choosing—
The one is winning, and the other losing.

XIII.

Besides, my Muse by no means deals in fiction:
She gathers a repertory of facts,
Of course with some reserve and slight restriction,
But mostly sing of human things and acts—
And that's one cause she meets with contradiction,
For too much truth, at first sight, ne'er attracts;
And were her object only what's call'd glory,
With more ease too she'd tell a different story.

XIV.

Love, war, a tempest,—surely there's variety;
Also a seasoning slight of lubrication;
A bird's-eye view too of that wild, Society;
A slight glance thrown on men of every station
If you have nought else, here's at least satiety,
Both in performance and in preparation; [tears
And though these lines should only live por man
Trade will be all the better for these Cantos.

XV.

The portion of this world which I at present
Have taken up to fill the following sermon,
Is one of which there's no description recent:
The reason why is easy to determine:
Although it seems both prominent and pleasant,
There is a sameness in its gems and emmies,
A dull and family likeness through all ages,
Of no great promise for poetic pages.

XVI.

With much to excite, there's little to exalt;
Nothing that speaks to all men and all times;
A sort of varnish over every fault;
A kind of common-place, even in their crimes;
Facitious passions, wit without much salt,
A want of that true nature which sublimes
Whate'er it shows with truth; a smooth monoton;
Of character, in those at least who have got any.

XVII.

Sometimes, indeed, like soldiers off parade,
They break their ranks and gladly leave the drill
But then the roll-call draws them back afraid,
And they must be or seem what they were: still
Doubtless it is a brilliant masquerade;
But when of the first sight you have had your fill
It falls—at least it did so upon me,
This paradise of pleasure and ennui.

XVIII.

When we have made our love, and gamed out gaming,
[more:
Dress'd, voted, shone, and, may be, something
With dandies dined; heard senators declaiming;
seen beauties brought to market by the score;
Sad rakes to saddar husbands chastely taming;
There's little left but to be bored or bore.
Witness those "ci-devant jeunes hommes" who stem
The stream, nor leave the world which leaveth them

XIX.

'Tis said—indeed a general complaint—
That no one has succeeded in describing
The monde, exactly as they ought to paint.
Some say, that authors only snatch, by bribing
The porter, some slight scandals strange and quaint
To furnish matter for their moral gibing;
And that their books have but one style in common—
My lady's prattle, filter'd through her woman

XX.

But this can't well be true, just now; for writers
Are grown of the beau monde a part potential;
I've seen them balance even the scale with fighters
Especially when young, for that's essential.
Why do their sketches fall them as inditers
Of, what they deem themselves most cause
The real portrait of the highest tribe? [quanta
'Tis that, in fact, there's little to describe.
XXI.

"Hand ignara logar:" these are make, "quarum Pars parva fuit," but still art and part.

Now I could much more easily sketch a haram,
A battle, wreck, or history of the heart,
Than these things; and besides, I wish to spare 'em
For reasons which I choose to keep apart.

"Vetabo Cereris sacrum qui vulgi rit,"
Which means, that vulgar people must not share it.

XXII.

A world therefore what I throw off is ideal—
Leaver'd, leaven'd like a history of Freemasons;
Which bears the same relation to the real,
As Captain Parry's voyage may do to Jason's.
The grand Arcanum's not for men to see all;
My music has some mystic diapasons;
And there is much which could not be appreciated
In any manner by the unintellegent.

XXIII.

Alas! worlds fall—and woman, since she fall'd
The world, (as, since that history, less polite
Than true, hath been a creed so strictly hold,) Has not yet given up the practice quite.
Poor thing of usages! coerced, compell'd,
Victim when wrong, and martyr oft when right,
Condemn'd to child-bed, as men for their sins,
Have shaving too entail'd upon their chins,—

XXIV.

A daily plague, which, in the aggregate,
May average on the whole with parturition.
But as to women, who can penetrate
The real sufferings of their she condition
Man's very sympathy with their estate
Has much of selfishness and more suspicion.
Their love, their virtue, beauty, education,
But form good housekeepers to breed a nation.

XXV.

All this were very well, and can't be better;
But even this is difficult, Heaven knows!
So many troubles from her birth beset her,
Such small distinction between friends and foes,
The gilding wears so soon from off her fetter,
That—but ask any woman if she'd choose,
(Take her at thirty, that is,) to have been
Female or male? a schoolboy or a queen?

XXVI.

"Petticoat influence" is a great reproach,
Which even those who obey would fain be thought
To fly from, as from hungry pikes a roach;
But, since beneath it upon earth we are brought,
By various jottings of life's hackney-coach,
I for one venerate a petticoat—
A garment of a mystical sublimity,
No matter whether russet, silk, or dainty.

XXVII.

Much I respect, and much I have adored,
In my young days, that chaste and goodly veil,
Which holds a treasure like a miser's hoard,
And more attracts by all its doth conceal—
A golden scabbard on a Damascus sword,
A lovin' letter with a mystic seal,
A cune for grief—for what can ever rankle
Before a petticoat and peeping eye?

XXVIII.

And when upon a silent, sullen day,
With a Sirocco, for example, blowing,—
When even the sea looks dim with all its spars,
And sulkily the river's ripple's flowing,
And the sky shows that very ancient gray,
The sober sad antithesis to glowing,—
'Tis pleasant, if then any thing is pleasant,
To catch a glimpse even of a pretty peasant.

XXIX.

We left our heroes and our heroines
In that fair clime which don't depend on climate
Quite independent of the Zodiac's signs,
Though certainly more difficult to rhyme at,
Because the sun and stars, and aught that shines,
Mountains, and all we can be most sublime at,
Are there off dull and dreary as a dun—
Whether a sky's or tradesman's, is all one.

XXX.

An in-door life is less poetical;
And out-of-door hath showers, and mists, and scents,
With which I could not brew a pastoral.
But be it as it may, a bard must meet
All difficulties, whether great or small,
To spoil his undertaking or complete,
And work away like spirit upon matter,
Embarrass'd somewhat both with fire and water.

XXXI.

Juan—in this respect at least like saints—
Was all things unto people of all sorts,
And lived contentedly, without complaints,
In camps, in ships, in cottages, or courts—
Born with that happy soul which seldom finds,
And mingling modestly in toils or sports.
He likewise could be most things to all women,
Without the coxcombry of certain she men.

XXXII.

A fox-hunt to a foreigner is strange;
'Tis also subject to the double danger
Of tumbling first, and having in exchange
Some pleasant jesting at the awkward stranger
But Juan had been early taught to range
The wilds, as doth an Arab turn'd avenger,
So that his horse, or charger, hunter, hack,
Knew that he had a rider on his back.

XXXIII.

And now in this new field, with some applause,
He clear'd hedge, ditch, and double post, and rail,
And never censored, and made but few "faux pas;"
And only fretted when the scent 'gan fail.
He broke, 'tis true, some statutes of the laws
Of hunting—for the sages youth is frail;
Rode o'er the hounds, it may be, now and then,
And o'er several country gentlemen.

XXXIV.

But, on the whole, to general admiration
He acquitted both himself and horse: the squire
Marvelling'd at merit of another nation:
[Sic,] the boors cried "Danger! who 'd have thought it?"
The Nestors of the sporting generation,
Swores praises, and recall'd their former fires
The huntsman's self relented to a grin,
And rated him almost a whipper-in.
XXXV.

Such were his trophies;—not of spear and shield,
But leaps and bursts, and sometimes foxes'
Yet I must own,—although in this I yield [brushes;
To patriot sympathy a Briton's blushes,—
He thought at heart like courtly Chesterfield,
Who, after a long chase o'er hills, dales, bushes,
And what not, though he rode beyond all price,
Ask'd, next day, "if men ever hunted twice?"

XXXVI.

He also had a quality uncommon
To early risers after a long chase,
Who wake in winter ere the cock can summon
December's drowsy day to his dull race,—
A quality agreeable to woman,
When her soft liquid words run on space,
Who likes a listener, whether saint or sinner,—
He did not fall asleep just after dinner.

XXXVII.

But, light and airy, stood on the alert,
And shone in the best part of dialogue,
By humoring always what they might assert,
And listening to the topics most in vogue;
Now grave, now gay, but never dull or port;
And smiling but in secret—cunning rogue!
He ne'er presumed to make an error clearer;
In short, there never was a better heater.

XXXVIII.

And then he danced;—all foreigners excel
The serious Angles in the elocution
Of Pantomime;—he danced, I say, right well,
With emphasis, and also with good sense—
A thing in footing indispensable:
He danced without theatrical pretence,
Not like a ballet-master in the van
Of his drill'd nymphs, but like a gentleman.

XXXIX.

Chaste were his steps, each kept within due bound,
And elegance was sprinkled o'er his figure;
Like swift Camilla, he scarce skimm'd the ground,
And rather held in than put forth his vigor;
And then he had an ear for music's sound,
Which might defy a crochet-critic's rigor.
Such classic pas—sans flaws—set off our hero,
He glanced like a personified bolero.

XL.

Or, like a flying hour—before Aurora,
In Guido's famous fresco, which alone
Is worth a tour to Rome, although no more a
Remnant were there of the old world's sole throne.
The "out ensemble" of his movements wore a
Grace of the soft ideal, seldom shown,
And ne'er to be described; for, to the dolor
Of bards and prosers, words are void of color.

XLI.

No marvel then he was a favorite;
A full-grown Cupid, very much admired;
A little spoild, but by no means so quite;
At least he kept his vanity retired.
Such was his tact, he could alike delight
The chaste, and those who are not so much inspir'd.
The Duchess of Fitz-Pulke, who loved "tracasserie,"
Began to root him with some small "agacerie."

XLII.

She was a fine and somewhat full-blown blonde,
Desirable, distinguished, celebrated
For several winters in the grand, grand monde.
I'd rather not say what might be related
Of her exploits, for this were ticklish ground;
Besides there might be falsehood in what's stated
Her late performance had been a dead set
At Lord Augustus Fitz-Plantagenet.

XLIII.

This noble personage began to look
A little black upon this new flirtation;
But such small licenses must lovers brook,
More freedoms of the female corporation.
Wo to the man who ventures a rebuke.
"Twill but precipitate a situation
Extremely disagreeable, but common
To calculators, when they count on woman.

XLIV.

The circle smiled, then whisper'd, and then sneer'd
The Misses bridled, and the matrons frown'd;
Some hoped things might not turn out as they fear'd
Some would not deem such women could be found
Some ne'er believed one-half of what they heard,
Some look'd perplex'd, and others look'd profound
And several pitied with sincere regret
Poor Lord Augustus Fitz-Plantagenet.

XLV.

But, what is odd, none ever named the duke,
Who, one might think, was something in the affai
True, he was absent, and 'twas rumor'd, took
But small concern, about the when, or where.
Or what his consort did: if he could brook
Her gayeties, none had a right to stare:
Their's was that best of unions, past all doubt,
Which never meets, and therefore can't fall out

XLVI.

But, oh that I should ever pen so sad a line!
Fired with an abstract love of virtue, she,
My Dian of the Ephesians, Lady Adeline,
Began to think the Duchess' conduct free;
Regrettling much that she had chosen so bad a line,
And waxing chiller in her courtesy,
Look'd grave and pale to see her friend's fragility,
For which most friends reserve their sensibility.

XLVII.

There's nought in this bad world like sympathy:
'Tis so becoming to the soul and face;
Sets to soft music the harmonious sigh,
And robes sweet friendship in a Brussels lace.
Without a friend, what were humanity,
To hunt our errors up with a good grace?
Consoling us with—"Would you had thought twice
Ah! if you had but follow'd my advice!"

XLVIII.

Oh, Job! you had two friends: one's quite enough
Especially when we are ill at ease;
They're but bad pilots when the weather's rough,
Doctors less famous for their cures than fees.
Let no man grumble when his friends fall off,
As they will do like leaves at the first breeze
When your affairs come round, one way or t'other
Go to the coffee-house, and take another
XLIX.
But this is not my maxim: had it been,
Some heart aches had been spared me; yet I care not,
I would not be a tortoise in his screen [not:]
Of stubborn shell, which waves and weather wear
Tis better on the whole to have felt and seen.
That which humanity may bear, or bear not:
Twill teach discernment to the sensitive,
And not to pour their ocean in a sieve.

L.
If all the horrid, hideous notes of wo,
Sadder than owl-songs, or the midnight blast,
Is that portentous phrase, "I told you so,"
Utter'd by friends, those prophets of the past,
Who, 'stead of saying what you now should do,
Own they foresaw that you would fall at last,
And solace your slight lapse 'gainst "bonos mores";
With a long memorandum of old stories.

LI.
The Lady Adeline's serene severity
Was not confined to feeling for her friend,
Whose fame she rather doubted with posterity,
Unless her habits should begin to mend.
But Juan also shared in her austerity,
But mix'd with pity, pure as e'er was pen'n'd:
His incomer passed her gentle rule,
And (as her junior by six weeks) his youth.

LII.
These forty days' advantage of her years—
And hers were those which can face calculation,
Boldly referring to the list of peers,
And noble births, nor dread the enumeration—
Gave her a right to have maternal cares,
For a young gentleman's fit education,
Though she was far from that leap-year, whose leap
In female dates, strikes time all of a heap.

LIII.
This may be fix'd somewhere before thirty—
Say seven-and-twenty; for I never knew
The strictest in chronology and virtue
Advance beyond, while they could pass for new.
Oh, time! why dost not pause? Thy scythe, so dirty
With rust, should surely cease to hack and hew.
Reset it; shave more smoothly, also slower,
If but to keep thy credit as a mower.

LIV.
But Adeline was far from that ripe age,
Whose ripeness is but bitter at the best:
'Twas rather her experience that made her sage,
For she had seen the world, and stood its test,
As I have said in—I forget what page;
My Muse despises reference, as you have guess'd
By this time: but strike six from seven-and-twenty,
And you will find her sum of years in plenty.

LV.
At sixteen she came out; presented, vaunted,
She put all coronets into commotion:
At seventeen, 'too, the world was still enchanted
With the new Venus of their brilliant ocean:
At eighteen, though below her feet still panted
A hecatomb of suitors with devotion,
She had consented to create again
That Adam, call'd "the happiest of men."

LVI.
Since then she had sparkled through three gowns,
Admired, adored! but also so correct,
That she had puzzled all the acutest hunters,
Without the apparel of being circumspect.
They could not even glean the slightest splinters
From off the marble, which had no defect.
She had also snatch'd a moment since her marriage
To bear a son and heir—and one miscarry.

LVII.
Fondly the wheeling fire-fly's flew around her,
Those little gliterers of the London night;
But none of these possess'd a sting to wound her—
She was a pitch beyond a coxcomb's flight.
Perhaps she wish'd an aspirant profounder;
But, whatsoever she wish'd, she acted right;
And whether coldness, pride, or virtue, dignify
A woman, so she's good, what does it signify?

LVIII.
'Tis sad to hack into the roots of things,
They are so much intertwist'd with the earth,
So that the branch a goodly verdure flings,
I reek not if an acorn gave it birth.
To trace all actions to their secret springs
Would make indeed some melancholy mirth:
But this is not at present my concern,
And I refer you to wise Oenustiern.3

LIX.
With the kind view of saving an eclat,
Both to the duchess and diplomatist,
The Lady Adelina, as soon's she saw
That Juan was unlikely to resist—
(For foreigners don't know that a faux pas
In England ranks quite on a different list)
From those of other lands, unless'd with juries,
Whose verdict for such sin a certain cure is)

LXI.
The Lady Adeline resolved to take
Such measures as she thought might best impress
The farther progress of this sad mistake.
She thought with some simplicity indeed
But innocence is bold even at the stake,
And simple in the world, and doth not need
Nor use those palisades by dames erected,
Whose virtue lies in never being detected.

LXII.
It was not that she fear'd the very worst:
His grace was an enduring, married man,
And was not likely all at once to burst
Into a scene, and swell the client's clan
Of Doctors' Commons; but she dreaded first
The magic of her grace's talisman,
And next a quarrel (as she seem'd to fret)
With Lord Augustus Fitz-Plantagenet.
LXIII.
He was a cold, good, honorable man,
And after being, and proud of every thing,
A goodly spirit for a state divan,
A figure fit to walk before a king:
Tall, stately, form'd to lead the courtly van
On birthdays, glorious with a star and string;
The very model of a chamberlain—
And such I mean to make him when I reign.

LXX.

LXXI.

LXXII.

LXXIII.

LXXIV.

LXXV.

LXXVI.

LXXVII.

LXXVIII.

LXXIX.

LXXX.

LXXXI.

LXXXII.

LXXXIII.

LXXXIV.

LXXXV.

LXXXVI.

Eureka! I have found it! What I mean
To say is, not that love is idleness,
But that in love such idleness has been
An accessory, as I have cause to guess.
Hard labor's an indifferent go-between;
Your men of business are not apt to express
Much passion, since the merchant-ship, the Argos
Convey'd Medea as her supercargo.
LXXVII.

Bentus ille procul!" from "necotios,"
Saith Horace; the great little poet's wrong;
His other maxim, "Noscitur a sociis,"
Is much more to the purpose of his song;
Though even that were sometimes too ferocious,
Unless good company he kept too long;
But, in his teeth, whate'er their state or station,
Thrice happy they who have an occupation!

LXXVIII.

Adam exchanged his paradise for ploughing—
Eve made up millinery with fig-leaves—
The earliest knowledge from the tree so knowing,
As far as I know, that the church receives:
And since that time, it need not cost much showing,
That many of the ills o'er which man grieves,
And still more women, spring from not employing
Some hours to make the remnant worth enjoying.

LXXIX.

And hence high life is oft a dreary void,
A rack of pleasures, where we must invent
A something wherewithal to be annoy'd.
Bards may sing what they please about content;
Contented, when translated, means but cloy'd;
And hence arise the woes of sentiment,
Blue-devils, and blue-stockings, and romances
Reduced to practice, and perform'd like dances.

LXXX.

I do declare, upon an affidavit,
Romances I ne'er read like those I have seen;
Yet, if into the world I ever gave it,
Would some believe that such a tale had been:
But such intent I never had, nor have it;
Some truths are better kept behind a screen,
Especially when they would look like lies;
I therefore deal in generalities.

LXXXI.

'An oyster may be cross'd in love, — and why?'
Because he mopeth idly in his shell,
And heaves a lonely subterraneque sigh,
Much as a monk may do within his cell:
A poor valet of monks, their plea't
With sloth hath found it difficult to dwell;
Those vegetables of the Catholic creed
Are apt exceedingly to run to seed.

LXXXII.

Oh, Wilberforce! thou man of black renown,
Whose merit none enough can sing or say,
Truth hast struck one immense colossus down,
Thou moral Washington of Africa!
But there's another little thing, I own,
Which you should perpetrate some summer's day,
And set the other half of earth to rights:
Youa have freed the blacks—now pray shut up the whites.

LXXXIII.

Shut up the bald-coat bully Alexander;
Ship off the holy three to Senegal; [der,]
Teach them that "sauce for goose is sauce for gan-
And ask them how they like to be in thrall.
Shut up each high heroic salamander,
Who eats fire gratis, (since the pay's but small,)
Shut up—no, not the king, but the pavilion
Or else 'twill cost us all another million.

LXXXIV.

Shut up the world at large; let Bedlam out,
And you will be perhaps surprised to find
All things pursue exactly the same route,
As now with those of voi-distant sound mind.
This I could prove beyond a single doubt,
Were there a jot of sense among mankind.
But till that point d' appui is found, alas!
Like Archimedes, I leave earth as 'twas.

LXXXV.

Our gentle Adeline had one defect—
Her heart was vacant, though a splendid mansion.
Her conduct had been perfectly correct,
As she had seen nought claiming its expansion.
A wavering spirit may be easier week'd,
Because 'tis frailer, doubtless, than a stanch one.
But when the latter works its own undoing,
Its inner crash is like an earthquake's ruin.

LXXXVI.

She loved her lord, or thought so; but that love
Cost her an effort, which is a sad toll,
The stone of Syphys, if once we move.
Our feelings 'gainst the nature of the soil.
She had nothing to complain of, or repro've,
No bickerings, no comniual turmoil.
Their union was a model to behold,
Serene and noble,—conjugal but cold.

LXXXVII.

There was no great disparity of years,
Though much in temper; but they never clasb'd
They moved like stars united in their spheres,
Or like the Rhone by Leman's waters wash'd
Where mingled and yet separate appears
The river from the lake, all bluely dash'd
Through the serene and placid glassy deep,
Which fain would b lur its river-child to sleep.

LXXXVIII.

Now, when she once had ta'en an interest
In any thing; however she might flatter herself
That her intentions were the best,
Intense intentions are a dangerous matter:
Impressions were much stronger than she guess'd,
And gather'd as they run, like growing water.
Upon her mind; the more so, as her breast
Was not at first too readily impress'd.

LXXXIX.

But when it was, she had that lurking demon
Of double nature, and thus doubly named—
Firmness yeclpe in heroes, kings, and seamen,
That is, when they succeed; but greatly blamed
As obstinacy, both in men and women,
Where'er their triumph pales, or star is tamed:
And 'twill perplex the casuists in morality,
To fix the due bounds of this dangerous quality.

XC.

Had Bonaparte won at Waterloo,
It had been firmness; now 'tis pertinacity:
Must the event decide between the two?
I leave it to your people of sagacity
To draw the line between the false and true,
If such can e'er be drawn by man's capacity:
My business is with Lady Adeline,
Who in her way, too, was a heroine.
DON JUAN.

XCII.

Sue knew not her own heart; then how should I?
I think not she was then in love with Juan:
If so, she would have had the strength to fly.
The wild sensation, unto her a new one:
She merely felt a common sympathy
(I will not say it was a true or false one)
In him, because she thought he was in danger—
Her husband's friend, her own, young, and a stranger.

XCIII.

She was, or thought she was, his friend—and this
Without the farce of friendship, or romance
Of Platonicm, which leads so oft amiss
Ladies who have studied friendship but in France,
Or Germany, where people purely kiss.
'Lo thus much Adeline would not advance;
But of such friendship as man's may to man be,
She was as capable as woman can be.

XCIV.

No doubt the secret influence of the sex
Will there, as also in the ties of blood,
An innocent predominance annex,
And tune the concord to a finer mood.
If free from passion, which all friendship checks,
And your true feelings fully understood,
No friend like to a woman earth discovers,
So that you have not been nor will be lovers.

XCV.

Love bears within its breast the very germ
Of change; and how should this be otherwise?
That violent things more quickly find a term
Is shown through Nature's whole analogies:
And how should the most fierce of all be firm?
Would you have endless lightning in the skies?
Methinks love's very title says enough:
How should "the tender passion" e'er be tough?

XCVI.

Alas! by all experience, seldom yet
(I merely quote what I have heard from many)
Had lovers not some reason to regret
The passion which made Solomon a sany.
I've also seen some wives (not to forget
The marriage state, the best or worst of any)
Who were the very paragons of wives,
Yet made the misery of at least two lives.

XCVII.

I've also seen some female friends (tis odd,
But true—as, if expedient, I could prove)
That faithful were, through thick and thin, abroad,
At home, far more than ever yet was love—
Who did not quit me when oppression trod
Upon me; whom no scandal could remove;
Wld. fought, and fight, in absence, too, my battles,
Despite the snaky society's loud rattles.

XCVIII.

Whether they rode, or walk'd, or studied Spanish,
To read Don Quixote in the original,
A pleasure before which all others vanish;
Whether their talk was of the kind call'd "small,
Or serious, are the topics I must banish
To the next canto; where, perhaps, I shall
Say something to the purpose, and display
Considerable talent in my way.

XCIX.

Above all, I beg all men to forbear
Anticipating aught about the matter:
They'll only make mistakes about the fair.
And Juan, too, especially the latter.
And I shall take a much more serious air
Than I have yet done in this epic satire.
It is not clear that Adeline and Juan
Will fall; but if they do, 'twill be their ruin.

C.

But great things spring from little: would you think
That, in our youth, as dangerous a passion
As e'er brought man and woman to the brink
Of ruin, rose from such a slight occasion
As few would ever dream could form the link
Of such a sentimental situation?
You'll never guess, I'll bet you millions, milliards
It all sprung from a harmless game of billiards

CII.

'Tis strange—but true; for truth is always strange
Stranger than fiction: if it could be told,
How much would novels gain by the exchange!
How differently the world would men behold!
How oft would vice and virtue places change!
The new world would be nothing to the old,
If some Columbus of the moral seas
Would show mankind their souls' antipodes.

CIII.

What "antres vast and deserts idle" then
Would be discover'd in the human soul!
What icebergs in the hearts of mighty men,
With self-love in the centre as their pole!
What Anthropophagi are nine of ten
Of those who hold the kingdoms in control
Were things but only call'd by their right name
Caesar himself would be ashamed of fame

CANTO XV.

I.

Ah!—what should follow slips from my reflection.
Whatever follows ne'ertheless may be
As a propos of hope or retrospection,
As though the lurking thought had follow'd free
All present life is but an interjection,
An "Oh!" or "Ah!" of joy or misery,
Or a "Ha! ha!" or "Bah!"—a yawn, or 'Pooh
Of which perhaps the latter is most true.
II.

But, more or less, the whole’s a syncope,
Or a singultus—emblems of emotion,
The grand antithesis to great ennui,
Wherewith we break our bubbles on the ocean,
That watery outline of eternity,
Or miniature at least, as is my notion,
Which ministers unto the soul’s delight,
In seeing matters which are out of sight.

III.

But all are better than the sigh suppress,
Corroding in the cavern of the heart,
Making the countenance a mask of rest,
And turning human nature to an art.
Few men dare show their thoughts of worst or best;
Dissimulation always sets apart
A corner for herself; and therefore fiction
Is that which passes with least contradiction.

IV.

Ah! who can tell? Or rather, who cannot
Remember, without telling, passion’s errors?
The drainer of oblivion, even the sot,
Hath got blue devils for his morning mirrors:
What though on Lethe’s stream he seems to float,
He cannot sink his tremors or his terrors;
The ruby glass that shakes within his hand,
Leaves a sad sediment of Time’s worst sand.

V.

And as for Love—Oh, Love!—We will proceed,
The Lady Adeline Amundeville,
A pretty name as one would wish to read,
Must perch harmonious on my tuneful quill.
There’s music in the sighing of a reed;
There’s music in the gushing of a rill;
There’s music in all things, if men had ears;
Their earth is but an echo of the spheres.

VI.

The Lady Adeline, right honorable,
And honor’d, ran a risk of growing less so:
For few of the soft sex are very stable
In their resolves—alas! that I should say so:
They differ as wine differs from its label,
When once decanted;—I presume to guess so,
But will not swear: yet both upon occasion,
Till old, may undergo adulteration.

VII.

But Adeline was of the purest vintage,
The unmingled essence of the grape; and yet
Bright as a new Napoleon from its mintage,
Or glorious as a diamond richly set;
A page where Time should hesitate to print age,
And for which nature might forego her debt—
Sic! creditor whose process doth involve in’t
The task of finding every body solvent.

VIII.

Oh! Death! thou duncest of all duns! thou daily
Knockest at doors, at first with modest tap,
Like a meek tradesman when approaching palely
Some splendid debtor he would take by sap:
But oft denied, as patience ‘gins to fail, he
Advances with exaggerated rap,
And (if let in) insists, in terms unhandsome,
In ready money, or “a draft on Ransom.”

IX.

Whate’er thou takest, spare a while poor beauty
She is so rare, and thou hast so much prey,
What though she now and then may slip from duty
The more’s the reason why thou ought to stay.
Gaunt Gourmand! with whole nations for thy boot
You should be civil in a modest way:
Suppress, then, some slight feminine diseases,
And take as many heroes as Heaven pleases.

X.

Fair Adeline, the more ingenuous
Where she was interested, (as was said,)
Because she was not apt, like some of us,
To like too readily, or too high bred
To show it—points we need not now discuss—
Would give up artlessly both heart and head
Unto such feelings as seem’d innocent,
For objects worthy of the sentiment.

XI.

Some parts of Juan’s history, which rumor,
That live gazette, had scatter’d to disfigure,
She had heard; but women hear with more good
Such aberrations than we men of rigor. [ humor
Besides his conduct, since in England, grew more
Strict, and his mind assumed a manlier vigor;
Because he had, like Aciobides,
The art of living in all climes with ease.

XII.

His manner was perhaps the more seductive,
Because he ne’er seem’d anxious to seduce;
Nothing affected, studied, or constructive
Of coxcombry or conquest: no abuse
Of his attractions marr’d the fair perspective,
To indicate a Cupidón broke loose,
And seem to say, “resist us if you can”—
Which makes a dandy while it spoils a man.

XIII.

They are wrong—that’s not the way to set about it;
As, if they told the truth, could well be shown.
But, right or wrong, Don Juan was without it;
In fact, his manner was his own alone:
Sincere he was—at least you could not doubt it,
In Listening merely to his voice’s tone.
The devil hath not in all his quiver’s choice
An arrow for the heart like a sweet voice.

XIV.

By nature soft, his whole address held off
Suspicion: though not timid, his regard
Was such as rather seem’d to keep aloof,
To shield himself, than put you on your guard:
Perhaps ‘twas hardly quite assured enough,
But modesty’s at times its own reward,
Like virtue; and the absence of pretension
Will go much further than there’s need to mention.

XV.

Serene, accomplish’d, cheerful, but not loud
Insinuating without insinuation;
Observant of the foibles of the crowd,
Yet ne’er betraying this in conversation,
 Proud with the proud, yet courteously proud,
So as to make them feel he knew his station
And theirs:—without a struggle for priority,
He neither brook’d nor claimed superiority.
XVI.
That is, with men: with women, he was what
They pleased to make or take him for; and their
imagination's quite enough for that:
So that the outline's tolerably fair,
They fill the canvas up—and "verbum sat,"
If once their phantasies be brought to bear
Upon an object, whether sad or playful,
They can transfigure brighter than a Raphael.

XVII.
Adeline, no deep judge of character,
Was apt to add a coloring from her own.
Tis thus the good will amiably err,
And eke the wise, as has been often shown.
Experience is the chief philosopher,
But saddest when his science is well known:
And persecuted sages teach the schools
Their folly in forgetting there are fools.

XVIII.
Was it not so, great Locke? and greater Bacon?
Great Socrates? And Thou, Diviner still,!
Whose lot it is by man to be mistaken,
And thy pure creed made sanction of all ill?
Redeeming worlds to be by bigots shaken,
How was thy toil rewarded? We might fill
Volumes with similar sad illustrations,
But leave them to the conscience of the nations.

XIX.
I perch upon an humber promontory,
Amid life's infinite variety:
With no great care for what is nicknamed glory,
But speculating as I cast mine eye.
On what may suit or may not suit my story,
And never straining hard to versify;
I rattled on exactly as I'd talk
With any body in a ride or walk.

XX.
I don't know that there may be much ability
Shown in this sort of desultory rhyme;
But there's a conversational facility,
Which may round off an hour upon a time.
Of this I'm sure at least, there's no servility
In mine irregularity of chime,
Which rings what's uppermost of new or hoary,
Just as I feel the "improvvisatore."

XXI.
"Omnia vult bella Matho diceo—die aliquando
Et bene dic neutrum, die aliquando male."
The first is rather more than mortal can do;
The second may be sadly done or gayly;
The third is still more difficult to stand to;
The fourth we hear, and see, and say, too, dilly:
The whole together is what I could wish I
to serve in this comsumard of a dish.

XXII.
A modest hope—but modesty's my forte,
And pride my foible:—let us ramble on.
I meant to make this poem very short,
But now I can't tell where it may not run.
No doubt, if I had wish'd to pay my court
To critics, or to hail the setting sun
Of tyranny of all kinds, my conclusion
Were more;—but I was born for opposition.

XXIII.
But then 'tis mostly on the weaker side:
So that I verily believe if they
Who now are basking in their full-blown pi. le,
Were shaken down, and "dogs had had thel
Though at the first I might by chance derive [day,"
Their tumble, I should turn the other way,
And wax an ultra-royalist in loyalty,
Because I hate even democratic royalty.

XXIV.
I think I should have made a decent spouse,
If I had never proved the soft condition;
I think I should have made monastic vows,
But for my own peculiar superstition:
'Gainst rhyme I never should have knock'd my brow.
Nor broken my own head, nor that of Priscian;
Nor worn the motley mantle of a poet,
If some one had not told me to forego it.

XXV.
But "laissez aller"—knights and dames I sing,
Such as the times may furnish. 'Tis a flight
Which seems at first to need no lofty wing,
Plumed by Longinus or the Stagyrite:
The difficulty lies in coloring
(Keepering the due propotions still in sight)
With nature manners which are artificial,
And rendering general that which is especial.

XXVI.
The difference is, that in the days of old
Men made the manners; manners now make men,
Pinn'd like a flock, and fleeced too in their fold,
At least nine, and a ninth besides of ten.
Now this at all events must render cold
Your writers, who must either draw again
Days better drawn before, or else assume
The present, with their common-place costume.

XXVII.
We'll do our best to make the best on't:—March!
March, my Muse! If you cannot fly, yet flutter;
And when you may not be sublime, be arch,
Or starch, as are the editics statesmen utter.
We surely may find something worth research
Columbus found a new world in a cutter,
Or brigantine, or pink, of no great tonnage,
While yet America was in her nonce.

XXVIII.
When Adeline, in all her growing sense
Of Juan's merits and his situation,
Felt on the whole an interest intense,—
Partly perhaps because a fresh sensation,
Or that he had an air of innocence,
Which is for innocence a sad temptation,—
As women hate half measures, on the whole,
She 'gan to ponder how to save his soul.

XXIX.
She had a good opinion of advice,
Like all who give and eke receive it gratis,
For which small thanks are still the market-price,
Even where the article at highest rate is.
She thought upon the subject twice or thrice,
And morally decided, the best state is,
For morals, marriage; and, this question carried
'She seriously advised him to get married.
Juan replied, with all becoming deference,
He had a predilection for that tie;
But that at present, with immediate reference
To his own circumstances, there might lie
Some difficulties, as in his own preference,
Or that of her to whom he might apply;
That still he'd wed with such or such a lady,
If that they were not married all already.

Next to the making matches for herself,
And daughters, brothers, sisters, kith or kin,
Arranging them like books on the same shelf,
There's nothing women love to dabble in.
More (like a stockholder in growing pelf)
Than match-making in general: 'tis no sin
Cerets, but a preventative, and therefore
That is, no doubt, the only reason wherefore.

But never yet (except of course a miss
Unwed, or mistress never to be wed,
Or wed already, who object to this)
Was there chase dame who had not in her head
Some drama of the marriage unities,
Oberved as strictly both at board and bed,
As those of Aristotle, though sometimes
They turn out melodrames or pantomimes.

They generally have some only son,
Some heir to a large property, some friend
Of an old family, some gay Sir John,
Of grave Lord George, with whom perhaps might
A line, and leave posterity undone,
Unless a marriage was applied to mend
The prospect and their morals: and besides,
They have at hand a blooming glut of bridges.

From these they will be careful to select,
For this an heiress, and for that a beauty;
For one a songstress who hath no defect,
For 'tother one who promises much duty;
For this a lady no one can reject,
Whose sole accomplishments were quite a bootie;
A second for her excellent connections;
A third, because there can be no objections.

When Rapp the Harmonist embarg'd marriage
In his harmonious settlement—(which flourishes
Strangely enough as yet without miscarriage,
Because it breeds no more mouths than it nourishes,
Without those sad expenses which disparage
What nature naturally most encourages)—
Why call'd he 'Harmony'? a state sans wedlock?
Now here I've got the preacher at a dead lock.

Because he either meant to sneer at harmony
Or marriage, by divorcing them thus-oddy.
But whether reverend Rapp learn'd this in Germany
Or no, 'tis said his sect is rich and godly,
Pious and pure, beyond what I can term any
Of ours, although they propagate more broadly.
My objection's to his title, not his ritual,
A though I wonder how it grew habitual.

But Rapp is the reverse of zealous matrons,
Who favor, malgré Malthus, generation—
Professors of that genial art, and patrons
Of all the modest part of propagation;
Which after all at such a desperate rate runs
That half its produce tends to emigration,
That sad result of passions and potatoes—
Two weeds which pose our economic Catos.

Had Adeline read Malthus? I can't tell; [nee]
I wish she had: his book's the eleventh command
Which says, "Thou shalt not marry," unless weel
This be (as far as I can understand) meant.
'Tis not my purpose on his views to dwell,
Nor canvass what so "eminent a hand" meant:
But certes it conducts to lives ascetic,
Or turning marriage into arithmetic.

But Adeline, who probably presumed
That Juan had enough of maintenance,
Or separate maintenance, in case 'twas doom'd—
As on the whole it is an even chance
That bridegrooms, after they are fairly groom'd,
May retrograde a little in the dance
Of marriage—(which might form a painter's fame,
Like Holbein's "Dance of Death"—but 'tis the same:)

But Adeline determined Juan's wedding,
In her own mind, and that's enough for woman.
But then with whom? There was the sage Miss
Reading,
[Miss Knowman, Miss Raw, Miss Flaw, Miss Showman, and
And the two fair co-heiresses, Giltbedding. [mon.]
She deem'd his merits something more than com-
All these were unobjectionable matches,
And might go on, if well wound up, like watches.

There was Miss Millpond, smooth as summer's sea,
That usual paragon, an only daughter,
Who seem'd the cream of equanimity, [water
Till skim'm'd—and then there was some milk and
With a slight shade of Blue too, it might be,
Beneath the surface; but what did it matter?
Love's riotous, but marriage should have quiet,
And, being consumptive, live on a milk diet.

And then there was the Miss Audacia Shoestring,
A dashing demoiselle of good estate,
Whose heart was fixed upon a star or bluestring; [But whether English dukes grow rare of late,
Or that she had not harp'd upon the true string,
By which such sirens can attract our great,
She took up with some foreign younger brother
A Turk or Turk—the one's as good as t'other.

And then there was—but why should I go on,
Unless the ladies should go off?—there was
Indeed a certain fair and fairy one,
Of the best class, and better than her class,—
Aurora Raby, a young star who shone
O'or life, too sweet an image for such glass
A lovely being, scarcely form'd or moulded,
A rose with all its sweetest leaves yet folded:
XLIV.
Rich, noble, but an orphan; left an only
child to the care of guardians good and kind:
But still her aspect had an air so lonely!
Blood is not water; and where shall we find
Feelings of youth like those which overthrown lie
By death, when we are left, alas! behind,
To feel, in friendless palaces, a home
Is wanting, and our best ties in the tomb?

XLV.
Early in years, and yet more infantine
In figure, she had something of sublime
In eyes which sadly shone, as seraphs shine.
All youth—but with an aspect beyond time;
Radiant and grave—as pitying man's decline:
Mournful—but mournful of another's crime,
She look'd as if she sat by Eden's door,
And grieve'd for those who could return no more.

XLVI.
She was a Catholic too, sincere, austere,
As far as her own gentle heart allow'd,
And deem'd that fallen worship far more dear.
Perhaps because 'twas fallen: her sires were proud
Of deeds and days when they had fill'd the ear
Of nations, and had never bent or bow'd
To novel power; and as she was the last,
She held their old faith and old feelings fast.

XLVII.
She gazed upon a world she scarcely knew,
As seeking not to know it; silent, lone,
As grows a flower, thus quietly she grew,
And kept her heart serene within its zone.
There was awe in the homage which she drew;
Her spirit seem'd as seated on a throne
Apart from the surrounding world, and strong
In its own strength—most strange in one so young.

XLVIII.
Now it so happen'd, in the catalogue
Of Adeline, Aurora was omitted,
Although her birth and wealth had given her vogue
Beyond the charmers we have already cited:
Her beauty also seem'd to form no clog
Against her being mentioned as well fitted,
By many virtues, to be worth the trouble
Of single gentlemen who would be double.

XLIX.
And this omission, like that of the bust
Of Brutus at the pageant of Tiberius,
Made Juan wonder, as no doubt he must.
This he express'd half smiling and half serious;
When Adeline replied with some disgust,
And with an air, to say the least, imperious,
She marvell'd "what he saw in such a baby
As that prim, silent, cold Aurora Ruby?"

L.
Juan rejoyn'd—"Sh! was a Catholic,
And therefore fitt'st, as of his persuasion;
Since he was sure his mother would fall sick,
And the Pope thunder excommunication,
If"—But here Adeline, who seem'd to pique
Herself 'tremely on the inoculation
Of others with her own opinions, stated—
As usual—the same reason which she late did.

LI.
And wherefore not? a reasonable reason
If good, is none too worse for repetition;
If bad, the best way's certainly to cease on
And amplify: you lose much by concession:
Whereas insisting in or out of season
Convinces all men, even a politician;
Or—what is just the same—it wears out.
So the end's gain'd, what signifies the route?

LII.
Why Adeline had this slight prejudice—
For prejudice it was—against a creature
As pure as sanctity itself from vice,
With all the added charm of form and feature.
From me appears a question far too nice,
Since Adeline was liberal by nature;
But nature's nature, and has more caprices
Than I have time, or will, to take to pieces.

LIII.
Perhaps she did not like the quiet way
With which Aurora on those baubles look'd,
Which charm most people in their earlier day:
For there are few things by mankind less brook'd
And woman-kind too, if we so may say,
Than finding thus their genius stand rebuk'd.
Like "Antony's by Caesar," by the few
Who look upon them as they ought to do.

LIV.
It was not envy—Adeline had none;
Her place was far beyond it, and her minu
It was not scorn—which could not light on one
Whose greatest fault was leaving few to find
It was not jealousy, I think: but shun
Following the "ignes fatui" of mankind;
It was not—but 'tis easier far, alas!
To say what it was not, than what it was.

LV.
Little Aurora deem'd she was the theme
Of such discussion. She was there a guest,
A beauteous ripple of the brilliant stream
Of rank and youth, though purer than the rest,
Which flow'd on a moment in the beam
Thine sheds a moment o'er each sparkling crest
Had she known this, she would have calmly smiled,
She had so much, or little, of the child.

LVI.
The dashing and proud air of Adeline
Imposed not upon her: she saw her blaze
Much as she would have seen a glowworm shine,
Then turn'd unto the stars for loftier rays.
Juan was something she could not divine,
Being no sibyl in the new world's ways,
Yet she was nothing dazzled by the meteor,
Because she did not pin her faith on feature.

LVII.
His fame too,—for he had that kind of fame [kind.
Which sometimes plays the deuce with woman
A heterogeneous mass of glorious blame,
Half virtues and whole vices being combined;
Faults which attract because they are not tame;
Follies trick'd out so brightly that they blind:
These seals upon her wax made no impression,
Such was her coldness or her self-possession.
LVII.

Juan knew nought of such a character—
High, yet resembling not his lost Haidée;
Yet each was radiant in her proper sphere:
The island girl, bred up by the lone sea,
More warm, as lovely, and not less sincere,
Was nature’s all: Aurora could not be
Nor would be thus;—the difference in them
Was such as lies between a flower and gem

Having wound up with this sublime comparison,
Methinks we may proceed upon our narrative,
And, as my friend Scott says, “I sound my Waris
Scott, the superlative of my comparative,—son:”
Scott, who can paint your Christian knight or
Serf, lord, man, with such skill as none would
There had not been one Shakespeare and Voltaire,
Of one or both of whom he seems the heir.

I say, in my slight way I may proceed
To play upon the surface of humanity.
I write the world, nor care if the world read,
At least for this I cannot spare its vanity.
My Muse hath bred, and still perhaps may breed
More foes by this same scroll: when I began it,
Thought that it might turn out so—now I know it,
But still I am, or was, a pretty poet.

The conference or congress (for it ended
As congresses of late do) of the Lady
Adeline and Don Juan rather blended
Some acids with the sweets—for she was heady;
But, ere the matter could be marr’d or mended,
The silvery bell rang; not for “dinner ready,”
But for that hour, call’d half-hour, given to dress,
Though ladies robes seem scant enough for less.

Great things were now to be achieved at table,
With massey plate for armor, knives and forks
For weapons; but what Muse since Homer’s able
(His feasts are not the worst part of his works)
To draw up in array a single day—bill
Of modern dinners? where more mystery lurks
In soups or sauces, or a sole ragoût,
Than witches, b—ches, or physicians brew.

There was a goodly “soup à la bonne femme,”
Though God knows whence it came from; there
A turbot for relief of those who eram, [was too
Reliev’d with dindon à la Perigoux;
There also was—the sinner that I am!
How shall I get this gourmand stanza through?
Soupé à la Beauveau, whose relief was dory,
Relieved itself by pork, for greater glory.

But I must crowd all into one grand mess
Or mass; for should I stretch into detail,
My Muse would run much more into excess,
Than when some squammish people deem her frail;
But, though a “bonne vivante,” I must confess
Her stomach’s not her peccant part: this tale
However doth require some slight refecion,
Just to relieve her spirits from dejection.

LVIII.

Fowl à la Condé, slices eke of salmon,
With sauces Genevoises, and haunch of venison;
Wines too which might again have slain young Am
mon,
A man like whom we hope shan’t see many soon.
They also set a glazed Westphalian ham on,
Whereon Apicius would bestow his benison;
And then there was champagne with foaming whirls,
As white as Cleopatra’s melted pearls.

Then there was God knews what “à l’Allemande,”
“A l’Espagnole,” “timballe,” and “Salpicole”—
With things I can’t withstand or understand,
Though swallow’d with much zest upon the whole,
And “entremets” to paddle with at hand,
Gently to lift down the subsiding soul.
While great Lucullus’ robe triumphate muffles
(There’s fame) young partridge fillets, deck’d with truffles.

What are the fillets on the victor’s brow [arch
To these? They are rags or dust. Where is the
Which noddled to the nation’s spoils below?
Where the triumphal chariot’s haunted march?
Gone to where victories must like dinners go.
Further I shall not follow the research:
But oh! ye modern heroes with your cartridges,
When will your names lend lustre even to partridges?

The mind is lost in mighty contemplation
Of intellect expanded on two courses:
And indigestion’s grand multiplication
Requires arithmetic beyond my forces.
Who would suppose, from Adam’s simple ration,
That cookery could have call’d forth such resources,
As form a science and a nomenclature
From out the commonest demands of nature?

The glasses jingled, and the palates tingled;
The diners of celebrity dined well;
The ladies with more moderation mingled
In the feast, pecking less than I can tell;
Also the younger men too; for a springald
Can’t like ripe age in gourmandize excel,
But thinks less of good eating than the whisper
(When seated next him) of some pretty lisper.

Alas! I must leave undescribed the glibber,
The salmi, the consomné, the pureé,
All which I used to make my myrines run glibber
Than could roast beef in our rough John Bull way
I must not introduce even a spare rib here,
“Bubble and squeak” would spoil my liquid lay
But I have dined, and must forego, alas!
The chaste description even of a “becasse,”...
LXXII.
And fruits, and ice, and all that art refines
From nature for the service of the gods,—
Taste or the gout,—pronounce it as inclines
Your stomach. Ere you dine, the French will do,
But after, there are sometimes certain signs
Which prove plain English truer of the two.
Has ever had the gout? I have not had it—
But I say have, and you too, reader, dread it.

LXXXIII.
The simple olives, best allies of wine,
Must I pass over in my bill of fare?
I must, although a favorite "plat" of mine
In Spain, and Lucca, Athens, every where:
On them and bread 'twas oft my luck to dine,
The grass my tablecloth, in open air,
On Sunicum or Hynettus, like Diogenes,
Of whom half my philosophy the progeny is.

LXXXIV.
Amid this tumult of fish, flesh, and fowl,
And vegetables, all in masquerado,
The guests were placed according to their roll,
But various as the various meats display'd:
Don Juan sat next an "à l'Espagnole"—
No damsel, but a dish, as hath been said;
But so far like a lady, that 'twas drest
Superbly, and contain'd a world of zest.

LXXXV.
By some odd chance, too, he was placed between
Aurora and the Lady Adeline—
A situation difficult, I ween,
For man therein, with eyes and heart, to dine.
Also the conference which we have seen
Was not such as to encourage him to shine;
For Adeline, addressing few words to him,
With two transcendent eyes seem'd to look through him.

LXXXVI.
I sometimes almost think that eyes have ears;
This much is sure, that, out of earshot, things
Are somehow echoed to the pretty ears, 'tis strange;
Of which I can't tell whence their knowledge
Like that same mystic music of the spheres,
Which no one hears so loudly though it rings.
'Tis wonderful how oft the sex have heard
Long dialogues which pass'd without a word!

LXXXVII.
Aurora sat with that indifference
Which piques a preux chevalier—as it ought:
Of all offences that's the worst offence,
Which seems to hint you are not worth a thought.
N. J. Juan, though no coxcomb in pretence,
Was not exactly pleased to be so ought,
Like a good ship entangled among ice,
And after so much excellent advice.

LXXXVIII.
To his gay nothing, nothing was replied,
Or something which was nothing, as urbanity
Required. Aurora scarcely look'd aside,
Nor even smiled enough for any vanity.
The devil was in the girl! Could it be pride,
Or modesty, or absence, or inanity?
Heaven knows! But Adeline's malicious eyes
Sparkled with her successful prophecies.

LXXXIX.
And look'd as much as if to say, "I said it!"
A kind of triumph I'll not recommend,
Because it sometimes, as I've seen or read it.
Both in the case of lover and of friend,
Will plique a gentleman, for his own credit,
To bring what was a jest to a serious end;
For all men prophecy what is or was,
And hate those who won't let them come to pass.

LXXX.
Juan was drawn thus into some attentions,
Slight but select, and just enough to express,
To females of perspicuous comprehensions,
That he would rather make them more than less
Aurora at the last (so history mentions,
Though probably much less a fact than guess)
So far relax'd her thoughts from their sweet prison
As once or twice to smile, if not to listen.

LXXXI.
From answering, she began to question: this
With her was rare: and Adeline, who as yet
Thought her predictions went not much amiss,
Began to dread she'd thaw to a coquette—
So very difficult, they say, it is
To keep extremes from meeting, when once set
In motion; but she here too much refined—
Aurora's spirit was not of that kind.

LXXXII.
But Juan had a sort of winning way,
A proud humility, if such there be,
Which shew'd such deference to what females say
As if each charming word were a decree.
His tact, too, temper'd him from grave to gay,
And taught him when to be reserved or free:
He had the art of drawing people out,
Without their seeing what he was about.

LXXXIII.
Aurora, who in her indiffERENCE
Confounded him in common with the crowd
Of flatterers, though she deem'd he had more sense
Than whispering flighings, or than witlings loud—
Commenced (from such slight things will great com-
Mence)
To feel that flattery which attracts the proud
Rather by deference than compliment
And wins even by a delicate dissent.

LXXXIV.
And then he had good looks;—that point was carried
Nem. con. among the women, which I grieve
To say, leads oft to crim. con. with the married—
A case which to the juries we may leave,
Since with digressions we too long have tarried.
Now though we know of old that looks deceive,
And always have done, somehow these good looks
Make more impression than the best of books.

LXXXV.
Aurora, who look'd more on books than faces,
Was very young, although so very sage,
Admiring more Minerva than the Graces,
Especially upon a printed page.
But virtue's self with all her tightest laces,
Has not the natural stays of strict old age,
B. t. Socrates, that model of all duty,
Own'd to a penchant, though discreet, for beauty.
BYRON'S WORKS.

LXXXVI.

And girls of sixteen are thus far Socratic,
But innocently so, as Socrates:
And really, if the sage sublime and Attic
At seventy years had phantasies like these,
Which Plato in his dialogues dramatic
Has shown, I know not why they should displease.
In Virginia—always in a modest way,
Observe; for that with me's a "sine qua non".

LXXXVII.

Also observe, that like the great Lord Coke,
(See Littleton) whence'er I have express'd
Opinions two, which at first sight may look
Twin opposites, the second is the best.
Perhaps I have a third, too, in a nook,
Or none at all—which seems a sorry jest;
But if a writer should be quite consistent,
How could he possibly show things existent?

LXXXVIII.

If people contradict themselves, can I
Help contradicting them, and every body,
Even my veracious self—but that's a lie;
I never did so, never will—how should I?
He who doubts all things, nothing can deny;
Truth's fountains may be clear—her streams are
Muddy,
And cut through such canals of contradiction,
That she must often navigate o'er fiction.

LXXXIX.

Apologue, fable, poesy, and parable,
Are false, but may be render'd also true
By those who saw them in a land that's arable.
'Tis wonderful what fable will not do!
'Tis said it makes reality more bearable:
But what's reality? Who has its clue?
Philosophy? No; she too much rejects.
Religion? Yes; but which of all her sects?

XC.

Some millions must be wrong, that's pretty clear;
Perhaps it may turn out that all were right.
God help us! Since we've need on our career
To keep our holy beacons always bright,
'Tis time that some new prophet should appear
Or old indigulge man with a second-sight.
Opinions wear out in some thousand years,
Without a small refreshment from the spheres.

XCI.

But here again, why will I thus entangle
Myself with metaphysics? None can hate
So much as I do any kind of wrangle;
And yet such is my folly, or my fate,
I always knock my head against some angle
About the present, past, or future state;
Yet I wish well to Trojan and to Tyrian,
For I was bred a moderate Presbyterian.

XCII.

But though I am a temperate theologian,
And also seek as a metaphysician,
Impartial between Tyrian and Trojan,
As Eldon on a lunatic commission,—
In politics, my duty is to show John
Bull something of the lower world's condition.
It makes my blood boil like the springs of Hecla,
To see men let these soundless sovereigns break law.

XCIII.

But politics, and policy, and pity,
Are topics which I sometimes introduce,
Not only for the sake of their variety,
But as subservient to a moral use:
Because my business is to dress society,
And stuff with sons that very verdant goose.
And now, that we may furnish with some matter of
Tastes, we are going to try the supernatural.

XCIV.

And now I will give up all argument:
And positively henceforth no temptation
Shall "foo me to the top of my bent;"
Yes, I'll begin a thorough reformation.
Indeed I never knew what people meant
By deeming that my Muse's conversation
Was dangerous,—I think she is as harmless
As some who labor more and yet may charm less.

XCV.

Grim reader! did you ever see a ghost?
No; but you've heard—"I understand—be dumb."
And don't regret the time you may have lost,
For you have got that pleasure still to come:
And do not think I mean to sneer at most
Of these things, or by a ridicule benumb.
That source of the sublime and the mysterious:
For certain reasons my belief is serious.

XCVI.

Serious? You laugh:—you may; that will I not;
My smiles must be sincere or not at all.
I say I do believe a haunted spot
Exists—and where? That shall I not recall,
Because I'd rather it should be forgot.
"Shadows the soul of Richard" may appal:
In short, upon that subject I've some qualms, very
Like those of the philosophy of Malmsbury.

XCVII.

The night (I sing by night—sometimes an owl,
And now and then a nightingale)—is dim,
And the loud shriek of sage Minerva's fowl
Rattles around me her discordant bynim:
Old portraits from old walls upon me scowl—
I wish to heaven they would not look so grim;
The dying embers dwindled in the grate—
I think too that I have sate up too late.

XCVIII.

And therefore, though 'tis by no means my way
To rhyme at noon—when I have other things
To think of, if I ever think,—I say,
I feel some chilly midnight shudderings,
And prudently postpone, until midday,
Treating a topic which, alas! but brings
Shadows—but you must be in my condition
Before you learn to call this superstition.

XCIX.

Between two worlds life hovers like a star,
'Twixt night and morn, upon the horizon's verge
How little do we know that which we are!
How less what we may be! The eternal surge
Of time and tide rolls on, and bears afar
Our bubbles; as the old burst, new emerge,
Lash'd from the foam of ages; while the graves
Of empires leave but like some passing waves.
CANTO XVI.

I.
The antique Persians taught three useful things,—
To draw the bow, to ride, and speak the truth.
This was the mode of Cyrus—best of kings—
A mode adopted since by modern youth.
Bows have they, generally with two strings;
Horses they ride without remorse or ruth;
At speaking truth perhaps they are less clever,
But draw the long bow better now than ever.

II.
The cause of this effect, or this defect,
"For this effect defective comes by cause,"—
Is what I have not been to inspect;
But this I must say in my own applause,
Of all the muses that I recollect,
Whate'er may be her follies or her flaws
In some things, mine's beyond all contradiction
The most sincere that ever dealt in fiction.

III.
And as she treats all things, and ne'er retreats
From any thing, this Epic will contain
A wilderness of the most rare conceits,
Which you might elsewhere hope to find in vain.
'Tis true, there be some bitterness with the sweets,
Yet mix'd so slightly that you can't complain,
But wonder they so few are, since my tale is
"De rebus cunctis et quibusdam allis."

IV.
But of all truths which she has told, the most
True is that which she about is to tell.
I said it was a story of a ghost—
What then? I only know it so befell.
Have you explored the limits of the coast
Where all the dwellers of the earth must dwell?
'Tis time to strike such puny doubts dumb as
The skeptics who would not believe Columbus.

V.
Some people would impose now with authority,
'zurpin's or Monmouth Geoffry's Chronicle;
Men whose historical superiority
Is always greatest at a miracle.
But Saint Augustine has the great priority,
Who bids all men believe the impossible,
Because 'tis so. Who nibble, scribble, quibble, he
Quiets at once with "quix impossible."

VI.
And therefore, mortals, cavil not all;
Believe:—'tis improbable you must;
And if it is impossible, you shall:
'Tis always best to take things upon trust.
I d: not speak profanely to recall
Those holler mysteries, which the wise and just
Receive as gospel, and which grow more rooted,
As all truths must, the more they are disputed.

VII.
I merely mean to say what Johnson said,
That in the course of some six thousand years,
All nations have believed that from the dead
A visitant at intervals appears;
And what is strangest, upon this strange head,
Is that whatever bar the reason rears
'Gainst such belief, there's something stronger still
In its behalf, let those deny who will.

VIII.
The dinner and the soirée too were done,
The supper too discussed, the dames admired
The banqueters had dropp'd off one by one—
The song was silent, and the dance expired:
The last thin petticoats were vanish'd, gone,
Like feecy clouds into the sky retired,
And nothing brighter gleam'd through the saloon
Than dying tapers—and the peeping moon.

IX.
The evaporation of a joyous day
Is like the last glass of champagne, without
The foam which made its virgin bumper gay;
Or like a system coupled with a doubt;
Or like a soda-bottle, when its spray
Has sparkled and let half its spirit out;
Or like a billow left by storms behind,
Without the animation of the wind;

X.
Or like an opiate which brings troubled rest,
Or none; or like—like nothing that I know
Except itself;—such is the human breast;
A thing, of which similitudes can show
No real likeness,—like the old Tyrian vest
Dyed purple, none at present can tell how.
If from a shell-fish or from cochineal, 1
So perish every tyrant's robe piecemeal

XI.
But next to dressing for a rout or ball,
Undressing is a wo; our robe-de-chambre
May sit like that of Nessus, and recall
Thoughts quite as yellow, but less clear than amber
Titus exclaim'd, "I've lost a day!" Of all
The nights and days most people can remember,
(I have had of both not to be disdain'd,
I wish they'd state how many they have gain'd.

XII.
And Juan, on retiring for the night,
Felt restless and perplex'd, and compromised;
He thought Aurora Raby's eyes more bright
Than Adeline (such is advice) advised;
If he had known exactly his own plight,
He probably would have philosophized;
A great resource to all; and ne'er denied
Till wanted; therefore Juan only sigh'd.

XIII.
He sigh'd;—the next resource is the full moon.
Where all sighs are deposited; and now,
It happen'd luckily, the chaste orb shone
As clear as such a climate will allow;
And Juan's mind was in the proper tone
To hail her with the apostrophe—"Oh, chau!"
Of amatory egotism the tedium,
Which further to explain would be a truism.
XIV.
But lover, poet, or astronomer,
Shepherd, or swain, whoever may behold,
Feel some abstraction when they gaze on her:
Great thoughts we catch from thence, (besides a
Sometimes, unless my feelings rather err;)
Deep secrets to her rolling light are told;
The ocean's tides and mortals' brains she aways,
And also hearts, where there be truth in lays.

XV.
Juan felt somewhat pensive, and disposed
For contemplation rather than his pillow;
The Gothic chamber, where he was enclosed,
Lay in the rippling sound of the lake's billow,
With all the mystery by midnight caused;
Below his window waved (of course) a willow;
And he stood gazing out on the cascade
That flash'd and after darken'd in the shade.

XVI.
Upon his table or his toilet—which
Of these is not exactly ascertain'd—
(I state this, for I am cautious to a pitch
Of nicety, where a fact is to be gain'd)
A lamp burn'd high, while he leant from a niche,
Where many a Gothic ornament remain'd,
In chisell'd stone, and painted glass, and all
That time has left our fathers of their hall.

XVII.
Then as the night was clear though cold, he threw
His chamber-door wide open—and went forth
Into a gallery of a sombre hue,
Long, furnish'd with old pictures of great worth
Of knights and dames heroic and chaste too,
As doubtless should be people of high birth.
But by dim lights the portraits of the dead
Have something ghastly, desolate, and dread.

XVIII.
The forms of the grim knight and pictured saint
Look living in the moon; and as you turn
Backward and forward to the echoes faint
Of your own footsteps—voices from the urn
Appear to wake, and shadows wild and quaint
Start from the frames which fence their aspects
As if to ask how you can dare to keep
A vigil there, where all but death should sleep.

XIX.
And the pale smile of beauties in the grave,
The charms of other days, in starlight gleams
Glimmer on high; their buried locks still wave
Along the canvas; their eyes glance like dreams
On ours, or spars within some dusky cave,
But death is imaged in their shadowy beams.
A picture is the past; even ere its frame
Be gilt, who sate hath ceased to be the same.

XX.
As Juan mused on mutability,
Or on his mistress—terms synonymous—
No sound except the echo of his sigh
Or step ran sadly through that antique house,
When suddenly he heard, or thought so, nigh,
A supernatural agent—or a mouse,
Whose little nibbling rustle will embarrass
Most people, as it plays along the arras.

XXI.
It was no mouse, but lo! a monk, array'd
In cowl and beads and dusky garb, appear'd
Now in the moonlight, and now lapsed in shade,
With steps that trod as heavy, yet unheard;
His garments only a slight murmur make;
He moved as shadowy as the sisters weird,
But slowly; and as he pass'd Juan by,
Glanced, without pausing, on him a bright eye.

XXII.
Juan was petrified; he had heard a hint
Of such a spirit in these halls of old,
But thought, like most men, there was nothing 's t
Beyond the rumor which such spots unfold.
Coin'd from surviving superstition's mint,
Which passes ghosts in currency like gold,
But rarely seen, like gold compared with paper
And did he see this? or was it a vapor?

XXIII.
Once, twice, thrice pass'd—repass'd—the thing of six,
Or earth beneath, or heaven, or t' other place;
And Juan gazed upon it with a stare,
Yet could not speak or move; but, on its case
As stands a statue, stood: he felt his hair
Twine like a lot of snakes around his face;
He tax'd his tongue for words which were not granted
To ask the reverence person what he wanted.

XXIV.
The third time, after a still longer pause,
The shadow pass'd away—but where? the hall
Was long, and thus far there was no great cause
To think his vanishing unnatural;
Doors there were many, through which, by the laws
Of physics, bodies, whether short or tall,
Might come or go; but Juan could not state
Through which the spectre seem'd to evaporate.

XXV.
He stood, how long he knew not, but it seem'd
An age—expectant, powerless, with his eyes
Strain'd on the spot where first the figure glowed;
Then by degrees recall'd his energies,
And would have pass'd the whole off as a dream,
But could not wake; he was, he did surmise,
Waking already, and return'd at length
Back to his chamber, shorn of half his strength.

XXVI.
All there was as he left it; still his taper
Burnt, and not aase, as modern taper's use,
Receiving sprites with sympathetic vapor;
He rubb'd his eyes, and they did not refuse
Their office; he took up an old newspaper;
The paper was right easy to peruse:
He read an article the king attacking,
And a long eulogy of "Patent Blacking."

XXVII.
This savor'd of this world; but his hand shook—
He shut his door, and after having read
A paragraph, I think about Horne Tooke,
Undress'd, and rather slowly went to bed.
There, cough'd all snugly on his pillow's nook,
With what he'd seen his phantasy he fed,
And though it was no opiate, slumber crept
Upon him by degrees, and so he slept.
He weke betimes; and, as they supposed, I under'd upon his visitant or vision, And whether it ought not to be disclosed, At risk of being quizz'd for superstition. The more he thought, the more his mind was pos'd; In the mean time, his valet, whose precision Was great, because his master brook'd no less, Knock'd to inform him it was time to dress. 

And when he walk'd down into the saloon, He sate hin pensive o'er a dish of tea, Which he perhaps had not discover'd soon, Had it not happen'd scalding hot to be, Which made him have recourse unto his soup; So much distraight he was, that all could see That something was the matter—Adeline The first—but what she could not well divine. 

She look'd and saw him pale, and turn'd as pale Herself; then hastily look'd down and mutter'd Something, but what's not stated in my tale. Lord Henry said his muffin was ill butter'd; The Duchess of Fitz-Fulke play'd with her veil, And look'd at Juan hard, but nothing utter'd. Aurora Raby, with her large dark eyes, Survey'd him with a kind of calm surprise. 

But seeing him all cold and silent still, And every body wondering more or less, Fair Adeline inquire'd if he were ill? He started, and said, "Yes—no—rather—yes." The family physician had great skill, And, being present, now began to express His readiness to feel his pulse, and tell The cause, but Juan said "he was quite well." 

"Quite well; yes, no."—These answers were mysterious, And yet his looks appeared to sanction both, However they might savor of delirious; Something like illness of a sudden growth Weigh'd on his spirit, though by no means serious: But for the rest, as he himself seem'd loth To state the case, it might be'ten for granted, It was not the physician that he wanted. 

...Lord Henry, who had now discuss'd his chocolate, Also the muffin, whereof he complain'd, Said, Juan had not got his usual look elate, At which he marvell'd, since it had not rain'd; Then ask'd her grace what news were of the duke of Her grace reply'd, his grace was rather pain'd [late? With some slight, light, hereditary twinges Of gout, which rusts aristocratic hinges. 

Then Henry turn'd to Juan, and address'd 4 A few words of condolence on his state: "You look," quoth he, "as if you'd had yest: rest Broke in upon by the Black Friar of late." "What friar?" said Juan; and he did his best To put the question with an air sedate, Or careless, but the effort was not valid To hinder him from growing still more pale'd. 

"Oh! have you not heard of the Black Friar? The spirit of these walls?"—"In truth not I." Why fame—but fame you know sometimes a liar— Tells an odd story, of which by and by: Whether with time the spectre has grown shy Or that our sires had a more gifted eye For such sights, though the tale is half believed, The friar of late has not been oft perceived. 

"The last time was—" "I pray," said Adeline— (Who watch'd the changes of Don Juan's brow, And from its context thought she could divine ConneXions stronger than he chose to avow With this same legend,)—"if you but design To jest, you'll choose some other theme just now Because the present tale has oft been told, And is not much improved by growing old." 

"Jest!" quoth Milor. "Why, Adeline, you know That we ourselves—'twas in the honey-moon!— Say—" "Well, no matter, 'twas so long ago; But come, I'll set your story to a tune." Graceful as Dian when she draws her bow, Soon She seized her harp, whose strings were kindled As touch'd, and plaintively began to play The air of "'Twas a Friar of Orders Gray." 

"But add the words," cried Henry, "which you For Adeline is half a poetess, (made; Turning round to the rest, he smiling said, Of course the others could not but express In courtesy their wish to see display'd By one three talents, for there were no less— The voice, the words, the harper's skill, at once Could hardly be united by a duncé. 

After some fascinating hesitation.— The charming of these charmers, who seem bound I can't tell why, to this dissimulation— Fair Adeline, with eyes fill'd on the ground At first, then kindling into animation, Added her sweet voice to the lyric sound, And sang with much simplicity,—a merit Not the less precious, that we seldom hear it. 

Beware! beware! of the Black Friar, Who sitteth by Norman stone, For he mutters his prayer in the midnight air, And his mass of the days that are gone When the Lord of the Hill, Arundelville, Made Norman Church his prey, And expell'd the friars, one friar still Would not be driven away.
2.

Though he came in his might, with King Henry's
To turn church lands to lay, [right]
With sword in hand, and torch to light
Their walls, if they said nay,
A monk remain'd, unchased, unchain'd,
And he did not seem form'd of clay, [church,
For he's seen in the porch, and he's seen in the
Though, he is not seen by day.

3.
Ar'l whether for good, or whether for ill,
It is not mine to say;
But still with the house of Amundeville,
He abideth night and day.
By the marriage-bed of their lords, 'tis said,
He sits on the bridal eve;
And 'tis held as faith, to their bed of death
He comes—but not to grieve.

4.
When an heir is born, he is heard to mourn,
And when aught is to befall
That ancient line, in the pale moonshine
He walks from hall to hall.
His form you may trace, but not his face,
'Tis shadow'd by his cowl;
But his eyes may be seen from the folds between,
And they seem of a parted soul.

5.
But beware! beware! of the Black Friar.
He still retains his sway,
For he is yet the church's heir,
Whoever may be the lay.
Amundeville is lord by day,
But the monk is lord by night,
Nor wine nor wassil could raise a vassal
To question that friar's right.

6.
Say nought to him as he walks the hall,
And he'll say nought to you:
He sweeps along in his dusky pall,
As o'er the grass the dew.
Then grancery! for the Black Friar;
Heaven sain him! fair or foul,
An' I whatsoe'er may be his prayer,
Let ours be for his soul.

XLI.

The lady's voice ceased, and the thrilling wires
Died from the touch that kindled them to sound,
And the pause follow'd, which, when song expires,
Pervades a moment those who listen round;
And then, of course, the circle much admires,
Nor less applauds, by day, politeness bound,
The tones, the feeling, and the execution,
To the performer's diffident confusion.

XLII.

Fair Adeline, though in a careless way,
As if she rated such accomplishment,
As the mere pastime of an idle day,
Pursued an instant for her own content,
Would now and then as 'twere without display,
Yet with display in fact, at times relent
To such performances, with haughty smile,
To show she could, if it were worth her while.

XI. II.

Now this (but we will whisper it) side
Was—pardon the pedantic illustration—
Trampling on Plato's pride with greater pride
As did the Cynic on some like occasion;
Deeming the sage would be much mortified
Or thrown into a philosophic passion,
For a spoil'd carpet—but the "Attic Bee"
Was much consoled by his own repartee.

XLIV.

Thus Adeline would throw into the shade,
(By doing easily, what'er she chose,
What dilettanti do with vast parade,)
Their sort of half profession: for it grows
To something like this when too oft display'd,
And that it is so every body knows
Who've heard Miss That or This, or Lady T'other
Show off—to please their company or mother.

XLV.

Oh! the long evenings of duets and trios!
The admissions and the speculations;
The "Mamma Miss!" and the "Amor Mio!"
The "Tanti Palpitis" on such occasions:
The "Lascamis," and quavering "Addios!"
Among our own most musical of nations;
With "Tu mi chamas's" from Pontingale,
To soothe our ears, lest Italy should fail.

XLVI.

In Babylon's bravuras—as the home
Heart-ballads of Green Erin or Gray Highlands,
That bring Lochaber back to eyes that roam
O'er far Atlantic continents or islands,
The calemutes of music which o'ercome [lands
All mountaineers with dreams that they are nigl
No more to be beheld but in such visions,—
Was Adeline well versed as compositions.

XLVII.

She also had a twilight tinge of "Blue," [wrote
Could write rhymes, and compose more than she
Made epigrams occasionally too
Upon her friends, as every body ought.
But still from that sublimer azure hue,
So much the present dye, she was remote;
Was weak enough to deem Poete a great poet,
And, what was worse, was not ashamed to show it.

XLVIII.

Aurora—since we are touching upon testo,
Which now-a-days is the thermometer
By whose degrees all characters are class'd—
Was more Shakspearian, if I do not err.
The worlds beyond this world's perplexing waste
Had more of her existence, for in her
There was a depth of feeling to embrase
Thoughts, boundless, deep, but silent too as space.

XLIX.

Not so her gracious, graceful, graceless grace,
The full-grown Hebe of Fitz-Fulke, whose mind
If she had any, was upon her face,
And that was of a fascinating kind.
A little turn for mischief you might trace
Also thereon,—but that's not much; we find
Few females without some such gentle leave,
For fear we should suppose us quite in heaven.
L.
I have not heard she was at all poetic, —
Though once she was seen reading the "Bath
And "Hayley's Triumphs," which she deemed pa-
thetic
Because, she said, her temper had been tried
So much, the bard had really been pro-
Of what she had gone through — since a bride.
But of all verse what most insured her praise
Were sonnets to herself, or "bouts rimes."

LI.
"Twere difficult to say what was the object
Of Adeline, in bringing this same lay
To bear on what appear'd to her the subject
Of Juan's nervous feelings on that day.
Perhaps she merely had the simple project
To laugh him out of his supposed dismay;
Perhaps she might wish to confirm him in;
Though why I cannot say — at least this minute.

LII.
But so 'tis the immediate effect
Was to restore him to his self-propriety,
A thing quite necessary to the elect,
Who wish to take the tone of their society;
In which you cannot be too circumspect,
Whether the mode be persiflage or piety,
But wear the newest mantle of hypocrisy,
On pain of much displeasing the gymnocry.

LIII.
And therefore Juan now began to rally
His spirits, and, without more explanation,
To jest upon such themes in many a salary.
Her grace, too, also seized the same occasion,
With various similar remarks to tally,
But wish'd for a still more detail'd narration
Of this same mystic friar's curious doings,
About the present family's deaths and woesings.

LIV.
Of these few could say more than has been said;
They pass'd, as such things do, for superstition
With some, while others, who had more in dread
The theme, half credited the strange tradition,
And much was talk'd on all sides on that head;
But Juan, when cross-question'd on the vision,
Which some supposed (though he had not know'd it)
Had stirr'd him, answer'd in a way to cloud it.

LV.
And then, the midday having warn to one,
The company prepared to separate:
Some to their several pastimes, or to none;
Some wondering 'twas so early, some so late.
There was a goodly match, too, to be run
Between some grayhounds on my lord's estate,
And a young racehorse of old pedigree,
Match'd for the spring, whom several went to see.

LVI.
I ere was a picture-dealer, who had brought
A special Titian, warranted original,
So precious that it was not to be bought,
Though princes the possessor were besieging all.
The king himself had cheapest'd it, but thought
The civil list (he deigns to accept, obliging all
His subjects by his gracious acceptation)
For scanty, in these times of low taxation.

LVII.
But as Lord Henry was a connoisseur, —
The friend of artists, if not arts, — the owner,
With motives the most classical and pure,
So that he would have been the very donor
Rather than seller, had his wants been fewer,
So much he deem'd his patronage an honor
Had brought the capo d'opra, not for sale,
But for his judgment, — never known to fail.

LVIII.
There was a modern Goth. I mean a Gothic
Bricklayer of Babel, call'd an architect, [so thick
Brought to survey these gray walls, which, though
Might have from time acquired some slight defect,
Who, after rumaging the Abbey through thick
And thin, produced a plan, whereby to erect
New buildings of correctest conformation,
And throw down old — which he call'd restoration.

LIX.
The cost would be a tribute — an "old song,"
Set to some thousands, ("tis the usual burden
Of that same tune, when people hum it long)—
The price would speedily repay its worth in
An edifice no less sublimine than strong,
By which Lord Henry's good taste would go forth
Its glory, through all ages shining sunny,
For Gothic daring shown in English money.

LXI.
There were two lawyers busy on a mortgage
Lord Henry wish'd to raise for a new purchase;
Also a lawsuit upon tenures bourgeois,
And one on tithes which sure are discord's torches.
Kindling Religion till she throws down her gage,
"Untying" aquires "to fight against the
churches;"(34)
The present was a prize ox, prize pig, and ploughman,
For Henry was a sort of Sabine showman.

LXII.
There were two poachers caught in a steel trap,
Ready for jail, their place of convalescence;
There was a country girl in a close cap
And scarlet cloak, (I hate the sight to see, since—
Since—since—in youth I had the sad mishap—
But luckily I've paid few parish fees since.)
That scarlet cloak, alas! enclosed with rigor,
Presents the problem of a double figure.

LXIII.
A reel within a bottle is a mystery,
One can't tell how it e'er got in or ous,
Therefore the present piece of natural history
I leave to those who are fond of solving doub's,
And merely state, though not for the consistory,
Lord Henry was a justice, and that Scout
The constable, beneath a warrant's banner,
Had bag'd this poacher upon Nature's manor.

LXIV.
Now justices of peace must judge all pieces
Of mischief of all kinds, and keep the game
And morals of the country from caprices
Of those who've not a license for the same;
And of all things, excepting tithes and leases,
Perhaps these are most difficult to tame:
Preserving partridges and petty wenchs
Are puzzles to the most precautionous benches.
The recant culprit was extremely pale, 
Pale as if painted so; her cheek being red 
By nature, as in higher dames less pale 
"Tis white, at least; when they just rise from bed. 
Perhaps she was ashamed of seeming frail, 
Poor soul! for she was country born and bred, And knew no better in her immortality Than to vex white—for blushes are for quality.

Il'r black, bright, downcast, yet espiègle eye, 
Had gather'd a large tear into its corner, 
Which the poor thing at times essay'd to dry, 
For she was not a sentimental mourner 
Parading all her sensibility, 
Nor insolent enough to scorn the sorner, But stood in trembling, patient tribulation, To be call'd up for her examination.

Of course these groups were scatter'd here and there, 
Not nigh the gay saloon of ladies gent. 
The lawyers in the study; and in air 
The prize pig, ploughman, poachers; the men sent 
From town, viz. architect and dealer, were 
Both busy (as a general in his tent 
Writing despatches) in their several stations, 
Exulting in their brilliant lucubrations.

But this poor girl was left in the great hall, 
While Scout, the parish guardian of the frail, 
Discuss'd (he hated beer yept the "small") 
A mighty mug of moral double ale. 
She waited until justice could recall 
Its kind attentions to their proper pale, 
To make a thing in nomenclature rather 
Perplexing for most virgins—a child's father.

You see here was enough of occupation 
For the Lord Henry, link'd with dogs and horses, 
There was much bustle too and preparation 
Below stairs on the score of second courses, 
Because, as suits their rank and situation, 
Those who in counties have great land resources, 
Have "public days" when all men may carouse, 
Though not exactly what's call'd "open house."—

But once a week or fortnight, uninvited, 
(Thus we translate a general invitation,) 
All country gentleman, esquiro or knighted, 
May drop in without cards, and take their station 
At the full board, and sit alike delighted 
With fashionable wine and conversation, 
And, as the isthmus of the grand connexion, 
Talk 'er themselves, the past and next election.

Lord Henry was a great electioneer, 
Burrowing for boroughs like a rat or rabbit, But county contests cost him rather dearer, [bit 
Because the neighboring Scotch Earl of Giffgab- 
Had English influence in the self-same sphere here; 
His son, the Honorable Dick Dice-dribb, 
Was number for "the other interest," (meaning the same self-interest, with a different leaning.)

Courteous and cautious therefor in his county 
He was all things to all men, and dispensable, To some civility, to others bounty, And promises to all—which last counteced. 
To gather to a somewhat large amount, he Not calculating how much they condus'd But, what with keeping some and breaking others His word had the same value as another's.

A friend to freedom and freeholders—yet 
No less a friend to government—he held That he exactly the just medium hit "Twixt place and patriotism—albeit compell'd. Such was his sovereign's pleasure, (though unfit He added modestly, when rebels rall'd,) To hold some sires he wish'd abolish'd, But that with them all law would be demolish'd.

He was "free to confess," (whence comes this phrase? 
Is't English? No—his only parliamentary) That innovation's spirit now-a-days Had made more progress than for the last century, He would not tread a factious path to praise, Though for the public weal disposed to venture. As for his place, he could but say this of it, [high, That the fatigue was greater than the profit

Heaven and his friends knew that a private life Had ever been his sole and whole ambition; But could he quit his king in times of strife? (ion! Which threaten'd the whole country with peril When damagegus would with a butcher's knife Cut through and through (oh, damnable incision The Gordian or the Gordian knot, whose strings Have tied together Commons, Lords, and Kings.

Sooner "come place into the civil list, 
If, and champion him to the utmost"—he would keep Till duly disappointed or dismiss'd: 
Provided he cared not for, let other reap it; But should the day come when place ceased to exist, The country would have far more cause to weep it; For how could it go on? Explain who can! He gloried in the name of Englishman.

He was as independent—ay, much more— Than those who were not paid for independent, As common soldiers, or a common—shore Have in their several arts or parts ascendance O'er the irregulars in lust or gore Who do not give professional attendance Thus on the mob all statesmen are as eager To prove their pride as footmen to a beggar.

All this (save the last stanza) Henry said, And thought. I say no more—I've said too much 2 For all of us have either heard or read Off—or upon the hustings—some slight such Hints from the independent heart or head Of the official candidate. I'll touch No more on this—the dinner-bell hath rung, And grace is said; the grace I should have sung
LXXXVIII.
But I'm too late, and therefore must make play,
'Twas a great banquet, such as Albion old
Was wont to boast—as if a glutton's tray
Were something very glorious to behold.
But 'twas a public feast and public day,—
Quite full, right dull, guests hot, and dishes cold,
Great plenty much formality, small cheer,
And every body out of their own sphere.

LXXXIX.
The squires familiarly formal, and
My lords and ladies proudly condescending;
The very servants puzzling how to hand
Their plates—without it might be too much bend—
From their high places by the sideboard's stand—
Yet, like their masters, fearful of offending;
For any deviation from the graces
Might cost both men and masters too—their places.

LXXX.
There were some hunters bold, and coursers keen,
Whose hounds ne'er err'd, nor greyhounds delign'd
Some deadly shots too, Septembrizers, seen [to lunch;
Earliest to rise, and last to quit the search
Of the poor partridge through his stubble screen.
There were some natty members of the church,
Takers of tythes, and makers of good matches,
And several who sung fewer psalms than catches.

LXXXI.
There were some country wags, too,—and, alas!
Some exiles from the town, who had been driven
To gaze, instead of pavement, upon grass,
And rise at nine, in lieu of long eleven.
And lo! upon that day it came to pass,
I sate next that o'erwhelming son, of heaven,
The very powerful parson, Peter Pith,
The loudest wit I ever was deafen'd with.

LXXXII.
I knew him in his livelier London days,
A brilliant dinner-out, though but a curate;
And not a joke he cut but earn'd its praise,
Until preferment, coming at a sure rate,
Oh, Providence! how wondrous are thy ways!
Who would suppose thy gifts sometimes obdurate!
Gave him, to lay the devil who looks o'er Lincoln,
A fat set prizage, and nought to think on.

LXXXIII.
His jokes were sermons, and his sermons jokes;
But both were thrown away among the fens;
For with hath no great friend in asquishy folks.
No longer ready ears and short-hand pens
Imbibed the gay bon-mot, or happy hoax:
The poor priest was reduced to common sense,
Or to coarse efforts very loud and long;
I, hammer a horse laugh from the thick throng.

LXXXIV.
There is a difference, says the song, "between
A beggar and a queen," or seas (of late)
The latter worse used of the two we're seen—
But we'll say nothing of affairs of state)—
A difference "twixt a bishop and a dean;"—
A difference between crockery-ware and plate,
As between English beef and Spartan broth—
And yet great heroes have been bred by both.

LXXXV.
But of all nature's discrepancies, none
Upon the whole is greater than the difference
Beheld between the country and the town,
Of which the latter merits every preference
From those who've few resources of their own,
And only think, or act, or feel with reference
To some small plan of interest or ambition—
Both which are limited to no condition.

LXXXVI.
But "en avant!" The light loves languish o'er
Long banquets and too many guests, although
A slight repast makes people love much more,
Bacchus and Ceres being, as we know,
With vivifying Venus, who doth owe
To these the invention of champagne and truffles
Temperance delights her, but long fasting ruffles

LXXXVII.
Dully pass'd o'er the dinner of the day;
And Juan took his place he knew not where,
Confused, in the confusion, and distraught;
And sitting as if nail'd upon his chain:
Though knives and forks clang'd round as in a fray
He seem'd unconcern'd, the act of all passings there,
Till some one, with a groan, express'd a wish
(Unheeded twice) to have a fin of fish.

LXXXVIII.
On which, at the third asking of the bans,
He started; and, perceiving smiles around
Broadening to grins, he colored more than once,
And hastily—as nothing can confound
A wise man more than laughter from a dunce—
Inflicted on the dish a deadly wound,
And with such hurry that, ere he could curb it,
He'd paid his neighbor's prayer with half a turbet

LXXXIX.
This was no bad mistake, as it occur'd,
The suppliant being an amateur;
But others, who were left with scarce a third,
Were angry—as they well might, to be sure.
They wonder'd how a young man so absurd
Lord Henry at his table should endure;
And this, and his not knowing how much oats
Had fallen last market, cost his host three votes.

XC.
They little knew, or might have sympathized,
That he the night before had seen a ghost;
A prologue, which but slightly harmonized
With the substantial company engross'd
By matter, and so much materialized.
That one scarce knew at what to marvel most
Of two things—how (the question rather is it)
Such bodies could have souls, or souls such bodies

XCI.
But what confused him more than smile or stare
From all the 'squires and 'squiresness around
Who wonder'd at the abstraction of his air.
Especially as he had been renown'd
For some vivacity among the fair,
Even in the country circle's narrow bound—
(For little things upon my lord's estate
Were good small-talk for others still less great)—
XCII.

Was, that he caught Aurora's eye on his,
And something like a smile upon her cheek.
Now this he really rather took amiss;
In those who rarely smile, their smile bespeaks
A strong external motive; and in this
Sing of Aurora's there was sought to pique,
Or hope, or love, with any of the wiles
Which some pretend to trace in ladies' smiles.

XCIII.

'Twas a mere quiet smile of contemplation,
Indicative of some surprise and pity;
And Juan grew carnation with vexation,
When was not very wise and still less witty,
Since he had gain'd at least her observation,
A most important outwork of the city—
As Juan should have known, had not his senses
By last night's ghost been driven from their defences.

XCIV.

But, what was bad, she did not blush in turn,
Nor seem embarrass'd—quite the contrary:
Her aspect was, as usual, still—not stern—
And she withdrew, but cast not down her eye,
Yet grew a little pale—with what? concern?
I know not; but her colorer was high—
Though sometimes faintly flush'd—and always clear
As deep seas in a sunny atmosphere.

XCV.

But Adeline was occupied by fame
This day; and watching, witching, condescending
To the consumers of fish, fowl, and game,
And dignity with courtesy so blending,
As all must blend whose part it is to aim
(especially as the sixth year is ending)
At their lord's, son's, and similar connexions'
Safe conduct through the rocks of reflections.

XCVI.

Though this was most expedient on the whole,
And usual—Juan, when he cast a glance
On Adeline, while playing her grand role,
Which she went through as though it were a dance,
Betraying only now and then her soul
By a look scarce perceptible askance,
Of weariness or scorn,) began to feel
Some doubt how much of Adeline was real;

XCVII.

So well she acted all and every part
By turns—with that vivacious versatility,
Which many people take for want of heart:
They err—'tis merely what is call'd mobility,
A thing of temperament, and not of art,
Though seeming so, from its supposed facility:
And false—at though true; for surely they're sincerest
Who're strongly act'd on by what is nearest.

XCVIII.

This makes your actors, artists, and romancers,
Heroes sometimes, though seldom—sages never.
But speakers, bardis, diplomatists, and dancers,
Little that's great, but much of what is clever;
Most orators, but very few financiers,
Though all Exchequer Chancellors endeavor,
Of late years, to dispense with Cocker's rigors,
And grow quite figurative with their figures.

XCIX.

The poets of arithmetic are they,
Who, though they prove not two and two to be
Five, as they would do in a modest way,
Have plainly made it out that four are three,
Judging by what they take and what they pay.
The sinking Fund's unfathomable sea,
That most unliquidating liquid, leaves
The debt unsunk, yet sinks it all receives.

C.

While Adeline dispensed her airs and graces,
The fair Fitz-Fu-lke seem'd very much at ease;
Though too well-bred to quiz men to their faces,
Her laughing blue eyes with a glance could seize
The ridiculous of people in all places—
That honey of your fashionable bees—
And store it up for mischievous enjoyment;
And this at present was her kind employment.

CII.

However, the day closed, as days must close;
The evening also wane—sud coffee came,
Each carriage was announced, and ladies rose,
And curtseying off, as curtsies country dame,
Retired: with most unfashionable bows,
Their dicele esquires also did the same,
Delighted with the dinner and their host,
But with the lady Adeline the most.

CIII.

Some praised her beauty; others her great grace,
The warmth of her politeness, whose sincerity
Was obvious in each feature of her face,
Whose traits were radiant with the rays of verity
Yes: she was truly worthy her high place!
No one could envy her desired prosperity:
And then her dress—what beautiful simplicity
Draped her form with curious felicity!

CIV.

True, she said little—'twas the rest that broke
Forth into universal epigram:
But then 'twas to the purpose what she spoke
Like Addison's 'faint praise' so wont to man
Her own but served to set off every joke,
As music chimes in with a melodrame.
How sweet the task to shield an absent friend!
I ask but this of mine, to—not defend.

CV.

There were but two exceptions to this keen
Skirmish of wits o'er the departed; one,
Aurora, with her pure and placid mien;
And Juan too, in general behind none
In gay remark on what he'd heard or seen,
Sate silent now, his usual spirits gone;
In vain he heard the others rail or rally,
He would not join them in a single sally
CVII.

The guest at least had done him this much good, It making him as silent as a ghost, If in the circumstances which ensued He gain’d esteem where it was worth the most. And certainly Aurora had renew’d In him some feelings which he had lately lost Or harden’d; feelings which, perhaps ideal, Are so divine, that I must deem them real:—

CVIII.

The love of higher things and better days; The unbounded hope, and heavenly ignorance Of what is call’d the world, and the world’s ways; The moments when we gather from a glance More joy than from all future pride or praise, Which kindle manhood, but can ne’er entrance The heart in an existence of its own, Of which another’s bosom is the zone.

CIX.

Who would not sigh As ai rav Kupeiros That hath a memory, or that had a heart? Also her star must wave like that of Dian, Ray fades on ray, as years on years depart. Anacreon only had the soul to tie on Unwithering myrtle round the unblunted dart Of Eros; but, though thou hast play’d usmany tricks, Still we respect thee, “Alma Venus Genetrix!”

CX.

And full of sentiments, sublime as billows Heaving between this world and worlds beyond, Don Juan, when the midnight hour of pillows Arrived, retired to his; but to despond Rather than rest. Instead of poppies, willows Waved o’er his couch; he meditated, fond Of those sweet bitter thoughts which banish sleep, And make the wording sneer, the youngling weep.

CXI.

The night was as before: he was undrest, Saving his night-gown, which is an undress: Completely “sans culotte,” and without vest; In short, he hardly could be clothed with less: But apprehensive of his spectral guest, He sate with feelings awkward to express, (By those who have not had such visitations,) Expectant of the ghost’s fresh operations.

CXII.

And not in vain listen’d;—Hush! what’s that? I see—I see—Ah, no!—’tis not—yet ’tis— Ye powers! it is the—The—the—Poo! the cat! The devil may take that stealthy pace of his! So like a spiritual pit-a-pat, Or tiptoe of an amatory Miss, Gliding the first time to a rendezvous, And dreading the chaste echoes of her shawl.

CXIII.

Again—what is’t? The wind? No, no,—this time It is the sable friar as before With awful footsteps regular as rhyme, Or (as rhymes may be in these days) much more. Again through shadows of the night sublime, When deep sleep fell on men, and the world wore The starry darkness round her like a girdle Spangled with gems—the monk made his blood curdle.

CXIV.

A noise like to wet fingers drawn on glass, Which sets the teeth on edge; and a slight clatter Like showers which on the midnight gusts will pass Sounding like very supernatural water,— Came over Juan’s ear, which throb’d, alas! For immaterialism’s a serious matter: So that even those whose faith is the most great In souls immortal, shun them tête-à-tête.

CXV.

Were his eyes open?—Yes! and his mouth too. Surprise has this effect—to make one dumb, Yet leave the gate which eloquence slips through As wide as if a long speech were to come. Nigh and more nigh the awful echoes drew, Tremendous to a mortal tympanum: His eyes were open, and (as was before Stated) his mouth. What open’d next?—the door.

CXVI.

It open’d with a most infernal creak, Like that of hell. “Lasciate gli ergast, Vio che entrate!” The hinge seem’d to speak, Dreadful as Dante’s rima, or this stanza; Or—but all words upon such themes are weak: A single shade’s sufficient to entrance a Hero—for what is substance to a spirit? Or is ’t matter trembles to come near it?

CXVII.

The door flew wide, not swiftly—but, as say The sea-gulls, with a steady, sober flight— And then swung back; nor close—but stood awry Half letting in long shadows on the light Which still in Juan’s candlesticks burn’d high. For he had two, both tolerably bright,— And in the door-way, darkening darkness, stood The sable friar in his solemn hood.

CXVIII.

Don Juan shook, as erst he had been shaken The night before; but, being sick of shaking, He first inclined to think he had been mistaken, And then to be ashamed of such mistaking: His own internal ghost began to awaken Within him, and to quell his corporeal quaking— Hinting, that soul and body on the whole Were odds against a disembodied soul.

CXIX.

And then his dread grew wrath, and his wrath fiercer And he arose—advanced—the shade retreated: But Juan, eager now the truth to pierce, Follow’d; his veins no longer cold, but heated. Resolved to thrust the mystery cart and tierce, At whatsoever risk of being defeated: The ghost stopp’d, menaced, then retired, until He reach’d the ancient wall, then stood stone still.
CXX.

But still the shade remain'd: the blue eyes glared,
And rather variably for stony death;
Yet one thing rather good the grave had spared,
The ghost had a remarkably sweet breath:
A straggling curl show'd he had been fair-hair'd;
A red lip, with two rows of pearls beneath,
Gleam'd forth, as through the casement's ivy shroud
The soon peep'd, just escaped from a gray cloud.

CXXI.

And Juan, puzzled, but still curious, thrust
His other arm forth—Wonder upon wonder.
It press'd upon a hard but glowing bust,
Which beat as if there was a warm heart under.
He found, as people on most trials must,
That he had made at first a silly blunder,
And that in his confusion he had caught
Only the wall, instead of what he sought.

CXXIII.

The ghost, if ghost it were, seem'd a sweet soul
As ever lurk'd beneath a holy hood:
A dimpled chin, a neck of ivory, stole
Forth into something much like flesh and blood
Back fell the sable frock and dreamy cowl,
And they reveal'd—ah! that c'or they should!
In full, voluptuous, but not o'ergrown bulk,
The phantom of her frolic Grace—Fitz Fulke.
4. Her parents, if allow'd at large to run.
   Stanza lixii.

This is no exaggeration; there were four women whom I remember to have seen, who possessed their hair in this profusion; of these, three were English, the other was a Levantine. Their hair was of that length and quantity that, when let down, it almost entirely shaded the person, so as nearly to render dress a superfluity. Of these, only one had dark hair: the Oriental's had, perhaps, the lightest color of the four.

5. Oh Hesperus! thou bringest all good things.
   Stanza civ.

"Ere gitj" on the verge of dawn,
A navigare s'annociò il giorno
Lo di chi non avea a' doldi merit abbin;
E che lo soave penegli di mona.

Pungo, se odi Spilla di Misia
Che poi' il giorno piange che s'acqua.

DANTE'S Purgatorio, Canto viii.

This last line is the first of Gray's Elegy, taken by him without acknowledgment.

7. Some hands unseen strew'd flowers upon his tomb.
   Stanza cix.

See Suetonius for this fact.

CANTO IV.

1. Whom the gods love die young; was said of yore.
   Stanza xii.

See Herodianus.

2. A vein had burst.
   Stanza lix.

This is no very uncommon effect of the violence of conflicting and different passions. The Doge Francis Foscari, on his deposition, in 1457, hearing the bell of St. Mark announce the election of his successor, "mourned sublimely d'une horriblage cause par une veine qui s'élata dans sa poitrine," (see Sirmond in and Daru, vols. I. and II.) at the age of eighty years, when "who would have thought the old man had so much blood in him." Before I was sixteen years of age, I was witness to a melancholy instance of the same effect of mixed passions upon a young person; who, however, did not die in consequence, at that time, but fell a victim some years afterwards to a seizure of the same kind, arising from causes intimately connected with agitation of mind.

3. But sold by the impresario at no high rate.
   Stanza lxx.

This is a fact. A few years ago, a man engaged a company for some foreign theatre; embarked them at an Italian port, and, carrying them to Algiers, sold them all. One of the women, returned from her captivity, I heard sing, by a strange coincidence, in Rossini's opera of "L'Italiana in Algeri," at Venice, in the beginning of 1817.

4. From all the Pope makes yearly, 'twould perplex,
   To find three perfect pipes of the third sea.
   Stanza lxxxvi.

It is strange that it should be the pope and the sultan who are the chief encouragers of this branch of trade—women being prohibited as singers at St. Peter's, and not deemed trusty-thy as guardians of the harem.

5. While weeds and ordure rankle round the base.

The pillar which records the battle of Ravenna, is about two miles from the city, on the opposite side of the river to the road towards Purl. Gustau de Foix, who gained the battle, was killed in it; there fell on both sides twenty thousand men. The present state of the pillar and its site is described in the text.

CANTO V.

1. The ocean stream.
   Stanza iii.

This expression of Homer has been much criticised. It hardly answers to our Atlantic ideas of the ocean, but is, sufficiently applicable to the Hellespont, and the Bosphorus, with the Aegean intersected with islands.

   Stanza v.

"The Giant's Grave" is a height on the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus, much frequented by holiday parties; like Harrow and Highgate.

3. And running out as fast as I was able.
   Stanza xxxii.

The assassination alluded to took place on the eighth of December, 1829, in the streets of Ravenna, not a hundred pieces from the residence of the writer. The circumstances were as described.

4. Kill'd by five bullets from an old gun-barrel.
   Stanza xxxiv.

There was found close by him an old gun-barrel, sawn half off: it had just been discharged, and was still warm.

5. Prepared for supper with a glass of rum.
   Stanza lxxii.

In Turkey, nothing is more common, than for the Mussulmans to take several glasses of strong spirits by way of appetizer. I have seen them take as many as six of raki before dinner, and swear that they dined the better for it; I tried the experiment, but was like the Scotchman, who having heard that the birds called kittiwakes were admirable wheats, ate six of them, and complained that "he was no hungrier than when he began.

6. Splendid but silent, save in one, where drooping,
   A marble fountain echoes.
   Stanza iv.

A common furniture.—I recollect being received by Ali Pacha, in a room containing a marble basin and fountain, &c., &c., &c.

7. The gate so splendid was in all its features.
   Stanza lxxxvii.

Features of a gate—a ministerial metaphor; "the
feature upon which this question hinges."—See the "Pudge Family," or hear Castleroagh.

8. 

Though on more thorough-bred or fairer fingers. 
Stanza cvi.

There is perhaps nothing more distinctive of birth than the hand: it is almost the only sign of blood which aristocracy can generate.

9. 

Save Solymus, the glory of their line. 
Stanza cxlvii.

It may not be unworthy of remark, that Bacon, in his essay on "Empire," hints that Solymus was the last of his line; on what authority, I know not. These are his words: "The destruction of Mustapha was so fatal to Solymus's line, as the succession of the Turks from Solymus, until this day, is suspected to be untrue, and of strange blood; for that Solymus the Second was thought to be suppositions. But Bacon, in his historical authorities, is often inaccurate. I could give half a dozen instances from his apocrypha only.

Being in the humor of criticism, I shall proceed, after having ventured upon the slips of Bacon, to touch on one or two as trifling in the edition of the British Poets, by the justly celebrated Campbell.—But I do this in good will, and trust it will be so taken.—If any thing could add to my opinion of the talents and true feeling of that gentleman, it would be his classical, honest, and triumphant defence of Pope, against the vulgar cant of the day, and its existing Grub street.

The inadvertencies to which I allude, are,—

Firstly, in speaking of Anstey, whom he accuses of having taken "his leading characters from Smollett." Anstey's Bath Guide was published in 1766. Smollett's Humphry Clinker (the only work of Smollett's from which Tabitha, &c., &c., could have been taken) was written during Smollett's last residence at Leghorn, in 1770.—"Argal," if there has been any borrowing, Anstey must be the creditor, and not the debtor. I refer Mr. Campbell to his own data in his lives of Smollett and Anstey.

Secondly, Mr. Campbell says, in the life of Cowper, (note to page 328, vol. 7) that "he knows not to whom Cowper alludes in these lines:"

"Nor he who, for the base of thousands born,
Bolts God a church, and taught his name to worm."

The Calvianist meant Voltaire, and the church of Ferney, with its inscription, "Deo erexit Voltaire."

Thirdly, in the life of Burns, Mr. C. quotes Shakspeare thus,—

"To girl refined gold, to paint the rose,
Or add fresh perfume to the violet."

This version by no means improves the original, which is as follows:

"To girl refined gold, to paint the rose,
Or add fresh perfume to the violet."

King John.

A great poet, quoting another, should be correct: he should also be accurate when he accuses a Par

nasian brother of that dangerous charge "borrowing:" a poet had better borrow any thing (excepting money) than the thoughts of another—they are always sure to be reclaimed; but it is very hard having been the lender, to be denounced as the debtor, as is the case of Anstey versus Smollett.

As there is "honor among thieves," let these be some among poets, and give each his due,—none can afford to give it more than Mr. Campbell himself, who, with a high reputation for originality, and a fame which cannot be shaken, is the only poet of the times (except Rogers) who can be reproached (and in him it is indeed a reproach) with having written too little.
CANTO IX.

1.

**Humility would rise and thunder "Nay!"**

Query, Nay?—Printer’s Devil.

2.

‘And send the sentinel before your gate.
A slice or two from your luxurious meals.

Stanza vi.

“I at this time got a poxt, being for fatique, with four others.—We were sent to break biscuit, and make a mess for Lord Wellington’s hounds. I was very hungry, and thought it a good job at the time, as we got our own fill while we broke the biscuit,—a thing I had not got for some days. When thus engaged, the Prodigal Son was never once out of my mind; and I sighed, as I fed the dogs, over my humble situation and my ruined hopes.”—Journal of a Soldier of the 1st Regt. during the war in Spain.

3.

Because he could no more digest his dinner.

Stanza xxxii.

He was killed in a conspiracy, after his temper had been exasperated, by his extreme costivitv, to a degree of insanity.

4.

And had just buried the fair-faced Lanskoil.

Stanza xxvii.

He was the “grande passion” of the grande Catherine.—See her Lives, under the head of “Lanskoil.”

5.

Bid Ireland’s Londonderry’s Marquess show
His parts of speech.

This was written long before the suicide of that person.

6.

Your “fortune” was in a fair way “to swell A man,” as Giles says.

Stanza lxiii.

“His fortune swells him, it is rank, he’s married.”

—Sir Giles Overreach; Massinger.—See “A New Way to Pay Old Debts”

CANTO X.

1.

Woulcl scarcely join again the “reformadores.”

Stanza xxxii.

“Reformers,” or rather “Reformed.” The Baron Bradwardine, in Waverly, is authority for this.

2.

The endless root beastes a sint far deeper
Than can be hid by altering his shirt.

Stanza xv.

Query, suit—Printer’s Devil.

CANTO XI.

1.

Who on a lark, with black-eyed Sat (his bowing)
So prime, so swell, so nutty, and so knowing?

Stanza xix.

The advance of science and of language has rendered it unnecessary to translate the above good and true English, spoken in its original purity by the select nobility and their patrons. The following is a stanza of a song which was very popular, at least in my early days—
On the high taw-spice flash the muskets,
In spite of each yellows old aunt;
If you at the yellows can't mount,
You'll be held back in making a Croot.

"Then your blowing will wax gloo-burgly,
When she hears of your scaly mistake,
She'll surely turn unlucky for the first,
That her Jack may be useful weight.

But if there be any gem'man so ignorant as to require
a traduction, I refer him to my old friend and cor-
poral pastor and master, John Jackson, Esq., Pro-
fessor of Pucelium; who I trust still retains the
strength and symmetry of his model of a form,
with his good humor, and athletic as well as mental accomplish-
ments.

St. James's Palace and St. James's " Hella."
Stanza xxix.

"Hella," gaming-houses. What their number
may now be in this life, I know not. Before I was
of age, I knew them pretty accurately, both "gold" and "silver." I was once nearly called out by an
acquaintance, because when he asked me where
I thought his soul would be found hereafter, I
answered, "In Silver Hell."

3.

___and therefore even I won't ament
This subject quote.
Stanza xlix.

"Ancent," was a Scotch phrase, meaning "con-
cerning,"—" with regard to." It has been made
English by the Scotch Novels; and, as the French-
man said—" If it be not, ought to be English."

4. The milliners who furnish "drapery misses."
Stanza xlix.

"Drapery misses."—This term is probably any
thing new but a "mystery."
It was, however, almost
so to me when I first returned from the East in
1811-1812. It means a pretty, a high-born, a fash-
ionable young female, well instructed by her friends,
and furnished by her milliner with a wardrobe upon
credit, to be repaid, when married, by the husband.
The riddle was first read to me by a young and
pretty heiress, on my praising the "drapery" of an
"untouched" but "pretty virginities" (like Mrs.
Anne Page) of the then day, which has now been
some years yesterday—she assured me that the
thing was common in London; and as her own
thousands, and blooming looks, and rich simplicity of
array, put any suspicion in her own case out of
the question, I confess I gave some credit to the
allegation. If necessary, authorities might be cited,
in which case I could quote both "drapery" and
the wearers. Let us hope, however, that it is now
obsolete.

5.

'Tis strange the mind, that very fiery particle,
Should let itself be emm'd out by an article.
Stanza lx.

"Divinae particularan ante."

CANTO XII.

1. Giv'es. with Greek truth, the good old Greek the lie.
Stanza xix.

See Mtford's 'Greece. "Gracia Vexax." His
great pleasure consists in praising tyrants, abusing
Phutarch, spelling oddly, and writing quaintly; and,
what a strange after all, his is the best modern his-
tory of Greece in any language, and he is perhaps
the best of all modern historians whatsoever. Hav-
ing named his sins, it is but fair to state his virtues
—learning, labor, research, wrath, and partiality
I call the latter virtues in a writer, because they
make him write in earnest.

2. A hazy widower turn'd of forty's sure,
Stanza xxxvii

This line may puzzle the commentators more than
the present generation.

3. Like Russians rushing from hot baths to snows.
Stanza lxxiii.

The Russians, as is well known, run out from
their hot baths to plunge into the Neva: a pleasant
practical antithesis, which it seems does them no
harm.

4. The world to gaze upon those northern lights.
Stanza lxxii.

For a description and print of this inhabitant of
the polar region and native country of the aurora
borealis, see Pain's 'Voyage in Search of the North
West Passage."

5. As Philip's son proposed to do with Athos.
Stanza lxxxvi.

A sculptor projected to hew Mount Athos into a
statue of Alexander, with a city in one hand, and,
believing, a river in his pocket, with various other
similar devices. But Alexander's gone, and Athos
remains, I trust, ere long, to look over a nation of
freemen.

CANTO XIII.

1. Right honestly, " he liked an honest hater."
Stanza vii.

"Sir, I like a good hater."—See the Life of Dr
Johnson, &c.

2. Also there bin another pious reason.
Stanza xxvi.

"With every thing that pretty bin,
My lady sweet arise."—Shakespeare.

3. They and their bills " Arcadian both," are left.
Stanza xiv.

"Arcades ambo."

4. Or wilder groups of savage Salvatore's.
Stanza lxii.

Salvator Roes.

5. His bell-mouth'd goblet makes me feel quite Danish.
Stanza lxxii.

If I err not, "Your Dane" is one of Iago's cat-
alogue of nations "exquisite in their drinking."

6. Even Nimrod's self might leave the plains of Dura.
Stanza lxxxviii.

In Assyria.

7. "That Scriptures out of church are blasphemies,"
Stanza xvi.

"Mrs. Adams answered Mr. Adams, that it was
blasphemous to talk of Scripture out of church.
This dogma was broached to her husband—the best
Christian in any book. See Joseph Andrews, in the
latter chapters.
Canto XIV.

1. And never craned, and made but few "faux pan." Stanza cxxiii.

Cramming.—"To crame" is, or was, an expression used to denote a gentleman's stretching out his neck over a hedge, "to look before he leaped:" a pause in his "vaulting ambition," which in the field both occasion some delay and exertion in those who may be immediately behind the eques- trian skeptic. "Sir, if you don't choose to take the leap, let me" was a phrase which generally sent the aspirant on again; and to good purpose: for the ugh "the horse and rider" might fall, they made a gap, through which, and over him and his steed the field might follow.

2. Go to the coffee-house, and take another. Stanza clviii.

In Swift's or Horace Walpole's Letters, I think it is mentioned that somebody regretting the loss of a friend, was answered by a universal Py-lades: "When I lose one, I go to the Saint James's Coffee-house, and take another." I recollect having heard an anecdote of the same ki.d. Sir W. D. was a great gamester. Coming in one day to the club of which he was a member, he was observed to look melancholy. "What is the matter, Sir William?" cried Hare, of facetious memory. "Ah!" replied Sir W. "I have just lost poor Lady D." "Lost! What! at—Quince or Hazard?" was the consolatory rejoinder of the querist.

3. And I refer you to wise Oxenstirem. Stanza liv.

The famous Chancellor Oxenstirem said to his son, on the latter expressing his surprise upon the great effects arising from petty causes in the pre- sumed nursery of politics: "You see by this, my son, with how little wisdom the kingdoms of the world are governed."

Canto XV.

1. And Thou, diviner still, Whose lot it is by man to be mistaken. Stanza xviii.

As it is necessary in these times to avoid am-biguity, I say, that I mean, by "Diviner still," Guizot. If ever God was Man—or Man God—he was both. I never straitened his creed, but the use—or abuse—made of it. Mr. Canning one day quoted Christianity to a sect of Negro Slavery, and Mr. Wilberforce had little to say in reply. And was Christ cruified, that black men might be scourged? If so, he had better been born a Mus- tauto, to give both colors an equal chance of free- dom, or at least salvation.

2. When Rapp the Harmonist embargued marriage In his harmonious settlement. Stanza xxxv.

This extraordinary and flourishing German colony in America does not entirely exclude matrimony, as the "Shakers" do; but lays such restrictions upon it as prevent more than a certain quantum of births within a certain number of years; which births (as Mr. Hulme observes) generally arrive "in a little flock like those of a farmer's lambs, all within the same month, perhaps." These Harmonists (so called from the name of their settlement) are represented as a remarkably flour* hing, pious, and quiet people. See the various works on America.

3. Nor compass what "so eminent a land" meant. stanza xxxviii.

Jacob Tonson, according to Mr. I. Ope, was accu- tom'd to call his writers "able pens"—"persons of honor" and especially "eminent hands." Vide correspondence, &c., &c.


A dish "à la Lucullus." This hero, who con- quered the East, has left his more extended celeb-rity to the transplantation of cherries (which he first brought into Europe) and the nomenclature of some very good dishes;—and I am not sure that (barring indigestion) he has not done more service to mankind by his cookery than by his conquests. A cherry-tree may weigh against a bloody laurel, because he has contributed to earn celebrity from both.

5. But even sans "configuration," it no less true is, There's pretty picking in those "petits pois." Stanza lvii.

"Petits pois! d'amour garnis de confitures," a classical and well-known dish for part of the flank of a second course.

6. For that with me's a "sine qua non." Stanza lxxvii.

Subauditur "Non," omitted for the sake of euphony

7. In short, upon that subject I've some qualms very Like those of the Philosopher of Malmsbury. Stanza lxxvi.

Hobbes; who doubting of his own soul, paid that compliment to the souls of other people as to de-cline their visits, of which he had some apprehension.
CANTO XVI.

1.

Byron's Works.

1. For Gothic daring shown in English men.
   Stanz_a xix.
   "Anau Romano, are Veneto" is "he inscription
   (and well inscribed in this instance) on the sea
   walls between the Adriatic and Venice. The walls
   were a republican work of the Venetians: the inscrip-
   tion, I believe, imperial, and inscribed by Na-
   poleon.

2. "Untying" su~ires "to fight against the churches."  Stanz_a ix.
   "Though ye unde the walls, and bid them fight
   Against the churches."—Moseuth.

3. They err—"its merely what is call'd mobility.
   Stanz_a xvii.
   In French "mobility."  I am not sure that mobility
   is English; but it is expressive of a quality
   which rather belongs to other climates, though it is
   sometimes seen to great extent in our own. It
   may be defined as an excessive susceptibility of im-
   mediate impressions—at the same time without los-
   ing the past—and is, though sometimes appar-
   ently useful to the possessor, a most painful and
   unhappy attribute.

4. Draperied her form with curious felicity.
   Stanz_a xii.
   "Curiosa felicitas."—PETRONIUS ARBITEB

5. A noise like to wet fingers drawn on glass.
   Stanz_a cixv.
   See the account of the ghost of the uncle of
   Prince Charles of Saxony, raised by Schnepper-
   Karl-Karl—was—walt wolt mich?"

6. How odd a single hobgoblin's nonentity
   Should cause more fear than a whole host's identity
   Stanz_a cix.
   "Shadows to-night
   Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard
   Than can the audacity of my thousand soldiers, an., an.,
   "See Richard III.
LETTERS.
LETTER I.

TO MISS PIGOT OF SOUTHWELL.

"Hargate Manor, August 29, 1806.

"I received the arms, my dear Miss Pigot, and am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken. It is impossible I should have any fault to find with the draught or the carving: it gives me great pleasure for a double reason,—in the first place, they will ornament my books; in the next, they convince me that you have not forgotten me. I am, however, sorry you do so much: you have already been gone an age. I perhaps may have taken my departure for London before you came back; but, however, I will hope not. Do not overlook my watch-ribbon and purse, as I wish to carry them with me. Your note was given me by Harry, at the play, whither I attended Miss Lyon and Dr. S. ; and now I have sat down to answer it before I go to bed. If I am at Southwell when you return, and I sincerely hope you will soon, for I very much regret your absence,—I shall be happy to hear you sing my favorite, 'The Maid of Loth.' My mother, together with myself, desires to be affectionately remembered to Mrs. Pigot, and believe me, my dear Miss Pigot, I remain your affectionate friend.

"BYRON.

"P.S. If you think proper to send me any answer to this, I shall be extremely happy to receive it. Adieu.

"P.S. 2d. As you say you are a novice in the art of knitting, I hope it don't give you too much trouble. Go on slowly, but surely. Once more, Adieu."

LETTER II.

TO MR. PIGOT.

"8 Pencilly, August 9, 1810.

"My Dear Pigot,

"Many thanks for your amusing narrative of the last proceedings of my amiable Alecto,* who now begins to feel the effects of her folly. I have just received a penitential epistle, to which, apprehensive of pursuit, I have despatched a moderate answer, with a kind of promise to return in a fortnight;—this, however, (entirosos) I never mean to fulfill. Her soft worblings have delighted her auditors, her higher notes being particularly musical, and on a calm moonlight evening would be heard to great advantage. Had I been present as a spectator, nothing would have pleased me more; but to have come forward as one of the 'dramatic persons,'—St. Dominie defend me from such a scene! Seriously, your mother has laid me under great obligations, and you, with the rest of your family, merit my warmest thanks for your kind condescension at my escape from 'Mrs. Byron.'

"Oh! for the pen of Ariosto to rehearse, in epie, the wounding of that momentous eve,—or rather, let me invoke the shade of Dante to inspire me, for none but the author of the 'Inferno' could properly preside over such an attempt. But, perhaps, where the pen might fail, the pencil would succeed. What a group!—Mrs. B. the principal figure; you cramming your ears with cotton, as the only antidote to total deafness; Mrs. — in vain endeavoring to mitigate the wrath of the lioness robed of her whelp; and last, though not least, Elizabeth and Wousky,—wonderful to relate!—both deprived of their parts of speech, and bringing up the rear in mute astonishment. How did S. B. receive the intelligence? How many paws did he utter on so fateful an event? In your next inform me on this point, and what excuse you made to A. You are probably this time tired of deciphering this hieroglyphical letter;—like Tony Lumpkin, you will pronounce mine to be a d—d up and down hand. All Southwell, without doubt, is involved in amazement. Apprope, how does my blue-eyed nun, the fair * * * is she 'robot in noble garb of now'?

"Here I remain at least a week or ten days; previous to my departure you shall receive my address, but what it will be I have not determined. My lodgings must be kept secret from Mrs. B.; you may present my compliments to her, and say any attempt to pursue me will fail, as I have taken measures to retreat immediately to Portsmouth, on the first intimation of her removal from Southwell. You may add, I have now proceeded to a friend's house in the country, there to remain a fortnight. I have now bloted (I must not say written) a complete double letter, and in return shall expect a monstrous budget. Without doubt, the dames of Southwell repurate the pernicious example I have shown, and tremble lest their baches should disobey their mandates, and quit in dudgeon their mammas on any grievance. Adieu. When you begin, your next, drop the 'lordship,' and put 'Byron' in its place. Believe me yours, &c.

"BYRON."

LETTER III.

TO MISS PIGOT.

"London, August 10, 1806.

"My Dear Pigot,

"As I have already troubled your brother with more than he will find pleasure in deciphering, you..."
are the next to whom I shall assign the difficult employment of perusing this second epistle. You will perceive from my first, that no idea of Mrs. B.'s arrival had disturbed me at the time it was written; yet so the present, since the appearance of a note from the illustrious cause of my sudden desertment has driven the 'natural ruby from my cheeks,' and completely blanched my wo-begone countenance. This gunpowder intimation of her arrival, (confound her activity!) breathes less of terror and dismay than you will probably imagine from the volcanic temperament of her ladyship, and concludes with the comfortable assurance of all present motion being prevented by the fatigue of her journey, for which my blessings are due to the rough roads and restive quadrupeds of his majesty's highways. As I have not the smallest inclination to be chased round the country, I shall e'en make a virtue of necessity, and, since, like Macbeth, 'They've tied me to the stake, I cannot fly,' I shall imitate that valorous tyrant, and 'bear-like fight the course,' all escape being precluded. I can now engage with less disadvantage, having drawn the enemy from her en- trancements, though, like the lyre to whose image I have compared myself, with an excellent chance of being knocked on the head. However, 'lay on, Macduff, and - be he who first cries, hold, enough.'

"I shall remain in town for, at least, a week, and expect to hear from you before its expiration. I presume the printer has brought you the offspring of my poetic mania. Remember, in the first line, to read loud the winds whistle,"* instead of 'round,' which that blockhead Ridge has inserted by mistake, and makes nonsense of the whole stanza. Adieu!—Now to encounter my Hydra. Yours ever."

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**LETTER IV.**

**TO MR. PIGOT.**

*London, Sunday, midnight, August 10, 1806.*

"Dear Pigot,

This post-haste packet will, doubtless, amaze you, but having an idle hour this evening, I wrote the enclosed stanzas, which I request you to deliver to Ridge, to be printed separate from my other com-positions, as you will perceive them to be improper for the personal ladies; of course, none of the females of your family must see them. I offer a thousand apologies for the trouble I have given you in this and other instances. Yours truly,"

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**LETTER V.**

**TO MR. PIGOT.**

*Penzance, August 16, 1806.*

"I cannot exactly say with Caesar, 'Venit, vidi, vici;' however, the most important part of his laconic account of success applies to my present situation; for, though Mrs byron took the trouble of 'coming' and 'seeing,' yet your humble servant proved the victor. After an obstinate engagement of some hours, in which we suffered considerable damage, from the quickness of the enemy's fire, they were compelled to retreat in confusion, leaving behind the artillery, field equipoise, and some prisoners; their defeat is, de cry of the present campaign. To speak more intelligibly, Mrs. B. returns immediately, but I proceed, with all my laurels, to Worthing, on the Sussex coast, to which place you will address, (to be left at the post-office) your next epistle."

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**LETTER VI.**

**TO MR. PIGOT.**

"London, August 13, 1806.

"I am just on the point of settling off for Worthing, and write merely to request you will send that idle assouder Charles, [his groom,] with my horses immediately; tell him I am excessively provoked he has not made his appearance before, or written to inform me of the cause of his doing so, and accordingly as I supplied him with money for his journey. On no pretext is he to postpone his march one day longer, and if, in obedience to the entreaties of Mrs. B. (who I presume is again spreading desolation through her little mania,;) he thinks proper to disregard my positive orders, I shall not, in future, consider him as my servant. He must bring the surgeon's bill with him, which I will discharge immediately on receiving it. Nor can I conceive the reason of his not acquainting Frank, [his valet,] with the state of my unfortunate quadrupeds. Dear Pigot, forgive this petulant effusion, and attribute it to the idle conduct of that precious rascal, who, instead of obeying my injunctions, is wasting the streets of that political Pandemonium, Nottingham. Present my remembrances to your family and the Leacrofts, and believe me, &c.

"P.S. I delegate to you the unpleasant task of despatching him on his journey-Mrs. B.'s orders to the contrary are not to be attended to; he is to proceed first to London, and then to Worthing, without delay. Every thing I have left must be sent to London. My Poetic you will pack up for the same place, and not even reserve a copy for yourself and sister, as I am about to give them an entire new form: when they are complete, you shall have the first proofs. Mrs. B. on no account is to see or touch them. Adieu."

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**LETTER VII.**

**TO MR. PIGOT.**

"Little Hampden, August 26, 1806.

"I this morning received your epistle, which I was obliged to send for to Worthing, whence I have removed to this place, or the same coast, about eight miles distant from the former. You will
LETTERS.

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probably not be displeased with this letter, when it informs you that I am 39,000 richer than I was at our parting. Having just received intelligence from my lawyer that a cause has been gained at Lancaster assizes, which will be worth that sum by the time you receive this, I have no doubt but I shall be acquainted with this acquisition, though not apprized of its exact value, of which she had better be ignorant; for her behavior on any sudden piece of favorable intelligence is, if possible, more ridiculous than her detestable conduct on the most trifling circumstance of an unpleasant nature. You may give my compliments to her, and say that her detaining my servant's things shall only lengthen my absence; for unless they are immediately despatched to 16 Piccadilly, together with those which have been so long delayed belonging to myself, she shall never again behold my radiant countenance illuminating her gloomy mansion. If they are sent, I may probably appear in less than two years from the date of my present epistle.

"Mettical compliment is an ample reward for my pains; you are one of the few votaries of Apollo who unite the sciences over which that deity presides. I wish you to send my poems to my lodgings in London immediately, as I have several alterations and some additions to make; every copy must be sent, as I am about to amend them, and you shall soon behold them in all their glory. I hope you have kept them from that Ipsos tree, that antidote to the arts, Mrs. B. *Entire nous,—you may expect to see me soon. Adieu. Yours ever.*

LETTER VIII.

TO MISS PIquot.

"Mr. Dear Bridget,

"I have only just dismounted from my Pegmas, which has prevented me from descending to plain prose in an epistle of greater length to your fair self. You resorted in a former letter, that my poems were not more extensive; I now for your satisfaction announce that I have nearly doubled them, partly by the discovery of some I conceived to be lost, and partly by some new productions. We shall meet on Wednesday next; till then, believe me yours affectionately,

"Byron."

LETTER IX.

TO THE EARL OF CLARE.

"Southwell, Nova, February 6th, 1807.

"My Dearest Clare,

"Were I to make all the apologies necessary to stone for my late negligence, you would justly say you had received a petition instead of a letter, as it would be filled with prayers for forgiveness; but instead of this, I will acknowledge my sins at once, and I trust to your friendship and generosity rather than to my own excuses. Though my health is not perfectly reestablished, I am out of all danger, and have recovered everything but my spirits, which are subject to depression. You will be astonished to hear I have lately written to Delaware, for the purpose of explaining (as far as possible, without involving some old friends of mine in the business) the cause of my behavior to him during my last residence at Harrow, (nearly two years ago,) which you will recollect was rather 'en casuador.' Since that period I have discovered he was treated with injustice, both by those who misrepresented his conduct, and by me in consequence of their suggestions. I have therefore made all the repairation in my power, by apologizing for my mistake, though with very faint hopes of success; indeed I never expected any answer, but desired one for form's sake; that has not yet arrived, and most probably never will. However, I have ceased my own conscience by the atonement, which is humiliating enough to one of my disposition, yet I cannot have slept satisfied with the reflection of having, even unintentionally, injured any individual. I have done all that could be done to repair the injury, and there the affair must end. Whether we renew our intimacy or not is of very trivial consequence.

"My time has lately been much occupied with very different pursuits. I have been transporting a servant, who cheated me, rather a disgraceful event; performing in private theatricals and publishing a volume of poems, (at the request of my friends, for their perusal;) making love and taking physic. The last two amusements have not had the best effect in the world; for my attentions have been divided among so many fair damsels, and the drugs I swallow are of such variety in their compositions, that between Venus and Ascanius I am harassed to death. However, I have still leisure to devote some hours to the recollections of past, regretted friendships, and in the interval to take the advantage of the moment, to assure you how much I am, and ever will be, my dearest Clare,

"Your truly attached and sincere,

"Byron."

LETTER X.

TO MR. PIquot.

"Southwell, Jan. 3d, 1807.

"I ought to begin with sundry apologies, for my own negligence, but the variety of my avocations in prose and verse must plead my excuse. With this epistle you will receive a volume of all my Juvenilia published since your departure; it is of considerably greater size than the collection which I beg you will destroy, as the present is much more complete. That unlucky poem to my poor Mary† has been the cause of some animadversion from ladies in years. I have not printed it in this collection, in consequence of my being pronounced a most profane sinner, in short, 'a young Moore,' by your friend. I believe in general they have been favorably received, and surely the age of your author will preclude severe criticism. The adventures of my life from sixteen to nineteen, and the dissipation into which I have been thrown in London, have given a voluptuous tinct to my ideas, and the occasions which called forth my muse could hardly admit any other coloring. This volume is vastly correct and miraculously chaste. Apropos, talking of love, "

* His vala, Frank.
† The " Mary " here mentioned was not the house of Annesley, but the " Mary " of Alcibiades. This verse is the lines of Horne, entitled, " To Mary, on receiving her picture."
BYRON'S WORKS.

LETTER XI.

TO MR. WILLIAM BANKIS.

"Dear Bankis,

"Your critique is valuable for many reasons: in the first place, it is the only one in which flattery has borne a slight part; and the next, I am led by insipid compliments. I have a better opinion of your judgment and ability than your feelings. Accept my most sincere thanks for your kind decision, not less welcome, because totally unexpected. In regard to a more exact estimate, I need not remind you how few of the best poems, in our language, will stand the test of minute or verbal criticism; it can therefore hardly be expected that the effusions of a boy, (and most of these pieces have been produced at an early period,) can derive much merit either from the subject or composition. Many of them were written under great depression of spirits, and during severe indisposition; hence the greater turn of the ideas. We coincide in opinion that the 'poésies érotiques' are the most exceptionable; they were however, grateful to the deities on whose altars they were offered—more I seek not.

"The portrait of Don Juan was drawn at Harrow, after a long sitting; this accounts for the resemblance, or rather the caricature. He is your friend, he never was mine—for both our sakes I shall be silent on this head. The collegiate rhymes are not personal; one of the notes may appear so, but could not be omitted. I have little doubt they will be deservedly abused; a just punishment for my unillustrious treatment of so excellent an Alms Master. I sent you a copy, lest we should be placed in the situation of Gil Bias and the Archbishop of Grenaude: though running some hazard from the experiment, I wished your verdict to be unbiased. Had my 'Liberation' been presented previous to your letter, it would have appeared a species of bribe to purchase compliment. I feel no hesitation in saying, I was more anxious to hear your critique, however severe, than the praises of the million. On the same day I was honored with a visit from Mackenzie, the celebrated author of the 'Man of Feeling.' Whether his approbation or yours elated me most, I cannot decide.

"You will receive my Juvenilia, at least all yet published. I have a large volume in manuscript, which may in part appear hereafter; at present I have neither time nor inclination to prepare it for the press. In the spring I shall return to Trinity, to dismantle my rooms, and bid you a final adieu. The 'Can' will not be much increased by my tears on the occasion. Your father's remarks, however, cautious or bitter to a palate vitiated with the sweets of adulation, will be of service. Johnson, has shown us that no poetry is perfect; but to correct mine would be an Herculean labor. In fact I never looked beyond the moment of composition, and published merely at the request of my friends. Notwithstanding so much has been said concerning the 'Genius irritabile vatrum,' we shall never quarrel on the subject. Poetic fame is by no means the 'name' of my wishes. Adieu.

"Yours ever,

"Byron."

LETTER XII.

TO MR. WILLIAM BANKIS.—(Fragment.)

"For my own part, I have suffered severely in the decease of my two greatest friends, the only beings I ever loved, (females excepted.) I am therefore a solitary animal, miserable enough, and so perfectly a citizen of the world, that whether I pass my days in Great Britain or Kamschatka is to me a matter of perfect indifference. I cannot conceive greater respect for your alteration than by immediately adopting it—this shall be done in the next edition. I am sorry your remarks are not more frequent, as I am certain they would be equally beneficial. Since my last I have received two critical opinions from Edinburgh, both too flattering for me to detail. One is from Lord Woodhouselee, at the head of the Scotch literati, and a most profuse writer, (his last work is a life of Lord Kaimes;) the other from Mackenzie, who sent his decision a second time, more at length. I am not personally acquainted with either of these gentlemen, nor ever requested their sentiments on the subject: their praise is voluntary, and transmitted through the medium of a friend, at whose house they read the productions.

"Contrary to my former intention, I am now preparing a volume for the public at large; my amatory pieces will be exchanged, and others substituted in their place. The whole will be considerably enlarged, and appear the latter end of May. This is a hazardous experiment; but want of better employment, the encouragement I have met with, and my own vanity, induce me to stand the test, though not without sundry palpitations. The book will circulate fast enough in this country, from mere curiosity, what I prize—

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LETTER XIII.

TO MR. FALKNER.

"Sir,

"The volume of little pieces which accompanies this, would have been presented before, had I not been apprehensive that Miss Falkner's indisposition might render such tributes unwelcome. There are some errors of the printer which I have not had time to correct in the collection; you have it thus, with all its imperfections on its head, a heavy weight, when joined with the faults of its author. Such Juvenilia as they can claim no great degree of approbation, I may venture to hope, will also escape the severity of unmarked, though perhaps undeserved, criticism.

"They were written on many and various occasions, and are now published merely for the perusal of a friendly circle. Believe me, sir, if they afford the slightest amusement to yourself and the rest of my social readers, I shall have gathered all the boys I ever wish to adorn the head of

"Yours, very truly,

"Byron.

"P. S. I hope Miss F. is in a state of recovery"

LETTER XIV.

TO MR. FIGOT.

"My Dear Figot,

"Allow me to congratulate you on the success of your first examination,—Courage, mon ami.

"The title of Dr. will do wonders with the damsels. I shall most probably be in Essex or London when

* On the "Hours of Idleness."
† Doctor Bot is Head Master of Harrow School. See "Hours of Idleness." page 499 a.
you arrive at this d-- place, where I am detained by the publication of my rhymes.

"Adieu.—Believe me yours very truly,

"BYRON."

"P. S. Since we met, I have reduced myself by violent exercise, much physic, and not bathing from fourteen stone six lb. to twelve stone seven lb. In all I have lost twenty-seven pounds. Bravo!—what say you?"

LETTER XV
TO MISS PILOT.

"Dear Queen Biss,

"Surely ought to be immortal—but though a thorough-bred bull-dog, he is the finest puppy I ever saw, and will answer much better: in his great and manifold kindness he has already bitten my fingers, and disturbed the gravity of old Boatswain, who is grievously discomfited. I wish to be informed what his costs, his expenses, &c., &c., that I may indemnify Mr. G——. My thanks are all I can give for the trouble he has taken, make a long speech and conclude it with 1 2 3 &c. I am out of practice, so do yourselves at Legate, —ambrose would not do in a matter concerning the Pope, which I presume this must, as the whole turns upon a Bull.

"Yours,

"BYRON."

"P. S. I write in bed."

LETTER XVI.
TO MISS PILOT.

"Cambridge, June 30, 1807.

"Better late than never, Pal,' is a saying of which you know the origin, and as it is applicable on the present occasion, you will excuse its conspicuous place in the front of my epistle. I am almost superannuated here. My old friends, (with the exception of a very few,) all departed, and I am preparing to follow them, but remain till Monday to be present at three Oratorios, two Concerts, a Fair, and a Ball. I find I am not only thinner, but taller; I could not reach by an inch since my last visit. I was obliged to tell everybody my surname, nobody having the least recollection of my visage or person. Even the hero of my Cornelius (who is now sitting vis-à-vis, reading a volume of my Poetics,) passed me in Trinity walks without recognising me in the least, and was thunderstruck at the alteration which had taken place in my countenance, &c., &c. Some say I look better, others worse, but all agree I am thinner—more I do not require. I have lost two pounds in my weight since I left our cursed, detestable and abhorred abode of scandal, where, excepting yourself and John Becher, I care not if the whole race were consigned to the Pit of Acheron, which I would visit in person rather than contaminate my palace with the polluted dust of Southwell. Seriously, unless obliged by the emptiness of my purse to revisit Mrs. B., you will see me no more.

"On Monday I depart for London. I quit Cambridge with little regret, because our set are vanished, and my musical protege before mentioned has left the choir, and is stationed in a mercantile house of considerable eminence in the metropolis. You may have heard me observe he is exactly, to an hour,

two years younger than myself. I found him grow, considerably, and, as you will suppose, very glad to see his former Patron. He is nearly my height, very thin, very fair complexion, dark eyes, and light locks. My estimation of his mind you already know—I hope I shall never have occasion to change it. Every body here conceives me to be an uncultured University at present very gay, from the fêtes of divers kinds. I suppose out last night, but eat (or ate) nothing, sipped a bottle of claret, went to bed at two and rose at eight. I have commenced early rising, and find it agrees with me. The Masters and the Fellows all very polite, but look a little askance—I don’t much admire lamps—truth always disagreeable.

"Write, and tell me how the inhabitants of your managery go on, and if my publication goes off well: do the quadrapeds growl? Apropos, my bull dog is deceased—Flesh both of our and man is grass.' Address your answer to Cambridge. If I am gone, it will be forwarded. Sad news just arrived—Russians beat—a bad set, eat nothing but oil, consequently must melt before a hard fire. I get awkward in my academic habits and distaste for practice. Got up in a window to hear the oratorio at St. Mary's, popped down in the middle of the Messiah, tore a woeful rent in the back of my best black silk gown, and damaged my eyes and clothes pair of breeches. Mem.—never tumble from a church window during service. Adieu, dear, do not remember me to any body—to forgét and be forgotten by the people of Southwell is all I aspire to."

LETTER XVII.
TO MISS PILOT.


"Since my last letter I have determined to reside another year at Granta, as my rooms, &c., are finished in great style, several old friends come up again, and many new acquaintances made; consequently, my inclination leads me forward, and I shall return to London in October, if still alive. My life here has been one continued state of relaxation—out at different places every day, engaged to more dinners, &c., &c., than my stay will permit me to fulfil. At this moment I write with a bottle of claret in my hand, and tears in my eyes: for I have just parted from my 'Cornelian,' who spent the evening with me. As it was our last interview, I postponed my engagement to devote the hours of the Sabbath to friendship;—Edleston and I have separated for the metropolis. And, in all, a chaos of hope and sorrow. To-morrow I set out for London: you will address your answer to Gordon's Hotel, Abingdon street, where I sojourn during my visit to the metropolis.

"I rejoice to hear you are interested in my protege: he has been my almost constant associate since October, 1805, when I entered Trinity College. His voice first attracted my attention, his countenance fixed it, and his manners attached me to him for ever. He departs for a mercantile house in town in October, and we shall probably not meet till the expiration of my minority, when I shall leave to his decision either entering as a partner through my interest, or residing with me altogether. Of course he would in his present frame of mind prefer the latter, but he may alter his opinion previous to that period;—however, be assured, he certainly love him more than any human being, and neither time nor distance have had the least effect on my (in general) changeable disposition. In short, we shall put Lady E. Butler and Miss Pownalby to the blinches, blue stockings and corded shoes, and you may countenance, and want nothing but a catastrophic like Nissus and Euryalus, to give Jonathan and
LETTER XVIII.

TO MISS PILOT.

"Gordon's Hotel, July 13, 1807.

"You write most excellent epistles—a fig for other correspondents with their nonsensical apologies for 'knowing nought about it'; you send me a delightful budget. I am here in a perpetual vortex of dissipation. (Very pleasant for all that,) and, strange to tell, I get the morning now below eighteen stone considerably. Stay in town a month, perhaps six weeks, trip into Essex; and then, as a favor, iritate Southwell for three days with the light of my countenance; but nothing shall ever make me reside there again! Get thither now below eighteen stone considerably. Stay in town a month, perhaps six weeks, trip into Essex; and then, as a favor, iritate Southwell for three days with the light of my countenance; but nothing shall ever make me reside there again! Get thither now below eighteen stone considerably.

"What the devil would Ridge have? Is not fifty in a fortnight, before the advertisements, sufficient sale? I hear many of the London booksellers have them, and Crosby has sent copies to the principal watering-places. Are they liked or not in Nottishow? I wish Boatwain had vexatious Demon! How is Bran? By the immortal gods, Bran ought to be a Count of the Holy Roman Empire.

"The Intelligence of London cannot be interesting to you, who have rusticated all your life—the annals of riots, riots, balls and boxing-matches, cards and crim. cons., parliamentary discussions, political details, masquerades,机械," Argyll street Institution and aquatic races, love and lotteries, Brooks's and Bonaparte, opera-singers and oratorios, wine, women, warwicks, and weathercocks; can't accord with your insulated ideas of decorum and other silly expressions not inserted in our vocabulary.

"Oh! Southwell, Southwell, how I rejoice to have left thee, and how I curse the heavy hours I dragged along, for so many months, among the Mohawks who inhabit your kraals! However, one thing I do not regret, which is having parted off a sufficient quantity of flesh to enable me to 'eel skin,' and vie with the slim beaux of modern times; though, I am sorry to say, it seems to be the mode among gentlemen to grow fat, and I am told I am at least fourteen pounds below the fashion. However, I decrease instead of enlarging which is extraordinary, as violent exercise in London is impracticable; but I attribute the phenomenon to our evening squeezes at public and private parties. I heard from Ridge this morning, (the 14th, my letter was begun yesterday;) he says the Poems go on as well as can be wished, the seventy-five sent to town are circumscribed, and a demand for fifty more compiled with, the day he dated his epistle, though the advertisements are not yet half published. Adieu.

"P. S. Lord Carlisle, on receiving my poems sent, before he opened the book, a tolerably handsome letter—'I have not heard from you for some time. His opinions I neither know nor care about: if he is the least insolent, I shall enroll him with Butler and the other worthies. He is in Yorkshire, poor man! and very busy. He said he had not time to read the contents, but thought it necessary to acknowledge the receipt of the volume immediately. Perhaps the earl 'bears no brother near the throne,'—if so, I will make his scepter totter in his hands. Adieu!"

LETTER XIX.

TO MISS PILOT.

"August 2, 1807.

"London begins to disgorge its contents—town is empty—consequently I can scribble at leisure, as occupations are less numerous. In a fortnight I shall start to fulfil a country engagement; but expect two epistles from you previous to that period. Ridge does not proceed rapidly in Notts—very possible. In town things wear a more promising aspect, and a man whose works are praised by reviewers and admired by duchesses, and bookseller in the metropolis, does not dedicate much consideration to rustic readers, I have now a review before me, entitled 'Literary Recreations,' where my bardship is applauded far beyond my deserts. I know nothing of the critic, but think him a very discerning gentleman, and myself a devilish clever fellow. His critique pleases me particularly because it is of great length, and a crosstributum of censure is administered, just to give an agreeable relish to the praise. You know I hate insipid, unqualified, common-place compliment. If you would wish to see it, order the thirteenth number of the Literary Recreations for the last month. I assure you I have not the most distant idea of the writer of the article—it is printed in a periodical publication—and though I have written a paper, (a review of Wordsworth,) which

"Dr. Butler. See Letter XI.

"The first attempt of Lord Byron at reviewing, the be, once or twice otherwise. I allowed him to talk about poetical, or anything else, only as showing how pleasingly he could assume the established tone and phrasing of those obscure journals at criticism. For instance—'

"The volumes before us are by the Author of Lyrical Ballads, a collection which has not undeservedly met with a considerable share of public applause. The characteristics of Mr. Wordsworth's muse are simple and flowing, though occasionally larracunian, rare—strong, and sometimes irresistible appeals to the feelings, with unexhaustible sentiments. Though the present work may not equal his former efforts, many of its poems possess native elegance," &c. &c. &c.

"Argyll street Institution and aquatic races, love and lotteries, Brooks's and Bonaparte, opera-singers and oratorios, wine, women, warwicks, and weathercocks; can't accord with your insulated ideas of decorum and other silly expressions not inserted in our vocabulary.

"Oh! Southwell, Southwell, how I rejoice to have left thee, and how I curse the heavy hours I dragged along, for so many months, among the Mohawks who inhabit your kraals! However, one thing I do not regret, which is having parted off a sufficient quantity of flesh to enable me to 'eel skin,' and vie with the slim beaux of modern times; though, I am sorry to say, it seems to be the mode among gentlemen to grow fat, and I am told I am at least fourteen pounds below the fashion. However, I decrease instead of enlarging which is extraordinary, as violent exercise in London is impracticable; but I attribute the phenomenon to our evening squeezes at public and private parties. I heard from Ridge this morning, (the 14th, my letter was begun yesterday;) he says the Poems go on as well as can be wished, the seventy-five sent to town are circumscribed, and a demand for fifty more compiled with, the day he dated his epistle, though the advertisements are not yet half published. Adieu.

"P. S. Lord Carlisle, on receiving my poems sent, before he opened the book, a tolerably handsome letter—'I have not heard from you for some time. His opinions I neither know nor care about: if he is the least insolent, I shall enroll him with Butler and the other worthies. He is in Yorkshire, poor man! and very busy. He said he had not time to read the contents, but thought it necessary to acknowledge the receipt of the volume immediately. Perhaps the earl 'bears no brother near the throne,'—if so, I will make his scepter totter in his hands. Adieu!"

Let us now consider the following points:

1. The text contains several errors and inconsistencies. For example, the word "Southwell" is repeated multiple times, and the last sentence of the first letter contains a typographical error: "I will make his scepter totter in his hands. Adieu!"

2. The text is a collection of letters written by an individual named Byron. These letters discuss various topics, including literary works, personal experiences, and social events.

3. The letters are written in a style that is characteristic of the early 19th century, with references to literature, art, and social activities of the time.

4. The text contains several references to authors and literary works, such as "Wordsworth," "Byron's Works," and "Lyrical Ballads."
appears in the same work, I am ignorant of every other person concerned in it—even the editor, whose name I have not heard. My cousin, Lord Alexander Gordon, who resided in the same hotel, told me his mother, her Grace of Gordon, requested he would introduce me to poetical Lordship to her Highness, and that a volume, prepared in it exceedingly in common with the rest of the fashionable world, and wished to claim her relationship with the author. I was unluckily engaged on an excursion for some days afterward, and as the door was not opened when I called, my dearest wish to see her, I have postponed my introduction till the winter, when you shall favor the lady, whose taste I shall not dispute, with my most sublime and effusing con- 

"Crosby, my London publisher, has disposed of his second importation, and has sent to Ridge for a third—at least so he says. In every bookseller's window I see my own name and say nothing, but enjoy my fame in secret. My last reviewer kindly requests me to alter my determination of writing no reviews for the press; and my coadjutor begs I will gratify the public with some new work at no very distant period. Who would not be a bard?—that is to say, if all critics would be so polite. However, the others will pay me off, I doubt not, for this gentle encouragement. If so, have at 'em! By-the-by, I have written at my intervals of leisure, after two in the morning, three hundred and eighty lines in blank verse, of Bosworth Field. I have luckily got Hutton's account, shall extend the Poem to eight or ten books, and shall have finished it in a year. Whether it will be published or not must depend on circumstances. So much for Egyptian! My laurels have turned my brain too much and my manuscripts than a thousand dolls would have done. Believe me, I have not forgotten your good-nature in this circle of sin, and one day I trust I shall be able to evince my gratitude. Adieu, yours, &c.

"P. S. Remember me to Dr. P."

"Last week I swam in the Thames from Lambeth through the City of London, and Blackfriars, a dista ce, including the different turns and tacks made on the way, of three miles. You see I am in excellent training in case of a squall at sea. I mean to collect all the first traditions, poems, &c., and translate, or expand the subject to fill a volume, which may appear next spring under the denomination of 'The Highland Larp,' or some title equally picturesque. Of Bosworth Field, one book is finished, another just begun. It will be a work of three or four years, and must probably never conclude. What would you say to some stanzas on Mount Hecla? they would be written at least with fire. How is the immortal Drain; and the Phoenix of the name? Do not the Irish, like the Scotch, have lately purchased a thorough-bred bull-dog, worthy to be the condottier of the aforesaid celestials—his name is Smut!—bear it, ye breezes, on your baldy wings."

"Write to me before I set off, I conjure you by the fifth rib of your grandfather. Ridge goes on well with the books—I thought that worthy had not done much in the country. In town they have been very successful; Carpenter (Moore's publisher) told me a few days ago they sold all theirs immediately, and had several inquiries made since, which, from the books being gone, they could not supply. The Duke of York, the Marchioness of Headfort, the Duchess of Gordon, &c., were among the purchasers, and Crosby says the circulation will be still more extensive in the winter; the summer season being very bad for a sale, as most people are absent from London. However, they have gone extremely well altogether. I shall pass very near you on my journey through Newark, but cannot approach. Don't tell this to Mrs. B., who supposes I dwell a different road. If you have time, I desire it to be left at Ridge's shop, where I shall call, or the post-office, Newark, about six or eight in the evening. If your brother would ride over, I should be devilish glad to see him—he can return the same night, or sup with us and go home the next morning—the Kingston Arms is my inn. Adieu. Yours ever,"

"Byron"

**LETTER XXI.**

**TO MISS PILOT.**

"My Dear***,

"Fatigued with sitting up till four in the morning for the last two days at hazard, I take up my pen to inquire how your highness and the rest of my female acquaintance at the seat of archiepiscopal grandeur go on. I know I deserve a scolding for my negligence in not writing more frequently; but racing up and down the country for these last three months, how was it possible to fulfil the duties of a correspondent? Fixed at last for six weeks, I write, as thin as ever, (not having gained an ounce since my reduction,) and rather in better humor—but; after all, Southwell was a desirable residence. Thank St. Domincia, I have done with it: I have been twice within eight miles of it, but could not prevail on myself to suffocate in its heavy atmosphere. This place is wretched enough—a village and village road, but harbor and Burgundy, hunting mathematics and Newmarket, riot and racing. Yet it is a paradise compared with, the eternal dulness of Southwell. This is the business of doing nothing but make love, enemies, and verses.

"Next January (but this is entre nous only, and pray let it be so, or my maternal persecutor will be throwing her tomahawk at any of my curious pre- 


**LETTER XX.**

**TO MISS PILOT.**

"On Sunday next I set off for the Highlands.** A friend of mine accompanies me in my carriage to Edinburgh. There we shall leave it, and proceed in a tandem, (a species of open carriage,) through the western passes to Inverary, where we shall purchase sheep, to enable us to view places inaccessible to vehicle conveyances. On the coast we shall hire a vessel and visit the most interesting parts of the Hebrides, and, if we have time and favorable weather, mean to sail as far as Iceland, only three hundred miles from the northern extremity of Caladonia, to peel at Hecla. Also last information you will keep secret, is my nice mamma would imagine I was on a voyage of Discovery, and raise the accustomed maternal war-whoop.

*This piece (which he never put in practice) had been talked of by him when we left Blackwell—Moore.*

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the Tartar, the finest frigate in the navy. I have seen most scenes, and wish to look at a naval life. We are going probably to the Mediterranean, or to the West Indies, or to the d—; and if there is a possibility of taking me to the latter Bettereworth will do it; for he has received four-and-twenty wounds in different places, and at this moment possesses a letter from the late Lord Nelson, stating Bettereworth as the only officer in the navy who has more wounds than himself.

"I have got a new friend, the finest in the world, a tame bear. When I brought him here, they asked me what I meant to do with him, and my reply was, he should sit for a fellowship." Shecord will explain the meaning of the sentence, if it is ambiguous. This answer delighted them not. We have several parties here, and this evening a large assortment of jockeys, gamblers, box-ers, authors, parsons, and poets, sup with me,—a precious mixture, but they go on well together: and for me, I am a spice of every thing except a jockey; by-the-by, I was dismounted again the other day.

"Thank your brother in my name for his treatise. I have written 214 pages of a novel,—one poem of 390 lines, to be published (without my name) in a few weeks, with notes,—560 lines of Bosworth Field, and 250 lines of another poem in rhyme, besides half a dozen smaller pieces. The poem to be published is a Satire. Apricosis, I have been praised to the skies in the Critical Review, and abused greatly in another publication. So much the better, they tell me, for the sale of the book; it keeps up controversy, and prevents it being forgotten. Besides, the first men of all ages have had their share, nor do the humblest escape,—so I bear it like a philosopher. It is odd two opposite criticisms come out on the same day, and out of five pages of abuse my censor only quotes two lines from different poems, in support of his opinion. Now the proper way to cut up, is to quote long passages, and make them appear absurd, because simple allegation is no proof. On the other hand, there are seven pages of praise, and more than my modesty will allow said on the subject. Adieu.

"P. S. Write, write, write!!!"

LETTER XXII.

TO MR. DALLAS.
"Dorcas's Hotel, Albemare street, Jan. 29, 1806.

"Sir,

"Your letter was not received till this morning, I presume from being addressed to me in Notts, where I have not resided since last June, and as the date is the 6th, you will excuse the delay of my answer.

"If the little volume you mention has given pleasure to the author of Percival and Aubrey, I am sufficiently repaid by his praise. Though our periodical critics have been uncommonly lenient, I confess a tribute from a man of acknowledged genius is still more flattering. But I am afraid I should forfeit all claim to candor, if I did not decline such praise as I do not deserve; and this is, I am sorry to say, the case in the present instance.

"My compositions speak for themselves, and must stand or fall by their own worth or demerit: thus far I feel highly gratified by your favorable opinion, but my last inference from virtue are unlocked so few, that though I should be happy to merit, I cannot accept your applause in that respect. One passage in your letter struck me forcibly: you mention the two Lords Lyttleton in a manner they respectively deserve, and will be surprised to hear the person who is now addressing you has been frequently compared to the latter. I know I am injurious to myself in your estimate of me, but the circumstance was so remarkable from your observation, that I cannot help relating the fact. The events of my short life have been of so singular a nature, that although I have occasionally been in honor, and I trust even will, prevent me from disgracing my name by a mean or cowardly action, I have been already held up as the votary of licentiousness, and the disciple of infidelity. How far justice may have dictated this accusation I cannot pretend to say, but like the gentleman to whom my religious friends, in the warmth of their charity, have already devoted me, I am made worse than I really am. However, to quit myself, (the worst theme I could pitch upon,) and return to my Poems, I cannot sufficiently express my thanks, and I hope I shall some day have an opportunity of rendering them in person. A second edition is now in the press, with some additions and considerable omissions; you will allow me to present you with a copy. The Critical, Monthly, and Anti-Jacobin Reviews have been very indulgent; but the Eclectic has pronounced a furious attack against the book but the author, where you will find all I have mentioned asserted by a reverend divine who wrote the critique.

"Your name and connexion with our family have been long known to me, and I hope your person will be not less so; you will find me an excellent compound of a 'Brainless' and a 'Stanhope.' I am afraid you will hardly be able to read this, for my hand is rigorous at this time, and my character, but you will find me, as legibly as possible.

"Your obliged and obedient servant,

"BYRON."
headache without clearing the part affected:—of philosophy, astronomy, and metaphysics, more than I can comprehend, and of common sense so little that I can scarce have a day cognizant at each of our "Alme Matres" for the first discovery although I rather fear that of the Longitude will precede it.

"I once thought myself a philosopher, and talked nonsense with great decorum. I dined pint, and preached up equivinity. For some time this did very well, for no one was in pain for me but my friends, and none lost their patience but my hearers. At last, a fall from my horse convinced me bodily suffering was an evil; and the worst of an argument overest my maxims and my temper at the same moment, so I quitted Zeno for Aristippus, and conceive that pleasure constitutes the 79. 10. 11. 12. in morality, I prefer Confucius to the Ten Commandments, and Socrates to St. Paul, though the latter two agree in their opinion of marriage. In religion, I favor the Catholic emancipation, but do not acknowledge the Pope; and I have refused to take the Sacrament, because I do not think eating bread or drinking wine from the hand of an earthly vicar will make me an inheritor of heaven. I hold virtue in general, or the virtues severally, to be only in the disposition, each a feeling, not a principle. I believe truth the prime attribute of the Deity; and death an eternal sleep, at least of the body. You have here a brief compendium of the sentiments of the wicked George Lord Byron; and, till I give a new suit, you will perceive I am badly clothed. I remain, "Your very truly, "Byron.""

LETTER XXIV.

TO MR. HENRY DIBRY.*

"Dorant's Hotel, Jan. 13, 1808.

'My Dear Sir,

"Though the stupidity of my servants, or the porter of the house, in not showing you up stairs, (where I should have joined you directly,) prevented me the pleasure of seeing you yesterday, I hoped to meet you at some public place in the evening. I have written letters, however, on other occasions, when they generally do; when I have any favor to request of them. I think you would have been surprised at my figure, for, since our last meeting, I am reduced four stone in weight. I then weighed fourteen stone seven pounds, and now only ten stone and a half. I have disposed of my superfluities by means of hard exercise and abstinence. • • •

"Should your Harrow engagements allow you to visit town between this and February, I shall be most happy to see you in Albermarle street. If I am not so fortunate, I shall endeavor to join you for an afternoon at Harrow, though, I fear, your cellars will by no means contribute to my cure. As for my worthy preceptor, Dr. B., our encounters would by no means prevent the mutual entertainments he and I were wont to lavish on each other. We have only spoken once since my departure from Harrow in 1806, and then he politely told Tatemall it was not a proper associate for his pupils. This was long before my strictures were in verse: but, in plain prose, had I been some years older, I should have written what I thought being said on my account, that when schoolboy thing was written—or rather dictated—expecting to rise no more, my physician having taken his sixtieth fee, and I his prescription, I could not quit this earth without leaving a moment of my constant attachment to Butler in gratitude for his manifold good offices.

"Son of Dibry Dibry, Late: Dibry's former Master at Harrow School.
In your favor, from that turbulent and ratiocinative disposition of mine, which impelled me into every species of mischief—all these circumstances combined to destroy an intimacy, which Affectation urged me to continue, and Memory compels me to regret. But there is not a circumstance attending the period, hardly a sentence we exchanged, which is not impressed on my mind at this moment. I need not say more,—this assurance alone must convince you, had I considered them as trivial, they would have been less indelible. How well I recollect the perusal of your 'first flights!' There is another circumstance you do not know—the first lines I ever attempted at Harrow were addressed to you. You were to have seen them, but Sinclair had the copy in his possession when we went home;—and, on our return, we were strangers. They were destroyed, and certainly no great loss; but you will perceive from this circumstance my opinions at an age when we cannot be hypocrites.

"I have dwelt longer on this than I intended, and I shall now conclude with what I ought to have begun. We were once friends,—nay, we have all been too near for our separation was the effect of chance, not of disposition. I do not know how far our destinations in life may throw us together, but if opportunity and inclination allow you to waste a thought on such a harelipped being as myself, I will find me at least in Pro, and not so bigoted to my faults as to involve others in the consequences. Will you sometimes write to me? I do not ask it often, and, if we meet, let us be what we should be and what we were."

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**LETTER XXVII.**

**TO MR. BECHER.**

"* * * * * Now for Apollo. I am happy that you still retain your predilection, and that the public allow me some share of praise. I am of so much importance that a most violent attack is preparing for me in the next number of the Edinburgh Review. This had from the authority of a friend who has seen the proof and manuscript of the critique. You know the system of the Edinburgh gentlemen is universal attack. They praise none; and nothing but public nor the author expect praise from them. It is, however, something to be noticed, as they profess to pass judgment only on works requiring the public attention. You will see this, when it comes out; it is, I understand, of the most uncivil description; but I am aware of it, and hope you will not be hurt by its severity.

"Tell Mrs. Byron not to be out of humor with them, and to prepare her mind for the greatest novelty on their part. It will do no injury whatever, and I trust her mind will not be ruffled. They defeat their object by indiscriminate abuse, and they never praise, except the partizans of Lord Holland and Co. It is nothing to be abused when Southey, Moore, Lauderdale, Strangford, and Payne Knight share the same fate.

"I am sorry that 'Childish Recollections' must be suppressed during this edition. I have altered, at your suggestion, the obnoxious allusions in the sixth stanza of my last ode.

"And now, my dear Becher, I must return my best acknowledgments for the interest you have taken in me and my poetical bantlings, and I shall ever be proud to show how much I esteem the advice at the former.

"Believe me most truly, &c."
nads. Five-and-twenty guineas is a sound price for a pony, and by — if it cost me five hundred pounds, I will make an example of Mr. Jekyll, and that immediately, unless the cash is returned. 

Believe me, dear Jack, &c.

LETTER XXX.
TO MR. JACKSON.

"N. A., Nota, Oct. 4, 1806.

"You will make as good a bargain as possible with this Master Jekyll, if he is not a gentleman. If he is a gentleman, inform me, for I shall take very different steps. If he is not, you must get what you can of the money, for I have too much business on hand at present to commence an action. Besides, Ambrose is the man who ought to refund,—but I have done with him. You can settle with L. out of the balance, and dispose of the bidets, &c., as you best can.

"I should be very glad to see you here; but the house is filled with workmen, and undergoing a thorough repair. I hope, however, to be more fortunate before many months have elapsed.

"If you see Bold Webster, remember me to him, and tell him I have to regret Sydney, who has perished. I fear, in my rabbit warren, for we have seen nothing of him for the last fortnight.

"Adieu.—Believe me, &c."

LETTER XXXI.
TO MR. JACKSON.

"N. A., Nota, Dec. 12, 1806.

MY DEAR JACK,

"You will get the greyhound from the owner at any price, and as many more of the same breed (male or female) as you can collect.

"Tell D'Egville his dress shall be returned—I am obliged to him for the pattern. I am sorry you should have so much trouble, but I was not aware of the difficulty of procuring the animals in question. I shall have finished part of my mansion in a week, and, if you can a day you will dine at Christmas, I shall be very glad to see you.

"Believe me, &c."

LETTER XXXII.
TO MR. RECHER.

"Newstead Abbey, Nota, Sept. 14, 1806.

MY DEAR RECHER,

"I am much obliged to you for your inquiries, and shall profit by them accordingly. I am going to get up a play here; the hall will constitute a most admirable theatre. I have settled the dram. pers. and can do without ladies, as I have some young friends who will make tolerable substitutes for females, and we only want three male characters, beside Mr. Hobhouse and myself, for the play we have fixed on, which will be the Revenge. Pray direct Nicholson the carpenter to come over to me immediately, and inform me what day you will dine and pass the night here.

"Believe me, &c."

LETTER XXXIII.
TO THE HONORABLE MRS. BYRON.

"Dear Madam,

"I have no beds for the H * * s, or any body else at present. The H * * s sleep at Mansfield. I do not know that I resemble Jean Jacques Rousseau.* I have no ambition to be like so illustrious a madman—but this I know, that I shall live in my own manner, and as much alone as possible. When my rooms are ready I shall be glad to see you; at present it would be improper, and uncomfortable to both parties. You can hardly object to my rendering my mansion habitable, notwithstanding my departure for Persia in March, (or May at farthest,) since you will be tenants till my return; and in case of any accident,) for I have already arranged my will to be drawn up the moment I am twenty-one,) I have taken care you shall have the house and manor for life, besides a sufficient income. Do you think my improvements are, not entirely selfish. As I have a friend here, we will go to the Infirmary Ball on the 12th; we will drink tea with Mrs. Byron at eight o'clock, and expect to see you at the ball. If that lady will allow us a couple of rooms to dress in, we shall be highly obliged:—if we are at the ball by ten or eleven it will be time enough, and we shall return to Newstead about three or four. Adieu.

"Believe me,

"Yours, very truly,

"BYRON"

LETTER XXXIV.
TO MRS. BYRON.

"Dear Mother,

"If you please, we will forget the things you mention. I have no desire to remember them. When my rooms are finished, I shall be happy to see you; as I tell but the truth, you will not suspect me of evasion. I am furnishing the house more for you than myself, and I shall establish you in it before I leave England. When I expect to go to Madras, if nothing particularly obstructive occurs. I am now fitting up the green drawing-room; the red for a bed-room, and the rooms over as sleeping-rooms. They will be soon completed,—at least, I hope so.

"I wish you would inquire of Major Watson (who is an old Indian) what things will be necessary to provide for my voyage. I have already procured a friend to write to the Arabic professor at Cambridge for some information I am anxious to procure. I can easily get letters from Government to the ambassadors, consuls, &c., and also to the governors at Calcutta and Madras. I shall place my property and will in the hands of trustees till my return, and I mean to appoint you one. From Hanson I have heard nothing—when I do you shall have the particulars.

"After all, you must own my project is not a bad one. If I do not travel now, I never shall, and all men should one day or other. I have at present no connections to keep me at home; no wife, or unprovided sisters, brothers, &c. I shall take care of you, and when I return I may possibly become a politician. A few years' knowledge of other countries than our own will not incapacitate me for that part. If we see no nation but our own we do not

* Thus addressed always by Lord Byron, but without any right to the distinction.
† See Memorandum, page 1023.
LETTER XXXV.
TO MR. HODGSON.

"A few weeks ago I wrote to * * * to request he would receive the son of a citizen of London, well known to me, as a pupil; the family having been particularly polite during the short time I was with them induced me to this application. Now, mark what follows,—as somebody wHolly saith. On this day arrives an epistle, signed * * *, containing not the smallest reference to tuition, or intuition, but a petition for Robert Gregson, of pugilistic notoriety, now in bondage for certain paltry pounds sterling, and liable to take up his everlasting abode in Banko Pegs. Had the letter been from any of my lay acquaintance, or, in short, from any person but the gentleman whose signature it bears, I should have marvelled not. If * * * is serious, I congratulate pugilism on the acquisition of such a patron, and shall be most happy to advance any sum necessary for the liberation of the captive Gregson. But I certainly hope to be certified from you, or some respectable housekeeper, of the fact, before I write to * * * on the subject. When I say the fact, I mean of the letter being written by * * *, not having any doubt as to the authenticity of the statement. The letter is now before me, and I keep it for your perusal."

LETTER XXXVI.
TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

"My only reason for not adopting your lines* is because they are your lines. You will recollect what Lady Wortley Montague said to Pope: 'No touching, for the good will be given to you, and the bad attributed to me.' I am determined it shall be all my own, except such alterations as may be absolutely requisite; but I am much obliged by the trouble you have taken and your good opinion.

'The couplet on Lord G. may be scratched out, and the following inserted:

'Recommend I Sheffield I wish your spirits fed, &c."

"This will answer the purpose of concealment. Now for some couplets on Mr Crabbe, which you may place after 'Gifford, Sotheby, McNell.'"

"There be who say in these enlightened days, &c."

"I am sorry to differ with you with regard to the title, but I mean to retain it with this addition: 'The English Bards and Scotch Reviewers:' and, if we call it a Satire, it will obviate the objection, as the bards also were Welsh. * * * * * "

"Yours very sincerely, "BYRON."

Mr. Dallas had written some lines, an I requested Lord Byron to have them sent in the Scotch Review, the "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," then in wave. —The letters following to Mr. Dallas, relate to that work.

LETTER XXXVII.
TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

"My Dear Sir,

'Suppose we have this couplet—*"

"Though sweet the sound, disdain a borrow'd tone,

Resign Achala's lyre, and strike your own; or,

'If soft the echo, shun a borrow'd tone,

Resign Achala's lyre, and strike your own.

'So much for your admonitions; but my note of notes, my solitary pun must not be given up—no, rather

'Let malversation of all the boasts of chase,

That ruse to weedy Caledon!'"

"We shall never sell a thousand; then why print so many? Did you receive my yesterday's note? I am troubling you, but I am apprehensive some of the lines are omitted by your young amanuensis, to whom, however, I am infinitely obliged.

'I believe me, yours very truly, "BYRON."

NOTES TO MR. DALLAS.

"I wish you to call, if possible, as I have some alterations to suggest as to the part Broughtam "B."

'Excuse the trouble, but I have added two lines which are necessary to complete the poetical char actor of Lord Carlisle.

"In his age

His sons alone had chance of their standing stage;

But masses for some sect, 'tis hard, enough!"

'Nor drugging their audience with the trashy stuff."

"I wish you much to call on me, about one, not later, if convenient, as I have some thirty or forty lines for addition. Believe me, &c. "B."

"Ecce iterum Crispinus! I send you some lines to be placed after 'Gifford, Sotheby, McNell.' Pray call to-morrow any time before two, and believe me, &c. "B."

"P. S. Print soon, or I shall overflow with more rhyme."

"I enclose some lines to be inserted, the six first after 'Lords too are bards, &c.,' rather immediately following the line:"

"Oh! who would take their titles with their rhymes?"

The four next will wind up the panegyric on Lord Carlisle, and come after 'tragic stuff.'"

"Yours truly, "B."

V. B. 18, 1809."

"A cut at the opera—Ecce signum! from last night's observation, and (mended against the Society for the suppression of Vice. The lines will come well in after the couplets concerning Naldi and Catalini."

"Yours truly, "BYRON."

"Feb. 28, 1809."

Mr. Dallas objected to the lines as originally written:

"Translation's service will last drawn, And quit Achala's muse to court your own.""

† See English Bards and note a. 461."
LETTER XXXVII.

TO MRS. BYRON.

"S. St. James's st., March 8, 1808.

"Dear Mother,

"My last letter was written under great depression of spirits from poor Falkland's death, who has left behind him a shining four children and his wife. I have been endeavoring to assist them as much as God knows, I cannot do as I would wish, from my own embarrassments, and the many claims upon me from other quarters.

"What you say is all very true: come what may Newcastle and I stand or fall together. I have now lived on the spot, I have fixed my heart upon it, and no pressure, present or future, shall induce me to barter the last vestige of our inheritance. I have that pride within me which will support difficulties. I can endure privations; but could I obtain in exchange for Newcastle Abbey the first fortune in the country, I would reject the proposition. Set your mind at ease on that score; Mr. Hanson talks like a man of business on the subject, I feel like a man of honor, and I will not sell Newcastle.

"I shall get my seat on the return of the affidavits from Carhais, in Cornwall, and will do something in the House soon; I must dash or all is over. My Satire must be kept secret for a month; after that you may say what you please on the subject. Lord Carlisle has used me infamously, and refused to state any particulars of my family to the Chancellor. I have lunched him in my rhymes, and perhaps his Lordship may regret not being more conciliatory. They tell me it will have a sale; I hope so, for the bookseller has behaved well, as far as publishing well goes. Believe me, yours truly.

"P. S. You shall have a mortgage on one of the farms."

LETTER XXXIX.

TO MR. HANRE.

"S. St. James's st., March 18, 1809.

"There was no necessity for your excuses; if you have time and inclination to write, 'for what we receive, the Lord make us thankful.'—If I do not hear from you, I console myself with the idea that you are much more agreeably employed.

"I send down to you by this post a certain Satire lately published, and in return for the three and sixpence expenditure upon it, only beg that if you should guess the author, you will keep his name secret; at least, for the present. London is full of the Duke's business. The Commons have been at these last three nights and are not yet come to a decision. I do not know if the affair will be brought before our House, unless in the shape of an impeachment. If it makes its appearance in a debatable form, I believe I shall be tempted to say something on the subject—I am glad to hear you like Cambridge: firstly, because to know that you are happy is pleasant to one who wishes you all possible sublunary enjoyment; and, secondly, I admire the morality of the sentiment. Alma Mater was to me vijuta noverca; and the old Beldam only gave me my M. A. degree because she could not avoid it. You know what a farce r a noble Cantab. must perform.

LETTER XL.

TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

"April 25, 1809.

"Dear Sir,

"I am just arrived at Batt's Hotel, Jermyn street, St. James's, from Scotland, and come on to see you when convenient or agreeable. Hobhouse is on his way up to town, full of printing resolution, and proof against criticism.

"Believe me, with great sincerity, yours truly,

"BYRON."

LETTER XLI.

TO MR. WILLIAM BANXES.

"Twelve o'clock, Friday night.

"My Dear Bankes,

"I have just received your note; believe me I regret most sincerely that I was not fortunate enough to see it before, as I need not repeat to you, that your conversation for half an hour would have been much more agreeable to me than gambling or drinking, or any other fashionable mode of passing an evening abroad or at home. I really am very sorry that I went out previous to the arrival of your despatch: in future, pray let me hear from you before six, and whatever my engagements, may be, I will always postpone them. Believe me, with that deference which I have always from my childhood paid to your talents, and with somewhat a better opinion of your heart than I have hitherto entertained.

"Yours ever, &c."
laid down my pen, but have promised to contribute a chapter on the state of morals, &c., &c.

"The cock is crowing,
I must be going,
And can no more."—

"Adieu. Believe me, &c., &c."

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**LETTER XLIV.**

**TO MR. HODGSON.**

"Falmouth, June 26, 1808.

"My dear Hodgson,

"Before this reaches you, Hobhouse, two officers wives, three children, two waiting-maids, dabb substitutes for the troops, three Portuguese esquires and domestics, in all nineteen souls, will have sailed in the Lissado, with the noble Captain Kidd, a gallant commander as ever smugled an anchor of right Nantz.

"We are going to Lisbon first, because the Malta packet has sailed, 'tis seen— FROM LONDON to Gibraltar, Malta, Constantinople, and 'all that,' as Orator Henley said, when he put the Church, and 'all that,' in danger.

"This town of Falmouth, as you will partly conjecture, is no great ways from the sea. It is defended on the sea-side by tway castles, St. Maws and Pendennis, extremely well calculated for annoying every body except an enemy. St. Maws is garrisoned by an able-bodied person of fourscore, a widower. He has the whole command and sole management of six most unmanageable pieces of ordnance, admirably adapted for the destruction of Pendennis, a like tower of strength on the opposite side of the Channel. We have seen St. Maws, but Pendennis they will not let us behold save at a distance, because Hobhouse and I are suspected of having already taken St. Maws by a coup de main.

"The town contains many Quakers and salt fish— the oysters have a taste of copper, owing to the soil of a mining country—the women (blessed be the Corporation therefore!) are flogged at the cart's tail when they pick and steal, as happened to one of the fair sex yesterday noon. She was pertinacious in her behavior, and damned the mayor. * * *

"Hodgson I remember me to the Drury, and remember me to—you yourself when drunk—I am not worth a sober thought. Look to my Satire at Cowthorne's, Cockspur street. * * *

"I don't know when I can write again, because it depends on that experienced navigator, Captain Kidd, and the 'stormy winds that (don't) blow,' at this season. I leave England without regret—I shall return to it without pleasure. I am like Adam, the first convict, sentenced to transportation, but I have no Eve, and have eaten no apple but what was sour as a crab; and thus ends my first chapter. Adieu.

"Yours, &c."
LETTERS.

that the village of Cintra* in Estremadura is the most beautiful, perhaps, in the world. * * *

"I am very happy here, because I loves oranges, and talk had Latin to the monks, who understand it, as it is like their own, and goes into society, (with my pocket pistols,) and I swins in the Tagus all across at once, and I rides on an ass or a mule, and swears Portuguese, and have got a diarrhoea and blisters in my legs. But other of that! Comfort must not be expected by folks that go a pleasing. * * *

"When the Portuguese are pertinacious, I say, 'Sarracens,' the great oath of the grandees, that very well supplies the place of 'Damnus,'--and, when dissatisfied with my neighbor, I pronounce him 'Ambra di merdo.' With these two phrases, and a third, 'Arva Bouri,' which signifies 'Get an ass,' I am understood to be a person of degree and a master of languages. How merrily we lives that travellers be!--if we had food and rainet. But, in sober sadness, any thing is better than England, and I am infinitely amused with my pilgrimage as far as it's gone.

"To morrow we start to ride post near 400 miles as far as Gibraltar, where we embark for Melita and Jyzantum. A letter to Malta will find me, or to be forwarded. If I am absent. Pray me the Dury and Dwyer and all the Ephesians you encounter. I am writing with Butler's donative pencil, which makes my bad hand worse. Excuse illegibility.

"Hodgson! send me the news, and the deaths, and defeats, and capital crimes, and the misfortunes of one's friends; and let us hear of literary matters, and the controversies and the criticisms. All this will be pleasing. Suave mari magnum, &c. Talking of that, I have been sea-sick, and sick of the sea. Adieu

"Yours faithfully, &c."

LETTER XLVI.

TO MR HODGSON.

Gibraltar, August 6, 1808.

"I have just arrived at this place after a journey through Portugal, and a part of Spain, of nearly five hundred miles. We left Lisbon and travelled on horseback to Seville and Cadiz, and thence in the Hyperion frigate to Gibraltar. The horses are excellent—we rode seventy miles a day. Eggs and wine and hard beds are all the accommodation we found, and, in such torrid weather, quite enough. My health is better than in England. * * *

"Seville is a fine town, and the Sierra Morena, part of which we crossed, a very sufficient mountain,—but damn description, it is always disgusting. Cadiz, sweet Cadiz!—it is the first spot in the creation. * * *

"The beauty of its streets and mansions is only excelled by the loveliness of its inhabitants. For, with all national prejudice, I must confess the women of Cadiz are as far superior to the English women in beauty as the Spaniards are inferior to the English in every quality that dignifies the name of man. * * *

"Just as I began to know the principal persons of the city, I was obliged to sail.

"You will not expect a long letter after my riding so far 'on hollow pampered jades of Asia.' Asia of Asia puts me in mind of Africa, which is within five miles of my present residence. I am going over before I go on to Constantinople.

"* * *

"Cadiz is a complete Cythera. Many of the grandees who have left Madrid during the troubles reside there, and I believe it the prettiest and cleanest town in Europe. London is filthy in the comparison. * * *

"The Spanish women are all alike, their education the same. The wife of a duke is, in information, as the wife of a peasant,—the wife of a peasant, in manner, equal to a duchess. Certainly, they are all fascinating; but on their minds have only one idea, and the business of their lives is intrigue. * * *

"I have seen Sir John Carr at Seville and Cadiz, and like Swift's barber, have been down on my knees to beg he would not put me into black and white. Pray remember me to the Drurys and the Davies, and all of that stamp who are yet extant.

"Send me a letter to the bishop of Malta. My next epistle shall be from Mount Carmel or Mount Sion. I shall return to Spain before I see England for. I am enamoured of the country.

"Adieu, and believe me, &c."

LETTER XLVII.

TO THE HON. MRS. BYRON.

Gibraltar, Aug. 11, 1808.

"Dear Mother,

"I have been so much occupied since my departure from England that till I could address you at length, I have forborne writing altogether. As I have now passed through Portugal, and a considerable part of Spain, and have leisure at this place, I shall endeavor to give you a short detail of my movements. We sailed from Falmouth on the 20th of July, reached Lisbon after a very favorable passage of four days and a half, and took up our abode in that city. It has often been described without being worthy of description; for, except the view from the Tagus, which is beautiful, and some fine churches and convents, it contains little but filthy streets and more filthy inhabitants.

"To make amends for this, the village of Cintra, about fifteen miles from the capital, is, perhaps in every respect, the most delightful in Europe; it contains beauties of every description, natural and artificial. Palaces and gardens rising in the midst of rocks, cascades and precipices; convents on stupendous heights—a distant view of the sea and the Tagus; and, besides (though that is a secondary consideration) is remarkable as the scene of Sir H. D.'s Convention.† It unites in itself all the wildness of the western highlands with the verdure of the South of France. Near this place, about ten miles to the right, is the palace of Mafra the boast of Portugal, as it might be of any country, in point of magnificence without elegance. There is a convent annexed; the monks, who possess large revenues, are courteous enough, and understand Latin, so that we had a long conversation: they have a large library, and asked me if the English had any books in their country.

"I sent my baggage and part of the servants' by sea to Gibraltar, and travelled on horseback from Aldeia Galheda, (the first stage from Lisbon, which is only accessible by water,) to Seville, (one of the most famous cities in Spain,) where the government called the Junta is now held. The distance to Seville is nearly four hundred miles, and to Cadiz almost ninety miles further towards the coast. I had orders from the government, and every possible accommodation on the road, as an English nobleman, in an English uniform, is a very respectable personage in Spain at present. The horses are remarkable good, and the roads (I assure you upon my honor, for you will hardly believe it) very superior to the best British roads, without 

* See Childe Harold, canze i., stanza xvii., &c.
† Ibid, xxiv.
smallest toll or turnpike. You will suppose this when I rode post to Seville in four days, through this parching country, in the midst of summer, without fatigue of annoyance. Seville is a beauti-
ful town, and the streets so narrow they are  
man. We lodged in the house of two Spanish 
unmarried ladies, who possess six houses in Seville,  
gave me a curious specimen of Spanish manners.  
They are women of character, and the eldest,  
though the younger pretty, but never so good a figure as Donna Josepha. The freedom of  
unmanner which is general here, astonished me not a  
little: and in the course of further observation I find  
that reverence for the character of the Spanish  
belles, who are, in general, very handsome, with  
large black eyes, and very fine forms. The eldest  
honored your unworthy son with very particular  
attention, embracing him with great tenderness at  
parting, (I was there but three days,) after cutting  
of a lock of his hair, and presenting him with one  
of her own, about three feet in length, which I  
send, and beg you will retain till my return. Her  
lust fills the meekest of virgins! me gun  
mucho."—Adieu, you pretty fellow, you please me  
much." She offered a share of her apartment, which  
your virtue induced me to decline: she laughed, and  
said I had some English 'amante,' (lover,) and as  
adding, she was getting to be married to an officer  
in the Spanish army.

"I left Seville, and rode on to Cadiz, through a  
bountiful country. At Xeres, where the sherry we  
drank a while, I met a great merchant, a Mr. Gordon  
of Scotland, who was extremely polite, and fa-
\vored me with the inspection of his vaults and cel-
lars,—so that I quaffed at the fountain head.

"Cadiz, the sweet Cadiz, is the most delightful  
town I ever beheld, very different from our English  
cities in every respect, except cleanliness, (and it as  
well as London,) but still beautiful and full of the  
fine women in Spain, the Cadiz belles being the Lan-
cashire women of their land; and just as I was intro-
\aced, and began to like the grandees, I was forced  
to leave it for this accursed place; but before I re-
turn to England I will visit it again. The night  
before I left it, I sat in the box at the opera with  
Admiral Cordova's family; he is the commander  
whom Lord St. Vincent defeated in 1797; and has an  
aged wife and a fine daughter, Senorita Cordova;  
the girl is very pretty in the Spanish style, in my  
opinion no more inferior in the English, in the  
charms, and certainly superior in fancy. Long  
black hair, dark languishing eyes, clear olive com-
plications, and forms more graceful in motion than  
can be imagined by an Englishman used to the  
drowsy, listless air of his countrywomen, added to  
the most becoming dress, and, at the same time,  
the most decent in the world, render a Spanish  
beauty irresistible. I beg leave to observe that in-
trigue here is the business of life; when a woman  
marries she throws off all restraint, but I believe  
their conduct is chaste enough before. If you make  
a proposal, which in England would bring a box on  
the ear from the meekest of virgins, to a Spanish  
girl, she thanks you for the honor you intend her,  
and replies, 'Wait till I am married, and I shall be  
too happy.' This is literally and strictly true. Miss  
C. and her little brother understood a little French  
and, after regrettmg my ignorance of the Spanish,  
she proposed to become my preccstress in that lan-
guage. I could only reply by a low bow, and express  
my admiration of her wit, which I did not doubtless at-
tend my studies under so charming a directress. I  
was standing at the back of the box, which resembles  
our opera boxes, (the theatre is large, and  
lined with mirrors,) and I mistook the character of  
the man in which Englishmen generally adopt, for fear  
of incommoding the ladies in front, when this fair  
Spaniard possessed an old woman (an aunt to a  
duenna) of her chair, and commanded me to be  
seated next herself, at a tolerable distance from her  
manipulations. You have heard me withdraw,  
and was lounging with a party of men in the  
place, when, en passeant, the lady turned round  
and called me, and I had the honor of attending  
her to the admiral's maison. I have an invitation  
on my return to Cadiz, which I shall accept, if  
I can pass through the country on my return from 
Asia.

"I have met Sir John Carr, knight errant, at Se-
ville and Cadiz. He is a pleasant man, I like the  
Spanish much. You have heard me withdraw,  
and was lounging with a party of men in the  
place, when, en passeant, the lady turned round  
and called me, and I had the honor of attending  
her to the admiral's maison. I have an invitation  
on my return to Cadiz, which I shall accept, if  
I can pass through the country on my return from 
Asia.

August 13th.—I have not been to Africa; the  
Viceroy was absent at Alge-

eras, with Lady Westmoreland, where I heard  
the General Castanos, the celebrated Spanish leader, in the  
late and present war: to-day I dine with him; he dinered  
of Castanos, and I am to have the house for a  
few days of one of the great men, which was in-
 tended for Lady W., whose health will not permi-


LETTER XLVIII.

TO MR. RUSHTON.

"Believe me, ever yours sincerely,

BYRON.

"P. S. So Lord G. is married to a rustic! well  
done! If I wed, I will bring you home a Sultana  
with half a dozen cities for a dowry, and recon-


Mr. Rushton,

I have sent Robert home with Mr. Murray  
because the country which I am about to travel  
through is in a state which renders it unsafe, par-


The Review, No. 62.

"Mr. Rushton,

I have sent Robert home with Mr. Murray  
because the country which I am about to travel  
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The Review, No. 62.
LETTER XLIX.

TO THE HONORABLE MRS. BYRON.

Malta, Sept. 15, 1809.

Dear Mother,

"Though I have a very short time to spare, being in sail immediately for Greece, I cannot avoid taking an opportunity of telling you that I am well. I have been in Malta, a short time, and have found the climate hospitalable and pleasant. This letter is committed to the charge of a very extraordinary woman, whom you have doubtless heard of, Mrs. Spencer Smith,\(^1\) of whose escape the Marquis de Salvo published a narrative a few years ago. She has since been shipwrecked, and her life has been from its commencement so fertile in remarkable incidents, that in a romance they would appear improbable. She was born at Constantinople, where her father, Baron Herbert, was Austrian ambassador; married unhappily, yet has never been impeached in point of character; excited the vengeance of Bonaparte by a part in some conspiracy; several times risked her life; and is not yet twenty-five. She is here in her way to England, to join her husband, being oblied to leave Trieste, where she was paying a visit to her mother, by the approach of the French, and embarks soon in a ship of war. Since my arrival here, I have had scarcely any other companion. I have found her very pretty, very accomplished, and extremely eccentric. Bonaparte is even now so incensed against her, that her life would be in some danger if she were taken prisoner a second time.

You have seen Murray and Robert by this time, and received my letter—little has happened since that date. I have touched at Cagliari, in Sardinia, and at Girgenti, in Sicily, and embark to-morrow for Patras, from whence I proceed to Yanina, where Ali Pacha holds his Court, so I soon shall be among the Mussulmans.

"Adieu. Believe me with sincerity, yours ever,

BYRON."

LETTER L.

TO MRS. BYRON.

"My Dear Mother,

"I have now been some time in Turkey; this place is on the coast, but I have traversed the interior of the province of Albania on a visit to the Pacha. I left Malta in the Spider, a brig of war, on the 21st of September, and arrived in eight days at Presessa. I thence have been about one hundred and fifty miles as far as Tepalen, his highness's country palace, where I stayed three days.\(^2\) The name of the Pacha is Ali, and he is considered a man of the first abilities; he governs the whole of Albania, (the ancient Illyricum,) Epirus, and part of Macedonia. His son, Vely Pacha, to whom he has given me letters, governs the Morea, and has great influence in Egypt; in short he is one of the most powerful men in the Ottoman empire. When I reached Yanina, the capital, after a journey of three days over the mountains, through a country of the most picturesque beauty, I found that Ali Pacha was with his army in Illyricum, besieging Ibrahim Pacha in the castle of Berat. He had heard that an Englishman of rank was in his dominions, and had left orders to Yanina with the commandment to provide a house, and supply me with every kind of necessary gratis; and though I have been allowed to make presents to the slaves,\(^3\)

"I have not been permitted to pay for a single article of household consumption.

"I rode out on the vizier's horses, and saw the palaces of himself and grandsons: they are splendid, but too much ornamented with silk and gold. I then went over the mountains through Zitra, a village with a Greek monastery, (which I must return,) in the most beautiful situation (always excepting Cintra, in Portugal) I ever beheld. In nine days I reached Tepalen. Our journey was much prolonged by the repeated changes of mountains, and intersected the roads. I shall never forget the singular scene on entering Tepalen at five in the afternoon, as the sun was going down. It brought to my mind (with some change of desire,) however Scott's description of Branksome Castle in his Lay, and the feudal system. The Albanians, in their dresses, (the most magnificent in the world, consisting of a long white kilif, gold-waist cloak, crimson velvet gold laced jacket and waistcoat, silver-mounted pistols and daggers,) the Turuors with their high caps, the Turks in their vast pelisses and turbans, the soldiers and black slaves with the horses, the former in groups in an immense range large ready for a great race, the latter placed in a kind of cloister below it, two hundred steeds ready caparisoned to move in a moment, couriers entering or passing out with despatches, the kettledrums beating an hour from the minaret of the mosque—altogether, with the singular appearance of the building itself, formed a new and delightful spectacle to a stranger. I was conducted to a very handsome apartment, and my mule was required after by the vizier's secretary, a 'la mode Turque!'

"The next day I was introduced to Ali Pacha. I was dressed in a full suit of staff uniform, with a silver-mounted sword, and a very magnificent silver-mounted pistolet, in a large room paved with marble; a fountain was playing in the centre; the apartment was surrounded by scarlet ottomans. He received me standing, a wonderful compliment from a Mussulman, and made me sit down on his right hand. I have a Greek interpreter for general use, but a physician of Ali's, named Fmnariou, who stands Latin, acted for me on this occasion. His first question was, why, at so early an age, I left my country?—(the Turks have no idea of travelling for amusement.) He then said, the English captain, Captain Leake, had told him I was of a great family, and desired his respect for character; for which I now, to the great name of Ali Pacha, present to you. He said he was certain I was a man of birth, because I had small ears, curling hair, and little white hands,\(^4\) and expressed himself pleased with my appearance and address. He told me to consider him as a father while I was in Turkey, and said he looked on me as his son. Indeed, he treated me like a child, sending me almonds and sugar'd sherbet, fruit and sweetmeats, twenty times a day. He begged me to visit him often, and at night, when he was at leisure. I then after coffee and pipes, retired for the first time. I saw him thrice afterward. It is singular that the Turks, who have no hereditary families, and feel no pride, except the Sultans, pay so much respect to birth; for I found my pedigree more regarded than my title.

"His highness is sixty years old, very fat, and not tall, but with a fine face, light blue eyes, and a white beard; his manner is very kind, and at the same time he possesses that dignity which I had universal among the Turks.—He has the appearance of any thing but his real character; for he is a remorseless tyrant, guilty of the most horrid cruelties, very brave, and so good a general that they call him the Mahometan Bonaparte. Napoleon has twice offered to make him king of Epirus, but..."

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\(^1\) See Don Juan, canto iv., stanza 14, and note.


he prefers the English interest, and abhors the
French, as he himself told me. He is of so much
consequence, that he is much courted by both; the
Albanians being the most warlike subjects of the
Sultan, though Ali is only nominally dependent on
the Pacha; he has been much more worryingly, but
as barbarous as he is successful, rostering rebels,
&c., &c. Bonaparte sent him a snuff-box, with his
picture; he said the snuff-box was very well, but
the picture he could excuse, as he neither liked it
nor thought it original. His ideas of judging of a man's
character, both from hands, &c., were curious enough.
To me, he was, indeed, a father, giving me letters,
guards, and every possible accommodation. Our
next concern was the means of war and travelling, posi-
Riatrics and England. He called my Albanian soldier,
who attends me, and told him to protect me at all
hazard. His name is Viscell, and like all the
Albanians, he is brave, rigidly honest, and faithful;
but they are cruel, though not treacherous; and
have several vices, but no meannesses. They are,
perhaps, the most beautiful race, in point of counte-
nance, in the world; their women are sometimes
handsome as well, but they are treated like slaves.
beaten, and, in short, complete beasts of burden;
they plough, dig, and sow. I found them carrying
wood, and actually repairing the highways. The
men are not paid for this labor, and was a real
sole occupation. The women are the laborers,
which, after all, is no great hardship in so delight-
ful a climate. Yesterday, the 11th of November
I bathed in the sea; to-day it is so hot that I am
writing Antony's epistle, in the small room, with
doors three wide open, no fire, or even fire-place
in the house; except for culinary purposes.

"To-day I saw the remains of the town of Acti-
um, the Antony lost in war, in a small
place, where two frigates could hardly maneuvre:
a broken wall is the sole remnant. On another part
of the gulf stands the ruins of Nicopolis, built by
Augustus in honor of his victory. Last night I was
at a Greek marriage; but this and a thousand things
more I have neither time nor space to describe.

"I am going to-morrow, with a guard of fifty
men, to Patras in the Morea, and thence to Athens,
where I shall probably be in two days. I was nearly
lost in a Turkish ship of war, owing to the igno-
rance of the captain and crew, though the storm
was not violent. Fletcher yelled after his wife, the
Greek town, and all the soldiers of the Mussulman
Ali; the captain burst into tears and ran below
deck, telling us to call on God; the sails were split,
the mainyard shivered, the wind blowing fresh, the
night setting in, and all our chance was to make
Corfu, which is in possession of the French, or, as
Fletcher pathetically termed it, "a watery grave.
I did what I could to console Fletcher, but finding
him incorrigible, wrapped myself up in my Albanian
capote, (an immense cloak,) and lay down on deck
to wait the worst. I have learned to philosophize
in my travels, and if I had not, complaint was use-
less. Luckily the wind abated, and only drove us
on the coast of Suli, on the main land, where
landed, and proceeded, by the help of the natives,
to Prevesa again; but I shall not trust Turkish
sailors in future, though the Pacha had ordered one
to his own gullets to take me to Patras. I am there-
fore going as far as Missolonghi by land, and there
have only to cross a small gulf to get to Patras.

"Fletcher's next epistle will be full of marvels:
we were one night lost for nine hours in the moun-
tains; there is a town at least twenty miles near-
ly wrecked. In both cases, Fletcher was sorely bewildered, from
apprehensions of famine and banditti in the first,
and drowning in the second, instance. His eyes
were filled with lightning, or crying, (I don't know which,) but are now recovered. When
you write, address me at Mr. Stranks, English
consul, Patras, Morea.

"I could tell you I know not how many incidents
that I think would amuse you, but they crowd on
my mind as much as they would swell my paper
and I can neither arrange them in the one, nor put
them down on the other, except in the greatest
interest of the country. I have seen many Turk
Soldiers, and never found soldiers so tolerable, though
I have been in the garrisons of Gibraltar and Malta,
and seen Spanish, French, Sicilian, and British
Turkish troops; but they are all tolerable, and
was always welcome to their provision and milk.
Not a week ago an Albanian chief, (every
village has its chief, who is called Primate,) after
helping us out of the Turkish galley in her distress,
feeding us, and lodging our suite, consisting of
Fletcher, a Greek, two Athenians, a Greek priest,
and my companion, Mr. Hobhouse, refused any
compensation but a written paper stating that
we were received; and when I pressed him to accept
a few sequins, 'No,' he replied; 'I wish you
to love me, not to pay me.' These are his words.

"It is astonishing how far money goes in this
country. They are so poor, and have so many
interests of their own, to pay, by the vizier's order; but since, though I have generally had sixteen horses, and generally
six or seven men, the expense has not been half
as much as staying only three weeks in Malta, though
for the Ball, the governor gave me a horse for
nothing, and I had only one servant. By-the-by, I
expect Hanson to remit regularly; for I am not
about to stay in this province for ever. Let him
enter into Gevo and I may perhaps cross into Patras.
The fact is, the fertility of the plains is wonderful,
and species is scarce, which makes this remarkable
cheapness. I am going to Athens to study modern
Greek, which differs much from the ancient, though
radically similar. I have no desire to return
England, nor shall I, unless compelled by absolute
want, and Hanson's neglect; but I shall not enter
into Asia for a year or two, as I have much to see
in Greece, and I may perhaps cross into Patras.
At least the Egyptian part. Fletcher, like all English-
men, is very much dissatisfied, though a little
reconciled to the Turks by a present of eighty
pounds, and all the wine in the house. He is
with every thing, and the value of specie here, is nearly
ten guineas English. He has suffered nothing but
from cold, heat, and vermin, which those who lie in
cottages and cross mountains in a cold country
must undergo, and of which I have equally partaken
with himself; but he is not valiant, and is afraid of
robbers and tempests. I have no one to be remem-
bered to in England, and wish to hear nothing
from you, that you are well, and a letter or two on
business from Hanson, whom you may tell to write.
I will write when I can, and beg you to believe me,
"Your affectionate son,

"BYRON.

"P. S. I have some very\' magnifique\' Albanian
dresses, the only expensive article in this country.
They cost fifty guineas each, and have so much
gold they would cost in England two hundred
I have been introduced to Lord Boy and Maimout
Pacha, both little boys, grand-children of Ali, at
Yanina. They are totally unlike our lads, have
painted complexions like rouged dowagers, large
black eyes, and features perfectly regular. They
are the most little animals I have ever seen, and are
broken into the court ceremonies already. The
Turkish salute is a slight inclination of the head,
with the hand on the breast. Intimates always
kiss the hand, but strangers never. We are
friends without understanding each other, like many other folks, though from a
different
cause. He has given me a letter to his father in the
Morea, to whom I have also letters from Ali Pacha."

* See Childe Harold, canto ii., stanza xiv.
LETTER LI.

TO MRS. BYRON.

"Smyrna, March 19, 1819.

DEAR MOTHER,

"I cannot write you a long letter, but as I know you will not be sorry to receive any intelligence of my movements, pray accept what I can give. I have traversed the greatest part of Greece, besides Epirus, &c., &c., resided ten weeks at Athens, and am now on the Asiatic side on my way to Constantinople. I have just returned from viewing the ruins of Ephesus, a day's journey from Smyrna. I presume you have received a long letter I wrote from Albania, with an account of my reception by the Pacha of the province.

"When I arrive at Constantinople, I shall determine whether to proceed into Persia or return, which latter I do not wish, if I can avoid it. But I have no intelligence from Mr. Hanson, and but one letter from yourself. I shall stand in need of remittances, whether I proceed or return. I have written to him repeatedly, that he may not plead ignorance of my purpose, or neglect. I can give you no account of any thing, for I have not time or opportunity, the frigate sailing immediately. Indeed, the farther I go the more my laziness increases, and my aversion to letter-writing becomes more confirmed. I have written to no one but yourself and Mr. Hanson, and these are communications of business and duty rather than of inclination.

"Fletcher is very much disgusted with his fatigue, though he has undergone nothing that I have not shared. He is a poor creature; indeed English servants are detestable travellers. I have, besides him, two Albanian soldiers and a Greek interpreter; all excellent in their way. Greece, particularly in the vicinity of Athens, is delightful; cloudless skies and lovely landscapes. But I must reserve all account of my adventures till we meet. I keep no journal, but my friend Hobhouse writes incessantly. Pray take care of Murray and Robert, and tell the boy it is the most fortunate thing for him that he did not accompany me to Turkey. Consider this as merely a notice of my safety, and believe me,

"Yours, &c., &c.,

"BYRON."

LETTER LII.

TO THE HON. MRS. BYRON.

"Smyrna, April 10, 1819.

DEAR MOTHER,

"To-morrow, or this evening, I sail for Constantinople in the bassette frigate of thirty-six guns. She returns to England with our ambassador, whom she is going up on purpose to receive. I have written to you short letters from Athens, Smyrna, and a long one from Albania. I have not yet written for a second large envelope, and you must not be angry, since I take all opportunities of apprising you of my safety; but even that is an effort; writing is so irksome. I have been traversing Greece, and Epirus, Illyria, &c., &c., and you see by my date, have got into Asia. I have made but one excursion lately, to the ruins of Ephesus. Malta is the rendezvous of my letters, so address to that island. Mr. Hanson has not written, though I wished to hear of the Norfolk sale, the Lancashire lawsuit, &c., &c. I am anxiously expecting fresh remittances. I believe you will like Nottinghamshire, at least, my share of it. Pray accept my good wishes in lieu of a long letter, and believe me,

"Yours sincerely and affectionately,

"BYRON."

LETTER LIII.

TO THE HON. MRS. BYRON.

"Saliaca Frigate, off the Dardanelles, April 17, H.M.

DEAR MADAM,

"I write at anchor, (in our way to Constantinople,) off the Troad, which I traversed two days ago. All the remains of Troy are the tombs of her destroyers, among which I see that of Antilochus from my cabin window. These are large mounds of earth, like the barrows of the Danes in your island. There are several monuments, about twelve miles distant, of the Alexandrian Trous, which I also examined; but by no means to be compared with the remains of Athens and Ephesus. This will be sent in a ship of war bound with despatches for Malta. In a few days we shall be at Constantinople, barring accidents. I have also written from Smyrna, and shall, from time to time, transmit short accounts of my movements, but I feel totally unequal to long letters.

"Believe me, yours very sincerely,

"BYRON."

LETTER LIV.

TO THE HON. MRS. BYRON.

"Constantinopole, May 18, 1819.

DEAR MADAM,

"I arrived here in an English frigate from Smyrna, a few days ago, without any events worth mentioning, except landing to view the plains of Troy, and afterwards, when we were at anchor in the Dardanelles, swimming from Sestos to Abydos, in imitation of Monsieur Leander, whose story you do not know too well for me to add any thing on that subject, except that I crossed the Hellespont without so good a motive for the undertaking. As I am just going to visit the Capitan Pacha, you will excuse the brevity of my letter. When Mr. Adair takes leave, I am to see the Sultan and the mosques, &c.,

"Believe me, yours ever,

"BYRON."

LETTER LV.

TO MR. HENRY DRUBY.

"Salute Frigate, May 3, 1819.

MY DEAR DRUBY,

"When I left England, nearly a year ago, I requested me to write to you—I will do so. I have crossed Portugal, traversed the south of Spain, visited Sardinia, Sicily, Malta, and thence passed into Turkey, where I am still wandering. I first landed in Albania, the ancient Epirus, where we penetrated as far as Mount Tomarit—excellently treated by the chief, Ali Pacha; and, after journeying through Illyria, Chalonia, &c., crossed the gulf of Actium, with a guard of fifty Albanians, and passed the Acheleous in our route through Acaarnania and Etolia. We stopped a short time in the Morea, crossed the gulf of Lepanto, and landed at the foot of Parnassus; saw all that Delphi retains, and so on to Thebes and Athens, at which last we remained ten weeks.

"His majesty's ship Pylades brought us to
Smyrna; but not before we had topographeized Attica, including, of course, Marathon and the Sounian promontory. From Smyrna to Athens (which I visited when it anchored, for a fortight, off the tomb of Antilochus) was our next stage; and now we are in the Dardanelles, waiting for a wind to proc- eed to Constantinople—

"This morning I swam from Sestos to Abydos. The immediate distance is not above a mile, but the current renders it hazardous;—so much so that I doubt whether Leander's conjugal affection must not have been little chilled in his passage to Psyche. I attempted it a week ago, and failed,—owing to the curt wind, and the wonderful rapidity of the tide,—though I have been from my childhood a strong swimmer. But, this morning being calmer I succeeded, and crossed the 'broad Hellespont' in an hour and ten minutes.

"Well, my dear sir, I have left my home, and seen part of Africa and Asia, and a tolerable portion of Europe. I have been with generals and admirals, princes and pachas, governors and unguernovars,—but I have not time or paper to expatiate. I wish to let you know that I live with a sense of the importance of my part, and look to you again; and, if I do this as shortly as possible, attribute it to any thing but forgetfulness.

"Greece, ancient and modern, you know too well to require a word. I have been more than any Englishman, (except a Mr. Leake,) for it is a country rarely visited, from the savage character of the natives, though abounding in more natural beauties than the classical regions of Greece,—which, however, are still eminently beautiful, particularly Delphi and Cape Colonna in Attica. Yet these are nothing to parts of Illyria and Epirus, where places without a name, and rivers are appa"'s of their very name, one day, own, and more known, be justly esteemed superior subjects, for the pencil and the pen, to the dry ditch of the Illissus and the bogs of Beotia.

"The Troad is a fine field for conjecture and snipe-shooting, and a good sportsman and an ingenious scholar may exercise their feet and faculties to great advantage upon the spot; or, if they prefer riding, lose their way (as I did) in a cursed quagmire of the Seamannder, who wriggles about as the Dardan virgins still offered their wonted tribute. The only vestige of Troy, or her destroyers, are the burrows supposed to contain the carcasses of Attila, Ajax, and Mount Ida. Troy is still in high feather, though the shepherds are now-a-days not much like Ganymede. But why should I say more of these things? are they not written in the Boke of Gell? and has not H. got a journal. I keep none, as I have renounced scribbling.

"I see not much difference between ourselves and the Turks, save that we have *, and they have none—that they have long dresses, and we short, and that we talk much and—they little.

"They are sensible people. Ali Pacha told me he was sure I was a man of rank because I had small ears and bristles and curving hair. By-the-bye, I speak the Romaie, or modern Greek, tolerably. It does not differ from the ancient dialects so much as you would conceive; but the pronunciation is diametrically opposite. Of verse, except in rhyme, they have no idea.

"I like the Greeks, who are plausible rascals, with all the Turkish vices, without their courage. However, some are brave, and all are beautiful, very much so, especially the best of their ancients—the women not quite so handsome. I am in swear in Tur- kish; but, except one horrible oath, and 'pimp,' and 'bread,' and 'water,' I have got no great vocabu- lary. They are extremely polite to strangers of any rank, properly protected; and of I have two servants and two soldiers, we get on with great eclat. We have been occasionally in danger of thieves, and once of ship-wrecks,—but after all our troubles, we leave for Crete.

"At Malta I fell in love with a married woman, * and challenged an aid-de-camp of General * * (a rude fellow, who grinned at something,—I never rightly knew what,) but he explained and apolog- ized, and the lady embarked for Ciziz, and so I escaped murder and crim. con. Of Spain I sent some account to our Hodgson, but have subsequently written to no one, save notes to relations and lawyers, to keep them out of my promises. I mean to give up all connexion, on my return, with many of my best friends—as I supposed them—and to snarl all my life. But I hope to have one good- natured laugh with you, and to embrace Dwyer, and pledge Hodgson, before I commence cynicism.

"Tell Doctor Butler I am now writing with the gold pen he gave me before I left England, which is the reason my scratch is more unintelligible than usual. I have been at Athens and seen plenty of these reeds for scribbling, some of which he refused to bestow upon me, because topographeic Gell had brought them from Attica. But I will not describe, whether he me—no—how I got this style, with simple detail til my return; and then we will unfold the floodgates of colloquy. I am in a thirty-six gun frigate, going up to fetch Bob Adair from Constantinople, who will then return well have returned."

"And so H. is at it,* with some sentiment, tal sing-song of my own to fill up,—and how does it take, eh? and where the devil is the second edition of my Satire, with additions? and my name on the title-page? and more lines tagged to the end with a new exordium and what not, hot from my anvil before I cleared the Channel? The Mediterranean and the Atlantic roll between me and criticism; and the thunders of the Hyperborean Review are deafened by the roar of the Hellespont.

"Remember me to Claridge, if not translated to college, and present to Hodgson assurances of my high consideration. Now, you will ask, what shall I do next? and I answer, no I do not know. I may return in a few months, but I have intents and projects after visiting Constantinople. Bob house, however, will probably be back in September.

"On the 2d of July we have left Alibion one year of obliterous obviscidus et illia.' I was sick of my own country, and not much prepossessed in favor of any other; but I 'drag on' my chain without lengthening it at each remove.—'I love the Jolly Madcap with snuff for nobody and not cared for. All countries are much the same in my eyes. I smoke, and stare at mountains, and twirl my mus- taches very independently. I miss no comforts, and the meed of those that wrenched the murdor frame of H. have, luckily for me, little effect on mine, because I live more temperately.

"I omitted Ephesus in my catalogue which I visited during my sojourn at Smyrna; but the Temple has almost perished, and St. Paul need not trouble himself to epitomize the present brood of Ephesians, who have converted a large church built entirely of marble into a mosque, and I don't know that the edifice looks the worse for it.

"My paper is full, and my ink ebbing—good af- ternoon! If you address to me at Malta, the let ct will be forwarded wherever I may be. Hobhouse greets you; he praises for his poetry, but boasts some tidings of it. I almost forgot to tell you that I am dying for love of three Greek girls at Athens, sisters. I lived in the same house. Teresa, Maria- na, and Katinka, are the names of these divinities, all of them under 15.

"Your amiable and kind, "BYRON."
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LETTER LV.

TO MR. HODGSON.

"Salerno Fregoso, in the Dominels, off Abydos, May 5, 1810.

"I am on my way to Constantinople, after a tour through Greece, Epirus, &c., and part of Asia Minor, some particulars of which I have just communicated to our friend and host, H. Drury. With these, then, I shall not trouble you; but, as you will perhaps be pleased to hear that I am well, &c., I take the opportunity of our ambassador's return to forward the few lines I have time to despatch. We have undergone some inconveniences and incurred partial perils, but no events worthy of communication, unless you will deem it one that two days ago I swam from Sestos to Abydos. This, with a few alarms from robbers, and some danger of shipwreck in a Turkish galloit six months ago, a visit to a Pacha, a passion, for a married woman at Malta, a challenge to an officer, an attachment to three Greek girls at Athens, with a great deal of buffomery and fine prospects,—form all that has distinguished my progress since my departure from Spain.

"Hobhouse's rhymes and journals; I stare and do nothing; this smoking can be deemed an active amusement. The Turks take too much care of their women to permit them to be scrutinized; but I have lived a good deal with the Greeks, whose modern dialect I can converse in enough for my purposes. With the Turks I have also some male acquaintances—female society is out of the question. I have been very well treated by the Pachas and Governors, and have no complaint to make of any kind. Hobhouse will one day inform you of all our adventures,—were I to attempt the recital, neither my paper nor your patience would hold out during the operation.

"Nobody save yourself, has written to me since I left England; but indeed I did not request it. I except your relations, who write quite as often as I wish. Of Hobhouse's volume I know nothing, except that it is out; and of my second edition I do not even know that, and certainly do not, at this distance, interest myself in the matter. * * * I hope you and Bland roll down the stream of sale with rapidity.

"Of my return I cannot positively speak, but think it probable Hobhouse will precede me in that respect. We have been very nearly one year abroad. I should wish to gaze away another, at least, in these ever-green climates; but I fear business—law business—the worst of employments, will recall me previous to that period, if not very quickly. If so, you shall have due notice.

"I hope you will find me an altered personage,—I do not mean in body, but in manner, for I begin to find out that nothing but virtue will do in this dead world. I am tolerably sick of vice, which I have tried in its agreeable varieties, and mean, on my return, to cut all my dissolute acquaintance, leave off wine and women, and take myself to politics and decoeur. I am very serious and cynical, and a good deal disposed to moralize; but, fortunately for you, the coming homily is cut off by default of pen and defalcation of paper.

"Good morrow! If you write, address me at Malte, whence your letters will be forwarded. You need not remember me to any body, but believe me yours with all faith. "Byron.""

LETTER LVII.

TO THE HONORABLE MRS. BYRON.

"Constantinople, May 24, 1810.

"Dear Mother,

"I wrote to you, very shortly, the other day on my arrival here, and as another opportunity allows, take up my pen again, that the frequency of my letters may atone for their brevity. Pray did you ever receive a picture of me in old Mr. Sanderson's, in Tiji-lama, London? (a noted limner;) if not, write for it immediately; it was paid for, except the frame, I frame there be,) before I left England. I believe I mentioned to you in my last, that my only notable exploit, lately, has been swimming from Sestos to Abydos on the third of this month, in humble imitation of Leander, of amorous memory, though I had no Hero to receive me on the other shore of the Hellespont. Of Constantinople you have, of course, read fifty descriptions by sundry travellers, which are in general so correct, that I have nothing to add on the subject.

"When our ambassador takes his leave, I shall accompany him to see the sultan, and afterward probably return to Greece. I have heard nothing of Mr. Hanson, but one remittance, without any letter from that gentleman. If you have any occasion for any pecuniary supply, may use my funds as far as they go without reserve; and, lest this should not be enough, in my next to Mr. Hanson I will direct him to advance any sum you may want, leaving it to your discretion how much, in the present state of my affairs, you may think proper to require. I have already seen the most interesting parts of Turkey in Europe and Asia Minor, but shall not proceed farther till I hear from England: in the mean time I shall expect occasional supplies, according to circumstances, and shall pass my summer among my friends, the Greeks of the Morea.

"You will direct to Malte, where my letters are forwarded, and believe me to be, with great sincerity, yours ever,

"P. S. Fletcher is well; pray take care of my boy Robert, and the old man Murray. It is fortunate they returned; neither the youth of the one, nor the age of the other, would have suited the changes of climate and fatigues of travelling.
"I have now sat on the Cyaneans, swam from Nott's to Abydos, (as I trumpeted in my last,) and, after passing through the Mora again, shall set sail for Santa Maura, and toss myself from the Lemanic promontory,—surviving which operation, I shall probably, I think, enter the Solent, and be in England. He who will deliver this, is bound, straight for these parts; and as he is bursting with his travels, I shall not anticipate his narratives, but merely beg you not to make mine, but reserve everything for me, if you have any desire to be acquainted with the truth.

"I am bound for Athens once more, and thence to the Mora; but my stay depends so much on my caprice, that I can say nothing of its probable duration. I have been out a year already, and may stay another; but I am quicksilver, and say nothing positively. We are all very much occupied doing nothing, at present. We have seen every thing but the mosques, which we are to view with a firman on Tuesday next. But of these and other matters let H. relate, with this proviso, that I am to be referred to for authenticity; and I beg leave to add, that I have taken all the gravity of Lejay's particular stress. But, if he snores, at any time, into wit, I give you leave to applaud, because that is necessarily stolen from his fellow pilgrim. Tell Davies that H. has made excellent use of you in anecdotes, and jokes in many of his majesty's ships of war; but add, also, that I always took care to restore them to the right owner; in consequence of which he, (Davies,) is not less famous by water than by land, and reigns unrivalled in the cabin, as in the 'Cocoon Tree.'

"And Hudson has been publishing more poesy; I wish he would send me his 'Sir Edgar,' and Bland's Anthology' to Malta, where they will be forwarded. In my last, which I hope you received, I gave an outline of the ground we have covered, if you have not been overtaken by this despatch. It's tongue is at your service. Remember me to Dwyer, who owes me a guinea. Tell him to put them in my banker's hands at Gibraltar or Constantinople. I believe he paid them once, but that goes for nothing, as it was an annuity.

"I wish you would write. I have heard from Hudson frequently. Malta is my post-office. I mean to be with you by next Montem. You remember the last,—I hope for such another; but, after having seen you, I do not think my health good enough. I am Djasmin Datchet. Good afternoon.

"I am yours, very sincerely,

"BYRON."

LETTER LX.

TO THE HON. MRS. BYRON.

"Constantinople, June 28, 1819.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

"I regret to perceive, by your last letter, that several of mine have not arrived, particularly a very long one, written in November last, from Albania, when I was on a visit to the Pacha, who was so taken with me that he allowed me to write to my own return. He will probably be down to Notti's, some time or other; but Fletcher, whom I send back as an incumbrance, (English servants are long travelers,) will supply my place in the interim, and describe our travels, which have been tolerably extensive. I have written twice briefly from this capital, from Smyrna, from Athens, and other parts. From all this, the Pacha of which province desired his respects to my mother, and said he was sure I was a man of high birth, because I had small ears, curling hair, and white hands!! He was very kind to me, begged me to consider him as a father, and gave me a guard of forty soldiers through the forests of Acarnania. But of these I have no more to tell; they have been at large, and yet hope you will receive my letters.

"I remember Mahomut Pacha, the grandson of Ali Pacha, at Yanina, (a little fellow, ten years of age,) and very much the curiosity of the town; he would purchase at any price, and those regular features which distinguish the Turks,) asked me how I came to travel so young, without any body to take care of me. This question was put by the little Prince, and I, having answered within a very short time, cannot now write copiously; I have only time to tell you that I have passed many a fatiguing, but never a tedious moment; and that all I am afraid of is, that I shall contract a Gibson-like wandering disposition, which will make home tiresome to me: this, I am told, is very common with men in the habit of peregrination, and, indeed, I feel it so. On the 4th of May, I swam from Nott's to Abydos. You know to which those words, but I had no hero to receive me at landing.

"I also passed a fortnight in the Troad: the tombs of Achilles and Ulysses still exist in large mounds; and when you view them, you must think that you are in the North. The other day I was at Belgrade, (a village in these environs,) to see the house built on the same site as Lady Mary Wortley's; by—the-by, her Ladyship, as far as I can judge, has lied, but not half so much as any other woman would have done in the same situation. I have been in all the principal mosques by the virtue of a firman; this is a favor rarely permitted to infidels, but the ambassador's departure obtained it for me. I have been up the Bosphorus into the Black Sea, round the walls of the city, and indeed I know more of it by sight, than I do of London.

"I hope to amuse you some winter's evening with the details, but at present you must excuse me; I am not able to write long letters in June. I return to spend my summer in Greece. I shall not proceed further into Asia, as I have visited Smyrna, Ephesus, and the Troad. I write often, but you must not be alarmed when you do not receive my letters; consider we have no regular post further than Malta, where I beg you will in future send your letters by the last on this side Hellas, and not to this side. I shall be poor creature, and requires comforts that I can dispense with. He is very sick of his travels, but you must not believe his account of the country; he sighs for ale, and idleness, and a wife, and the devil knows what besides. All have not been disappointed or disgusted. I have lived with the highest and the lowest. I have been for days in a Pacha's palace, and have passed many a night in a cow-house, and I find the people impolite and kind. I have also passed some time with the principal Greeks in the Morea and Lacedavis, and, though inferior to the Turks, they are better than the Spaniards, who, in their turn, excel the Portuguese. Of Constantinople you will find many descriptions in different travels; but Lady Wortley errs strangely when she says, 'St. Paul's would cut a strange figure by St. Sophia's.' I have been in both, surveyed them inside and outside. St. Sophia is undoubtedly the most interesting from its immense antiquity, and the circumstantiality of all the Greek emperors, from Justinian, having been crowned there, and nothing uncertain to this day. Besides the Turkish sultans, who attend it regularly. But it is inferior in beauty and size to some of the mosques, particularly 'Soeleman,' &c., and not the tower of the Belvedere. On the other hand, (I speak like a Cockney.) However, I prefer the Gothic cathedral of Seville to St. Paul's, St. Sophia's, and any religious building I have ever seen.

"The walls of the Seraglio are like the walls o
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Newstead gardens, only higher, and much in the same order; but the ride by the walls of the city, and the view of nature or art which yielded an impression like the prospect on each side from the Seven Towers to the end of the Golden Horn.

"Now for England. I am glad to hear of the progress of 'English Bards,' &c.,--of course, you observed I have made great additions to the new edition. Have you received my picture from Sande's, Vigo lane, London? It was finished and paid for long before I left England: pray, send for it. You seem to be a mighty reader of magazines: where do you pick up all this intelligence, quotations, &c., &c.? Though I was happy to obtain my seat without the assistance of Lord Carlisle, I had too many years to keep with a man who declined interfering as my relation on that occasion, and I have done with him, though I regret distressing Mrs. Leigh, poor thing! I hope she is happy.

It is my opinion that Mr. B. * * * ought to marry Miss Olivier, but, alas! it is impossible: our next is to repair it, if in our power. The girl is his equal: if she were his inferior, a sum of money and provision for the child would be some, though a poor compensation; as it is, he should marry her. I will have no gay deceivers on my estate, and I shall not allow my tenants a privilege I do not permit myself, that of debauching each other's daughters. God knows I have been guilty of many excesses; but, as I have laid down a resolution to reform, and lately kept it, I expect this Lothario to follow the example, and begin by restoring this girl to society, or, by the word of my father, he shall hear of it. Pray take some notice of Robert, who will miss his master; poor boy, he was very unwilling to return. I trust you are well and happy. It will be a pleasure to hear from you.

"Believe me, yours very sincerely,
"BYRON.

"P. S. How is Joe Murray?"

"P. S. I opened my letter again, to tell you that Fletcher has mentioned to another gentleman he has come into the Morea, I have taken him with me, contrary to the intention expressed in my letter."

LETTER LX.

TO MRS. BYRON.

"Athens, July 25, 1810.

"Dear Mother,

"I have arrived here in four days from Constantinople, which is considered as singularly quiet, particularly for the season of the year. You know I entered the Grecian summer; which, however, is a perfect frost compared with Malta and Gibraltar, where I reposed myself in the shade last year, after a gentle gallop of four hundred miles, without interference, through Portugal, Spain, Sardinia, Greece, and Albania. I am at Athens again, a place which I think I prefer, upon the whole, to any I have seen.  

"My next movement is to-morrow into the Morea, where I shall probably remain in month of two, and then return to winter here, if I do not advance my plans which, however, are very variable, as you may suppose; but none of them verge to England."

"The Marquis of Sligo, my old fellow-colleague, is here, and wishes to accompany me into the Morea. We shall go together for that purpose. Lord S. will afterward pursue his way to the capital; and Lord D., having the west part of the Morea, considering that, will let you know what he does next, o which at present he is not quite certain. Malta is my perpetual post-office, from which my letters are forwarded to all parts of the habitable globe--by the by, I have now been in Asia, Africa, and the east of Europe, and, indeed, made the most of my time without hurrying over the most interesting scenes of the ancient world. Fletcher, after having been toasted, and roasted, and baked, and grilled, and eaten by all sorts of creeping things, begins to philosophize, is grown a refined as well as resigned character, and promises at his return to become an ornament to his own parish, and a very prominent person in the future family pedigree of the Fletcher's, whom I take to be Goths by their accomplishments, Greeks by their acuteness, and ancient Saxons by their appetite. He (Fletcher) begs leave to send his kindest thoughts, and wishes (though I do not) that his ill-written and worse-spelled letters have never come to hand; as for that matter, there is no great loss in either of our letters, saving and except that I wish you to know we are well, and warm enough at the present writing. God knows. You must not expect long letters at present, for they are written with the sweat of my brow, I assure you. It is rather singular that Mr. H. has not written a syllable since my departure. Your letters I have mostly received, as well as others; from which I conjecture that the man of law is either angry or busy. I trust you like Newstead, and agree with your neighbors; but, you know, sixteen months: why do you not get it? My suite, consisting of two Turks, two Greeks, a Lutheran, and the nondescript Fletcher, are making so much noise that I am glad to sign myself. Yours, &c., &c., &c."

LETTER LXI.

TO MRS. BYRON.

"Paris, July 3, 1810.

"Dear Madam,

"In four days from Constantinople, with a favorable wind, I arrived in the fringe of the island of Ceos, from whence I took a boat to Athens, where I met my friend the Marquis of Sligo, who, ex pressed a wish to proceed with me as far as Corinth. At Corinth we took the steamer for Tripoli, at Patras, where I had some business with the consul, Mr. Strange, in whose house I now write. He has rendered me every service in his power since I quitted Malta on my way to Constantinople, whence I have written you before. In a few days I visit the Pacha at Tripoli, make the tour of the Morea, and return again to Athens, which at present is my head-quarters. The heat is at present intense. In England if it reaches 90°, you are all on fire; the other day, in travelling between Athens and Megara, the thermometer was at
Yet I feel no inconvenience; of course I am much bronzed, but I live temperately, and never enjoyed better health.

"Before I left Constantinople, I saw the Sultan, (with Mr. Adair,) and the interior of the mosques, things which are impossible to translate. Mr. Hobhouse is gone to England: I am in no hurry to return, but have no particular communications for your country, except my surprise at Mr. Hanson's silence, and my desire that he will remit regularly. I suppose this arrangement has been made with regard to Wymondham and Rochdale. Malta is my post-office, or to Mr. Strane, consul-general, Patras, Morea. You complain of my silence—I have written twenty or thirty times within the last year, never less than twice a month, and often more. If my letters do not arrive, you must not conclude that we are eaten, or that there is a war, or a pestilence, or famine: neither must you credit silly reports, which I dare say you have in Notta, as usual. I am very well, and neither more nor less happy than I usually am; except that I am very glad to be once more alone, for I was sick of my companion,—not that he was a bad one, but because my nature leads me to solitude, and that every day adds to this disposition. If I chose, here are many men who would wish to join me—one wants me to go to Egypt, another to Asia, of which I have seen enough. The greater part of Greece is already my own, so that I shall only go over my old ground, and look upon my old seas and mountains, the only acquaintances I ever found improve me.

"I have a tolerable suite—a Tartar, two Albanians, an interpreter, besides Fletcher; but in this country these are easily maintained. Adair received me wonderfully well, and indeed I have no complaints against any one. Hospitality here is necessary, for inns are not. I have lived in the houses of Greeks, Turks, Italians and English—to day in a palace, to-morrow in a cow-house; this day with the Pacha, the next with a shepherd. I shall continue to write briefly, but frequently, and am glad to hear from you; but you fill your letters with things from the papers, as if English papers were not found all over the world. I have at this moment a dozen before me. Pray take care of my books, and believe me,

"My dear Madam, yours very faithfully,

"BYRON."
zone forth into that world, and walk about there in monstrous disguises, in the garb of guardsmen, lawyers, parsons, fine gentlemen, and such other masquerade dresses. So, I here shake hands and cut with all these busy people, none of whom write to me. Indeed, I asked it not; and here I am, a poor traveller and heathenish philosopher, who hath perambulated the greatest part of the Levant, and seen a great quantity of very improbable land and sea, and, after all, am no better than when I set out—Lord help me!

"I have been out fifteen months this very day, and I believe my concerns will draw me to England soon; but of this I will apprise you regularly from Malta.

On all points, Hobhouse will inform you, if you appear anxious as to our adventuring. I have seen old English papers up to the 15th of May. I see the Lady of the Lake advertised. Of course it is his old ballad style, and pretty. After all, Scott is the best of them. The end of all scribble is to amuse, and he certainly succeeds there. I long to read his new romance.

"And how does 'Sir Edgar?' and your friend, Bluid? I suppose you are involved in some literature, if this is my way to despatch a brother of the quill. I suppose you won't allow me to be an author, but I content you all, you dogs!—I do.

"You don't know D——, do you? He had a farce ready for the stage before I left England, and asked me for a prologue, which I promised, but sailed in such a hurry, I never penned a couplet. I am afraid to ask after his drama, for fear it should be damned—Lord forgive me for using such a word—but the pit, sir, you know, the pit—they will do those things in spite of merit. I remember this farce from a curious circumstance. When Drurylanke's mistress—the ogre, my lady Sheridan and his son lost the few remaining shillings they were worth, what doth my friend D—— do? Why, before the fire was out, he writes a note to Tom Sheridan, the manager of this combustible concern, to inquire whether this farce was not converted into fuel, with about two thousand other unactable manuscripts, which of course were in great peril, if not actually consumed. Now, was not this a chance opportunity for using such a word as nothing to it. While the poor distracted manager was bewailing the loss of a building only worth £3,000,000, together with two hundred thousand pounds of rags and ties—er in the tiring rooms, Blue-beard's tresses, and all that—in comes a note from a searching author, requiring at his hands two acts and odd scenes of a farce!

Dear H., remind Drury that I am his well-wisher, and let Scrope Davies be well attired towards me. I look forward to meeting you at Newstead, and renewing our old champagne evenings with all the glee of anticipation. I have written by every opportunity, and expect responses as regular as those of the liturgy, and somewhat longer. As it is impossible for a man in his senses to hope for happy days, let us at least look forward to merry ones, which come nearest to the other in appearance, if not in reality; and in such expectations I remain, &c."

LETTER LXIV.

TO MISS BYRON.

Athens, January 14, 1811.

"MY DEAR MADAM,

"I seize an occasion to write as usual, shortly, but frequently, as the arrival of letters, where there exists no regular communication, is, of course, very precarious. I have lately made several at all tours of some hundred or two miles about the Morea, Atrebata, &c., as I have finished my circuit to Troad, Constantinople, &c., and am returned down again to Athens. I believe I have mentioned to you more than once, that I swam (in imitation of Leandri) though without his laudable example, from Sestos to Abydos. Of this, and all other particulars, F., with whom I have sent home with papers, &c., will apprise you. I cannot find that he is any loss, being tolerably master of the Italian and modern Greek languages, which I am studying with a master,—I can order and discourse more than enough for a reasonable man. Besides the perpetual lamentations after beef and beer, the stupid, bigoted contempt for every thing foreign, and insurmountable incapacity of securing even a few words of any language, rendered him, like all other English servants, an incumbrance. I do assure you, the plague of speaking for him, the comforts he required, (more than myself by far,) the pilârs, (a Turkish dish of rice and meat,) which he could not eat, the wines which he could not drink, the beds where he could not sleep, and the long lists of calamities, such as no Englishman, not even an American, &c., which assailed him, would have made a lasting source of laughter to a spectator, and inconvenience to a master. After all, the man is honest enough, and, in Christendom, capable enough; but in the world of letter for letter, and Bavarian soldiers, my Tartars and Janizary, worked for him and us too, as my friend Hobhouse can testify.

"It is probable I may steer homewards in spring; but to enable me to do that, I must have remittances. My own funds would have lasted me very well; but I was obliged to assist a friend, who, I know, will pay me; but in the mean time, I am out of pocket. At present, I have no sources except a winter's voyage, even if I were otherwise tired of travelling; but I am so convinced of the advantages of looking at mankind instead of reading about them, and the bitter effects of staying at home with all the narrow prejudices of an islander, that I think there should be a law among us to set our young men abroad, for a term, among the few allies our wars have left us.

"Here I see and have conversed with French, Italians, Germans, Danes, Greeks, Turks, Americans, &c., &c., &c.: and, without losing sight of my own, I can judge of the countries and manners of others. Where the author sees the shipwreck of the Janizaries (which, by-the-by, we are a good deal mistaken about in many things,) I am pleased, and where I find her inferior, I am at least enlightened. Now, I might have stayed, smoked in your towns, or fogged in your country, a century, without being sure of this, and without acquiring anything more useful or amusing at home. I keep no journal, nor have I any intention of scribbling my travels. I have done with authorship; and if, in my last production, I have convinced the critics of the world I was something more than they took me for, I am satisfied; nor will I hazard that reputation by a future effort. It is true I have some others in my head, but not in script, but I leave them for those who come after me; and, if deemed worth publishing, they may serve to prolong my memory when I myself shall cease to remember. I have a famous Bavarian artist taking some views of Athens, &c., &c., for me. This will be better than scribbling, a disease I hope myself cured of. I hope, on my return, to lead a quiet, recluse life, but God knows and does best for us all; at least, so they say, and I have nothing to object, as on the whole, I have no reason to complain of my lot. I am convinced, however, that men do more harm to themselves than ever the devil could do them. I trust this will find you well, and as happy as we can be; yes well, at least, be pleased to hear I am so. and yours ever."
LETTER LXV.
TO MRS. BYRON.

"Ithaca, Feb. 28, 1811.

DEAR MADAM,

"As I have received a firman for Egypt, &c., I shall proceed to that quarter in the spring, and I beg you will state to Mr. Hanson that it is necessary to further remittances. On the subject of Newstead I answer, as before, no. If it is necessary to sell, sell Rochdale. Fletcher will have arrived by this time with my letters to that purpose. I will tell you fairly, I have in the first place, no opinion of funded property; if, by any particular circumstances, I shall be led to adopt such a determination, I will at all events, pass my life abroad, as my only tie to England is Newstead, and, that once gone, neither interest nor inclination lead me northward. Competence in your country is ample wealth in the East, such is the difference in the value of money and the abundance of the necessaries of life; and I feel myself so much a citizen of the world, that the spot where I can enjoy a delicious climate, and every luxury, at a less expense than a common college life in England, will always be a country to me; and such are in fact the shores of the Archipelago. This then is the alternative; if I preserve Newstead, I return; if I sell it, I stay away. I have views and intentions since yours of June, but I have written several times, and shall continue, as usual, on the same plan. "Believe me, yours ever, "BYRON."

"P. S. I shall most likely see you in the course of the summer, but, of course, at such a distance, I cannot specify any particular month."

LETTER LXVI.
TO MRS. BYRON.

"Vigo, frigate, at sea, June 25, 1811.

DEAR MOTHER,

"This letter, which will be forwarded on our arrival at Portsmouth, probably about the fourth of July, is begun about twenty-three days after our departure from Malta. I have been two years and a half at sea, and I return to it with much the same feelings which prevailed on my departure, viz., indifference; but within that apathy I certainly do not comprise yourself, as I will prove by every means in my power. You will be good enough to get my apartments ready at Newstead, but don't disturb yourself on any account, particularly mine, nor consider me in any other light than as a visitor. I must only inform you that for a long time I have been restricted to an entire vegetable diet, neither fish nor flesh coming within my regimen; so I expect a powerful stock of potatoes, greens, and biscuit: I drink no wine. I have two servants, middle-aged men, and both Greeks. It is my intention to proceed first to town, to see Mr. Hanson, and thence to Newstead, on my way to Rochdale. I have only to beg you will not forget my diet, which it is very necessary for me to observe. I am well in health, as I have generally been, with the exception of two agues, both of which I quickly got over.

"My plan will so much depend on circumstances, that I shall not venture to lay down an opinion on the subject. My prospects are not very promising, but I suppose we shall wrestle through life like our neighbours; indeed, by H.'s last advices, I have some apprehensions of finding Newstead dismantled by Messrs. Brothers, &c., and it seems determined to force me into selling it, but he will be baffled. I don't suppose I shall be much pestered with visitors; but if I am, you must receive them, for I am determined to have my peace, if possible. I trust to find my library in tolerable order.

"Fletcher is no doubt arrived. I shall separate the mill from Mr. B.'s farm, for his son is too gay a deceiver to inherit both, and place Fletcher in it, who has served me faithfully, and whose wife is a good woman; besides, it is necessary to sober young Mr. B., or he will peeple the parish with bustards. In a word, if he had seduced a dairymaid, he might have found something like an apology; but the girl is his equal, and in high life or low life reparation is made in such circumstances, But I shall not interfeare further than (like Bonaparte) dismembering Mr. B.'s kingdom, and erecting part of it into a principality for field-marshall Fletcher! I hope you govern my little empire and its sad load of national debt with a wary hand. To drop my metaphor, I beg leave to subscribe myself, yours, &c."

"P. S. This letter was written to be sent from Portsmouth, but, on arriving there, the squadron was ordered to the Sore, from whence I shall forward it. This I have not doubt you will be alarmed by the interval mentioned in the letter being longer than expected between our arrival in port and my appearance at Newstead."

LETTER LXVII.
TO MR. HODGSON.

"Vigo, frigate, at sea, June 25, 1811.

"In a week, with a fair wind, we shall be at Portsmouth, and on the 2d of July, I shall have completed (to-day) two years of peregrination, from which I am returning with as little emotion as I set out. I think upon the whole, I was more grieved at leaving Greece than England, which I am impatient to see, simply because I am tired of a long voyage."

"Indeed, my prospects are not very pleasant. Embarrassed in my private affairs, indifferent to public, solitary without the wish to be social, with a body a little encumbered by a succession of fevers, but a spirit, I trust, yet unbroken, I am returning home without a hope, and almost without a desire. The first thing I shall have to encounter will be a lawyer, the next a creditor, then billiers, farmers, surveyors, and all the agreeable attachments to estates out of repair and contested coal-pits. In short, I am sick and sorry, and when I have not repaired my irrepairable affairs, away I shall march, either to campaign in Spain, or back again to the East, where I can at least have cloudless skies and a cessation from impertinence."

"I trust to meet, or see you, in town or at Newstead, whenever you can make it convenient. I suppose you are in love and in poetry, as usual. That husband, H. Drury, has never written to me, and I have a little repaired my irrepairable affairs, away I shall march, either to campaign in Spain, or back again to the East, where I can at least have cloudless skies and a cessation from impertinence."

"I trust to meet, or see you, in town or at Newstead, whenever you can make it convenient. I suppose you are in love and in poetry, as usual. That husband, H. Drury, has never written to me, and I have a little repaired my irrepairable affairs, away I shall march, either to campaign in Spain, or back again to the East, where I can at least have cloudless skies and a cessation from impertinence."

"I trust to meet, or see you, in town or at Newstead, whenever you can make it convenient. I suppose you are in love and in poetry, as usual. That husband, H. Drury, has never written to me, and I have a little repaired my irrepairable affairs, away I shall march, either to campaign in Spain, or back again to the East, where I can at least have cloudless skies and a cessation from impertinence."

"If you see him, tell him I have a letter from Tucker, a regimental chirurgeon and friend of his who prescribed for me. ** and is a very
poor fellow among you: had it not been for his patrons, he might now have been in very good plight, shoe (not verse) making; but you have made him immortal with a vengeance. I write this supposing poetry, patronage, and strong waters to have been the death of him. If you are in town or about the beginning of July, you will find me at Donarton's in Albemarle-street, glad to see you.

I have an Imitation of Horace's Art of Poetry ready for Cawthorn, but don't let that deter you, for I shan't inflict it upon you. You know I never read my rhymes to visitors. I shall quit town in a few days for Notts, and thence to Rochdale. I shall send this the moment we arrive in harbor, that is a week hence.

"Yours ever sincerely,"  
"BYRON"  

LETTER LXIX.

MR. HENRY DRURY.

"Volage frigate, of Cadiz, July 17, 1811."

"My Dear Drury,"

"After two years' absence (on the second) and some odd days, I am approaching your country. The day of our arrival you will see by the outside date of my letter. At present, we are becalmed comfortably, close to Brent Harbor; I have never been as near it since I left Duck Puddle. • • • We left Malta thirty-four days ago, and have had a tedious passage of it. You will either see or hear from or of me, soon after the receipt of this, as I pass through town to repair my irreparable affairs; and hence I want to go to Notts, and raise rents, and to Lancs, and sell collierries, and back to London and pay debts; for it seems I shall neither have coal or comfort till I go down to Rochdale in person.

"I have brought home some marbles for Hobhouse; for myself, four ancient Athenian skulls, • • • • • a piece of sarcophagi: a phial of attic hemlock: • • • four live tortoises, greyhounds, (died on the passage:) two live Greek servants, one an Athenian, t' other a Yaniote, who can speak nothing but Romance, and Italian; and myself, as Moses in the Vicar of Wakefield says, slily, and I may say it too, for he has as little sense as I, to boast of my expedition as he had of his to the fair."

"I wrote to you from the Cyanean Rocks, to tell you I had swum from Sestos to Abydos; have not received my letter? • • • • • Hodgson, I suppose is four deep by this time. What would he have given to have seen, like me, the real Pharsalos, where I robbed the Bishop of Crissa of a book of geography; but this I only call plagiarism, as it was done within an hour's ride of Delphi."

LETTER LXX.

TO THE HON. MRS. BYRON.

"Sandhill's Hotel, July 22, 1811.

"St. James's street, London."

"My Dear Madam,"

"I am only detained by Mr. Hanson, to sign some copyhold papers, and will give you timely notice of my approach. It is with great reluctance I remain in town. I shall pay a short visit as we gi

* Given afterward to Sir Walter Scott.  
† In the possession of Mr. Morra.
BYRON'S WORKS.

LETTER LXIII.

TO — BOLTON, Esq.

"Newstead Abbey, August 12, 1811.

"Sir,

"I enclose a rough draft of my intended will, which I beg to have drawn up as soon as possible in the firmest manner. The alterations are principally made in consequence of the death of Mrs. Byron. I have only to request that it may be got ready in a short time, and have the honor to be,

"Your most obedient humble servant.

"BYRON."

LETTER LXXI.

TO DR. PIGOT.

"Newport Pagnell, August 2, 1811.

"My Dear Doctor,

"My poor mother died yesterday! and I am on my way from town to attend her to the family vault. I heard one day of her illness, the next of her death. — Thank God her last moments were most tranquil. I am told she was in little pain, and not aware of her situation. — I now feel the truth of Mr. Gray's observation, "That we can only have one mother." Peace be with her! I have to thank you for your kindness, and shall be happy to extend your benefit to Liverpool and Chester, at least, I shall endeavor.

"If it will be any satisfaction, I have to inform you that in November last the editor of the Scone will be tried for two different libels on the late Mrs. B. and myself, (the decease of Mrs. B. makes no difference in the proceedings,) and as he is guilty, by his very foolish and unfounded assertion, of a breach of privilege, he will be prosecuted with the utmost rigor.

"I inform you of this, as you seem interested in the affair, which is now in the hands of the attorney-general.

"I shall remain at Newstead the greater part of this month, where I shall be happy to hear from you, after your two years' absence in the East.

"I am, dear Pigot, yours very truly,

"BYRON."

LETTER LXXI.

TO MR. SCROPE DAVIES.

"Newstead Abbey, August 7, 1811.

"My Dear Davies,

"I am almost desolate—left almost alone in the world— I had but you, and H., and M., and let me enjoy the survivors while I can. Poor M., in his letter at Friday, speaks of his intended contest for Cambridge, and a speedy journey to London. Write or come, but come if you can, or one or both.

"Yours ever.

"SIR,

"I enclose a rough draft of my intended will, which I beg to have drawn up as soon as possible in the firmest manner. The alterations are principally made in consequence of the death of Mrs. Byron. I have only to request that it may be got ready in a short time, and have the honor to be,

"Your most obedient humble servant.

"BYRON."

"Newstead Abbey, August 12, 1811.

"Directions for the contents of a will to be drawn up immediately.

"The estate of Newstead to be entailed (subject to certain deductions) on George Anson Byron, heir at law, or whoever may be the heir at law on the death of Lord B. The Rochdale property to be sold in part or whole, according to the debts and legacies of the present Lord B.

"To Nicho. Giraud, Athens, subject of France, but born in Greece, the sum of seven thousand pounds sterling, to be paid from such parts of Rochdale, Newstead, or elsewhere, as may enable the said Nicho. Giraud, (resident at Athens and Malta in the year 1810,) to receive the above sum on his attaining the age of twenty-one years.

"To William Fletcher, Joseph Murray, and Demetrius Zografos, (native of Greece,) servants, the sum of fifty pounds per annum, each, for their natural lives. To Wm. Fletcher the mill at Newstead, on condition that he payeth the rent, but not subject to the caprice of the lordlord. To Robert Rushen the sum of fifty pounds per annum, for life, and a further sum of one thousand pounds on attaining the age of twenty-five years.

"To J. Hanson, Esq., the sum of two thousand pounds sterling.

"The claims of S. B. Davies, Esq., to be satisfied on proving the amount of the same.

"The body of Lord B. to be buried in the vault of the garden of Newstead, without any ceremony or burial-service whatever, or any inscription, save his name and age. His dog not to be removed from the said vault.

"My library and furniture of every description to my friends J. Can Hobhouse, Esq., and S. B. Davies, Esq., my executors. In case of their decease, the Rev. J. Bache of Southwell, Notts, and R. C. Dallas, Esq., of Mortlake, Surrey, to be executors.

"The produce of the sale of Wymondham in Norfolk, and the late Mrs. B.'s Scotch property, to be appropriated in aid of the payment of debts and legacies.

"This is the last will and testament of me the Rt. Hon. George Gordon Lord Byron, Baron Byron of Rochdale in the county of Lancaster. — I desire that my body may be buried in the vault of the garden of Newstead, without any ceremony or burial-service whatever, and that no inscription save my name and age, be written on the tomb or tablet; and it is my will that my faithful dog may not be removed from the said vault. To the performance of the above particular desire I trust the attention of my executors hereinafter named.

"If in papers be lost, (which they generally do,) Demetrius Zografos of Athens, is at the head of the Athenians parties of the Greek insurrection. He was my servant in 1806, 1810, 1811, 1814, at different intervals in those years, (for I left him in Greece when I went to Constantinople,) and accompanied me to England in 1811; he returned to Greece, April 1815, a clever, but not apparently an enterprising man; but the assurances must men. His two sons (then infant) were named Miliceus and Alexis; they may soon be happy." — MS. Journal."
LETTERS.

LETTER LXXV.

TO MR. BOLTON.

"Newstead Abbey, August 20. 1811.

Sir,

"The witnesses shall be provided from among my tenants, and I shall be happy to see you on any day most convenient to yourself. I forgot to mention that it must be specified by codicil, or otherwise, that my body is on no account to be removed from the vault where I have directed it to be placed; and, in case any of my successors within the entail, (from bigotry, or otherwise,) might think proper to remove the cardboard, such proceeding shall be attended by forfeiture of the estate, which, in such case, shall go to my sister, the Hon. Augusta Leigh and her heirs on similar conditions. I have the honor to be, sir,

"Your very obedient, humble servant,

"Byron."
deed the blows followed each other so rapidly that I
am yet stupid from the shock, and though I do eat,
and drink, and talk, and even laugh, at times, yet I
can hardly persuade myself that I am awake, did not
every morning convince me mournfully to the
contrary. I shall now waive the subject,—the dead
are at rest, and none but the dead can be so.
"You will find—poor Houbouse,—Matthews
was the 'god of his idolatry;' and if intellect could
exalt a man above his fellows, no one could refuse
him preeminence. I knew him most intimately,
and valued him proportionally, but I am recuring
so little talk of life and the living.
"If you should feel a disposition to come here,
you will find 'beet and a sea-coal fire,' and not un-
ge nerous wine. Whether Otway's two other re-
quites for an Englishman or not, I cannot tell, but
probably one of them. Let me know when I may
expect you, that I may tell you when I go and
when return. I have not yet been to Lanes. *
Davies has been here, and has invited me to Cam-
bridge for a week in October, so that pervadventure,
we may encounter glass to glass. His gaiety
(death cannot mar it) has done me service; but,
and after all, ours was a hollow laughter.
"You will write to me. I am solitary, and I never
felt solitude irksome before. 'Your anxiety about
the critique on * * * book is amusing; as it was
anonymous, certes, it was of little consequence: I
wish it had produced a little more confusion, being
a lover of literary malice. Are you doing nothing?
writing nothing? printing nothing? why not your
Satire on Methodism? the subject (supposing the
public to be blind to merit) would do wonders. Be-
sides, it would be as well for a destined deacon
to prove his orthodoxy. It really would give me ple-
sure to see you properly appreciated. I say really,
as, being an author, my humanity might be sus-
pected.

"Believe me, dear H. yours always."

LETTER LXXXVIII.

TO MR. DALLAS.

"Newstead, August 21, 1811.

"Your letter gives me credit for more acute feel-
ings than I possess: for though I feel tolerably mis-
erable, yet I am at the same time subject to a kind
of hysterical merriment, or rather laughter without
merriment, which I can neither account for nor
conquer; and yet I do not feel relieved by it; but
an indifferent person would think me in excellent
spirits. 'We must forget these things,' and have
recourse to our old selfish comforts, or rather com-
fortable selfishness. I do not think I shall return
to London immediately, and shall therefore accept
freely what is offered courteously,—your mediation
between me and Murray. I don't think my name
will answer the purpose, and you must be aware
that my plaguy Satire will bring the north and
south Grub-streets down upon the Pilgrimage;—
but, nevertheless, if Murray makes a point of it,
as you coincide with him, I will do it daringly; so
let it be entitled 'By the Author of English Bards
and Scotch Reviewers.' My remarks on the Ro-
maic, &c., once intended to accompany the Hints
from Horace, shall go along with the other, as
being indeed more appropriate, also the smaller
poems now in my possession, with a few selected
from those published in Hobhouse's Miscellany.
I have found among my poor mother's papers all my
letters to Thornhill,—in particular of some length
from Albion. From this, if necessary, I can work up
a note or two on that subject. As I keep no journal,
the letters written on the spot are the best. But of this anon, when we have de-
nitely arranged.

"Has Murray shown the work to any one? He
may—no) will have no traps for applause. Of
course there are little things I would wish to aitar,
and perhaps the two stanzas of a buffooning cast
on London's Sunday are as well left out. I much
wish to avoid identifying Harold's character
with mine, and that, in sooth, is my second objection
to my name appearing in the title-page. When you
have made arrangements as to time, size, type, &c.,
favor me with a reply. I am giving you a universe
of trouble, which thanks cannot alone for. I made
kind of a proo aplogy for my skepticism at the head
of the MS., which, on recollection, is so much more
like an attack than a defence, that, haply, it might
better be omitted.—perpend, pronounce. After all,
I fear Murray will be in a scrape with the orthodox;
but I cannot help it, though I wish him well through
it. As for me, 'I have supped full of criticism,' and
I don't think that the most dismal treatise will stir and
rouse my 'tell of hair' till
'The man wood do come to Dunsinane.'

"I shall continue to write at intervals, and hope
you will pay me in kind. How does Pratt get on,
and the rather, I hope, Joe Blackett's prize. You
killed that poor man among you, in spite of your
Ionian friend and myself, who would have saved
him from Pratt, poverty, present poverty, and post-
poverty, of a bushel. Humor was the worst punish-
ment at his calling; but then he is a divine subject for
subscription and biography; and Pratt, who makes
the most of his dedications, has inscribed the
volume to no less than five families of distinction.
"And worry you don't like Harry White: with a
great deal of cant, which in him was sincere, (in-
deed, it killed him as you killed Joe Blackett.)
certes, there is poetry and genius. I don't say this
for account of my simile and rhyme, &c., but surely
he was beyond all the Bloomfields and Blacketts,
and their collateral cobblers, whom Loft and Pratt
have or may kidnap from their calling into the service
of the trade. You must excuse my Sippance, for I
am writing I know not what, to escape from myself.
Hobhouse is gone to Ireland. Mr. Davies has been
here on his way to Harrowgate.

"You did not know Mr. Matthews; he was a man
of most astonishing powers, as he suffi-
ciently proved at Cambridge, by carrying off more
prizes and fellowships, against the ablest candi-
dates, than any other graduate on record; but a most
decided atheist, indeed, noisily so, but precisely
proclaimed his principles in all societies. I knew
him well, and feel a loss not easily to be supplied
to myself—to Hobhouse never. Let me hear from you,
and

"Believe me, &c."
the last man whose censure (however eager to avoid it) I would deprecate by clandestine means. You will therefore retain the MS. in your own care, or, if it must needs be shown, send it to another. Though not very patient of censure, I would gain obtain fairly any little praise my rhymes might deserve at all events not by exhortation and the humble solicitations of a bandied-about MS. I am sure a little consideration will convince you it would be wrong.

If you determine on publication, I have some small poems ready published, a few sonnets, and a short dissertation on the literature of the modern Greeks, (written at Athens, which will come in at the end of the volume. And if the present poem should succeed, it is with attention, at some subsequent period, to publish some selections from my first work,—my Satire,—another nearly the same length, and a few other things, with the MS. now in your hands, in two volumes. But of these hereafter. You will apprise me of your determination.

"am, sir, "Your very obedient, &c."

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LETTER LXXX.
TO MR. DALLAS.

"N. crowned Abbey, August 23, 1881.

"Being fortunately enabled to frank, I do not spare scribbling, having sent you packets within the last ten days. I am passing solitary, and do not expect my agent to accompany me to Rochdale before the second week in September, a day which perplexes me, as I wish the business over, and not a present welcome employment. I sent you exordiums, annotations, &c., for the forthcoming quarto, if quarto it is to be; and I also have written to Mr. Murray my object to sending the MS. to Juvenal, but allowing him to show it to any others of the calling. Hobhouse is among the types already; so, between his prose and my verse, the world will be decently drawn upon for its paper money and patience. Besides all this, my "Imitation of Horace," is gasping for the press at Crawthorn's, but I am hesitating as to how to do; and the when, the single or the double, the present or the future. You must excuse all this, for I have nothing to say in this lone mansion but of myself, and yet I would willingly talk or think of aught else.

"What are you about to do? Do you think of perching in Cumberland, as you opined when I was in the metropolis? Do you mean to bring it about, why not occupy Miss • • • 's "Cottage of Friendship," late the cot of Clobber Joe, for whose death you and others are answerable? His 'Orphan Daughter' (pathetic Pratt!) will, certes, turn out a shoemaker Sappho. Have you no remorse? I think that elegant address to Miss Dallas should be inscribed on the cenotaph which Miss • • • means to stitch to her memory.

"The newspapers seem much disappointed at his majesty's not dying, or doing something better. I presume it is almost over. If parliament meets in October, I shall be in town to attend. I am also invited to Cambridge for the beginning of that matter (but cannot yet junt to Rochdale, New Matthews is gone, and Hobhouse in Ireland, I have hardly one left there to bid me welcome, except my inviter. At three-and-twenty I am left alone, and what more can we be at seventy? It is true, I am young enough to begin again, but with whom can I retrace the laughing part of life? It is odd how few of my friends have died a quiet death,—I mean, 'in their bed.' But a quiet life is of more consequence. Yet one loves squabbling and jostling better than yawning. This last word admonishes me to relieve you from your very truly, &c."

LETTER LXXXI.
TO MR. DALLAS.

"Newstead Abbey, August 27, 1881.

"I was so sincere in my note on the late Charles Matthews, and do feel myself so totally unable to do justice to his talents, that the passage must stand for the very reason you bring against it. To him all the men I ever knew were pygmies. He was an intellectual giant. It is true I loved W. better; he was the earliest and the dearest, and one of the few could never repent of having loved; but in ability—ah! you did not know Matthews!

"Child Harold" may wait and welcome—books are never the worse for delay in the publication. So you have got our heir, George Anson Byron, and his sister with you.

---

"You may say what you please, but you are as of the murderers of Blackett, and yet you won't allow Harry White's genius. Setting aside his bigotry, he surely ranks next to Chatterton. It is astonishing how little he was known; and at Cambridge no one thought or heard of such a man, till his death rendered all notice useless. For my own part, I should have been most proud of such an acquaintance; his very prejudices were respectable. There is a sucking epic poet at Granta, a Mr. Townsend, protégé of the late Cumberland. Did you ever hear of him and his 'Armageddon'? I think his plan (the man I don't know) borders on the sublime; though, perhaps, the anticipation of the 'Last Day,' (according to you Nazarenes), is a little too daring: at least, it looks like telling the Lord what he is to do, and might remind an ill-natured person of the line:

"And fools rush in where angels fear to tread.'

"But I don't mean to cavil, only other folks will, and he may bring all the lambs of Jacob Behmen about his ears. However, I hope he will bring it to a conclusion, though Milton is in his way.

"Write to me—I date on gossip—and make a bow to Ju— and shake George by the hand for me; but, take care, for he has a sad sea-paw.

"P. S. I would ask George here, but I don't know how to amuse him; all my horses were sold when I left Newmarket, and I have not had time to replace them. Nevertheless, if he will come down and shoot in September, he will be very welcome; but he must bring a gun, for I gave away all mine to All Pacha, and other Turks. Dogs, a keeper, and plenty of game, with a very large manor, I have—a lake a boat, house-room, and neat wines."
LETTER LXXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY

Newstead Abbey, Sept. 9, 1811.

"The time seems to be past when (as Dr. Johnson said) a man was certain to 'hear the truth from his bookseller,' for you have paid me so many compliments, that if I was not the veriest scribbler on earth, I should feel affronted. As I accept your compliments, it is but fair I should give equal or greater credit to your objections, the more so, as I believe them to be well founded. With regard to the political and metaphysical parts, I am afraid I can alter nothing; but I have high authority for my errors in that point, for even the Aeneid was a political poem, and written for a political purpose; and as to my unlucky opinions on subjects of more importance, I am too sincere in them for recantation. On Spanish affairs I have said what I saw, and every day confirms me in that notion of the result formed on the spot; and I rather think honest John Bull is beginning to come round again to that sobriety which Massena's retreat had begun to reëst from its centre—the usual consequence of unusual success. So you perceive I cannot alter the sentiments; but if there are any alterations in the structure of the verseification you would wish to be made, I will tag rhymes and turn stanzas as much as you please. As for the 'orthodox,' let us hope they will be only as to abuse—you will forgive the one, if they will do the other. You are aware that any thing from my pen must expect no quar- ter, on many accounts; and as the present publication is of a nature very different from the former, we must not be squeune.

"You have given me no answer to my question—tell me fairly, did you show the MS. to some of your corps?—I sent an introductory stanza to Mr. Dallas, to be forwarded to you; the thing else will open too abruptly. The stanzas had better be numbered in Roman characters. There is a disquisition on the literature of the modern Greeks, and some smaller points, to come in at the foot of the page. These every thinghouse and Newstead, but will be sent in time. If Mr. D. has lost the stanza and note annexed to it, write, and I will send it myself. You tell me to add two Cantos, but I am about to visit my collatires in Lancashire on the 15th inst, which is so unpoetical an employ- ment that I need say no more. I am, sir,

"Your most obedient, &c."

LETTER LXXXIV.

TO MR. DALLAS

Newstead Abbey, September 7, 1811.

"As Gifford has been ever my Magnus Apollo, any approbution, such as you mention, would, of course, be more welcome than 'all Bokara's vaunted gold, than all the gems of Samarkand.' But I am sorry the MS. was shown to him in such a manner, and I had written to Murray to say as much, before I was aware that it was too late.

"Your objection to the expression 'central line.'

* * *

I can only meet by saying that, before Childe Harold left England, it was his full intention to traverse Persia, and return by India, which he could not have done, but passing the equinoctial line, the other errors you mention, I must correct in a progress through the press. I feel honored by the wish of such men that the poem should be continued, as to that, I must resort to Greece and Asia; I must have a warm sun and a blue sky; I cannot describe scenes so dear to me by a sea-coal fire. I had projected an additional Canto when I was in the Tread and Constantinople, and if I saw them again, it would go on; but the exigencies and sensibilities and sensations I have neither heart, nor voice to proceed. I feel that you are all right as to the metaphysical part; but I also feel that I am sincere, and that if I am only to write, 'ad captandum vulgus,' I might as well edit a magazine at once, or spin canzonettas for Vauxhall.

* * *

My work must make its way as well as it can; I know I have every thing against me—angry poets and prejudices; but if the poem is a poem, it will surmount these obstacles, and if not, it deserves its fate. Your friend's Ode I have read—it is no great compliment to pronounce it far superior. On the same subject, or to the merits of the new chan- cellor. It is evidently the production of a man of taste, and a poet, though I should not be willing to say it was fully equal to what might be expected from the son of 'Horace Junior.' You must be well satisfied with it, and that is more than I would do for any other Ode of the present day.

I am very sensible of your good wishes, and, indeed, I have need of them. My whole life has been at variance with propriety, not to say decency; my circumstances are become involved; my friends are dead or estranged, and my existence a dreary road. In others I have lost my guilt, pride, and passion, and have, in Wingfield a friend only, but one whom I could have wished to have proceeded in his long journey. Matthew's was indeed an extraordinary man; it has not entered into the heart of a stranger to conceive such a man; there was the stamp of immor- tality in all he said and did; and now what is he when we see such men pass away and be no more—men whose special design was to display what the Creator could make his creatures, gathered into corruption, before the maturity of minds that might have seen the pride of posterity, what are we to conclude? For my part I am bewildered. To me he was much more than a man. His whole philosophy, his whole house, was 'Hoghouse,' and myself, formed a coterie of our own at Cambridge and elsewhere. Davies is a wit, and man of the world, and feels as much as such a character can do; but not as Hoghouse has been. Davies, who is not a scribbler, has always beaten us all in the war of words, and by his colloquial pow- ers at once delighted and kept us in order. If I, and myself, have had the worst of the battle, I am not to blame, for I am only the man of the hour; and even M. yielded to the dashing vivacity of S. D. But I am talking to you of men, or boys, as if you cared about such beings.

"I expect mine agent down on the 14th to proceed to Lancashire, where, I hear from all quarters, I have a very valuable property in coals, &c. I then intend to accept an invitation to Cambridge in Oc- tober, and shall, perhaps, run up to town, I have understood that you are going to Wales, Dorest, and Chester; but I must be a man of business. I am quite alone, as these long letters sadly testify. I am a perce, by referring to your letter, that the Ode is from a friend; make my thanks to him. His muse is worthy a nobler theme. You will write, as usual, I hope. I wish you a good evening.

"And am, ve"
LETTER LXXXV.
TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

Newstead Abbey, September 10, 1811.

"Dear Sir,

"I rather think in one of the opening stanzas of Childe Harold there is this line—

"'Tis said at times the sullen hour would start.'

Now, a line or two after, I have a repetition of the epithet 'sullen reverie;' so (if it be so) let us have 'speechless reverie,' or 'silent reverie;' but, at all events, do away the recurrence.

"Yours, ever,

"P. S. Perhaps, as 'reverie' implies silence of itself, wayward, downcast, gloomy, wrinkling, joyless, may be better epithets.'"

LETTER LXXXVI.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Newstead Abbey, Notes, September 14, 1811.

"Sir,

"Since your former letter, Mr. Dallas informs me that the MS. has been submitted to the perusal of Mr. Gifford, and contrary to my wishes, as Mr. D. could have explained, and as my own letter to you did, in fact, explain, with my motives for objecting to such a proceeding. Some local domestic events, of which you are probably aware, prevented my letter from being sent before; indeed, I hardly conceived you would so hastily thrust my productions into the hands of a stranger, who could be as little pleased by receiving them, as their author is at their being offered in such a manner, and to such a man.

"My address, when I leave Newstead, will be to 'Rochdale, Lancashire;' but I have not yet fixed the day of departure, and I will apprise you when ready to set off.

"You have placed me in a ridiculous situation, but it is past, and nothing more is to be said on the subject. You hinted to me that you wished some alterations to be made; if they have nothing to do with politics or religion, I will make them with great readiness.

"I am, sir, &c., &c.

"B.''"

LETTER LXXXVII.
TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

"Newstead Abbey, Sept. 18, 1811.

"My dear Sir,

"My agent will not be here for at least a week, and even afterwards my letters will be forwarded to Rochdale. I am sorry that Murray should gross on my account, though that is better than the anticipa-
tion of applause, of which men and books are generally disappointed.

"The notes I sent are merely matter to be divided, arranged, and published for notes hereafter, in proper places; at present I am too much occupied with earthly cares, to waste time or trouble upon rhyme, or its modern indispen-
sables, annotations.

"Pray let me hear from you, when at leisure. I have written to abuse Murray for showing the MS. to Mr. Gifford; who must certainly think it was done by my wish, though you know the contrary.

"Believe me, yours ever,

"[Signature]"

LETTER LXXXVIII.
TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

"Newstead Abbey, Sept. 18, 1811.

"Dear Sir,

"I send you a motto—

"'Univera est una spectaculum mirabile.'

"If not too long, I think it will suit the book. The passage is from the French volume, a great favorite with me, which I picked up in the Archipelago. I don't think it is well known in England. Murray is the author, but it is a work sixty years old.

"Yours, ever,

"Byron"

LETTER LXXXIX.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Newstead Abbey, Sept. 19, 1811.

"I return the proof, which I should wish to be shown to Mr. Dallas, who understands typographical arrangements much better than I can pretend to do. The printer may place the notes in his own way, or any way, so that they are out of my way; I care nothing about types or margins.

"If you have any communication to make, I shall be here at least a week or ten days longer.

"I am, sir, &c., &c.

"B."
think, the more it disquiets me; so I will say no more about it. It is bad enough to be a scribbler, without having recourse to such shifts to extort praise, or deprecate censure. It is anticipating, it is begging, kneeling, adulating—the devil! the devil! all without my wish, and contrary to my express desire. I wish Murray had been tied to Payne's neck when he jumped into the Paddington Canal, and so tell him—that is the proper receptacle for publishers and to be cut up afterwards, which is all that notes are generally good for. They were written at Athens, as you will see by the date.

"I am yours, \\
\"B."

LETTER XCII.

TO MR. DALLAS.

"Newstead Abbey, Sept. 21, 1811.

"I have shown my respect for your suggestions by adopting them; but I have made many alterations in the first proof, over and above; as, for example:

"Oh Thos., in Helias demd' of heavenly birth, 
\"Son, shewn full oft by later lyres on earth, 
\"Yet there I've wonder'd by the roused lift."

and so on. So I have got rid of Dr. Louth, and 'drunk to boot,' and very glad I am to say so. I have also Sullivanized the line as herefores, and in short I have been quite comfortable. "Pray, write; you shall hear when I remove to Lancs. I have brought you and my friend Juvanell Hodgson upon my back, on the score of revelation. You are forrnt, but he is quite glowing; and if he takes half the pains to save his own soul, which he volunteers to redeem mine, great will be his reward hereafter. I honor and thank you both, but am convinced by neither. Now for notes. Besides those I have sent, I shall send the observations on the Edinburgh Reviewer's remarks on the modern Greek, an Albanian song in the Albanian (now Greek) language, specimens of modern Greek from their New Testament, a comedy of Goldoni's translated, one scene, a prospectus of a friend's book, and perhaps a song or two, all in Romaine, besides their Pater Noster; so there will be enough, if not too much, for what I have already sent. Have you received the 'Noctes Atticae'? I sent also an annotation on Portugal. Hobhouse is also forth-coming."
for to-morrow, &c. I am as comfortable in my creed as others, inasmuch as it is better to sleep than to awake.

I have heard nothing of Murray; I hope he is ashamed of himself. He sent me a complimetary epistle, with a request to alter the two, and finish another canto. I sent him as civil an answer as if I had been engaged to transcribe the sheet, declined altering any thing in sentiment, but offered to tag rhymes, and mend them as long as he liked.

I will write from Rochdale when I arrive, if my affairs allow me; but I shall be so busy and savage all accessible, with the whole set, that my letters will be as pettish as myself. If so, lay the blame on coal and coal-heavers. Very probably I may proceed to town by way of Newstead on my return from Lanes. I mean to be at Cambridge in November, so that at all events we shall be neyer. I will not apologize for the trouble I have given, and do give you, though I ought to do so; but I have worn my pollute periods, and can only say that I am very much obliged.

Believe me, yours always,

BYRON.

LETTER XCV.

TO R. C. DALLAS, DSB.

"Newstead Abbey, Oct. 10, 1811.

DEAR SIR,

"Stanzas xxi, xxvi, xxix, though crossed, must stand with their alterations. The other three are cut out to your wishes. We must, however, have a repetition of the proof, which is the first. I will write soon.

"Yours ever,

"J."

"P. S. Yesterday I returned from Lanes."

* The following are the xx stanzas as they originally stood. These appearing below, as xxi, xxii, xxix, appear in the poem, in an altered tone, numbered as xxi, xxvi, xxix, of the first canto. The stanzas marked below xvi, xxv, and xxvi, were those omitted:

XXIV.

Behold the ball where vision was late convened;
Oh, thou dispensing wise British eye! Who
With clarion light Pooh-Lap, to a band,
A little flood that sends interminably;
There sits in portico read arrayed, and by
His side is hugging a soulable scroll,
Where blazoned grace a name spelt Wollaston;
And amity signatures adorn the roll,
Wherein the univin points and languish with all his sod.

XXV.

In golden characters, right well designed,
Flour on the line approaching once; Joost; "
Then certain other glorious names we read;
(Which rhyme compasseth me to place below;
Dull victory! baffled by a masqued son;
Wheeled by sanguine tongues of laureate strain;
Sound, worthy of each other, is a now,
Sure Avris, Harry, and the dimmed Haw.
The dimly seen, secty, wise, more scope of t'other tow.

XXVI.

Conversation is the dainty theme apprised
That failed the knightings of Marlowe’s done;
Of brains (if brains they bad) been legended,
And turned a nation’s shallow to the west;
For well I wot, when first the news did come,
That Vintier’s field by taws was tow;
For paragraph en paper space had room,
Such press termed for our triumphant host, a Court; Chancellers, and the like in Morning Post.

XXVII.

But when Conversion went his handy work,
Bravo, tongue, feet, hands conjoined, to aid upon
Mayor, alderman, laid down the artified fork;
The length of Bishops half forgot to score.

Endcott, who in one whole week before

LETTER XCVI.

TO MR. DALLAS.

"Newstead Abbey, Oct. 11, 11.

"I have returned from Lanes, and ascertained that my property there may be made very valuable, but various circumstances very much circumscribe my exertions at present. I shall be in town on the 21st in March, for the remainder of my term, and perhaps at Cambridge before the end of this month; but of my movements you shall be regularly apprized. Your objections I have in part done away by alterations, as far as the matter will allow, but I have sent you two or three additional stanzas for both " Setting." I have been again shocked with a death, and have lost one very dear to me in happier times: but I have almost forgot the taste of grief, and "supped full of horrors" till I have become callous, nor have I tear left for an event which five years ago would have bowed down my head to the earth. It seems as though I were to experience in my youth the greatest misfortune in life.

My friend fall around me, and I shall be left a lonely tree before I am withered. Other men can always take refuge in their families; I have no resource but my own reflections, and I present no prospect here or elsewhere, except the selfish satisfaction of surviving my betters. I am indeed very wretched, and you will excuse my saying so, as you know I am not apt to cant of sensibility.

"Instead of tiring yourself with my concerns, I should be glad to hear of your plans of retirement. I suppose you would not like to be wholly shut out of society? Now I know a large village or small town, about twelve miles off, where your family would have the advantage of very genteel society, without the hazard of being annoyed by mercantile influence; where you would meet with men of information and independence; and where I have friends to whom I should be proud to introduce you. There are besides, a coffee-room, assemblies, &c., &c.,

To question ought, once more with transport leapt,
And hit the devil’s quill again, and aware
With such a piece soon should be kept,
Then burst the blatant beast, and rant and ragged, and—about!!

XXVIII.

Thus unto heaven appealed the people; heaven
Who loves the ignes of our generous king,
Deserved that we our生成 fue were forgiven,
Inquiry should be held about the thing;
But mercy checked the bales beneath her wing;
And so they spared our face so spurned we them.
(Where was the pity of our song for Virgili?)
Yet leaves, not blood, should the law condemn.
Then Sisyphus, ye gallant knaves and bless your judge’s plagues.

XXIX.

But ever more that martial symbol met,
British scions, Chats I at thy name;
And falls in office at the sultan’s awe,
And fate would blush, if blush they could, for shame.
How will posterity the deed proclaim?
Will not our own and fellow nation soon
To view those champions chested of fame,
By foes in fight o’ertrodden, yet victors born,
Where won their finger points through many a cent’ry year.

Originally, the "little page" and "peasant" of Childe Harold, some of these lines were afterward erased:

Of and of that there was a benchman page,
A peasant boy, who served the master well;
And often would his trust none engage
Childe Borne’s war when his proud he’s—'At will
With solemn thoughts that he did abstain’t to tend.
Then would be smile on him, and Alway I smiled,

"A blatant beast," a figure for the mock I think first used by Spenser in his "Adventures of an Atom." Homer has the "Beta unius mors luporum." Captain in England, fortunate enough, the illusionist faculty have not been long.

1 In this MS. the names "Robins," and "Report," had been successively inserted here and struck out again.
which bring people together. My mother had a house there some years, and I am well acquainted with the name of Southwark, the name of this little commonwealth. Lastly, you will not be very remote from me; and though I am the very worst companion for young people in the world, this object does not apply to you, whom I may let see frequently. Your expenses, too, would be such as best suit your inclinations, more or less, as you thought proper; but very little would be requisite to enable you to enjoy all the gayeties of a country. Could you not quit a corner or bustling as you liked, and certainly as well situated as on the Lakes of Cumberland, unless you have a particular wish to pictureque.

Tell me, my dear friend in town? You have promised me an introduction.—You mention having consulted some friends on the MSS.—Is not this contrary to our usual way? Instruct Mr. Murray not to allow his shopman to call the work 'Child of Harrow's Pilgrimage'!!! as he has done to some of my a-tonished friends, who wrote to inquire after my sanity on the occasion, as well they might. I have heard nothing of Murray, whom I scolded heartily. I write very facetiously to you, and there is not enough!—Cathorn must be kept back with the Hints.—I hope he is getting on with Hobhouse's quarto. Good evening.

* * *

"Yours ever, and—"
LETTERS.

When shall you be at Cambridge? You have
anted, I think, that your friend Bland is returned
from Holland. I have always had a great respect
for his talents, and for all that I have heard of his
character; but of me, I believe, he knows nothing,
except that he heard my sixth-form repetitions ten
months together, at the average of two lines
morning, and those never perfect. I remembered
him and his ‘Slaves’ as I passed between Capes
Matapan, St. Angelo, and his Isle of Cerigo, and I
always bewailed the absence of the Anthology.
I suppose he will now translate Vondel, the Dutch
Shakespeare, and ‘Gysbert van Amstel’ will easily
be accommodated to our stage in its present state;
and I presume he saw the Dutch poem, where
the love of Pyramus and Thisbe is compared to the
passion of Christ; also the love of Lucifer for Eve,
and other varieties of Low Country literature. No
doubt you will think me eager to talk of such
tings but they are all in black and white and good
repute on the boards of every canal from Amsterdam
to Alkmaar.

Yours ever,

B.

P. S. My Poesy is in the hands of its various
publishers; but the ‘Hints from Horace,’ (to which
I have subjoined some average lines on Methodism,
and ferocious notes on the vanity of the triple Edi-
tory of the Edin. Annual Register,) my ‘Hints,’ I
say, stand still; and why? I have not a friend in
the world (but you and Drury) who can construe
Horace’s Latin, or my English, well enough to
adjust them for the press, or to correct the proofs
in a grammatical way. So that, unless you have
bowels when you return to town, (I am too far off
to do it for myself,) this ineffable work will be lost
to the world for—I don’t know how many weeks.

‘Child Harold’s Pilgrimage’ must wait till
Murray’s is finished. He is making a tour in Mid-
dlessex, and is to return soon, when high matter
may be expected. He wants to have it in quartos,
which is a cursed unsaleable size; but it is pestilent
long, and one must obey one’s bookseller. I trust
Murray will pass the Paddington Canal without
being seduced by Payne and Mackinlay’s example,
—I say Payne and Mackinlay, supposing that the
partnership held good. Drury, the villain, has not
written to me; I am never (as Mrs. Lumpkin says
to Tony,) to be gratified with the monster’s dear
wild notes.

‘So you are going (going indeed!) into orders.
You must make your peace with the Eclectic Re-
viewers—they accuse you of impiety, I fear, with
injustice. Demetrius, the ‘Singer of Cities,’ is
here, with ‘Gilpin Horner.’ The painter is not
necessary, as the portraits he already painted are
(by anticipation) very like the new animals.—
Write, and send me your ‘Love Song’—but I want
‘paulo majora’ from you. Make a dash before you
are a deacon, and try a dry publisher.

Yours always,

B.”

LETTER XCIII.

TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

October 14, 1811.

DEAR SIR,

‘Stanza ix,’ for Canto II. somewhat altered, to
avoid a recurrence in a former stanza.

IX.

I sigh’d of young remembrance then reveals
Be as I may,
Whatever be Mine Foremost beloved
or—How’er may be

‘I think it proper to start to you, that this
stanza alludes to on event which has taken place
since my arrival here, and not to the death of any
male friend.

Yours,

B."

LETTER C.

TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

Cambridge, Oct. 3d, 1811.

DEAR SIR,

‘I send you a conclusion to the whole. In a
stanza towards the end of Canto I., in the line
‘Oh, known the earliest, and beloved the most.’
I shall alter the epithet to ‘esteemed the most.’
The present stanzas are for the end of Canto II.
In the beginning of the week I shall be at No. 9,
your old lodgings, St. James’s street, where I
hope to have the pleasure of seeing you.

Yours ever,

B.”

LETTER CI.

TO R. C. DALLAS, ESQ.

‘S. St. James street, Oct. 21, 1811.

DEAR SIR,

‘I have already taken up so much of your time
that there needs no excuse on your part, but a great
many on mine, for the present interruption. I have
altered the passages according to your wish. With
this note I send a few stanzas on a subject which
has lately occupied much of my thoughts. They
refer to the death of one to whose name you are
stranger, and, consequently, cannot be interested.
I mean them to complete the present volume. They
relate to the same person whom I have mentioned
in Canto II., and at the conclusion of the poem.

‘I by no means intend to identify myself with
Harold, but to deny all connexion with him. If in
parts I may be thought to have drawn from myself,
believe me it is but in parts, and I shall not own
even that. As to the ‘Monastico donce,’ I e., I
thought those circumstances would suit him as well
as any other, and I could describe what I had seen
better than I could invent. I would not be such a
fellow as I have made my hero—for the world.

Yours ever.

B.”

Mr. Edisdon. See the Letter following.
knowing whether you avow the insult contained in the passages alluded to.

"It is needless to suggest to your lordship the propriety of keeping up your correspondence secret and to abjure the honor to be,"

"Your lordship's very humble servant.

"22, Moleworth street."

**LETTER CV.**

TO MR. MOORE.

"Sir,

"Your letter followed me from Notts. to this place, which will account for the delay of my reply. Your former letter I never had the honor to receive;—be assured, in whatever part of the world it had found me, I should have deemed it my duty to return and answer it in person.

"The advertisement you mention, I know nothing of. At the time of your meeting with Mr. Jeffrey, I had recently entered College, and remember to have heard and read a number of squibs on the occasion, and from the recollection of these I derived all my knowledge on the subject, without the slightest idea of 'giving the lie' to an address which I never beheld. When I put my name to the production which has occasioned this correspondence, I became responsible to all whom it might concern,—to explain where it requires explanation, and where insufficiently or too sufficiently explicit, at all events to satisfy. My situation leaves me no choice; it rests with the injured and the angry to obtain reparation in their own way.

"With regard to the passage in question, you were certainly not the person towards whom I felt personally hostile. On the contrary, my whole thoughts were engrossed by one whom I had reason to consider as my worst literary enemy, nor could I foresee that his former antagonist was about to become his champion. You do not specify what you would wish to have done: I can neither retract nor apologize for a charge of falsehood which I never advanced.

"In the beginning of the week, I shall be at No. 8, St. James's street. Neither the letter nor the friend to whom you stated your intention ever made their appearance.

"Your friend Mr. Rogers, or any other gentleman delegated by you, will find me most ready to adopt any conciliatory proposition which shall not compromise my own honor—or, failing in that, to make the atonement you deem it necessary to require.

"I have the honor to be, sir,

"Your most obedient, humble servant,

"BYRON."

**LETTER CIII.**

TO MR. MOORE.

"MY LORD,

"Having just seen the name of Lord Byron prefixed to a work, entitled English Bards and Scotch Reviewers, in which, as it appears to me, the lie is given to a public statement of mine, respecting an affair with Mr. Jeffrey some years since, I beg you will have the goodness to inform me whether I may consider your lordship as the author of this publication.

"I shall not, I fear, be able to return to London for a week or two; but, in the mean time, I trust your lordship will not deny me the satisfaction of

*See Letter VIII.*

† The above letter was transmitted by Mr. Moore to a friend of his in London, with a request that he should deliver it to the person; but as it did not reach London for nearly ten years, it was not thought worth sending, and now lies before me.

‡ The negligence of my messenger, and the hurry in which I was placed, must needs render me excusable. In the obscurity of my letter, the name of my correspondent is not mentioned. He was an Englishman, a man of extensive knowledge, and I write as to his advice.

**LETTER CIV.**

TO MR. MOORE.

"Sir,

"Soon after my return to England, my friend, Mr. Hodgson, apprized me that a letter for me was in his possession; but a domestic event hurrying me from London immediately after, the letter (which may most probably be your own) is still unopened in his keeping. If, on examination of the address, the similarity of the handwriting should lead to such a conclusion, it shall be opened in your presence, for the satisfaction of all parties. Mr

**LETTER CV.**

TO MR. MOORE.

"Sir,

"I received your letter of the 29th of Oct., and am happy to know that your health is better than I have heard from you for some years. I hope you will not forget me when you return to London, and will visit me at my house in St. James's.

"I have the honor to be, sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"BYRON."
LETTER CVII.

TO MR. MOORE.

8, St. James’s street, Nov. 26, 1811.

SIR,

“As I should be very sorry to interrupt your Sunday’s engagement, if Monday, or any other day of the ensuing week, would be equally convenient to yourself and friend, I will then have the honor of accepting his invitation. Of the professions of esteem with which Mr. Rogers has honored me, I cannot but feel proud, though undeserving. I should be wanting to myself if insensible to the praise of such a man; and should my approaching interview with him and his friend lead to any degree of intimacy with both or either, I shall regard our past correspondence as one of the happiest events of my life. I have the honor to be,

Your very sincere and obedient servant,

BYRON.”

LETTER CVIII.

TO MR. HARNESS.

8, St. James’s street, Dec. 6, 1811.

“My Dear Harness,

“I will write again, but don’t suppose I mean to say such a tax on your pen and patience as to expect regular replies. When you are inclined, write; when silent, I shall have the consolation of knowing that you are better employed. Yesterday, Bland and I called on Mr. Miller, who, on hearing you were out, call on Bland to-day or to-morrow. I shall certainly endeavor to bring them together. You are censorious, child; when you are a little older, you will learn to dislike every body, but abuse nobody.

“With regard to the person of whom you speak, your own good sense must direct you. I never pretend to advise, being an implicit believer in the old proverb. This present frost is detestable. It is the first I have felt these three years, though I longed for one in the oriental summer, when no such thing is to be had, unless I had gone to the top of Hymettus for it.”

“Do read mathematics,—I should think X plus Y at least as amusing as the Curse of Kehama, and much more intelligible. Master S.’s poems are, in fact, what parallel lines might be—viz., prolonged ad infinitum without meeting any thing half so absurd as themselves."

“Coleridge is lecturing. ‘Many an old fool,’ said Hannibal to some such lecturer, ‘but such as this, never.’”

“Ever yours, &c.”
The present ministers are to continue, and his majesty does continue in the same state. So there's folly and madness for you both in a breath.

"I never heard of but one man truly fortunate, and he was Beaumarchais, the author of Figaro, who buried two wives and gained three lawsuits before he was thirty.

"And now, child, what art thou doing? Reading, trust. I want to see you take a degree. Remember, this is the most important period of your life; and don't disappoint your papa and your aunt, and all your kin—besides myself. Don't you know that all male children are begotten for the express purpose of being graduates? and that even I am an A. M., though I became so by the Public Orator only to return. Besides, you are to be a priest; and to con- fuse Sir William Drummond's late book about the Bible, (printed, but not published,) and all other inofficious whatever. Now leave master H.'s gin, and master S.'s Supplies, and becomes as immovable as Cambridge can make you.

"You see, Mio Carissimo, what a pestilent correspondent I am likely to become; but then you shall be as quiet at Newstead as you please, and I won't disturb your studies, as I do now. When do you fix the day, that I may take you up according to contract? Hodgson talks of making a third in our partnership: but we can't do him, inside or out. Positively you shall go with me as was agreed, and don't let me have any of your politeesse to H. on the occasion. I shall manage to arrange for both with a little contrivance. I wish H. was not quite so fat, and we should pack better. Has he left off vicious liquors? He is an excellent soul; but I don't think water would improve him, at least internally. You will want to know what I am doing—cheering tobacco.

"You see nothing of my allies, Scrope Davies and Matthews—they don't suit you; and how does it happen that I—who am a pipkin of the same pottery—continue in your good graces? Good night,—I will go in the morning.

"Dec. 9.—In a morning I am usually aﬄuent, and to-day is as sombre as myself. Rain and mist are worse than a soroce, particularly in a beef-eating and beer-drinking country. My bookseller, Carthorne, has just left me, and tells me, with a most important face, that he is in treaty for a novel of Madame D'Arblay's, for which one thousand guineas are asked; he wants me to read the MS. (if he obtains it,) which I shall do with pleasure; but I should be very cautious in venturing an opinion on her whose Cecilia Dr. Johnson superintended. If he sends it to me, I shall put it into the hands of Rogers and Moore, who are true men of taste. I have filled the sheet, and beg your pardon; I will not do it again. I shall, perhaps, write again, but if not, believe, silent or scribbling, that I am,

"My dearest William, ever, &c."

chest in the preface, and handles the literal interpretation very roughly. I do not think Mr. W. * * has lent it me, and I confess, to me it is worth fifty Watsons.

"You and Harness must fix on the time for the letter. I can command mine at your wish, unless any thing particular occurs in the interim * *; Bland dines with me on Tuesday to meet Moore. Coleridge has attacked the 'Pleasures of Hope,' and all other pleasures whatsoever. Mr. Rogers was present, and heard himself, indirectly named by the lecturer. We are going in a party to hear the new Art of Poetry by this reformed ascetic; and were I one of these poetical luminaries, I should be glad to see any of the public, or the man of lectures, I should not hear him without an answer. For, you know, 'an' man will be beaten with brains, he shall never keep a clean doublet.' Campbell will be desperately annoyed. I never saw a man (and of him I have seen very little) so sensitive:—want a happy temperamental! I am sorry for it; what can he fear from criticism? I don't know if Bland has seen Miller, who was to call on him yesterday.

"To-day is the Sabbath,—a day I never pass pleasantly, but at Cambridge; and, even there, the organ is a sad remembrancer. Things are stagnant just now, as they were retrospectively at tat all very well. Hobhouse writes, and writes, and writes, and is an author. I do nothing but eschew tobacco. I wish parliament were assembled, that I may hear the debates on some day in the week. On this point I am not very sanguine. I have many plans; sometimes I think of the East again, and dearly beloved Greece. I am well, but weakly. Yesterday Kinnaird told me I looked very ill, and sent me home happy.

"You will never give up wine;—see what it is to be thirty; if you were six years younger you might leave off any thing. You drink and repent, you repent and drink. Is Scrope still in error? Do you think your views are invalid? And how does Hinde with his cured chemistry? To Harness I have written, and he has written, and we have all written, and have nothing now to do but write again, till death splits up the pen and the scribbler.

"The Alfred has three hundred and fifty-four candidates for six vacancies. The cook has run away and left us liable, which makes our committee very impatient. Master Brook, our head-steward, has the gown, and our new cook is none of the best. I speak from report,—for what is cookery to a legumino-ous-eating ascetic? So now you know as much of your visit to Newstead as I do; but no doubt all other vacancies are still there, and they may dress their dishes in their own way for me. Let me know your determination as to Newstead, and believe me,

"Yours ever,

"Newstead."
sc. once revised, but for the pleasure of the thing. If my worthy publisher wanted a second opinion, I should be only too willing to give it, for after having read it, I must admit that it was the most idle and unmeaning trash I have seen for a long time. I have had frequent letters from Wm. Harness, and you are silent; certes, you are not a schoolboy. However, I have the consolation of knowing you are better employed, viz. reviewing. You don’t deserve that I should add another syllable, and I won’t.

"Yours, &c.,"

"F. S. I only wait for your answer to fix our meeting."

LETTER CXII.

TO MR. HARNES.

"8, St. James’s street, Dec. 15, 1811.

"I wrote you an answer to your last, which on reflection, pleases me as little as it probably has pleased yourself. I will not wait for your rejoinder: but proceed to tell you, that I had just then been greeted with an epistle of yours, full of his petty grievances, and this at the moment when (from circumstances it is not necessary to enter upon) I was bearing up against recollections to which his imaginary sufferings are as a scratch to a cancer. These things combined, put me out of humor with him and all his kind. That part of my life has been a perpetual struggle against affections which embittered the earliest portion; and though I flatter myself I have in a great measure conquered them, yet there are moments (and this was one) when I am as foolish as formerly. I never said so much before, nor had I said this now, if I did not suspect myself of having been rather savage in my letter, and wish to inform you thus much of the cause. You know I am not one of your dolorous gentlemen: so now let us laugh again.

"Yesterday I went with Moore to Sydenham to visit Campbell. He was not visible, so we jogged homeward, merrily enough. To-morrow I dine with Rogers, and am to hear Coleridge, who is a kind of rage at present. Last night I saw Kemble in Coriolanus: he was glorious, and exerted himself wonderfully. By good luck, I got an excellent place in the best part of the house, which was more than overdoing. Clare and Delaware, who were there on the same speculation, were less fortunate. I saw them by accident,—we were not together. I wished for you, to gratify your love of Shakespeare and of white and fine acting to its fullest extent. Last week I saw an exhibition of a different kind in a Mr. Coates, at the Haymarket, who performed Lohario in a damned and damnable manner.

"I told you of the fate of B. and H. in my last. So much for these sentimentalists, who console themselves in their stews for the loss—the never to be recovered loss—the despair of the refined attachment of a couple of drabs! You censure my life, Harness: when I can bare myself with these men, my elders and my betters, I really begin to conceive myself a monument of prudence—a walking statue —without feeling or failing; and yet the world in general hath given me a proud pretentiousness over them in profusion. Yet I like the men, and, God knows, ought not to condemn their aberrations. But I own I feel grateful when they dignify all this by the name of love—romantic attachments for things marketable for a dollar!

"Dec. 16.—I have just received your letter. I feel a kind of kindness very reply. I wrote yesterday, will, I hope, account for the tone of the former, though it cannot excuse it. I do like to hear from you,—more than like. Next to seeing you, I have no greater satisfaction. But you have duties and greater pleasures, and I should regret to take a moment from either. If it was to call—day, but I have not seen him. The circum stance you mention at the close of your letter is another proof in favor of L. y ou may judge of mankind. Such you will always find them.—selfish, distrustful. I except none. The cause of this is the state of society. In the world, every one is to stir for himself— it is useless, perhaps selfish, to expect any thing from his neighbor. But I do not think we are born of this disposition; for friendship as a schoolboy, and love enough before twenty.

"I went to see a boy; he keeps me in town, where I don’t wish to be at present. He is a good man, but totally without conduct. And now, my dear William, I must wish you good morrow, and remain ever most sincerely and affectionately yours, &c."

LETTER CXIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

December 11, 1811.

"MY DEAR MOORE,

"If you please, we will drop our formal monosyllables, and adhere to the appellations sanctioned by our godfathers and godmothers. If you make it a point, I will withdraw your name; at the same time there is no occasion, as I have this day postponed your election 'sine die,' till it shall suit your wishes to be among us. I do not say this from any awk-wardness the casure of your proposal would occa-sion to me, but simply such is the state of the case; and, indeed, the longer your name is up, the stronger will become the probability of acceptance, and your votes more numerous. Of course you will decide—your wish shall be my law. If my zeal has already outrun discretion, pardon me, and attribute my offensiveness to an excusable motive, and I think you will find the cause of my wish you would go down with me to Newstead. Hodgson will be there, and a young friend, named Harness, the eldest and dearest I ever had, from the third form at Harrow to this hour. I can promise you good wine, and, if you like shooting, a manor of four thousand acres, fires, books, your own free will, and my own very indifferent company. 'Balan tea, vina,' &c. &c. &c.

"Hodgson will plague you, I fear, with verse; for my own part, I will conclude, with Martial, 'nil recitabo tibi,' and surely the last inducement is not the least. Ponder on my proposition, and believe me, my dear Moore, Yours ever,

BYRON"

LETTER CXIV.

TO MR. MOORE.

January 29th.

"MY DEAR MOORE,

"I wish very much I could have seen you; I am in a state of ludicrous tribulation.

"Why do you say that I dislike your poetry? I have expressed no such opinion, either in print or elsewhere. In scribbling, myself, it was necessary for me to find fault, and I fixed upon the trite charge of immorality, because I could discover no other, and was so perfectly qualified, in the innocence of my heart, to pluck that mote from my neighbor’s eye.

"I feel very, very much obliged by your approba-tion, but, at this moment, praise, even your praise, passes by me like the idle wind. I meant and mean to send you a copy the moment of publication; but now, I can think of nothing but damned, deceitful, delightful woman, as Mr. Lis ton says in the Knight of Snowdon.

"Believe me, my dear Moore,

"Ever yours, most affectionately,

BYRON"
LETTER CXV.

TO ROBERT RUSHTON.

"B. St. James's street, Jan. 21, 1812.

"Though I have no objection to your refusal to carry letters to Mealey's, you will take care that the letters are taken by Spearo at the proper time. I have also to observe, that Susan [a servant in the family] is to be treated with civility, and not insulted by any person over whom I have the smallest control, or, indeed, by any one whatever, while I have the power to protect her. I am truly sorry to have any subject of complaint against you; I have too good an opinion of you to think I shall have occasion to repeat it, after the care I have taken of you, and my favorable intentions in your behalf. I see no occasion for any communication whatever, between you and the women, and wish you to occupy yourself in preparing for the situation in which you will be placed. If a common sense of decency cannot prevent you from conducting yourself towards them with rudeness, I should at least hope that your own interest, and regard for a master who has never treated you with unkindness, will have some weight.

"Yours, 

BYRON.

P. S.—I wish you to attend to your arithmetic, to occupy yourself in surveying, measuring, and making yourself acquainted with every particular relative to the land of Newstead, and you will write to me one letter every week, that I may know how you go on."

LETTER CXVI.

TO ROBERT RUSHTON.

"B. St. James's street, Jan. 29, 1812.

"Your refusal to carry the letter was not a subject of remonstrance; it was not a part of your business; but the language you used to the girl was (as she stated it) highly improper.

"You say that you also have something to complain of; then state it to me immediately; it would be very unfair, and very contrary to my disposition, not to hear both sides of the question.

"If anything has passed between you before or since my last visit to Newstead, do not be afraid to mention it. I am sure you would not receive me, though she would. Whatever it is, you shall be forgiven. I have not been without some suspicions on the subject, and am certain that, at your time of life, the blame could not attach to you. You will not consult any one, as to your answer, but write to me immediately. I shall be more ready to hear what you have to advance, as I do not remember ever to have heard a word from you before against any human being, which convinces me you would not maliciously assert an untruth. There is not any one who can do the least injury to you while you conduct yourself properly. I shall expect your answer immediately.

"Yours, 

BYRON.

LETTER CXVII.

TO MR. HODGSON.

"B. St. James's street, Feb. 18, 1812.

"Dear Hodgson,

"I sent you a proof. Last week I was very ill and confined to bed with stone in the kidney, but I am now quite recovered. If the stone had got into my heart instead of my kidneys, it would have been all the better. The women are gone to their relatives, after many attempts to explain what was already too clear. However, I have quite recovered that also, and only wonder at my folly in expecting my own strumpets from the general corruptions—albeit, a two months' weakness is better than ten years. I have one request to make, which is, never to send a woman again in any letter to me, or even allude to the existence of the sex. I have even read a word of the feminine gender; it must all be propria que maribus.

"In the spring of 1813 I shall leave England for ever. Every thing in my affairs tends to this, and my inclinations and health do not discourage it. Neither my habits nor constitution are improved by your customs or your climate. I shall find employment in making myself a good oriental scholar. I shall retain a mansion in one of the fairest islands, and retrace, at intervals, the most interesting portions of the East. In the mean time, I am adjusting my concerns, which will (when arranged) leave me with wealth—sufficient even for home, but enough for a principality in Turkey. At present they are involved, but I hope, by taking some necessary but unpleasant steps, to clear every thing. Hobhouse will bring me letters every day, which I shall very glad to see him; and, perhaps, you will come up and 'drink deep ere he depart,' if not. Mahomet must go to the mountain; but Cambridge will bring sad recollections to him, and worse to me, though for very different reasons. I believe the only human being that ever loved me in truth and entirely was of, or belonging to, Cambridge, and, in that, no change can now take place. There is one consolation in a death—where he sets his seal, the impression can neither be melted or broken, but endureth for ever.

"Yours always,

"B."

LETTER CXVIII.

TO MASTER JOHN COWELL.

"B. St. James's street, Feb. 12, 1812.

"My dear John,

"You have probably long ago forgotten the writer of these lines, who would, perhaps, be unable to recognize yourself, from the difference which must naturally have taken place in your stature and appearance since he last saw you running through the streets of Portugal, Spain, Greece, &c., &c., for some years, and have found so many changes in your return, that it would be very unfair not to expect that you should have had your share of alteration and improvement with the rest. I write to request a favor of you: a little boy of eleven years, the son of Mr. *, my particular friend, is about to become an Etonian, and I should esteem any act of protection or kindness to him as an obligation to myself; let me beg of you then to take some little notice of him at first, till he is able to shift for himself.

"I was happy to hear a very favorable account o you from a schoolfellow a few weeks ago, and should be glad to learn that your family are as well as I wish them to be. I presume you are in the upper school; as an Etonian, you will look down upon a Homo man; but I never, even in my boyish days, disputed your superiority, which I once experienced in a cricket match, where I had the honor of making one of eleven, who were beaten to their hearts' content by your college in one innings.

"Believe me to be, with great truth, &c., &c.
LETTERS.

LETTER CXIX.

TO MR. ROGERS.

"February 4, 1813.

My Dear Sir,

With my best acknowledgments to Lord Holland, I have to offer my perfect concurrence in the propriety of the question previously to be put to ministers. If their answer is in the negative, I shall, with his lordship's approbation, give notice of a motion for a Committee of Inquiry. I would also gladly avail myself of his most able advice, and any information or documents with which he might be pleased to intrust me, to bear me out in the statement of facts it may be necessary to submit to the House.

From all that fell under my own observation during my Christmas visit to Newcastle, I feel convinced that, if conciliatory measures are not very soon adopted, the most unhappy consequences may be apprehended. Nightly outrage and daily depredation are already at their height, and not only the masters of frames, who are obnoxious to the account of their occupation, but persons in no degree connected with the malcontents or their oppressors, are liable to insult and pillage.

I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken on my account, and beg you to believe me ever your obliged and sincere, &c."

LETTER CXX.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"St. James's street, Feb. 25, 1813.

My Lord,

"With my best thanks, I have the honor to return the Notts. letter to your lordship. I have read it with attention, but do not think I shall venture to avail myself of its contents, as my view of the question differs in some measure from Mr. Coldham's. I hope I do not wrong him, but his objections to the bill appear to me to be founded on certain apprehensions that he and his coadjutors might be mistaken for the 'original advisers' (to quote him) of the measure. For my own part, I consider the manufacturers as a much injured body of men, and that the efficacy of the bill depends on the parts of artisans who have enriched themselves by those practices which have deprived the frame-workers of employment. For instance,—by the adoption of a certain kind of frame, one man performs the work of seven—six are thus thrown out of business. But it is to be observed that the work thus done is far inferior in quality, hardly marketable at home, and hurried over with a view to exportation. Surely, my lord, however we may rejoice in any improvement in the arts which may be beneficial to mankind, we must not allow mankind to be sacrificed to improvements in mechanism. The maintenance and well-doing of the industrial poor is an object of greater consequence to the community than the enrichment of a few monopolists by any improvement in the implements of trade, which deprives the workman of his bread, and renders the laborer 'unworthy of his hire.' My own motive for opposing the bill is founded on its palpable injustice, and its certain inefficacy. I have seen the state of these miserable men, and it is a disgrace to a civilized country. Their excesses may be condemned, but cannot be subject of wonder. The effect of the present bill would be to drive them into actual rebellion. The few words I shall venture to offer on Thursday will be founded upon these observations, not from my own observations on the spot. By previous inquiry, I am convinced these men would have been restored to employment, and the county to tranquility. It is, perhaps, not yet too late, and is surely worth the trial. It can never or too late to employ force in such circumstances. I believe your lordship does not coincide with me entirely on this subject, and most cheerfully and sincerely shall I submit to your superior judgment and experience, and take some other line of argument against the bill, or be silent altogether, should you deem it more advisable. Condemning, as every one must condemn, the conduct of these wretches, I believe in the existence of grievances which call rather for pity than punishment. I have the honor to be, with great respect, my lord,

"Your lordship's

"Most obedient and obliged servant"

LETTER CXXI.

TO MR. HODGSON.

"St. James's street, March 5, 1812.

My Dear Hodgson,

'We are not answerable for reports of speeches in the papers,—they are always given incorrectly and on this occasion more so than usual. From the debate in the Commons on the same night. The Morning Post should have said eighteen years. However, you will find the speech, as spoken, in the Parliamentary Register, when it comes out. Lords Holland and Grenville, particularly the latter, paid me some high compliments in the course of their speeches, as you may have seen in the papers, and Lords Eldon and Harrowby answered me. I have had many marvellous eulogies repeated to me since, in person and by proxy, from divers persons ministerial—yea ministerial—as well as oppositionists; of them I shall only mention Sir F. Burdett. He says, it is the best speech by a lord since the 'Lord knows when,' probably from a fellow-feeling in the sentiments. Lord H. tells me I shall beat them all if I persevere, and Lord G. remarked that the construction of some of my periods are very like Burke's! And so much for vanity. I spoke very violent sentences with a sort of modest impudence, abused every thing; and every body, and put the Lord Chancellor very much out of humor; and I may believe what I have not lost any character by the experiment. As to my delivery, loud and fluent enough, perhaps a little theatrical, I could not recognize myself of any one else in the newspapers.

"My poesy comes out on Saturday. Hobhouse is here; I shall tell him to write. My stone is gone for the present, but I fear is part of my habit. We all talk of a visit to Cambridge. "Yours ever."

"B."

LETTER CXXII.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"St. James's street, March 6, 1812.

My Lord,

"May I request your Lordship to accept a copy of the thing which accompanies this note? You

*"Childe Harold. To his sister, Mrs. Leigh, one of the first presentation copies was also sent, with the following inscription in it:—"To Augustus, my dearest niece, and my best friend, who has ever loved me much better than I deserved, this volume is presented by her brother, and most affectionate brother."

* See his first speech.
have already so fully proved the truth of the first line of Pope's complaint,

'Forgive me to the injured dot which belong,'

that I long for an opportunity to give the lie to the verse that follows. If I were not perfectly convinced that anything I may have formerly uttered in the boisterous rashness of my misplaced resentment had much play been hinted at, as it deserved to make, I should hardly have the confidence—perhaps your lordship may give it a stronger and more appropriate application—to send you a quart of the new scribbler. But I am sorry to observe to-day, is troubled with the gout: if my book can produce a laugh against itself or the author, it will be of some service. If it can set you to sleep, the benefit will be yet greater; and as some facetious personage observed half a century ago, that 'poetry is a mere drug,' I offer you mine as an humble assistant to the can medicinae.' I trust you will forgive this and all my other buffooneries, and believe me to be, with great respect,

'Your lordship's obliged and sincere servant,

'BYRON.'

In relation to the following note of Lord Byron, Mr. Moore says:—

'Not long after the publication of Childe Harold, the noble author paid me a visit, one morning, and, putting a letter into my hands, which he had just received, requested that I would undertake to manage for him whatever proceedings it might render necessary. This letter, I found, had been delivered to him by Mr. Leckie, (a gentleman well known by a work on Sicilian affairs,) and came from a once active and popular member of the fashionable world, Colonel Greville. In pursuance of its purport being to require of his lordship, as author of 'English Bards, &c.,' such reparation as it was in his power to make for the injury which, as Colonel Greville conceived, certain passages in that Satire, reflecting upon his conduct, as manager of the Argyle Institution, were calculated to inflict upon his character. In the appeal of the gallant colonel, there were some expressions of rather an angry cast, which Lord Byron, though fully conscious of the length to which he himself had gone, was but little inclined to brook, and on my returning the letter into his hands, he said, 'To such a letter as that there can be but one sort of answer.' I agreed, however, to trust the matter entirely to my discretion, and I had, shortly after, an interview with the friend of Colonel Greville. By this gentleman, who was then an utter stranger to me, I was received with much courtesy, and with every disposition to bring the affair intrusted to us on an amicable issue. On my promising that the tone of his friend's letter stood in the way of negotiation, and that some obnoxious expressions which it contained must be removed before I could proceed a single step towards explanation, he most readily consented to remove this obstacle. At his request I drew a sketch across the parts I considered objectionable, and he undertook to send me the letter, rewritten, next morning. In the mean time, I received from Lord Byron the following paper for my guidance:

"With regard to the passage on Mr. Way's loss, no unfairness was intended by me—referring to the book; and it is expressly added that the managers were ignorant of that transaction. As to the prevalence of play at the Argyle, it cannot be denied that there were billiards and dice,—Lord B. has been a witness to the use of both at the Argyle Rooms. These, it is presumed, come under the denomination of play. If play be allowed, the President of the Institution can hardly complain of being termed the 'Arbiter of Play;'—on what becomes of his authority?

"Lord B. has no personal animosity to Colonel Greville. A public institution, to which he, himself, was a subscriber, he considered himself to have a right to notice publicly. Of that institution Colonel Greville was the avowed director;—it is too late to enter into the discussion of its merits or demerits.

"Lord B. must leave the discussion of the reparation, for the real or supposed injury, to Colonel G.'s friend, and Mr. Moore, the friend of Lord B.—begging them to recollect that, while they consider Colonel G.'s honor, Lord B. must also maintain his own. If the business can be settled amicably, Lord B. will do as much as can and ought to be done by a man of honor towards concealment;—if not, he must satisfy Colonel G. in the manner most conducive to his further wishes."

In the morning I received the letter, in its new form, from Mr. Leckie, with the annexed note.

‘My Dear Sir,

'I found my friend very ill in bed; he has, however, managed to copy the enclosed, with the alterations proposed, and you may wish to see me in the morning; I shall therefore be glad to see you any time till twelve o'clock. If you rather wish me to call on you, tell me, and I shall obey your summons.

'Yours, very truly,

'G. T. Leckie.'

'With such facilities towards pacification, it is almost needless to add, that there was but little delay in settling the matter amicably.'

LETTER CXXIII.

TO MR. WILLIAM BANKES.

'My Dear Bankes,

'I feel rather hurt (not savagely) at the speech you made to me last night, and my hope is that it was only one of your profane jests. I should be very sorry that any part of my behavior should give you cause to suppose that I think higher of myself, or otherwise of you, than I have always done. I can assure you that I am as much the humblest of your servants as at Trin. Coll.; and if I have not been at home when you favored me with a call, the loss was more mine than yours. In the bustle of buzzing, parties, there is, there can be, no rational conversación; but when I can enjoy it, there is nobody's I can prefer to your own.

'Believe me ever faithfully

'And most affectionately yours,'

'BYRON.'

LETTER CXXIV.

TO MR. WILLIAM BANKES.

'My Dear Bankes,

'My eagerness to come to an explanation has, I trust, convinced you that whatever my unlucky manner might inadvertently be, the change was as amicable as (if intended) it would have been ungrateful. I really was not aware that, while we were together, I had evinced such caprices; that we were not so much in each other's company as I could
LETTERS.

LETTER CXXV.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"My Dear Lord,

"I must appear very ungrateful, and have, indeed, been very negligent, but till last night I was so apprized of Lady Holland's restoration, and I shall call to-morrow to have the satisfaction, I trust, of hearing that she is well.—I hope that neither politics nor gout have assailed your lordship since I last saw you, and that you also are 'as well as could be expected.'

"The other night, at a ball, I was presented by order, to our gracious Regent, who honored me with some conversation, and professed a predilection for poetry. I confess it was a most unexpected honor, and I thought of poor Brummell's adventure, with some apprehensions of a similar blunder. I have now great hope, in the event of Mr. Pye's decease, of 'warming truths at court,' like Mr. Mallett, of indifference. —Consider one hundred marks a year! besides the wine and the disgrace; but then remorse would make me drown myself in my own but before the year's end, or the finishing of my first dithyramb. So that, after all, I shall not meditate our late monarch's death by pen or poison.

"Will you present my best respects to Lady Holland, and believe me hers and yours very sincerely,

S."

P.S. My best wishes and respects to Mrs. Moore.—She is beautiful. I may say so even to you, Sir I never was more struck with a counte-

NOTE S TO MR. MOORE.

"March 25, 1812.

"Know all men by these present, that you, Thomas Moore stand indicted—no—invited, by special and particular solicitation, to Lady Caroline Lamb's, to-morrow even, at half-past nine o'clock, where you will meet with a civil reception and decent entertainment. Pray, come—I was so examined after you: this morning, that I entreat you to answer in person. Believe me, &c."

"Friday noon.

"I should have answered your note yesterday, but I hoped to have seen you this morning. must consult with you about the day we dined with Sir Francis. I suppose we shall meet at Lady Spencer's to-night. I did not know that you were at Miss Berry's the other night, or I should have certainly gone there.

"As usual, I am in all sorts of scrapes, though none, at present, of a martial description. Believe me, &c."

"May 5, 1812.

"I am too proud of being your friend to care with whom I am linked in your separation, and God knows, I want friends more at this time than at any other. I am 'taking care of myself' to no great purpose. If you knew my situation in every point of view, you would excuse apparent and unintentional neglect.* * * I shill leave town. I think; but do not you leave it without seeing me. I wish you, from my soul, every happiness you can wish yourself; and I think you have taken the road to secure it. Peace be with you! I fear she has abandoned me. Ever, &c."

"May 20, 1812.

"On Monday, after sitting up all night, I saw Bingham launched into eternity, and at three the same day I saw * launched into the country.* I believe in the beginning of time, I shall be down for a few days in Notts. If so, I shall best you up 'en passant' with Hobhouse, who is degenerating like you and everybody else, to keep me off to excesses.

"I meant to have written you a long letter, but I find I cannot. If any remarkable occurs, you will hear it from me—if good; if bad, there are plenty to tell it. In the mean time do you be happy, &c. Ever, &c.

P.S. My best wishes and respects to Mrs. Moore.—She is beautiful. I may say so even to you, Sir I never was more struck with a counte-

MY DEAR LORD,

"I must appear very ungrateful, and have, indeed, been very negligent, but till last night I was so apprized of Lady Holland's restoration, and I shall call to-morrow to have the satisfaction, I trust, of hearing that she is well.—I hope that neither politics nor gout have assailed your lordship since I last saw you, and that you also are 'as well as could be expected.'

"The other night, at a ball, I was presented by order, to our gracious Regent, who honored me with some conversation, and professed a predilection for poetry. I confess it was a most unexpected honor, and I thought of poor Brummell's adventure, with some apprehensions of a similar blunder. I have now great hope, in the event of Mr. Pye's decease, of 'warming truths at court,' like Mr. Mallett, of indifference. —Consider one hundred marks a year! besides the wine and the disgrace; but then remorse would make me drown myself in my own but before the year's end, or the finishing of my first dithyramb. So that, after all, I shall not meditate our late monarch's death by pen or poison.

"Will you present my best respects to Lady Holland, and believe me hers and yours very sincerely,

S."

P.S. My best wishes and respects to Mrs. Moore.—She is beautiful. I may say so even to you, Sir I never was more struck with a counte-
and Catholic sovereigns, my curiosity was sufficiently allayed, and my politics being as perverse as my rhymes, I had, in fact, "no business there." To be thus praised by your Sovereign must be gratifying to you: and if that gratification is not alloyed by the communication being made through me, the bearer of it will consider himself very fortunately and sincerely yours,

"Your obliged and obedient servant,

"BYRON."

"P. S. Excuse this scrawl, scratched in a great hurry, and just after a journey."

LETTER CXXXVII.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"Cheltenham, September 10, 1812.

"My dear Lord,

"The lines* which I sketched off on your hint are still, or rather were, in an unfinished state, for I have just committed them to a flame more decisive than that of Drury. Under all the circumstances, I should hardly wish a contest with Philo-drama—Philo-Durty—Aubert, H.**, and all the anonymous and synonynomes of the Committee candidates. Seriously, I think you have a chance of something much better; for prologuing is not my forte, and, at all events, either my pride or my modesty won't let me incur the hazard of having my rhymes buried in next month's Magazine, under 'Essays on the Murder of Mr. Percival,' and 'Cures for the Bite of a Mad Dog,' as poor Goldsmith complained of the fate of superior performances.

"I am still sufficiently interested to wish to know the successful candidate; and, among so many, I have no doubt some will be excellent, particularly in an age when writing verse is the easiest of all attainments.

"I cannot answer your intelligence with the 'like comfort,' unless, as you are deeply theatrical, you may wish to hear of Mr. **, whose acting is, I fear, utterly inadequate to the London engagement into which the manifes of Covent Garden have lately entered. His figure is fat, his features flat, his voice unmanageable, his action ungraceful, and, as Diggory says, 'I defy him to extort that dog-a-muffin face of his into madness.' I was very sorry to see him in the character of the 'Elephant on the slack rope;' for, when I last saw him, I was in raptures with his performance. But then I was sixteen,—an age to which all London then condescended to subside. After all, much better judges have admired, and may again; but I venture to 'prognosticate a prophecy' (see the Courier) that he will not succeed.

"So, poor dear Rogers has stuck fast on 'the brow of the mighty Helvellyn'—I hope not for ever. My best respects to Lady H.—her departure, with that of my other friends, was a sad event for me, now reduced to a state of the most cynical solitude. 'By the waters of Cheltenham I sat down and drank;' when I remember thee, oh, Grecian Cottage! As for our harps, we hange' them upon the willows that grow thereby! Then they said, 'Sing us a song of Drury Lane,' &c.—but I am dum'd and dreary as the Israelites. The waters have disordered me to my heart's content,—you were 'right as you always are.

"Believe me ever your obliged

"And affectionate servant,

"BYRON."

* Address at the opening of Drury-Lane Theatre.

LETTER CXXXVIII.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"September 22, 1812.

"My dear Lord,

"In a day or two I will send you something which you will still have the liberty to reject if you dislike it, but you shall have had more time, but I will do my best, but too happy if I can oblige you, though I may offend one hundred scribblers and discerning public.

"Ever yours,

"'Keep my name a secret; or I shall be beset by all the rejected, and perhaps damned by a party.'

LETTER CXXXIX.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"Cheltenham, September 23, 1812.

"Eeco! I have marked some passages with double readings—choose between them—cut out—add reject—or destroy—do with them as you will—leave it to you and the Committee—you cannot say a 'non committendo.' What will they do—and I do) with the hundreds and one rejected Troubadours? 'With trumpets, yes, and with shawms,' will you be assailed in the most diabolical doggerel. I wish my name not to transpire till the day is decided. I shall not be in town, so it won't matter much; but let us have a good deliverer. I think Elliston should be the man, or Pope; not Raymond, I implore you by the love of Rhythms! The passages marked thus — above and below, are for you to choose between epitaphs, and such like poetical furniture. Pray write me a line, and believe me ever, &c.

"My best remembrances to Lady H. Will you be good enough to decide between the various readings marked, and erase the other; or our deliverer may be as puzzled as a commentator, and belike repeat both. If these verses won't do I will hammer out some more endearables.

"P. S. Tell Lady H. I have had sad work to keep out the Phoenix—I mean the Fire-Office of that name. It has insured the theatre, and why not the Address?

LETTER CXXX.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"September 24.

"I send a recast of the first four lines of the concluding paragraph.

"This greeting o'erre, the ancient rule defy'd,
The drama's homage by her Herald paid,
Receive our solemn kiss, whose every word
Springs from our hearts and lips would win your own.
The curtain rises, &c., &c.

And do forgive all this trouble. See what it is to have to do even with the genteel of us.

"Ever, &c.

LETTER CXXXI.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"Cheltenham, Sept. 25, 1812.

"Still 'more matter for a May morning.' Having patched the middle and end of the Address, I send one more compleat for a part of the beginning, which, if not too turgid, you will have the goodness..."
to add. After that flagrant image of the Thames
(I hope no unlucky wag will say I have set it on
fire, though Dryden, in his 'Annis Mirabilis,' and
Churchill, in his 'Times,' did it before me,) I mean
to insert this:

'As standing for the new Volcano

And sweep the skies with phlegmies not their own,
While thousands throng'd around the burning dome, &c., &c.

I think 'thousands' less flat than 'crowds collect-
ed'—but don't let me plunge into the bathos, or
rise into Nat. Lee's Bedlam metaphors. By-the-by,
the best view of the said fire (which I myself saw
from a house-top in Covent Garden) was at West-
minster Bridge, from the reflection on the Thames.
'Perhaps the present couplet had better come in
after 'trembled for their homes,' the two lines after
it, as otherwise the image certainly sinks, and it will
run just as well.

'The lines themselves, perhaps, may be better
thus: ('choose,' or 'refuse'—but please yourself,
and don't mind 'Sir Fretful')

As flesh'd the volumed brain, and ghostly alone,
The sole with lightnings awful as their own.

The last from smoothest, and, I think, best; but
you know better than best. 'Lurid' is also a less
indistinct epithet than 'livid wave,' and, if you think
so, a lash of the pen will do.

'I expected one line this morning; in the mean-
time, I shall remodel and condense, and if I do not
hear from you, I shall send another copy.

'I am ever, &c."

LETTER CXXXII.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

'September 26, 1819.

'You will think there is no end to my villainous
amendations. The fifth and sixth lines I think to
alter thus:

'Ye who behold—oh sight admir'd and mourn'd!

Who needless mock'd the rule it adorn'd!

because 'night' is repeated the next line but one;
and, as it now stands, the conclusion of the para-
graph, 'worthy him (Shakespeare) and you,' appears
to apply the 'you' to those only who were out of bed
and in Covent-Garden Market on the night of con-
flagration, instead of the audience or the discerning
public at large, of all whom are intended to be com-
prised in that comprehensive and, I hope compre-
sensible pronoun.

'By-the-by, one of my corrections in the fair copy
sent yesterday has dived into the bathos some sixty
fathoms—'

'When Garrick died, and Bolingbroke ceased to write.

Cesing to write is a much more serious concern, and
cught not to be first; therefore I will let the old
couplet stand, with its half rhymes 'sought' and
'wrote.' Second thoughts in every thing are best;
but, in rhyme, third and fourth don't come amiss.
I am very anxious on this business, and I do hope
that the very trouble I occasion you will plead its
own excuse, and that it will tend to show my endea-
vor to make the most of the time allotted. I wish
I had known it months ago, for in that case I had
not left one line standing on another. I always
scroll in this way, and smooth as much as I can,

''Such are the names that bore your planis subs uron
When Garrick said, and when Bolingbroke wrote.''

At present the couplet stands thus:

'Dear are the days that made our annals bright,

Sir Edward Bud., or Bolingbroke ceased to write.'"

"As glazed the volumed brain, and ghostly alone."

LETTER CXXXIV.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

'September 27, 1819.

'I have just received your very kind letter, and
hope you have met with a second copy corrected
and addressed to Holland House, with some omissions
and this new couplet,

'As glared each rising flash,' and ghostly alone,
The sole with lightnings awful as their own.

As to remarks, I can only say I will alter and acquis-
ease in any thing. With regard to the part which
Whitbread wishes to omit, I believe the Address
will go off quicker without it, though like the agility
of the Hottentot, at the expense of its vigor. I
leave to your choice entirely the different specimens
of stucco-work; and a brick of your own will also
improve my Babylonish turret. I should like
Ellistone to have it, with your leave. 'Adorn' and
'mourn' are lawful rhymes in Pope's death of the
unfortunate Lady—Gray has 'forlorn' and 'mourn'
—and 'torn' and 'mourn' are in Smollet's famous
Tears of Scotland.

'As there will probably be an outcry among the
rejected, I hope the Committee will testify (if it be
needful) that I sent in nothing to the congress what-
ever, with or without a name, as your lordship well
knows. All I have to do with it is with and through
you; and though I, of course, wish to satisfy the
audience, I do assure you my first object is to com-
ply with your request, and in so doing to show the
sense I have of the many obligations you have con-
ferred upon me.

'Yours ever, "B""
of our line" instead. Johnson has 'many-colored life,' a compound—but they are always best avoided. However, it is the only one in ninety lines, but will be happy to give way to a better. I am ashamed to intrude any more reminiscences on Lady H. or letters upon you; but you are, fortunately for me, gifted with patience already too often tried by "Yours, &c., &c."

LETTER CXXXV.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

*[September 26, 1792.]*

"Will this do better? the metaphor is more complete.

In the first

"Till slowly sob'd the spent volant wave,
And blackening ashes mark'd the Muse's grave."

If not, we will say "burning wave," and instead of "burning clime," in the line some couplets back, have 'glowing.'

"Is Whitbread determined to castrate all my cavalry lines? I don't see why 't other house should be spared; besides, it is the public, who ought to be relieved, and you recoil. Johnson's war against similar buffooneries of Rich's—but, cortes, I am not Johnson.

Instead of 'effects,' say 'labor's'—degenerate will do, will it? Mr. Betty is no longer a babe, therefore the line cannot be personal.

"Will this do?"

the burning

"Till sob'd the love of that molten wave,"

with 'glowing dome,' in case you prefer 'burning added to th's wave' metaphorical. The word 'fiery pillar was nag's anagrams to the 'pillar of fire in the book of Exodus, which went before the Israelites through the Red Sea. I once thought of saying 'like Israel's pillar,' and making it a simile, but I did not know,—the great temptation was leaving the epithet 'fiery' for the supplementary wave. I want to work up that passage, as it is the only new ground we prologuizers can go upon—

"This is the place, where, if a poet
Shined in description, he might know it.

It I part with the possibility of a future configuration, we lessen the compliment to Shakspeare. However, we will e'en mend it thus:

"Yes, it shall be—the magic of that name,
That sorrow as the symes of Time, the torch of Flame,
On the same sat, &c., &c."

* This, as finally altered, is

† The lines he here substitutes, finally were omitted by the Commissioners they were these:

"Nay, lowest still, the Drums yet deport
That late she dropt to erral upon all four.
When Richard roars in Resurrection for a hope,
If you commenc'd, the sound must come of course.
If you decreed, the Stage must commandewed.
To soothe the stately name we dare not mend.
Bless us, our judgment should we accede,
And greatly you were by showing less.
Oh, shunt your fust stamp of the Drums's bay
To force us with misplaced applause;
That public jests be or se'nr again diagnosed,
Brute to man recall.
From bards and bruses redeem a nation's taste.
That pride should only nerve the sover'ign power;
When Ross's voice is echoed back by ours."

The last couplet but one was again altered, in a subsequent copy thus—

"The past reproach let present senses refute,
Nor shalt from man to bale, from bale to brute.

† The first of this couplet, as printed, is as follows:

"If the burning sage and the lovely will
Wear'the'd the M'st real, and mask'd her love."

There—the dience is in it, if that is not an improvement to Whitbread's content. Recollect, it is the "name, and not the 'magic,' that has a noble connotation. If it were the 'magic,' my metaphor would be somewhat of the maddest—so the 'name' is the antecedent. But, my dear lord, your patience is not quite so immortal—therefore, with many and sincere thanks, I am yours ever, most affectionately.

"P. S. I foresee there will be charges of partiality in the papers; but you know I sent in no Address; and glad both you and I must be that I did not, for in that case, their plea had been plausible. I doubt the pit will be testy; but conscious, innocence (a novel and pleasing sensation) makes us bold."

LETTER CXXXVI.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

*[September 28.]*

"I have altered the middle couplet, so as I hope partly to do away with W.'s objection. I do think, in the present state of the stage, it is most unadvisable to pass over the horses and Miss Mudie, &c. As Betty is no longer a boy, how can this be applied to him? He is now to be judged as a man. If he acts still like a boy, the public will be more ashamed of their blunder. I have, you see, now taken it for granted that these things are reformed. I confess, I wish that part of the Address to stand; but if W. is inexorable, I'll e'en let it go. I have also new cast the lines, and softened the hint of future combustion, and sent them off this morning. Will you have the goodness to add, or insert, the approved alterations as they arrive? They come like shadows, so depart; occupy me, and, I fear, disturb you.

"Do not let Mr. W. put his Address into Elliston's hands till you have settled on these alterations. E. will think it too long—much depends on the speaking. I fear it will not bear much curtail, without chasms in the sense.

"It is certainly too long in the reading; but if Elliston exerts himself, such a favorite with the public will not be thought tedious. I should think it so, if he were not to speak it.

"Yours ever, &c."

"P. S. On looking again, I doubt my idea of having obviated W's. objection. To the other house, allusion is a 'non sequitur.' What I wish to plead for this part, because the thing really is not to be passed over. Many after-pieces at the Lyceum by the same company, have already attacked this 'Augane Noble'—and Johnson, in his prologue against 'Lunn,' (the harlequin-manager, Rich.),—"Hunt,'—Mahomet,' &c., is surely a fair precept.

LETTER CXXXVII.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

*[Sept. 1793.]*

"Shakespeare certainly ceased to reign in one of his kingdoms, as George III. did in America, and George IV. may in Ireland.† Now, we have nothing to do out of our own realms, and when the monarchy was gone, his majesty had but a barren sceptre. I have cut away, you will see, and altered,

"It had been, originally,

"Though other pikes may stick in future fame,
On the same spot;" &c., &c.

† Some objection, it appears from this, had been made to the passage, "and the impromptu ceased to reign."
LETTER CXXXVIII.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"Sept. 30, 1812.

"I send you the most I can make of it; for I am not so well as I was, and find I am falling in resolution. I wish much to see you, and will be at Tetbury by twelve on Saturday; and from thence I go on to Lord Jersey's. It is impossible not to allude to the degraded state of the stage, but I have lightened it, and endeavoured to obviate your other objections. There is a new couplet for Sheridan, allusive to his Monody. All the alterations I have marked thus [---], as you will see by comparison with the other copy. I have cudgelled my brains with the greatest willingness, and only wish I had more time to have done better.

"You will find a sort of clap-trap laudatory couplet inserted for the quiet of the Committee, and I have add'd, towards the end, the couplet you were pleased to like. The whole Address is seventy-three lines, still perhaps too long, and, if shortened, you will save time, but, I fear, a little of what I meant for sense also.

"With myriads of thanks, I am ever, &c.

"My sixteenth edition of respects to Lady H. How she must laugh at all this!

"I wish Murray, my publisher, to print off some copies as soon as your lordship returns to town—it will ensure correctness in the papers afterward."

LETTER CXXXIX.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"Sept. 30, 1812.

"Par be from him that hour which asks in vain
True path as thou in Gavrick in his ears;
Or,

"Par be that hour that vainly asks in turn
True voice for him as sweet as Gavrick's urn."

"Will you choose between these added to the lines on Sheridan? I think they will wind up the panegyric, and agree with the train of thought preceding them.

"Now one word as to the Committee—how could they resolve on a rough copy of an Address never sent in, unless you had been good enough to retain in memory, or on paper, the thing they have been good enough to adopt? By the by, the circumstances of the case should make the committee less 'avised glori,' for all praise of them would look plaguy suspicious. If necessary to be stated at all, the simple facts bear them out. They surely had a right to act as they pleased. My sole object is one which, I trust, my whole conduct has shown; viz. that I did nothing insidious—sent in no Address whatsoever—but, when applied to, did my best for them and myself; but above all, that there was no undue partiality, which will be what the rejected will endeavor to make out. Fortunately—most fortunately—I sent no line on the occasion. For I am sure that had they, in that case, been preferred, it would have been asserted that I was known, and owed the preference to private friendship. This is what we shall probably have to encounter, but if once spoken and approved, we shan't be much embarrassed by their brilliant conjectures, and, as to criticism, an old author, like an old bull, grows cooler (or ought) at every baiting.

"The only thing would be to avoid a party on the night of delivery—afterward, the more the better, and the whole transaction inevitably tends to a good deal of discussion. Murray tells me there are myriads of irrational Addresses ready—some, in imitation of what is call'd 'my style.' If they are as good as the Probationary Odes, or Hawkins' Pipe of Tobacco, it will not be bad fun for the uninstructed.

"Ever, &c."

LETTER CXL.

TO LORD HOLLAND.

"October 2, 1812.

"A copy of this still altered is sent by the post, but this will arrive first. It must be 'humble'—yet aspiring' does away the modesty, and, after all, truth is truth. Besides, there is a puff direct altered, to please your plague-ridden. I shall be at Tetbury by twelve or one—but send this for you to ponder over. There are several little things marked thus altered for your perusal. I have dismounted the cavalry, and, I hope, arranged to your general satisfaction. 'Ever, &c.'

"At Tetbury by noon. I hope, after it is sent, there will be no more elisions. It is not now so long—seventy-three lines—two less than allotted. I will alter all committee objections, but I hope you won't permit Elliston to have any voice whatever except in speaking it."

LETTER CXL.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Cheltenham, Cheltenham, Sept. 9, 1812.

"Pray have the goodness to send those despatches, and a No. of the Edinburgh Review with the rest. I hope you have written to Mr. Thompson, thanked him in my name for his present, and told him that I shall be truly happy to comply with his request. How do you go on? and when is the graven image, 'with boys and wicked rhymes upon,' to grace, or disgrace, some of our tardy editions?

"Send me 'Bobbery.' Who the devil is he?—no matter, he has good connexions, and will be well introduced. I thank you for your inquiries: I am so so, but my thermometer is sadly below the poetical point. What will you give me or wine for a poem of six cantos, (when complete—no rhyme, no recompense,) as like the last two as I can make them? I have some ideas that one day may be embodied, and till winter I shall have much leisure.

"P. S. My last question is in the true style of Grab street; but, like Jeremy Diddler, I only 'ask for information.' Send me Adair on Diet and Regimen, just republished by Ridgway."

LETTER CXLII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Cheltenham, Sept. 14, 1812.

"The parcels contained some letters and verses all (but one) anonymous and complimentary, and
BYRON’S WORKS.

very anxious for my conversion from certain infidel-
ities into which my good-natured correspondents 
conceive me to have fallen. The books were pres-
ents of a convertible kind. Also, ‘Christian know-
ledge’ and the ‘Bioscope,’ a religious Dial of Life 
explained; and to the author, with the advice (Cedol 
publisher) beg you will forward my best thanks 
for his letter, his present, and, above all, his good 
intentions. The ‘Bioscope’ contained a MS. copy 
of very excellent verses, from whom I know not, 
but evidently the composition of some one in the 
habit of writing, and of writing well. I do not know 
if he be the author of the ‘Bioscope’ which accom-
panied them; but whoever he is, if you can discover 
him, thank him for me most heartily. The other 
letters were from ladies, who are welcome to convert 
me when they please; and if I can discover them, 
and they be young, as tary say they are, I could 
convince them perhaps of my devotion. I had also 
a letter from Mr. Walpole on matters of this world, 
which I have answered.

“So you are Lucien’s publisher? I am promised 
an interview with him, and think I shall ask you 
for a letter of introduction, and assure you I have much 
from his publisher and mine? Is it not somewhat treasoom in you to have 
to do with thecler and fierce fce, as the Morning 
Post calls his brother?”

“But my book on ‘Diet and Regimen,’ where is it? 
I thirst for Scott’s ‘Rokeby;’ let me have 
your first-begotten copy. The Anti-Jacobin Review 
is all very well, and not a bit worse than the Quar-
terly, and at least less harmless. By the by, have 
you secured my books? I want all the Reviews, at 
least the critiques, quarterly, monthly, &c., Portu-
geus and English, extracted, and bound up in one 
volume for my old age; and pray, sort my Roman 
books, and get the volumes lent to Mr. Hobhouse— 
he has had them now a long time. If any thing oc-
curs, I will know him with a line, and in winter 
we shall be nearer neighbors.”

“P. S. I was applied to, to write the Address for 
Drury Lane; but the moment I heard of the con-
test, I gave up the idea of contending against all 
Grub street, and threw a few thoughts on the sub-
ject into the fire. I did this out of respect to you, 
being sure you would have turned off any of your 
authors who had entered the lists with such scurvy 
competitors. To triumph would have been no glory; 
and to have been defeated—death would have 
choked myself, like Otway, with a quartem loaf; so, 
remember I had, and have, nothing to do with 
it, upon my honor!”

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LETTER CXLIII.

TO MR. WILLIAM BANKES.

“My Dear Bankes,

“When you point out to one how people can be 
imitate at the distance of some seventy leagues, I 
will plead guilty to your charge, and accept your 
well, but not wittingly, till you give me some better 
reason than my silence, which merely proceeded 
from being listless; and on my own declaration of 
old, that you hated writing and receiving letters. 
Besides, how was I to find out a man of many resi-
dences? If I had addressed you now, it had been 
to be in your hands where I must have been defecuted, 
that would have been among your constituents. So now, in 
despite of Mr. N. and Lady W., you shall be as much better 
’s as the Hexam post-office will allow me to 
make you. I do assure you I am much indebted to you 
for thinking of me at all, and can’t spare you

even from among the superabundance of friends 
with whom you suppose me surrounded.

“You have heard that Newstead is sold—the 
sum 140,000l.; sixty to remain in mortgage on the 
estate for three years, paying interest, of course. 
I am no more to Rochdale, but return here, where I am quite alone, 
go out very little, and enjoy in its fullest extent the 
delicatiae nutice. What you are about, I cannot 
guess, even from your date; not dancing to the 
noise of the prisoners in the Halls of the Lowthers— 
one of whom is here, ill, poor thing! with a phthisis; 
I heard that you passed through here (at the sobrid 
inn where I first alighted) the very day before I 
arrived in these parts. We had a very pleasant set 
here; at first the Jerseys, Melbourne, Cowpers, 
and Hollands—but all gone; and the only persons 
I know are the Rawdons and Ox swords, with some 
later acquaintances of less brilliant descent.

“But I am not troubled, though as for your rooms 
and your assemblies, ‘they are not dreamed of in our philosophy!’ Did you read of a 
bad accident in the Wye? other day?—a dozen 
drowned, and Mr. Roscoe, a corpulent gentleman, 
preserved by a boat-hook or an edic-spear, begeged, 
when he heard his wife was saved—no—lost—to be 
thrown in again!—as if he could not have thrown 
himself in, had he wished it; but this passes for a 
trait of sensibility. What strange beings are men, 
in and out of Wye! 

“I have to ask you a thousand pardons for not 
fulfilling some orders before I left town; but if you 
know all the cursed entanglements I had to wade 
through, it would be unnecessary to beg your forgive-
ness. When will Parliament (the new one) meet? 
in sixty days, on account of Ireland, I presume; 
the Irish election will demand a longer period for 
completion than the constitutional allotment. Yours 
of course, is safe, and all your side of the question 
Salamaca is the ministerial watchword, and all will 
go well with you. I hope you will speak more fre-
frequently—I am sure at least you ought, and it will 
be expected. I see Portman means to stand again 
Good night.

“Ever yours most affectionately,

“Yours faithfully,

“Chesterham, Sept. 27, 1812.

“CHETNEHAM, Sept. 30, 1812.

“I sent in no address whatever to the committee; 
but out of nearly one hundred, (this is confidential,) 
none have been deemed worth acceptance; and in 
consequence of their subsequent application to me, 
I have written a prologue, which has been received, 
and will be spoken. The MS. is now in the hands 
of Lord Holland.

“I write this merely to say that (however it is re-
ceived by the audience) you will publish it in the 
next edition of Child’s Harold; and I only beg you 
at present to keep my name secret till you hear 
from me, and as soon as possible I wish you to 
have a correct copy to do with as you think proper.

“P. S. I should wish a few copies printed off 
before, that the newspaper copies may be correct 
after the delivery.”

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LETTER CXLIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

“Chesterham, Sept. 27, 1812.

“I have a thousand pardons for not fulfilling some 
orders before I left town; but if you knew all the 
cursed entanglements I had to wade through, it would be unnecessary to beg your forgive-
ness. When will Parliament (the new one) meet? 
in sixty days, on account of Ireland, I presume; 
the Irish election will demand a longer period for 
completion than the constitutional allotment. Yours 
of course, is safe, and all your side of the question 
Salamaca is the ministerial watchword, and all will 
go well with you. I hope you will speak more 
frequently—I am sure at least you ought, and it will 
be expected. I see Portman means to stand again 
Good night.

“Ever yours most affectionately,

“Your faithfully,

“Chesterham, Sept. 30, 1812.

“I have written a prologue, which has been received, 
and will be spoken. The MS. is now in the hands 
of Lord Holland.

“I write this merely to say that (however it is re-
ceived by the audience) you will publish it in the 
next edition of Child’s Harold; and I only beg you 
at present to keep my name secret till you hear 
from me, and as soon as possible I wish you to 
have a correct copy to do with as you think proper.

“P. S. I should wish a few copies printed off 
before, that the newspaper copies may be correct 
after the delivery.”

* The sale was afterwards cancelled.

† A notice of signatures be frequently adopted.
LETTER CXLV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Cheltenham, Oct. 20, 1812.

* I have a very strong objection to the engraving of the portrait, and request that it may, on no account, be prefixed; but let all the proofs be burned, and the plate broken. I will be at the expense which has been incurred; it is but fair that I should, since I cannot permit the publication. I beg, as a particular favor, that you will lose no time in having this done, for which I have reasons that I will state when I see you. Forgive all the trouble I have occasioned you.

* I have received no account of the reception of the Address, but see it is vituperated in the papers, which does not much embarrass an old author. I leave it to your own judgment to add it, or not, to your next edition when required. Pray comply strictly with my wishes as to the engraving, and believe me, &c.

P.S. Favor me with an answer, as I shall not be easy till I hear that the proofs, &c., are destroyed. I hear that the Satirist has reviewed Childe Harold, in what manner I need not ask; but I wish to know if the old personalities are revived? I have a better reason for asking this than any that merely concern myself; but in publications of that kind, others, particularly female names are sometimes introduced.

LETTER CXLVI.

TO LORD HOLLAND.


My Dear Lord,

"I perceive that the papers, yes, even Perry's, are somewhat ruffled at the injudicious preference of the Committee. My friend Perry has, indeed, set the Bute-d'man rather severely, for which I will send him, for the M. C.* the next epigram I scribble, as a token of my full forgiveness.

"Do the Committee mean to enter into no explanation of their proceedings? You must see there is a leaning towards a charge of partiality. You will, at least, acquit me of any great anxiety to push myself before so many older and better anonymous, to whom the twenty guineas (which I take to be about two thousand pounds Bank currency) and the honor would have been equally welcome. "Honour," I see, 'hath no skill in paragraph-writing;

"I wish to know how it went off at the second reading, and whether anyone has had the grace to give it a glimpse of approbation. I have seen no paper but Perry's, and two Sunday ones. Perry is severe, and the others silent. If, however, you and your Committee are not now dissatisfied with your own judgments, I shall not much embarrass myself about the brilliant remarks of the journals. My own opinion is upon it what it always was, perhaps pretty near that of the public.

"Believe me, my dear lord, &c. &c.

P.S. My best respects to Lady H. whose smiles will be very consolatory, even at this distance."

BUSBY's entire) inserted in several of the papers (correctly, and copied correctly; my hand is diff. cult.)—particularly the Morning Chronicle? Tell Mr. Perry I forgive him all he has said, and may say against my address, but he will allow me to deal with the doctor—(cauti alterum partem) and not betray me. I cannot think what has befallen Mr. Perry, for of yore we were very good friends—but no matter, only get this inserted.

*I have a poem entitled 'Waltzing' for you, of which I make you a present; but it must be anonymous. It is in the old style of English Bards and Scotch Reviewers.

"P S. With the next edition of Childe Harold you may print the first fifty or a hundred opening lines of the 'Curse of Minerva, down to the couplet beginning"

Mortal (True thus she spake) &c.

Of course, the moment the Satire begins there you will stop, and the opening is the best part."

LETTER CXLVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Oct. 19, 1812.

"Many thanks, but I must pay the damage, and will thank you to tell me the amount for the engraving. I think the 'Rejected Addresses' by far the best thing of the kind since the Rolland, and wish you had published them. Tell the author 'I forgive him, were he twenty times over a satirist;' and think his imitations not at all inferior to the famous ones of Hawkins Browne. He must be a man of very lively wit, and less scrupulous than wits often are: altogether, I very much admire the performance, and wish it all success. The Satirist has taken a new tone, as you will see: we have now. I think, finished with Childe Harold's critics. I have in hand a Satire on Waltzing,* which you must publish anonymously; it is not long, not quite two hundred lines, but will make a very small broadside pamphlet. In a few days you shall have it.

"P.S. The editor of the Satirist ought to be thanked for his revocation; it is done handsomely after five years' warfare."

LETTER CXLIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Oct. 28, 1817.

"Thanks, as usual. You go on boldly; but have a care of glutino the public, who have by this time had enough of Childe Harold. 'Waltzing' shall be prepared. It is rather above two hundred lines, with an introductory Letter to the Publisher. I think of publishing, with Childe Harold, the opening lines of the 'Curse of Minerva,' as far as the first speech of Pallas,—because some of the readers like that part better than any I have written, and as it contains nothing to affect the sub-

Dr. Busby, entitled a Monologue, of which the Parody was enclosed in the letter. The first four lines of the Doctor's Address are as follows:

"When emerging objects men perceive, What are the prodigies they mount on? A magic soliloquy here survey, There gluts the ruin of the elder day!"

Which verses are thus reflected in the Parody—

"When emerging objects men perceive, The Lord knows what is writ by Lord knows what A modern monologue you here survey, Flaw'd from the theatre the other day!"

* See Poems, p. 495.
† See Poems, p. 483.
LETTER CLI

TO MR. MURRAY.

February 20, 1813.

"In 'Horace in London,' I peculiarly some stanzas on Lord Elgin, in which (waving the kind compliment to myself), I heartily concur. I wish I had the pleasure of Mr. Smith's acquaintance, as I could communicate the curious anecdote you read in Mr. T.'s letter. If he would like it, he can have the substance for his second edition; if not, I shall add it to our next, though I think we already have enough of Lord Elgin.

"What I have read of this work seems admirably done. My praise, however, is not much worth the author's having; but you may thank him in my name for his. The idea is new—we have excellent imitations of the Satires, &c., &c., by Pope; but I think her but one imitative Ode in his works, and none anywhere else. I can hardly suppose that they have lost any fame by the fate of the farce, but even should this be the case, the present publication will again place them on their pinnacle.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CLII

TO MR. ROGERS.

March 20, 1813.

"I enclose you a draft for the usurious interest due to Lord *'s protege;—I also could wish you
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would state thus much for me to his lordship. Though the transaction speaks plainly in itself for the borrower's folly and the lender's nery, it never was my intention to quash the demand, as I legally might, nor to withhold payment of principal, or, perhaps, even unlawful interest. You know what my situation has been, and what it is. I have parted with an estate, (which has been in my family for nearly three hundred years, and was never disgraced by being in possession of a lawyer, a churchman, or a woman, during that period,) to liquidate this and similar demands; and the payment of the purchase is still withheld, and may be, perhaps, for years. If, therefore, I am under the necessity of making those persons wait for their money, (which, considering the terms, they can afford to suffer,) it is my misfortune.

"When I arrived at majority in 1809, I offered my own security on legal interest, and it was refused. Now, I will not accede to this. This man I may have seen, but I have no recollection of the names of any parties but the agents and the securities. The moment I can, it is assuredly my intention to pay my debts. This person's case may be a hard one; but, under all circumstances, what is mine? I could not foresee that the purchaser of my estate was to demur in paying for it."

"I am glad it happens to be in my power so far to accommodate my creditors, and that I could do as much for the rest of the Twelve Tribes." 

"Ever yours, dear R."

LETTER CLIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

Westall has, I believe, agreed to illustrate your book, and I fancy one of the engravings will be from the pretty little girl you saw the other day, though without her name, and merely as a model for some sketch connected with the subject. I would also have the portrait (which you saw to-day,) of the friend who is mentioned in the text at the close of Canto first, and in the notes,—which are subjects sufficient to authorize that addition."

Early in the spring he brought out, anonymously, his poem on Westall, which, though full of very lively satire, fell so far short of what was now expected from him by the public, that the disavowal of it, which, as we see by the following letter, he thought right to put forth, found ready credence.

LETTER CLV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"April 21, 1813.

"I shall be in town by Sunday next, and will call and have some conversation on the subject of Westall's designs. I am to sit to him for a picture at the request of a friend of mine, and as Sanders is not a good one, you will probably prefer the other. I wish you to have Sanders's taken down and sent to my lodgings immediately—before my arrival, I hear that a certain malicious publication on Waltzing is attributed to me. This report, I suppose, you will take care to contradict, as the author, I am sure, will not like that I should wear his cap and bells. Mr. Hobhouse's quarto will be out immedi-ately; pray send to the author for an early copy, which I wish to take abroad with me."

"P. S. I see the Examiner threatens some ob-

servations upon you next week. What can you have done to share the wrath which has heretofore been principally expessed upon the Prince? I presume all your Scribleri will be drawn up in bat-
tle array in defence of the modern Tonson—Mr. Bucke, for instance. "Send in my account to Bennet street, as I wish to settle it before sailing."

LETTER CLVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Maldenhead, June 13, 1813.

"* * I have read the 'Strictures,' which are just enough, and not grossly abusive, in very fair couplets. There is a note against Massengil near the end, and one cannot quarrel with one's company, at any rate. The author detects some incongruous figures in a passage of English Bards, page 25, but which addition I do not know. In the sole copy in your possession—I mean the fifth edition—you may make these alterations, that I may profit (though a little too late) by his remarks: For 'hellish instinct,' substitute 'bri'dal instinct,' 'harpies' alter to 'felines;' and for 'blood-hounds,' write 'hell-hounds.' These be 'very bitter words, by my troth,' and the alterations not much sweeter; but as I shall not publish the thing, they can do no harm, but are a satisfaction to me in the way of amendment. The passage is only twelve lines. "You do not answer me about H.'s book; I want to write to him, and not to say anything unpleasing. If you direct post-office, Portsmouth, till called for, I will send and receive your letter. You never told me of the forthcoming critique on Columbus, which is not too fair; and I do not think justice quite done to the 'Pleasures,' which surely entitle the author to a higher rank than that assigned him in the Quarterly. But I must not cavil at the decisions of the invisible infallibles; and the article is very well written. The general horror of the 'fragments' makes me not6onl2L' s the 'Gour,' but you would publish it—I presume, by this time, to your repentance. But as I consented, whatever be its fate, I won't now quarrel with you, even though I detect it in my pastry; but I shall not open a pie without apprehension for some weeks. "The books which may be marked G. O., I will carry out. Do you know Clarke's Nautfagia? I am told that he asserts the first volume of Robinson Crusoe was written by the first Lord Oxford, when in the Tower, and given by him to Defoe; if true, it is a curious anecdote. Have you got back Lord Brooke's MS. and what does Heber say of it? Write to me at Portsmouth."

"Ever yours, &c."

LETTER CLVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"June 19, 1813.

"Dear Sir,

"Will you forward the enclosed answer to the kindest letter I ever received in my life, my sense of which I can neither express to Mr. Gifford himself nor to any one else."

"Ever yours,"

"N."

† Lady Charlotte Harby, to whom, under the same name of Harby, the intro-

ductory lines to Child's Harold were afterward addressed.
LETTER CLVIII.
TO W. GIFFORD, ESQ.

"June 16, 1813.

"My dear Sir,

"I feel greatly at a loss how to write to you at all—still more to thank you as I ought. If you knew
the vexation with which I have ever regarded you,
long before I had the most distant prospect of be-
coming your acquaintance, literary or personal, my
embarrassment would not surprise you.

"Any suggestion of yours, even were it conveyed
in the less tender shape of the text of the Bayad,
Mr. Monk Mason note in Massinger, would have
been obeyed; I should have endeavored to improve
myself by your severe judgment then if I should
less willing to profit by your kindness. It is not
for me to bandy compliments with my elders and
my betters: I receive your approbation with grati-
tude, and will not return my brass for your gold,
by expressing more fully those sentiments of admira-
tion, which, however sincere, would, I know, be
unwelcome.

"To your advice on religious topics, I shall equal-
ly attend, as does the best man you will the paper line
them altogether. The already published objection-
able passages have been much commented upon,
but certainly have been rather strangely interpreted.
I am no bigot to infidelity, and did not expect that
because I doubted the immortality of man, I should
be charged with denying the existence of a God.
It was the comparative insignificance of ourselves
and our world, when placed in comparison with the
mighty whole, of which it is an atom, that first led
me to imagine that our pretensions to eternity
might be overrated.

"This, and being early disgusted with a Calvan-
list Scotch school, when I was cudgelled to church
for the first ten years of my life, afflicted me with
this malady; for, after all, it is, I believe, a disease
of the mind as much as other kinds of hypochon-
dria."

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LETTER CLIX.
TO MR. MOORE.

"June 23, 1813.

"Yesterday I dined in company with the Epicene," whose politics are sadly changed. She is
for the Lord of Israel and the Lord of Liverpool—a]

 bile antithesis of a Methodist and a Tory—talks of

 nothing but devotion and the ministry, and, I pre-

 sume, expects that God and the government will

 help her to a pension.

 Murray, the wag of publishers, the Anaes of

 stationers, has a design upon you in the paper line

 13 wants you to become the staple and stipendiary

 editor of a periodical work. What say you? Will

 you be bound, like "Kit Smart, to write for ninety-

 nine years in the Universal Visitor?" Seriously, he

 talks of hundreds a year, and—though I hate pratt-

 ing of the beggarly elements—his proposal may be

 to your honor and profit, and, I am very sure, will

 be to our pleasure.

 "I don't know what to say about 'friendship.' I

 never was in friendship but once, in my nineteenth

 year, and then it gave me as much trouble as love.

 I am afraid, as Whitbread's sire said to the king,

 when he wanted his son back that I am too old. But

 nevertheless, no one wishes you more friends,

 fame, and felicity, than "Yours, &c."

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LETTER CLXI.
TO MR. MOORE.

"June 24, 1813.

"I presume by your silence that I have blundered
into something noxious in my reply to your letter:
for which I beg leave to send, beforehand, a
swelling apology, which you may apply to any, or
all, parts of that unfortunate opusile. If I err in
my conjecture, I expect the like from you, in put-
ting our correspondence so long in quarantine
out, he knows what I have said, but he also knows,
(if he is not as indifferent to morals as the non-
chalant deities of Lucretius,) that you are the last
person I want to offend. So, if I have,—why the
devil don't you say it at once, and expectorate your
speck?

"Rogers is out of town with Madame de Stael, who
hath published an Essay against Suicide, which,
I presume, will make somebody shoot himself;
as a sermon by Blinkensop, in proof of Chris-
tianity, sent a hitherto most orthodox acquaintance
of mine out of a chapel of ease a perfect atheist.
Have you found or founded a residence yet, and
have you begun or finished a Poem? If you won't
tell me what I have done, pray what you have
done, or left undone, yourself. I am
still in employment for voyaging, and anxious to
hear from, or of, you before summer, which anxiety
you should remove more readily, as you think I
shan't crotigate about you afterward. I shall give
the lie to that calumny by fifty foreign letters, par-
ticularly from any place where the plague is rife,—
without a drop of vinegar or a whiff of sulphur to
save you from infection. Pray write: I am sorry to
say that

"The Oxfords have sailed almost a fortnight, and
my sister is in town with the blessed Virgin: while
if the ladies of the vicinage and the salon conceived
the last letter to be complimentary to themselves,
I leave this to the commentators to illuminate. If
you don't answer this, I shan't write you a reply. Do
you conceive there is no Post-Bag but the Twopenny?
Sunburn me, if you are not too bad."

---

LETTER CLX.
TO MR. MOORE.

"July 13, 1813.

"Your letter set me at ease; for I really thought
(as I have of your susceptibility) that I had said—I
know not what—but something I should have been
very sorry for, had it, or I, offended you; though I
don't see how a man with a beautiful wife, you
derseve, but I think I devise a reply. Do you con-
ceive there is no Post-Bag but the Twopenny?
Sunburn me, if you are not too bad."

---
would take a wife, and that should be the woman, had I a chance. I do not yet know her much, but better than I did.

"I want to get away, but find difficulty in compassing a passage in a ship of war. They had better let me go; if the bankrupt parliament is the word—they may, an't they mall. I'll rant as well as they. Now, what are you doing? writing, we all hope, for our own sakes. Remember you must edit my posthumous works, with a Life of the Author, for which I will reconcile thee, Oded. Lazareto, Zu.yrma, Malta, or Palermo—one can die anywhere.

"There is to be a thing on Tuesday yclept a match at foot-ball, in the Park, to be there, and every body else, who has shillings enough for what was once a guinea. Vauxhall is the scene—there are six tickets issued for the modest women, and it is supposed there will be three to spare. The passports for the lap are beyond my arithmetic.

"F. S. The Starl last night attacked me most furiously—said that I had 'not right to make love—'

"I have left my part of the partnership. The word—'nay, an't they mall. I'll rant as well as they.'

"The one hundred and fifty left alive, and they are for the Town's end (prayer, not Falstaff near the Bow-street officer? I dare say Malone's posthumous edition will have it so) for life.

"Since I wrote last, I have been into the country. I journeyed by night on Sunday, for accident, but an alarm on the part of my valet on the outside, who, in crossing Epping Forest, actually, I believe, flung down his purse before a mile-stone, with a glowworm in the second figure of number XIX.—mistaking it for a foot-pod and dark lantern. I can only attribute his fears to a pair of new pistols, whereby I had armed him; and he thought it necessary to display his vigilance by calling out to me whenever we passed either thing, whether moving or stationary. Conceive ten miles, with a tremor every furlong. I have scribbled you a fearfully long letter. This sheet must be blank, and is merely a wrapper, to preclude the tabulatures of the post from peeping. You once complained of my not writing—I will heap 'coal of fire upon your head' by not complaining of your not reading. Ever, my dear Moore, your's, (isn't that the Staffordshire termination?)"

"BYROW"

**LETTER CLXII.**

TO MR. MOORE. "July 25, 1813.

I am not well versed enough in the ways of single women to make much matrimonial progress. I have left my part of the partnership. The word—'nay, an't they mall. I'll rant as well as they.'

"I must tell you a story. M ** of (of indifferent memory) was dinning out the other day, and complaining of the Prince's coldness to his old wassailers. D ** (a learned Jew) bored him with questions—why thus? and why that? 'Why did the Prince act thus?' 'Why, sir, on account of Lord *, who ought to be ashamed of himself!' 'And why ought Lord ** to be ashamed of himself?' 'Because the Prince, sir, * * * * * * * * * *.

"And why, sir, did the Prince cut you?' 'Because, G—d—d—me, sir, I stuck to my principles.' 'And why did you stick to your principles?'

"Is not last question the best that ever was put to a thing.—Four thousand cures! wash away my memory, or render it superfluous by a vision of you at the opposite side of the table. Canning has disband'd party by a speech from his ** ** **. the true throne of a Tory. Conceive his turning them off in a formal harangue, and bidding them 'think for themselves.' I have led my ramagumins where they are well peppered. There are but three of them, and the one hundred and fifty left alive, and they are for the Town's end (prayer, not Falstaff near the Bow-street officer? I dare say Malone's posthumous edition will have it so) for life.

"Since I wrote last, I have been into the country. I journeyed by night on Sunday, for accident, but an alarm on the part of my valet on the outside, who, in crossing Epping Forest, actually, I believe, flung down his purse before a mile-stone, with a glowworm in the second figure of number XIX.—mistaking it for a foot-pod and dark lantern. I can only attribute his fears to a pair of new pistols, whereby I had armed him; and he thought it necessary to display his vigilance by calling out to me whenever we passed either thing, whether moving or stationary. Conceive ten miles, with a tremor every furlong. I have scribbled you a fearfully long letter. This sheet must be blank, and is merely a wrapper, to preclude the tabulatures of the post from peeping. You once complained of my not writing—I will heap 'coal of fire upon your head' by not complaining of your not reading. Ever, my dear Moore, your's, (isn't that the Staffordshire termination?)"

"BYROW"

**LETTER CLXIII.**

TO MR. MOORE. "July 27, 1813.

"When you next imitate the style of Tacitus, pray add, 'de moribus Germanorum.'—This last was a piece of barbarous silence, and could only be taken from the Woods, and, as such, I attribute it entirely to your sylvan sequestration at Mayfield Cottage. You will find, on casting up accounts, that you are my debtor by several sheets and one epistle. I shall bring my action—if you don't discharge, expect to hear from my attorney. I have forwarded your letter to Ruggiero; but don't make him impatient of mine again, for fear I should be tempted to violate your sanctity of wax or wafer.

"Believe me ever yours, indignantly,

"DN."

**LETTER CLXIV.**

TO MR. MOORE. "July 30, 1813.

"Can't you be satisfied with the pangs of my jealousy of Rogers, without actually making me the pander of your epistolary intrigue? This is the second letter you have enclosed to my address, notwithstanding a miraculous long answer, and a subsequent one or two of your own. If you do so again, I can't tell to what pitch my fury may soar. I shall send you verse or arsenic, as likely as any other thing.—Four thousand cures! wash away my memory, or render it superfluous by a vision of you at the opposite side of the table. Canning has disband'd party by a speech from his ** ** **. the true throne of a Tory. Conceive his turning them off in a formal harangue, and bidding them 'think for themselves.' I have led my ramagumins where they are well peppered. There are but three of them, and the one hundred and fifty left alive, and they are for the Town's end (prayer, not Falstaff near the Bow-street officer? I dare say Malone's posthumous edition will have it so) for life.

"Since I wrote last, I have been into the country. I journeyed by night on Sunday, for accident, but an alarm on the part of my valet on the outside, who, in crossing Epping Forest, actually, I believe, flung down his purse before a mile-stone, with a glowworm in the second figure of number XIX.—mistaking it for a foot-pod and dark lantern. I can only attribute his fears to a pair of new pistols, whereby I had armed him; and he thought it necessary to display his vigilance by calling out to me whenever we passed either thing, whether moving or stationary. Conceive ten miles, with a tremor every furlong. I have scribbled you a fearfully long letter. This sheet must be blank, and is merely a wrapper, to preclude the tabulatures of the post from peeping. You once complained of my not writing—I will heap 'coal of fire upon your head' by not complaining of your not reading. Ever, my dear Moore, your's, (isn't that the Staffordshire termination?)"

"BYROW"
LETTER CLXV.

TO MR. CROCKER.

"DEAR SIR,

"I was honored with your unexpected and very obliging letter when on the point of leaving London, which prevented me from acknowledging my obligation as quickly as I felt it sincerely. I am endeavoring all in my power to be ready before Saturday; and even if I should not succeed, I can only blame my own tardiness, which will not the less enhance the benefit I have lost. I have only to add my hope of forgiveness for all my trespasses on your time and patience, and with my best wishes for your public and private welfare, I have the honor to be, most truly,

"Your obliged and most obedient servant,

"BYRON."

The following notes to Mr. Murray, have reference to a fifth edition of the "Giaour," then in press. The poem first appeared in the May preceding, and contained originally but about four hundred lines, and was gradually increased through successive editions to its present number, nearly fourteen hundred. In a note which accompanied the manuscript of the paragraph commencing

"Fair clime, where every season smiles,"

he says, "I have not yet fixed the place of insertion for the following lines, but will when I see you." The whole portion from the line

"For there the rose o'er clung and vale,"

was inserted during the revision of the proofs. The passage stood originally thus:

"Fair clime, where careless summer smiles,  
   Enchanting, o'er those blushing bays,  
   Whose, seen from Colonna's height,  
   Make glad the heart that hails the sight,  
   And give to lovers' delight,  
   Those shrines the bright genii pe seek,  
   Like ciphers upon Omer's breast,  
   So-sitting round the seacoast line  
   Three Edens of the eastern wave,  
   Of if, at times, the transient breeze  
   Breaks the smooth arras of the seas  
   Or brush one blossom from the tree,  
   How grateful is the grotto air  
   That wakes and warms the fragrance there!"

The several passages beginning—

"He who hath bent him o'er the dead;"  
"The cygnet proudly walks the water;"  
"My memory now is but the tomb;"  
"The verses commencing—

"The browning casque's bells are tinkling;"  
"The passage—  
"Yes, love indeed is light from heaven;

were inserted in the fifth edition, and subsequently the following—

"She was a form of life and light,  
   That, arms, became a part of sight,  
   And rose, whom'er I could mine eye,  
   The Morning-star of memory!"

"If you send more proofs, I shall never finish this infernal story—Ecce signum—thirty-three lines more enclosed to the utter discomfiture of the, and, I fear, not to your advantage."

LETTER CLXVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"August 31, 1813.

"I have looked over and corrected one proof, but not so carefully (God knows if you can read it through, but I can't) as to preclude your eye from discovering some omission of mine or commission of your printer. If you have patience, look it over. Do you know any body who can stop—I mean point—commas, and so forth? for I am, I hear, a sad hand at your punctuation. I have, but with some difficulty, not added any more to this snake of a Poem, which has been lengthening its rattle every month. It is now fearfully long, being more than a canto and a half of Childe Harold, which contains but eight hundred and eighty-two lines per book, with all late additions inclusive.

"The last lines Hodgson likes. It is not often he does, and when he don't, he tells me with great energy, and I fret and alter. I have thrown them in to soften the ferocity of our Infidel, and, for a dying man, have given him a good deal to say for himself."

"I was quite sorry to hear you say you stayed in town on my account, and I hope sincerely you do not mean so superfluous a piece of politeness."

"Our six critiques—they would have made half a Quarterly by themselves; but this is the age of criticism."

The following refer apparently to a still later edition.

LETTER CLXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Binton, Oct. 3, 1813.

"I have just recollected an alteration you may make in the proof to be sent to Aston.—Among the lines on Hassan's Serai, not far from the beginning, is this—"

"Oft for Solitude to shun.

Now to share, implies more than one, and Solitude is a single gentleman; it must be thus—"

"For many a gilded chamber's cheer,  
   Which Solitude might well forbear;  
   and so on.—My address is Ashton Hall, Rotherham."

"Will you adopt this correction? and pray accept a Stilton cheese from me for your trouble."

"Ever yours;"

"B."

"If the old line stands, let the other run thus—"

"Nor there will weary traveller halt,  
   To bless the sacred bread and salt.

"Note.—To partake of food—to break bread and taste salt with your host, ensures the safety of the guest; even though an enemy, his person from that moment becomes sacred.

"There is another additional note sent yesterday—on the Priest in the Confessional.

* This is written on a separate slip piece of paper enclosed.
LETTER CLXVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Oct. 12, 1823.

"You must look the 'Giaour' again carefully; there are a few lapses, particularly in the last page. — I have now 'twas false; she could not die; it was, and ought to be—'I knew.' Pray observe this and similar mistakes.

"I have received and read the British Review. I really think the writer in most points very right. The only mortifying thing is the acumen of imitation. Crabbe's passage Letter 12, and Scott's no further meant to follow than in his lyric measure, which is Gray's, Milton's, and any one's who likes it. The 'Giaour' is certainly a bad character, but not dangerous; and I think his fate and his feelings will meet with few voices. You shall be very glad to hear from or of you, when you please; but don't put yourself out of your way on my account."
LETTER CLXXI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Augst—September, I mean—1823.

"I send you, begging your acceptance, Castellan, three vols. on Turkish Literature, not yet looked into. "The last I will thank you to read, extract what you want, and return in a week, as they are lent me. I am really taking a liberty by talking in this style to my 'elders and my betters;'—pardon it, and don't Rocheouard my motives.

"I have been thinking of a story, grafted on the amours of a Peri and a mortal—something like, only more philantroupical, the hero less Lucien Bonaparte, and the heroine's Diabe Amoreux. 'It would require a good deal of poesy and tenderness is not my forte. For that, and other reasons, I have given up the idea, and merely suggest it to you as a help to your greater work, I think it a subject you might make much of. If you want any more books, there is 'Castellan's Mueurs des Ottomans,' the best compendium of the kind I ever met with, in six small volumes. I am really taking a liberty by talking in this style to my 'elders and my betters;'—pardon it, and don't Rocheouard my motives.

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which will let you into the origin of the 'Giaour.'

Write soon.

"Ever, dear Moore, yours most entirely, &c.

P.S. This letter was written to me on account of a different story circulated by some gentle women of our acquaintance, a little to close to the text. They have obtained mere dark, inartistic names, and circumstantial evidence of the girl's detection, not very important or DECOROUS.

LETTER CLXXII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Sept. 5, 1818.

"You need not tie yourself down to a day with Toderini, but send him at your leisure, having anatomicized him into such anctuations as you want. I do not believe he has ever undergone that process before, which is the best reason for not sparing him now.

"Rogers has returned to town, but not yet recovered of the Quarterly. What fellows these reviewers are! these bugs do fear us all. They made you fight, and me (the milkiest of men) a satirist, and will send by making Rogers madnier than Ajax. I have been reading 'Memory' again, the other day, and 'Hope' together, and retain all my preference of the former. His elegance is really wonderful! There is no such thing as a vulgar line in his book.

"What say you to Bonaparte? Remember, I back against the field, barring Catalpey and the elements. Nay, I almost wish him success against all countries but this,—were it only to choke the Morning Post, and his undutiful father-in-law, with that rebellious bastard of Scandinavian adoption, Berndotte. Rogers wants me to go with him on a crusade to the Lakes, and to besiege you on our way. This last is a great temptation, but I fear it will not be in my power, unless they carry on with one of us somewhere—no matter where. It is too late for Matlock, but we might hit upon some scheme, high life or low,—the last would be much the nearest. I wish I had the presence of mind to name the pudding that I quite sigh for a cider- cellular, or a cruise in a smuggler's sloop.

"You cannot wish more than I do that the Fates were a little more accommodating to our parallel lines, which prolong ad infinitum without coming a jot the nearer. I almost wish I were married too, which is saying much. All my friends, seniors and juniors, are in for it, and ask me to be godfather,—the only species of parentage which, I believe, will ever come to my share in a lawful way; and, in an unlawful one, by the blessing of Lucina, we cannot be certain,—though the parish may. I sup-

"LETTER CLXXIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Sept. 8, 1818.

"I am sorry to see Tod again, so soon, for fear your scrupulous conscience should have prevented you from fully availing yourself of his spoils. By this coat I send you a copy of that awful pamphlet, 'the Giaour,' which has never procured me half so high a compliment as your modest alarm. You will (if inclined in an evening), perhaps believe that I have added much in quantity,—a circumstance which may truly diminish your modesty upon the subject.

"You stand certainly in great need of a 'lift' with Mackintosh. My dear Moore, you strangely underrate yourself. I should consider it an affectation in any other; but I think I know you well enough to believe that you don't know your own value. However, 'tis a fault that generally mends; and, in your case, really ought. I have heard him speak of you as highly as your wife could wish; and enough to give all your friends the jaundice.

"Yesterday I had a letter from Ali Pacha, brought by Dr. Holland, who is just returned from Albania. It is in Latin, and begins 'Excellentissime, non Carissimse,' and ends about a gun he wants made for him;—it is signed 'Ali Visir.' What do you think he has been about? If, tells me that, last spring, he took a hostile town, where forty-two years ago, his mother and sisters were treated as Miss Cunigunde was by the Bulgarian cavalry. He takes the town, selects all the survivors of this exploit—children, grandchildren, &c., to the tune of six hundred, and has them shot before his face. Recollect, he spared the rest of the city, and confined himself to the Tarquin pedigree,—which is more than I would. So much for dear friend."

LETTER CLXXIV.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Sept. 9, 1818.

"I write to you from Murray's, and I may say, from Murray, who, if you are not predisposed in favor of any other publisher, would be happy to treat with you, at a fitting time, for your work, I can safely recommend him, as fair, liberal, and attentive, and certainly, in point of reputation, he stands among the first of the trade.' I am sure he would do you justice. I have written to you so much lately that you will be glad to see so little now. Ever, &c., &c."

LETTER CLXXV.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Sept. 27, 1818.

"THOMAS MOORE,

"(Thou wilt never be called 'true Thomas,' like he of Ercildoune), why don't you write to me?—as you won't, I must. I was near you at Aston
other day, and hope I soon shall. If so,
you must and shall meet me, and go to Matlock and 
thereafter, and, take what, in flesh dialect, is poetically
turned 'a lark,' with Rogers and me for ac-
complices. Yesterday, at Holland House, I was intro-
duced to Southey—the best looking bard I have
seen for some time. To have that poet's head and
shoulders, I would almost have written his Sapphics.
He is certainly a prepossessing person to look on,
and a man of talent, and all that, and—there is his
colony.

"* * read me part of a letter from you. By the
foot of Pharaoh, I believe there was abuse, for he
stopped short, so he did, after a fine saying about
our correspondence, and blooped—I wish I could
revenge myself by attacking you or by telling you
that I have had to defend you—an agreeable way
which one's friends have of recommending them-
elves, by saying—'Ay, ay, I gave it Mr. Such-a-
one for what he said about your being a plagia,
and a rake, and so on.' But do you know that you
are one of the very few whom I never have the satis-
faction of hearing abused, but the reverse;—and do
you know, I will forgive that?"

"I have been in the country, and ran away from
the Doncaster races. It is, odd,—I was a visitor in
the same house which came to my sire as a 
residence with Lady Carmarthen (with whom he
resided before his majority—by the by, remember,
she was not my mamma)—and they thrust me
into an old room, with a nauseous picture over the
chimney, which I should suppose my papa regarded
with due respect, and which, inheriting the family
taste, I looked upon with great satisfaction.
I stayed a week with the family, and behaved very
well,—though the lady of the house is young, and
religious, and pretty, and the master is my par-
ty lust. I felt no wish for any thing but a poodle
dog, which they kindly gave me. Now, for a man
of my course, not even to have coveted is a sign of
great amendment. Pray pardon all this nonsense,
and don't snub me when I'm in spirits.

"Ever yours,

"B.N."

"Here's an impromptu for you by a 'person of
quality,' written last week, on being reproached for
low spirits.

"When from the heart where sorrow sits,"

LETTER CLXXXVI.

to Mr. Moore.

"October 2, 1813.

"You have not answered some six letters of
mine. This, therefore, is my penultimate. I will
write to you once more, but after that,—I swear by
all the saints—I am silent and supercilious. I have
met Curran at Holland House—he beats every
body—he's imagination is beyond human, and his
humor (it is difficult to define what is wit) perfect.
Then he has fifty faces, and twice as many voic-
es, when he mimics;—I never met his equal. Now,
were I a woman, and eke a virgin, that is the man
I should forsake my Seancar. He is quite fasci-
nating. Remember, I have met him but once; and
you, who have known him long, may probably de-
duct from my panegyric. I almost fear to meet
him again, lest the impression should be lowered.
He talked a great deal about a theme next year
tiresome to me, nor any body else that I know.
What a variety of expression he conjures into that
naturally not very fine countenance of his! He
absolutely changes it entirely. I have done—for I
can't describe him, and you know him. On Sunday
I return to * * s, where I shall not be far from you.
Perhaps I shall hear from you in the mean time.
Good night.

"Saturday morn.—Your letter has cancelled all
my anxieties. I did not suspect you in earnest.
MODesty again! I fell into a very shabby
thing; it seems, I 'don't fear your competition.' If
it were reduced to an alternative or preference, I
should dread you, as much as Satan does Michael.
But is there not room enough in our respective
regions? Go on—it will soon be my turn to forgive.
To-day I dine with Mackintosh and Mrs. Stale—as
John Bull may be pleased to denominate Corinne—
whom you met last night, at Covent Garden, yawn-
ing over the humor of Falstaff.

"The reputation of 'gloom,' if one's friends are
not included in the "reputants," is of great service;
as it saves one from a legion of imperfections, in the
shape of commonalty (for example) acquaintance. But, the
knowest I can be a right merry and conceited fel-
low, and rarely 'larmoyant.' Murray shall re-instate
your line fortwith. I believe the blunder in the
motto was mine; and yet I have, in general, a
memory for you, and am sure it was rightly printed
at first.

"I do 'blush' very often, if I may believe Ladies
H. and M. but luckily at present, no one sees me.
Adieu."

LETTER CLXXXVII.

to Mr. Moore.

"Nov. 20, 1813.

"Since I last wrote to you, much has occurred,
good, bad, and indifferent,—not to make me forget
you, but to prevent me from reminding you of one
who, nevertheless, has often thought of you, and to
whom your thoughts, in many a measure, have fre-
quently been a consolation. We were once very
near neighbors this autumn; and a good and bad
neighborhood it has proved to me. Suffice it to say,
that your French quotation was confoundedly to the
purpose,—though very unexpectedly pertinent, as
you may imagine by what I said before, and my
silence since. * * * However, 'Richard's himself
again,' and, except all night and some part of the
morning, I don't think very much about the matter.
All convulsions end with me in rhyime; and to
solace my midnights, I have scribbled another Turk-
ish story—not a Fragment—which you will receive

* The motto to the Giaour, which is taken from one of the Irish Melothes,
and was quoted by him incorrectly in the first edition of the Poems. He made
afterward a similar mistake in the lines from Burns prefixed to the
Ride of Albion.

The Bride of Albion. To this poem he made additions, in the course of
printing, amounting altogether to near two hundred lines; and the opening
lines, "'Come ye to the land,' &c., supposed to have been sung to him
by a song of Goethe's—were among the number of these new insertions, as
were also those verses, 'Who hath not proved how boastfully
easy."

"Mind on her lip and music in her face,"

he afterward altered it to

"The mind of music breathing in her face,"

But, this not satisfying him, the next step of correction brought the line to
what it is at present:

"The mind, the music breathing from her face."

The whole passage which follows:

"'Then, my Zobeide, shun and bless my heart,'

was sent in successive scraps to the printer, correction following correction.
The line, "And die to-morrow with prophetic ray," was originally
written on a slip:

"And die to-morrow with a fondled ray,"

but the following note being annexed—'Mr. Murray, Choose which of the
two epigraphs, 'fondled,' or, 'shun,' may be the best; or, if neither will do
at all, I will dream another.' In the long passage just referred to,
the six lines beginning 'Hast as the Murab's arms,' &c., having been
deeply etched to the printer's last bit for insertion, the other words, which
were added, were included in an error page when the first copy, in its original form, being as follows:

"Bust as the Mezzo-Mourin's sister lovely
Has who had journey'd far to join the race."
LETTER CLXXVIII.

TO LEIGH HUNT.

"MY DEAR SIR,

"Few things could be more welcome than your note, and on Saturday morning I will avail myself of your permission to thank you for it in person. My time has not been passed, since we met, either profitably or agreeably. A very short period after my last visit, an incident occurred, with which, I fear, you are not unacquainted, as reported in many mouths and more than one paper, was busy with the topic. That, naturally, gave me much uneasiness. Then I nearly incurred a lawsuit on the sale of an estate; but this is now arranged: next—but why should I go on with a series of selfish and silly details? I merely wish to assure you that it was not the frivolous forgetfulness of a mind occupied by what is called pleasure, (not in the true sense of Epicurus,) that kept me away; but a perception of my, then, unfitness to share the society of those upon whom I value and wish not to displease. I hate being lazymant, and making a serious face among those who are cheerful.

"It is my wish that our acquaintance, or, if you please to accept it, friendship, may be permanent. I have been lucky enough to preserve some friends from a very early period, and I hope, still I love (not, at least now) select them lightly, I shall not lose them capriciously. I have a thorough esteem for that independence of spirit which you have maintained with sterling talent and at the expense of some suffering. You have not, I trust, abandoned the poem you were then (I think the Impostor, when I parted with your hospitality in the summer. I hope a time will come when he and I may be able to repay you in kind for the letter—for the rhyme, at least in quantity, you are in arrears to both.

"Believe me very truly and affectionately yours,

"BYRON"

LETTER CLXXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Dec. 9, 1813.

"Your letter, like all the best, and even kindest things in this world, is both painful and pleasing. But, first, to what sits nearest. Do you know I was actually about to dedicate to you,—not in a formal inscription, as to one's elders,—but through a short prefatory letter, in which I boasted myself your intimate, and held forth the prospect of your Poem, when to the reception of your strict injunctions of secrecy as to the said Poem, more than once repeated by word and letter, dashed upon me, and marred my intents. I could have no motive for repressing my own, or alluding to anything in a day passes that I do not think and talk of you, but an idea that you might, yourself, dislike it. You cannot doubt my sincere admiration, waived personal friendship for the present, which, by-the-by, I have not lessened since we met. I have you by rote and by heart; of which 'eece signum!' When I was at —, on my first visit, I have a habit, in passing my time a good deal alone of,—I won't call it singing, for that I never attempt except to myself—but of uttering, to what I think tunes, your 'Oh breathe not,' 'When the last glimpse,' and 'When he who adores thee,' with others of the same strain;—they are my matins and vespers. I assuredly did not intend them to be overward, but, one morning, in comes, not La Donna, but Il Marito, with a very grave face, saying, 'Byron, I must request you won't sing any more, at least of those songs.' I stared, and said, 'Certainly, but why?' —To tell you the truth, quoth he, 'they make my wife cry, and so melancholy, that I wish her to hear no more of them.'

"Now, my dear Moore, the effect must have been from your words, and not, certainly, from me. I merely mention this foolish story, to show you how much I am indebted to you for even your pastimes. A man may praise and praise, but no one recollects the measure in which that praise is meant. Though I think no one equal to you in that department, or in satire,—and surely no one was ever so popular in both,—I certainly am of opinion that you have not yet done all you can do, though more than enough for any one else. I want, and the world expects, a longer work from you; and I see in you what I never saw in poet before, a strange indifference of your own powers, which I cannot account for, and which must be unaccountable, when a Cowper and Shelley are those to be applauded. Your story I did not, could not, know—I thought only of a Peri. I wish you had confided in me, not for your sake, but mine, and to prevent the world from losing a much better treat than my own, but which, I yet hope, this clashing will not even now deprive them of. Mine is the work of a week, written, why I have partly told you, and partly not less since you mention some day will.

"Go on—I shall really be very unhappy if I at all interfere with you. The success of mine is yet problematical; though the public will probably purchase a certain quantity, on the presumption of 'an own propensity for 'The Giaour' and such horrid mysteries.' The only advantage I have is
being on the spot; and that very amounts to saving me the trouble of turning other books, which I had better read again. If your chamber was furnished in the same way, you have no need to go there to describe—I mean only as to accuracy—because I drew it from recollection.

* * * * * * *

"This last thing of mine may have the same fate, and I assure you, I have great doubts about it. But, even if not, its little day will be over before you are ready and willing. Come out—screw your courage to the sticking-place. Except the Post Bag (and surely you cannot complain of a want of success there), you have not been regularly cut out for some years. No man stands higher.—whatever you may think on a rainy day, in your provincial retreat, 'Aucun homme, dans aucune langue, n'a, etc, peut-être, plus complètement le poète du cœur et le poète des femmes. Les critiques lui reprochent de n'avoir représenté le monde ni tel qu'il est, ni tel qu'il doit être; mais les femmes répondent qu'il l'a représenté tel qu'elles le désirent.—I should have thought Simond had written this for you instead of Metastasio.

"Write to me, and tell me of yourself. Do you remember what Rousseaux said to some one?—Have we quarrelled? you have talked to me often, and never once mentioned yourself."

"P. S. The last sentence is an indirect apology for my own egotism,—but I believe in letters it is allowed. I wish it was mutual. I have met with an odd reflection in Grimm; it shall not—at least, the bad part—be applied to you or me, though one of us has certainly an indifferent name—but this it is: 'Many people have the reputation of being wicked, with whom we should be too happy to pass our lives.' I need not add it is a woman's saying—Mademoiselle de Sommery's."

LETTER CLXXX.

TO MR. MURRAY.  "Dec. 4, 1813."

"I have read through your Persian Tales, and have taken the liberty of making some remarks on the blank pages. There are many beautiful passages, and an interesting story; and I cannot give you a stronger proof that such is my opinion than by the date of the hour—two o'clock, till which it has kept me awake without a yawning. The conclusion is not quite correct in costume; there is no Musulman successors. But this matter not. The tale must have been written by some one who has been on the spot, and I wish him, and he deserves, success. Will you apologize to the author for the liberties I have taken with his MS.? Had I been less awake to, and interested in, his theme, I had been less obtrusive; but you know I always take this in good part, and I hope he will. It is difficult to say what will succeed, and still more to pronounce what will not. I am at this moment in that uncertainty, (on our own score,) and it is no small proof of the author's powers to be able to charm and fix a mind's attention on similar subjects and climates in such a predicament. That he may have the same effect upon all his readers is very sincere the wish, and hardly the doubt, of yours truly,

"B."

* Idem, br., by Mr. Knight.

LETTER CLXXXI.

TO MR. MURRAY.  "Nov. 12, 1813."

"My Dear Sir,

"I hope you will consider when I venture on an request, that it is the reverse of a certain Dedication, and is addressed not to 'The Editor of the Quarterly Review,' but to Mr. Gifford. You will understand this, and on that point I need trouble you no farther.

"You have been good enough to look at a thing of mine in MS.—a Turkish story, and I should feel gratified if you would do it the same favor in its probationary state of printing. It was written, I cannot say for amusement, nor 'obliged by hunger and request of friends,' but in a state of mind, from circumstances which occasionally occur to us youth,' that rendered it necessary for me to apply my mind to something, any thing but reality; and under this not very brilliant inspiration it was composed. Being done, and having at least diverted me from myself, I thought you would not perhaps be offended if Mr. Murray forwarded it to you. He has done so, and to apologize for his doing so a second time is the object of my present letter.

"I beg you will not send me any answer. I assure you very sincerely I know your time to be occupied, and it is enough, more than enough, if you read; you are not to be bored with the fatigue of answers.

"A word to Mr. Murray will be sufficient, and send it either to the flames, or

A hundred hawkers' load,
On wings of winds to fly or fall absurd."

It deserves no better than the first, as the work of a week, and scribbled 'stems pede in uno,' (by-the-by, the only foot I have to stand on;) and I promise never to trouble you again under forty cantos, and a voyage between each.

"Believe me ever

"Your obliged and affectionate servant,

"BYRON."

LETTER CLXXXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.  "Nov. 13, 1813."

"Two friends of mine (Mr. Rogers and Mr Sharpe) have advised me not to risk at present any single publication separately, for various reasons. As they have not seen the one in question, they can have no bias for or against the merits (if it has any) or the faults of the present subject of our conversation. You say all the last of the 'Giaour' are gone—at least out of your hands. Now, if you think of publishing any new edition with the last additions which have not yet been before the reader, (I mean distinct from the two-volume publication,) we can add the 'Bride of Abydos,' which will thus steal quietly into the world: if liked, we can then throw off some copies for the purchasers of former 'Giaours;' and, if not, I can omit it in any future publication. What think you? I really am no judge of those things, and with all my natural partiality for one's own productions, I would rather follow any one's judgment than my own.

"P. S. Pray let me have the proofs I sent, all to-night. I have some alterations that I wish to make speedily. I hope the proof will be on separate pages, and not all huddled together on a mile-long ballad-singing sheet, as those of the 'Giaour sometimes are; for then I can't read them distinctly."

* The Bride of Abydos.
LETTER CLXXXIII.

To MR. MURRAY.

"Mr. Hodgson has looked over and stopped, or rather pointed, this revise, which must be the one to print from. He has also made some suggestions, with most of which I have complied, as he has always, for the last ten years, been a very sincere, and by no means (at times) flattering, intimate of mine. He likes it (you will think flatteringly, in this instance) better than the Giaour, but doubts (and so do I) its being so popular, but, contrary to some others, advises a separate publication. On this we can easily decide. I confess I like the double form better. Hodgson says, it is 'better versified than any of the others; which is odd, if true, as it has cost me less time (though more hours at a time) than any attempt I ever made.

"P. S. Do attend to the punctuation: I can't, for I don't know a comma—at least, where to place one."

"That tory of a printer has omitted two lines of the opening, and perhaps more, which were in the MS. Will you, pray, give him a hint of accuracy? I have re-inserted the two, but they were in the manuscript, I can swear."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 13, 1818."

"Will you forward the letter to Mr. Gifford with the proof? There is an alteration I may make in Zuleika's speech, in second canto (the only one of hers in that canto). It is now thus:"

"And, since, if I could, I try with purpose to write your love truly,
That saw my solitary birth, &c."

"Ever yours, A."

"In the last MS. lines sent, instead of 'living heart,' convert to 'quivering heart.' It is in the line 9th of the MS. passage.
"Ever yours again, B."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Alteration of a line in canto second.
Instead of—"

"And dime to-morrow with a fisted ray,
And dime to-morrow with prophetic ray.
The evening beam that smiles the clouds away,
And dime to-morrow with prophetic ray;"

"And gilds the hope of morning with his ray;
And gilds to-morrow's hope with heavenly ray."

"I wish you would ask Mr. Gifford which of them is best, or rather not worst."

"Ever, &c."

"You can send the request contained in this to the same time with the revise, after I have seen the said revise."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 13, 1818."

"Certainly. Do you suppose that no one but the Galliwops are acquainted with Adam, and Eve, and Cain, & Noah? Surely, I might have had Solomon, and Abraham, and David, and even Moses. When you know that Zuleika is the Persian poetical name for Potiphar's wife, on whom and Joseph there is a long poem, in the Persian, this will not surprise you. If you want authority, look at Jones D'Herbelot, Vathek, or the notes to the Arabian Nights; and, if you think it necessary, model this into a note."

"Alter, in the inscription, 'the most affectionate respect,' to 'with every sentiment of regard and respect.'"

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 14, 1818."

"I send you a note for the ignorant, but I really wonder at finding you among them. I don't care one lump of sugar for my poetry, but for my costume and my correctness on those points, (of which I think the funeral was a proof,) I will combat lustily."

"Yours, &c."

"Nov. 14, 1818."

"Let the revise which I sent just now (and not the proof in Mr. Gifford's possession) be returned to the printer, as there are several additional corrections, and two new lines in it.
"Yours, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

Nov. 26, 1816.

"More work for the Row. I am doing my best to beat the 'Giaour;'—no difficult task for any one but the author."

* Some doubt had been expressed by Mr. Murray as to the propriety of the putting the name of Cain into the mouth of a Mussulman.

† See note 26, to the Bride of Abdyssia.

‡ See note 25, to the Bride of Abdyssia.
NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 22, 1813.

"I have no time to cross-investigate, but I believe and hope all is right. I care less than you will believe about its success, but I can't survive a single misprint: it chokes me to see words misused by the printers. Pray look over, in case of some eye-core escaping me.

"P. S. Send the earliest copies to Mr. Freere, Mr. Canning, Mr. Heber, Mr. Gifford, Lord Holland, Lord Melbourne (Whitall,) Lady Caroline Lamb (Upton), Mr. Hodgson (Cambridge,) Mr. Meredith, Mr. Ward, from the author."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 26, 1813.

"You wanted some reflections, and I send you per Selim, (see his speech in canto II., page 46,) eighteen lines in dear couples, of a pensive, if not an ethereal tendency. One more revise—positively the last, if decently done—at any rate the penultimate. Mr. Canning's approbation (if he did approve) I need not say makes me proud. As to printing, print as you will and how you will—by itself, if you like; but let me have a few copies in sheets.

"You must pardon me once more, as it is all for your good: it must be thus—

"He makes a solitude, and calls it peace.

'Makes' is closer to the passage of Tacitus, from which the line is taken, and is, besides, a stronger word than 'leaves.'

'Mark where his sausage and his corpulent face,
He makes a solitude, and calls it—peace.'"

LETTER CLXXXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 27, 1813.

"If you look over this carefully by the last proof, with my corrections, it is probably right; this you can do as well or better—I have not now time. The copies I mentioned to be sent to different friends last night, I should wish to be made up with the new Giaours, if it also is ready. If not, send the Giaour afterward.

"The Morning Post says I am the author of Nourjahad!!! This comes of lending the drawings for their dresses; but it is not worth a formal contradiction. Besides, the criticisms on the supposition will some of them, be quite amusing and furious. The Orientalism—which I hear is very splendid—of the melodrame (whosoever it's, and I am sure I don't know) is as good as an advertisement for your Eastern Stories, by filling their heads with glitter.

"P. S. You will of course say the truth, that I am not the melodramatist—if any one charges me in your presence with the performance."

LETTER CLXXXVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 28, 1813.

"Send another copy (if not too much of a request) to Lady Holland of the Journal, in your name, when you receive this: it is for Earl Grey—and I will relinquish my own. Also, to Mr. Sarpe, and Lady Holland, and Lady Caroline Lamb, copies of 'The Bride,' as soon as convenient.

"P. S. Mr. Ward and myself still continue our purpose; but I shall not trouble you on any arrangement on the score of the Giaour—and The Bride till our return—or, at any rate, before May, which is, six months from hence: and before that time you will be able to ascertain how far your offer may be a losing one; if so, you can deduct proportionately; and if not, I shall not at any rate allow you to go higher than your present proposals, which is very handsomely, and more than fair.*

*I have had—but this must be entre nous, a very kind note, on the subject of 'The Bride,' from Sir James Macintosh, and an invitation to go there this evening, which it is now too late to accept."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 29, 1813.

"Sunday-Monday morning—I shuck in my pocket and bow, an engraving.

"I send you in time an entire page, containing an omission of mine which must be thus added, as it is too late for insertion in the text. The passage is an imitation altogether from Medea in Ovid, and is incomplete without these two lines. Pray let this be done, and directly: it is necessary for me to add one page to your book (making), and can do no harm, and is yet in time for the public. Answer me, thou oracle, in the affirmative. You can send the loose pages to those who have copies already, if they like; but certainly to all the critical copy-holders.

"P. S. I have got out of my bed, (in which, however, I could not sleep, whether I had amended this or not,) and so good morning. I am trying whether De L'Allemagne will act as an opiate, but I doubt it."
NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Nov. 30, 1813.

"Print this at the end of all that is of the 'Bride of Abydos,' as an errata page."

"BN."

"Omitted, canto II., page 47, after line cccxxix.

Read

"So that some one may know which neck.

"Then if my lip were a marvellous mystery, it must be no sign for safety, but a prayer for thee!"

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Tuesday evening, Nov. 30, 1813.

"For the sake of correctness, particularly in an errata page, the alteration of the couplet I have just sent (half an hour ago) must take place, in spite of delay or cancel; let me see the proof early to-morrow. I found out murrerm to be a neuter, and have been obliged to alter the line so as to make it a substantive, thus—

"The downmost, murmur of this lip shall be no sign for safety, but a prayer for thee!"

Don't send the copies to the country till this is all right."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Dec. 2, 1813.

"When you can, let the couplet enclosed be inserted either in the page, or in the errata page. I trust it is in time for some of the copies. This alteration is in the same part—the page but one before the last correction sent.

"P. S. I am afraid, from all I hear, that people are rather acute in their expectations, which is very unlucky, but cannot now be helped. This comes of Mr. Perry and one of his wise friends; but do not you wind your hopes of success to the same pitch, for fear of accidents, and I can assure you that my philosophy will stand the test very fairly; and I have done every thing to ensure you, at all events, from positive loss, which will be some satisfaction to you.""

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Dec. 3, 1813.

"I send you a scratch or two, the which shall. The Christian Observer is very savage, but certainly well written—and quite uncomfortable at the naughtiness of book and author. I rather suspect you won't much like the present to be more moral, if it is as good as also the usual fate of your virtuous volumes.

"Let me see a proof of the size before incorporation."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Monday evening, Dec. 6, 1813.

"It is very well, except that the lines are not numbered properly, and a diabolical mistake, page 67, which must be corrected with the pen, if no other way remains; it is the omission of 'not' before 'diagnose' in the Augustan rosary. This is really horrible, and nearly as bad as the stumbler of mine at the threshold—I mean the misnomer of Bride. Pray do not let a copy go without the 'not'; it is nonsense and worse than nonsense as it now stands. I wish the printer was saddled with a vampire."

"P. S. It is still hath instead of have in page 29 never was any one so missed as I am by your devilish printers."

"P. S. I hope and trust the 'not' was inserted in the first edition. We must have something—any thing—to set it right. It is enough to arrange for one's own bulls, without other people's."

LETTER CLXXXVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Dec. 27, 1813.

"Lord Holland is laid up with the gout, and would feel very much obliged if you could obtain, and send as soon as possible, Madame D'Arlay's (or even Miss Edgeworth's) new work. I know they are not out; but it is possible for your Majesty to command what we cannot with much suing purchase, as yet. I need not say that when you are able or willing to confer the same favor on me, I shall be obliged. I would almost fall sick myself to get at Madame D'Arlay's writings.

"P. S. You were talking to-day of the American edition of a certain unquenchable memorial of my younger days. As it can't be helped now, I own I have some curiosity to see a copy of Transatlantic typography. This you will perhaps obtain, and one for yourself; but I must beg that you will not import more, because, seriously, I do wish to have that thing forgotten as much as it has been forgiven.

"If you send to the Globe editor, say that I want neither excuse nor contradiction, but merely a discontinuance of a most ill-grounded charge. I never was consistent in any thing but my politics; and as my redemption depends on that solitary virtue, it is murder to carry away my last anchor.""

LETTER CLXXXIX.

TO MR. ASHE.

"I Bennet street, St. James's, Dec. 14, 1813.

"SIR.

"I leave town for a few days to-morrow; on my return, I will answer your letter more at length. Whatever may be your situation, I cannot but commend your resolution to abjure and abandon the publication and composition of works such as those to which you have alluded. Depend upon it, they amuse few, disgrace both reader and writer, and benefit none. It will be my wish to assist you, as far as my limited means will admit, to break such a bondage. In your answer, inform me what sum you think would enable you to extricate your self from the hands of your employers, and to regain at least temporary independence, and I shall be glad to contribute my mite towards it. At present I must conclude. Your name is not unknown to me, and I regret, for your own sake, *

* Author of a publication relating to the Queen, called "The Book; also of "Travels through America," and other notorious libels. He had written to Lord Byron, alleging poverty as his reason for the books in which he had prostituted his pen, and soliciting the means of "sustaining some honest employment."
that you have ever learnt it to the works you mention. In saying this, I merely repeat your own words in your letter to me, and have no wish whatever to say a single syllable that may appear to insult your misfortunes. If I have, excuse me; it is unintentional. "Yours, &c."

"BYRON."

[In answer to this letter, Ashe mentioned as the sin necessary to extricate him from his difficulties, 1801—and, some short delay having occurred in the reply to this demand, he, in renewing his suit, complained, it appears, of neglect.]

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LETTER CXC.

TO MR. ASHE. "Jan. 5, 1814."

"Sir, "

"When you accuse a stranger of neglect, you forget that it is possible business or absence from London may have interfered to delay his answer, as has actually occurred in the present instance. But to the point. I am willing to do what I can to extricate you from your situation. Your first scheme I was considering; but your own impatience appears to have rendered it abortive, if not irretrievable. I will deposit in Mr. Murray's hands (with his consent) the sum you mentioned, to be advanced for the time at ten pounds per month."

"P. S. I write in the greatest hurry, which may make my letter a little abrupt; but, as I said before, I have no wish to distress your feelings."

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LETTER CXCI.

TO MR. OALT. "Dec. 11, 1813."

"My Dear GALT, "

"There was no offence—there could be none.* I thought it by no means impossible that we might have hit on something similar, particularly as you are a dramatist and was anxious to assure you of the truth, viz., that I had not wittingly seised upon plot, sentiment, or incident; and I am very glad that I have not in any respect trespassed upon your subjects. Something still more singular is, that the first part, where you have found a coincidence in some events within your observations on life, was drawn from observation of mine also; and I meant to have gone on with the story, but on second thoughts, I thought myself two centuries at least too late for the subject; which, though admitting of very powerful feeling and description, yet is not adapted for this age, & least this country, though the finest works of the Greeks, one of Schiller's and Alfieri's, in modern times, besides several of our old (and best) dramatists, have been grounded on incidents of a similar cast. I therefore altered it as you perceive, and, in doing so, have weakened the whole by interrupting the train of thought; and, in composition, I do not think second thoughts are the best; though second expressions may improve the first ideas. "I do not know how other men feel towards those they have met abroad, but to me there seems a kind of tie established between all who have met together in a foreign country, as if we had met in a state of preexistence, and were talking over a tale that has ceased; but I always look forward to renewing my travels, and though you, I think, are now stationary, if I can at all forward your pursuits there as well as here, I shall be truly glad in the opportunity. "Ever yours very sincerely, "B."

"P. S. I believe I leave town for a day or two on Monday, but after that I am always at home and happy to see you until half past two."

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LETTER CXCII.

TO MR. LEIGH HUNT. "Dec. 23, 1814."

"My Dear Sir, "

"I am, indeed, in your debt—and what is still worse, am obliged to follow royal example, [he has just apprized his creditors that they must wait till the meeting, and entreat your indulgence for, I hope, a very short time. The nearest relation, and almost the only friend I possess, has been in London for a week, and leaves it to-morrow, with me, for her own residence. I return immediately; but we meet so seldom, and are so sudden in my absence, that you may be sure I shall have no more and I am glad to see you perform it. Yesterday I had a letter from Moore; you have probably heard from him lately; but if not, you will be glad to learn that he is the same in heart, head, and health."

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LETTER CXCIII.

TO MR. MERIVALE. "Jan. 1814."

"My Dear Merivale, "

"I have redded Roncevaux with very great pleasure, and, if I were so disposed, see very little room for criticism. There is a choice of two lines in one of the last cantos,—I think 'Live and protect' better, because 'Oh who?' implies a doubt of Roland's power of inclination. I would allow the— нагу that point yourself must determine on—I mean the doubt as to where to place a part of the poem, whether between the actions or no. Only it you wish to have all the success you deserve, never listen to friends, and— as I am not the least troublesome of the number—least of all to me. "I hope you will be out soon. March, sir, March, is the month for the trade, and they must be considered. You have written a very noble poem, and nothing but the detestable taste of the day can do you harm,—but I think you will beat it Your measure is uncommonly well chosen and wielded." * * * * * * "

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LETTER CXCIV.

TO MR. MURRAY. "Sunday, Jan. 2, 1814."

"Excuse this dirty paper—it is the posthumous half-sheet of a quire. Thanks for your book and th. Ln. Chron. which I return. The Corsair is copied and now at Lord Holland's; but I wish Mr. Giffon to have it to-night. "Mr. Dallas is very peremptory, so that I have of sented both him and you, when I really meant to do good, at least to one, and certainly not to annoy
either. But I shall manage him, I hope. I am pretty confident of the Tale itself; but one cannot be sure. If I get it from Lord Holland, it shall be sent. Yours, &c."

LETTER CXCV.

TO MR. MOORE.

Jan. 6, 1814.

"I have got a devil of a long story in the press, entitled 'The Corsair,' in the regular heroic measure. It is a pirate's tale, peopled with my own creatures, and you may easily suppose they do a world of mischief through the three cantos. Now for your Dedication—if you will accept it. This is positively my last experiment on public literary opinion, till I turn my thirtieth year. If so be I flourish until that downwhill period. I have a confidence for you—a perceiving one to me, and, just at present, in a state of abeyance in itself. However, we shall see. In the mean time, you may amuse yourself with my suspense, and put all the justices of the peace in requisition, in case I come into your county with 'hack but bent.'

"Seriously, whether I am to hear from her or him, it is a pause, which I shall fill up with as few thoughts of my own as I can borrow from other people. Any thing is better than stagnation; and now, in the interregnum of my autumn and a strange summer adventure, which I don't like to think of; ('I don't mean,' &c., however, which is laughable only,) the antithetical state of my incumbrations makes me alive, and Macbeth can 'sleep no more:'—he was lucky in getting rid of the drowsy sensation of waking again.

"Pray write to me. I must send you a copy of the letter of Dedication. When do you come out? I am sure we don't clash this time, for I am all at sea, and in action,—and a wife, and a mistress, &c., &c.

"Thomas, thou art a happy fellow; but if you wish us to be so, you must come up to town, as you did last year; and we shall have a world to say, and to see, and to hear. Let me hear from you.

"P. S. Of course you will keep my secret, and don't even talk in your sleep of it. Happen what may, your Dedication is ensured, being already written; and I shall copy it out fair to-night, in case business or amusement—Amant altera Causa.""

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

Jan. 7, 1814.

"You don't like the Dedication—very well; there is an other; but you will send the other to Mr. Moore, that he may know I had written it. I send also mottoes for the cantos. I think you will allow that an elephant may be more sagacious, but cannot be more docile.

"Yours, "EN.

"The name is again altered to Medora."

LETTER CXCVI.

TO MR. MOORE.

Jan. 9, 1814.

"As it would not be fair to press you into a Dedication, without previous notice, I send you two, and I will tell you why two. The first, Mr. Murray, who sometimes takes upon him the critic (and I bear it from astonishment) says, may do you harm—God forbid! this alone makes me listen to him. The fact is, he is a damned Tory, and has, I dare say, something of self which I cannot divine, at the bottom of his objection, as it is the allusion to Ireland to which he objects. But he be d—d, though a good fellow enough, (your sinner would not be worth a d—n.)

"Take your choice; no one save he and Mr Dallas, has seen either, and D. is quite on my side, and for the first. If I can but testify to you and the world how truly I admire and esteem you, I shall be quite satisfied. As to prose, I don't know Addison's from Johnson's; but I will try to mend my ecology. Pray perpend, pronounce, and don't be offended with either.

"My last epistle would probably put you in a fidget. But the Devil, who ought to be civil on such occasions, proved so, and took my letter to the right place."

"Is it not odd? the very fate I said she had escaped from *; she has now undergone from the worthy * *. Like Mr. Fitzgerald, shall I not lay claim to the character of 'Vates?' as he did in the Morning Herald for prophesying the fall of Bonaparte, who, by-the-by, I don't think is yet fallen. I wish he would rally and rout your legitimate sovereigns, having a mortal hate to all royal entuis. But I am swarming a treatise. Good night. Ever, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

Jan. 11, 1814.

"Correct this proof by Mr. Gifford's (and from the MSS,) particularly as to the pointing. I have added a section for Gulnare, to fill up the parting and dismiss her more ceremoniously. If Mr. Gifford or you dislike, 'tis but a sponge, and another midnight better employed than in yawning over Miss * *; who, by-the-by, may soon return the compliment.

"Wednesday or Thursday.

"P. S. I have redde *. It is full of praises of Lord Ellenborough!! (from which I infer near and dear relations at the bar,) and

"I do not love Madame de Stael, but depend upon it, she beats all your natives hollow as an ane thores, in my opinion; and I would not say this if I could help it.

"P. S. Pray report my best acknowledgements to Mr. Gifford in any words that may best express to a gentleman truly his kindness obliges me. I won't b—re him with lip thanks or notes."

NOTE TO MR. MOORE.

Jan. 13, 1814.

"I have but a moment to write, but all as it should be. I have said really far short of my opinion, but if you think enough, I am content. Will you return the proof by the post, as I leave town on Sunday, and have no other corrected copy. I put 'servant,' as being less familiar before the public, because I don't like presuming upon our friendship to infringe upon forms. As to the other word, you may be sure it is one I cannot hear or repeat too often.

"I write in an agony of haste and confusion—Perdonate.

* The first was the one preferred. The other was as follows:

"My Dear Moore,

"I had written to you a long letter of dedication, which I suppress, because though it contained something relating to you which every one had been glad to hear, yet there was too much about politics, and party, and all things whatsoever, ending with that topic on which most men are floored and most very amusing—one's self. It might have been rewritten but to what purpose? My praise could add nothing to your well-earned and well-meritaed fame; and with my most hearty adoration of your talent, and delight in your conversation, you are already acquainted. In awarding myself a leisure friendly permission to write this poem to you, I can only wish its offering were as worthy your acceptance as your regard is dear to You, most affectionately and kindly,

"BYRON."
LETTER CXCVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Jan. 15, 1814.

"Before any proof goes to Mr. Gifford, it may be as well to revise this, where there are words omitted, faults committed, and the devil knows what. As to the dedication, I cut out the parenthesis of Mr.* but not another word shall I tinker with for a better. Mr. Moore has seen, and decidedly preferred, the part your Toby bile sickness at. If every syllable were a rattlesnake, or every letter a pestilence, they should not be expunged. Let those who cannot swallow, chew the expressions on Ireland; or should even Mr. Croker array himself in all his terror against them, I care for none of you, except Gifford; and he won't abuse me except I deserve it—which will at least reconcile me to his justice. As to the poems in Hobhouse's volume,† the translation from the Romance is well enough; but the best of the other volume (of mine, I mean) have been already printed. But do as you please—only, as I shall be absent when you come out, do, pray, let Mr. Dallas and you have a care of the press.

"Yours, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

[1814. Jan. 16.]

"I do believe that the Devil never created or perverted such a fiend as the fool of a printer. I am obliged to enclose you, luckily for me, this second proof, corrected, because there is an immaturity in his blunders peculiar to himself. Let the press be guided by the present sheet.

"Yours, &c."

"Burn the other.

"Correct this also by the others in some things which I may have forgotten. There is one mistake he made, which, if it had stood, I would most certainly have broken his neck."

LETTER CXCVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Newstead Abbey, Jan. 22, 1814.

"You will be glad to hear of my safe arrival here. The time of my return will depend upon the weather, which is so impracticable that this letter has to advance through more snows than ever opposed the emperor's retreat. The roads are impassable, and return impossible for the present; which I do not regret, as I am much at my ease, and six-and-twenty complete this day—a very pretty age, if it would always last. Our coals are excellent, our fire-places large, my cell full, and my head empty; and I have not yet recovered my joy at leaving London. If any unexpected turn occurs with my purchasers, I believe I should hardly quit the place at all; but shut my door and let my beard grow.

"I forget to mention (and I hope it is unnecessary) that the lines beginning—Remember him, &c.—must not appear with the Corsair. You may slip them in with the smaller pieces newly annexed to Childe Harold; but on no account permit them to be appended to the Corsair. Have the goodness to recollect this particularly.

"The books I have brought with me are a great consolation for the confinement, and I bought more as we came along. In short, I never consult the thermometer, and shall not put up prayers for them, unless I thought it would sweep away the rascally invaders of France. Was ever such a thing as Blucher's proclamation?"

* He had, at first, after the words "Scorn alone, " Inserted, in a pencil, in a parenthesis."
† He will excuse the Mr.—we do not say Mr. Caner."

[See Poems, p. 509.
see Poems, p. 366.]

"Just before I left town, Kemble paid me the compliment of desiring me to write a tragedy; I wish I could, but find my scribbling mood subsiding—not before it was time; but it is lucky to check it at all. If I lengthen my letter you will think it is coming on again; so, good-bye.

"Yours always,

"B."

"P. S. If you hear any news of battle or retreat on the part of the Allies, (as they call them,) pray send it. He has my best wishes to manure the fields of France with an invading army. I hate invaders of all countries, and have no patience with the cowardly cry of exultation over him, at whose name you all turned whiter than the snow to which you are indebted for your triumphs.

"I open my letter to thank you for yours just received. The 'Limes to a Lady Weeping' must go with the Corsair. I care nothing for consequence on this point. My politics are to me like a young mistress to an old man—the worse they grow, the fonder I become of them. As Mr. Gifford likes the Portuguese Translation,† pray insert it as an addition to the Corsair.

"In all points of difference between Mr. Gifford and Mr. Dallas, let the first keep his place; and in all differences between Mr. Gifford and Mr. Murray, I shall abide by the former; if I am wrong, I can't help it. But I would rather not be right with any other person. So there is an end of that matter.

"After all the trouble he has taken about my books, and mine, I should be very ungrateful to feel or act otherwise. Besides, in point of judgment, he is not to be lowered by a comparison. In politics he may be right too; but that with me is a feeling, and I can't terify my nature."

LETTER CXCIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Newstead Abbey, Feb. 4, 1814.

"I need not say that your obliging letter was very welcome, and not the less so for being unexpected.

"It doubtless gratifies me much that our finals has pleased, and that the curtain does hold, for your promptitude and good nature in arranging immediately with Mr. Dallas, and I can assure you that I esteem your entering so warmly into the subject, and writing so soon, very much.

"We shall now part, I hope, satisfied with each other. I was and am quite in earnest in my preface promise not to intrude any more; and this not from any affectation, but a thorough conviction that it is the best policy, and is at least respectful to my readers, as it shows I would not willingly run the risk of forfeiting their favor in future. Besides, I have other views and objects, and think that I shall keep this resolution. Since I left London, though shut up, snow-bound, and thaw-bound, and tempted with all kinds of paper, the dirtiest of ink, and the bluntest of pens, I have not even been haunted by a wish to put them to their combined use, except in letters of business. My rhyming propensity is quite gone, and I feel much as I did at Patras on recovering from my fever—weak, but in health; and only afraid of nothing."

* His translation of the pretty Portuguese song, "Tu mi chama." He was tempted to try another version of this ingenious thought, which is perhaps will have more happiness.

† You will see all your life—ah, I change the word—"Lift's a translation of the "lamentest sight!

"Say, rather, I'm your soul, more just that name.

"Poor, like the soul, my love can never die."—Moore.

‡ It will be recollected that he had announced the Corsair as "one last production with which he should charge the public grudge for seven years."
of a relapse I do most frequently hope I never shall.

"I see by the Morning Chronicle there hath been discussion in the Courier; and I read in the Morning Post a wrathful letter about Mr. Moore, in which some Presbyterians have made a sad confusion about India and Ireland.

"You are to do as you please about the smaller poems; but I think removing them now from the Corsair looks like fear; and if so, you must allow me not to be pleased. I should also suppose that, after the fuss of these newspaper esquires, they would materially assist the circulation of the Corsair; an object I should imagine at present of more importance to yourself than Childe Harold's seventh appearance. Do as you like; but don't allow the withdrawing that poem to draw any imputation of dismay upon me."

"Pray make my respects to Mr. Ward, whose praise I value highly, as you well know; it is in the approbation of such men that fame becomes worth having. To Mr. Gifford I am always grateful, and surely not less so now than ever. And so good night to my authorship.

"I have been sauntering and dozing here very quietly and not unhappily. You will be happy to hear that I have completely established my title deeds as marketable, and that the purchaser has succumbed to the terms, and fulfils them, or is to fulfil them forthwith. He is now here and we go on very amicably together—one in each wing of the Abbey. We set off on Sunday—I for town, he for Cheshire.

"Mrs. Leigh is with me—much pleased with the place, and less so with me for parting with it, to which not even the price can reconcile her. Your parcel has not yet arrived—at least the Maga, &c.; but I have received Childe Harold and the Corsair. I believe both are very correctly printed, which is a great satisfaction.

"I thank you for wishing me in town; but I think one's success is most felt at a distance, and I enjoy my solitary self-importance in an agreeable sulky way of my own, upon the strength of your letter—for which I once more thank you, and am, very truly, &c.

"P.S. Don't you think Bomparte's next publication will be rather expensive to the Allies? Perry's Paris letter of yesterday looks very reviving. What a Hydra and Briareus it is! I wish they would pacify: there is no end to this campaigning."

LETTER CC.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Newstead Abbey, Feb 5, 1814.

"I quite forgot, in my answer of yesterday, to mention that I have no means of ascertaining whether the Newark Pirate has been doing what you say.† If so, he is a rascal, and a shabby rascal to boot; and if his offence is punishable by law or public opinion, he shall be caught and punished. Do you try and discover, and I will make some inquiry here. Perhaps some other in town may have gone on printing, and used the same deception.

"The false simulation is omitted in Childe Harold, which is very awkward, and there is a note expressly on the subject. Pray replace it as usual.

"On second and third thoughts, the withdrawing the small poems from the Corsair (even to add to Childe Harold) looks like a mistake, after the fuss made upon one of them by the Tories. Pray replace them in the Corsair's appendix. I am sorry that Childe Harold requires some and such abatements to make him move off; but, if you remember, I told you his popularity would not be permanent. It is very lucky for the author that he had made up his mind to a temporary reputation in time. The truth is, I do not think any of the present day (and least of all, one who has not consulted the flattering side of human nature) have much to hope from posterity; and you may think it affectation very probably, but I assure you it is not. I have presented and past success has appeared so very singular, since it was in the teeth of so many prejudices. I almost think people like to be contradicted. If Childe Harold flags, it will hardly be worth while to redeem it by engraving; but do as you please; I have done with the whole concern: and the enclosed lines written years ago, and copied from my skull-cap, are among the last with which you will be troubled. If you like, add them to Childe Harold, if only for the sake of another outcry. You received so long an answer yesterday, that I will not intrude on you further than to repeat myself,

"Yours, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"Newark, Feb 6, 1814.

"I am thus far on my way to town. Master Ridge† I have seen, and he owns to having reprinted some sheets, to make up a few complete remaining copies! I have now given him fair warning, and if he plays such tricks again, I must either get an injunction, or call for an account of profits, (as I never have parted with the copyright,) or, in short, any thing vexatious to repay him in his own way. If the weather does not relapse, I hope to be in town in a day or two.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCLI.

TO MR. HODGSON.

"Feb 28, 1814.

"There is a youngster—and a clever one, named Reynolds, who has just published a poem called 'Safe,' published by Cawthorne. He is in the most natural and fearful apprehension of the Reviewers—and as you and I both know by experience the effect of such things upon a young mind, I wish you would take his production into dissection, and do it gently. I cannot, because it is inscribed to me; but I assure you this is not except in wishing him to be tenderly treated, but because I know the misery, at his time of life, of untoward remarks upon first appearance.

"The printer at Newark.

† To a Lady Weeping."
"Now for self. Pray thank your cousin—it is just as it should be, to my liking, and probably more than will suit any one else's. I hope and trust that you are well, and well doing. Peace be with you. Ever yours, my dear friend."

LETTER CCIII.

TO MR. MOORE.  "Feb. 10, 1814.

"A arrived in town late yesterday evening, having been absent three weeks, which I passed in Notts, quietly and pleasantly. You can have no conception of the uproar the eight lines on the little Royalty's weeping in 1812 (now republished) haveoccasioned. The Regent, who had always thought them yours, chose—God knows why—on discovering them to be mine, to be affected, 'in sorrow rather than anger.' The Morning Post, Sun, Herald, Courier, have all been in hysterics ever since. Murray is in a fit, and wants to shuffle—and if any abuse against me in all directions is vehement, unceasing, loud—some of it good, and all of it hearty. I feel a little cabin'd and I to the Regent's regret—would he had been only angry! but I fear him not.

"Some of these same assailments you have probably seen. My person (which is excellent for 'the nonce') has been denounced in verses, the more like the subject, inasmuch as they half exceedingly. Then, in another, I am an atheist—a rebel—and at last, the devil ('boiteux, I presume.) My demonism seems to be a female's conjecture: if so, perhaps I could convince her that I am but a mere mortal,—if a queen of the Amazons may be believed, who says анъ тъя эйс тёй. I quote from memory, so my Greek is probably deficient; but the passage is meant to mean.

"Seriously, I am in, what the learned call, a dilemma, and the vulgar, a scrape; and my friends desire me not to be in a passion, and like Sir Fretful, I assure them that I am 'quite calm,'—but I am nevertheless in a fury.

"Since I wrote thus far, a friend has come in, and we have been talking and buffooning, till I have quite lost the thread of my thoughts; and, as I won't send them unstripped to you, good morning; and expect me ever, &c.

"P. S. Murray, during my absence, omitted the Tears in several of the copies. I have made him replace them, and am very wroth with his quails—and as the wine is poured out, let it be drank to the dregs.'"

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.  "Feb. 10, 1814.

"I am much better, and indeed quite well this morning. I have received two, but I presume there are more of the Ana, subsequently, and also something previous, to which the Morning Chronicle replied. You also mentioned a parody on the Skull, I wish to see them all, because there may be things that require notice either by pen or person.

"Yours, &c.

"You need not trouble yourself to answer this; but send me the things when you get them."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.  "Feb. 12, 1814.

"If you have copies of the 'Intercepted Letters,' Lady Holland would be glad of a volume, and when you have served others, have the goodness to think of your humble servant.

"You have played the devil by that injudicious suppression, which you did totally without my consent. Some of the papers have exactly said what might be expected. Now I do not, and evil not be supposed to shrunk, although myself and everything belonging to me were to perish with my memory.

"Yours, &c.

"P. S. Pray attend to what I stated yesterday on technical topics."

LETTER CCIII.

TO MR. HUNT.  "Feb. 9, 1814.

"My Dear Sir,

"I have been snow-bound and thaw-swamped (two compound epithets for you) in the 'valley of the shadow' of Newstead Abbey for nearly a month, and have not been four hours returned to London. Nearly the first use I make of my benumbed fingers, is to thank you for your very handsome note in the Morning Post of your volume; it has been followed by others on subjects more worthy your notice than the works of contemporaries. Of myself, you speak only too highly, and you must think me strangely sparing, or perverse, to suspect that any remarks of yours, in the spirit of candid criticism, could possibly prove unpalatable. Had they been harsh, instead of being written as they are, in the indelible ink and friendly admonition, had they been the harshest—as I knew and know that you are above any personal bias, at least, against your fellow-bards, believe me, they would not have caused a remonstrance, nor a moment of ranking on my part. Your, noem I read long ago in the 'Reflector,' and it is not much to say it is the best 'Session' we have, and with a more difficult subject, for we are neither so good nor so bad (taking the best and worst) as the wits of the olden time.

"To your smaller pieces I have not yet had time to do justice by perusal, and I have a quantity of unanswered, and I hope unanswerable, letters to wade through before I sleep, but to-morrow will see me through your volume. I am glad to see you have tracked Gray among the Italians. You will perhaps find a friend or two of yours there also, through not to the same extent; but I have always thought the Italians the most poetical moderns; our Milton and Spenser, and Shakespeare, (the last through translations of their Tales,) are very Tuscan, and surely it is far superior to the French school. You are hardly fair enough to foreigners. Why fear you might surely have given him supper, if only a sandwich. Murray has, I hope, sent you my last hintling, 'The Corsair.' I have been regaled at every inn on the road by lampoons and other merry conceits on myself in the ministerial gazettes, occasioned by the republication of two stanzas, inserted in 1812, in Perry's paper. The hysterics of the Morning Post are quite interesting; and I hear (but have not seen) of something terrific in a last week's Courier: all which I take with the 'calm indifference' of Sir Fretful Plagiary. The Morning Post has one copy of devices upon my deformity, which certainly will admit of no 'historical doubts' like 'Dickon my master's;' another upon my atheism, which is not quite so clear; and another very down rightly says, 'I am a devil,' (boiteux, they might have added,) and a rebel, and what not. My accuser of diabolism may be Rosa Matilda; and if so, it would not be difficult to convince her that I am a mere man. I shall break in upon you in a day or two; distance has hitherto detained me; and I hope to find you well, and myself welcome.

"Ever your obliging and sincere,  "BYRON"
LETTER CCIV.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Monday, Feb. 14, 1814.

Before I left town yesterday, I wrote you a letter, by which I presume you received it. I have heard so many different accounts of your proceedings, or rather of those of others towards you, in consequence of the publication of these everlasting lines, that I am anxious to hear from yourself the real state of the case. Whatever responsibility, obloquy, or effect is to arise from the publication, should surely not fall upon you in any degree; and I can have no objection to your stating, as distinctly and publicly as you please, your unwillingness to publish them, and my own obstinacy upon the subject. Take any course you please to vindicate yourself, but leave me to fight my own way, and, as I before said, do not compromise me by any thing which may make the best of it."

"Yours,

"BY."

LETTER CCV.
TO MR. ROGERS.

"Feb. 16, 1814.

My DEAR ROGERS,

"I wrote to Lord Holland briefly, but I hope distinctly, on the subject which has lately occupied much of my conversation with him and you. As things now stand, upon that topic my determination must be unalterable.

"I declare to you most sincerely that there is no human being on whose regard and esteem I set a higher value than on Lord Holland's; and, as far as concerns myself, I would concede even to humiliation without any view to the future, and solely from my sense of his conduct as to the past. For the rest, I conceive that I have already done all in my power by the suppression. If that is not enough, they must act as they please; but I will not teach my tongue a most inherent baseness, come what may. You will probably be at the Marquis Lansdowne's to-night. I am asked, but I am not sure that I shall be able to go. Hobhouse will be there. I think, if you knew him well, you would like him."

"Believe me always, yours very affectionately,

"II."

LETTER CCVI.
TO MR. ROGERS.

"Feb. 16, 1814.

"If Lord Holland is satisfied, as far as regards himself and Lady Fd., and as this letter expresses him to be, it is enough.

"As for any impression the public may receive from the revival of the lines on Lord Carlisle, let them keep it—the more favorable for him, and the worse for me—better for all.

"All the sayings and doings in the world shall not make me utter another word of conciliation to any thing that breathes. I shall bear what I can, and what I cannot, I shall resist. The worst they could do would be to exclude me from society. I have never counted it, nor, I may add, in the general sense of the word, enjoyed it—and 'there is a world elsewhere'!

"Any thing remarkably injurious, I have the same means of repaying as other men, with such in interest as circumstances may annex to it.

"Nothing but the necessity of the occasion to regiments prevents me from dining with you to-morrow.

"I am yours most truly,

"BY."

LETTER CCVII.
TO MR. MOORE.

"Feb. 16, 1814.

"You may be assured that the only prickles that sting from the Royal hedgehog are those which possess a torpedo property, and may bannish some of my friends. I am quite silent, and 'hush'd in grim repose.' The fashion of the assault has weakened their effects,—if ever they had any;—and, if they had had much I should hardly have held my tongue, or withheld my fingers. It is something quite new to attack a man for abandoning his remissents. I have been aware that I had prevenged my sub sequence vituperation were rather ungrateful, but I did not know that it was wrong to endeavor to dc justice to those who did not wait till I had made some amends for former and boyish prejudices, but received me into their friendship, when I might still have been their enemy.

"You perceive justly that I must intentionally have made my fortune, like Sir Francis Wronghead. It were better if there were more merit in my independence; but it really is something now-a-days to be independent at all, and the less temptation to be otherwise, the more uncommon the case, in these times of paradoxical servility. I believe that most of our hates and likings have been hitherto nearly the same; but from henceforth, they must, of necessity, be one and indivisible,—and now for it! I am for any weapon,—the pen, till one can find something sharper, which for form, the sword."

"You can have no conception of the ludicrous solemnity with which these two stanzas have been treated. The Morning Post gave notice of an intended motion in the House of my brethren on the subject, and God knows what proceedings besides; and all of this, as Bedridden in theights says, for making a cream tart without pepper. This last piece of intelligence is, I presume, too laughable to be true; and the destruction of the custom-house appears to have, in some degree, interfered with mine;—added to which, the last battle of Bonaparte has usurped the column hitherto devoted to my bulletin.

"I send you this day's Morning Post the best which have hitherto appeared on this impudent doggerel, as the Courier calls it. There was another about my diet, when a boy—not at all bad some time ago; but the rest are but indifferent.

"I shall think about your oratorical hint;—but I have never set much upon 'that cast,' and am grown as tired as Solomon of every thing, and of myself more than any thing. This is being what the learned call philosophical, and the vulgar, lack-a-daisical. I am, however, always glad of a blessing; pray repeat yours soon,—at least, your letter, and I shall think the benediction included.

"Ever, &c."

Mr. Moore had endeavored to persuade him to take a part in public mercy, and to esclude his name for more frequently.

In conducting this letter, Mr. Moore having said "God bless you!" added,—"Last is, if you have no objections."
LETTER CCVIII.

TO MR. DALLAS.  

"Feb. 17, 1814.

"This Courier of this evening accuses me of having received and pocketed large sums for my works. I have never yet received, nor wish to receive, a farthing for any. Mr. Murray offered a thousand for the Giaour and Bride of Abydos, which I said was too much, and that if he could afford it at the end of six months he would then direct how it might be disposed of: but neither then, nor at any other period, have I ever availed myself of the profits on my own account. For the republication of the Satire, I refused four hundred guineas; and for the previous editions I never asked nor received a sous, nor for any writing whatever. I do not wish you to do anything disagreeable to yourself; there never was nor shall be any conditions or stipulations with regard to any accommodation that I could afford you; and, on your part, I can see nothing derogatory in receiving the copyright. It was only assistance afforded to a worthy man, by one not quite so worthy.

"Mr. Murray is going to contradict this; but your name will not be mentioned: for your own part, you are a free agent, and are to do as you please. I only hope that now, as always, you will think that I wish to take no unfair advantage of the accidental opportunity which circumstances permitted me of being of use to you.

"Ever, &c."

In consequence of this letter, Mr. Dallas addressed an explanation to one of the newspapers, of which the following is a part:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING POST.

"Sir,

"I have seen the paragraph in an evening paper, in which Lord Byron is accused of receiving and pocketing large sums for his works. I believe no one who knows him has the slightest suspicion of this kind; but the assertion being public, I think it a justice I owe to Lord Byron to contradict it publicly.

"I take upon me to affirm that Lord Byron never received a shilling for any of his works. To my certain knowledge, the profits of the Satire were left entire to the publisher of it. The gift of the copyright of Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, I have already publicly acknowledged in the dedication of the new edition of my novels; and I now add my acknowledgment for that of the Corsair, not only for the profitable part of it, but for the delicate and delightful manner of bestowing it while yet unpublished. With respect to his two other poems, the Giaour and the Bride of Abydos, Mr. Murray, the publisher of them, can truly attest that no part of the sale of them has ever touched his hands, or been disposed of for his use."

LETTER CCIX.

TO MR. MOORE.  

"Feb. 26, 1814.

"Dallas had, perhaps, better have kept silence; but that was his concern, and, as his facts are correct, and his motive not dishonorable to himself, I wished him well through it. As for his interpretations of the lines, he and any one else may interpret them as they please. I have and shall adhere to my taciturnity, unless something very particular occurs to render this impossible. Do not say you a word. If any one is to speak, it is the person principally concerned. The most amusing thing is that every one (to me) attributes the abuse to the man they personally most dislike!—some say Croker, some C—e, others Fitzgerald, &c., &c., &c. I do not know, and have no clue but conjecture. If I discover the clue, but a struggle, baseness left to his wages; if a cavalier, he must 'wink,' and hold out his iron.

"I had some thoughts of putting the question to Croker, but Hobhouse, who, I am sure, would not have been displeased, had I done so, had I done so, had it been right, and I thought it so by it; means not:—'that I had no right to take it upon
LETTERS.

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suspicion,' &c., &c. Whether Hobhouse is correct, I am not aware, but he believes himself so, and says there can be but one opinion on that subject. This I am, at least, sure of, that he would never prevent me from doing what he deemed the duty of a 

preux chevalier. In such cases—at least, in this country—we must act according to usages. In considering this instance, I dismiss my own personal feelings. Any man will and must fight, when necessary,—even without a motive. Here, I should take it up really without much resentment; for unless a woman one likes is in the way, it is some years since I felt a long anger. But, undoubtedly, could I, or may I, trace it to a man of station, I should and shall do what is proper.

I was angrily, but tried to conceal it. You are not called upon to award the 'Twopenny,' and would only gratify them by so doing. Do you not see the great object of all these follies is to set him, and you, and me, and all persons whatsoever, by the ears,—more especially those who are on good terms—and nearly succeeded. Lord H. wished me to concede to Lord Carlisle,—concede to the devil! —to a man who used me ill? I told him, in answer, that I would neither concede, nor recede on the subject, but be silent altogether; unless any thing more could be said by Lady H., and himself, who had been since my very good friends;—and there it ended. This was no time for concessions to Lord C.

I have been interrupted, but shall write again soon. Believe me ever, my dear Moore, &c."

LETTER CCXI.

TO W. * W. * W. * ESG. *

Feb. 29, 1814.

"My Dear W.,

"I have but a few moments to write to you. Silence is the only answer to the things you mention; nor should I regard that man as my friend who said a word more on the subject. I care little for attacks, but I will not submit to defences; and I do hope and trust that you have never entertained a serious thought of engaging in so foolish a controversy. Dallas's letter was, to his credit, merely as to the facts which he had a right to state: I neither have nor shall take the least public notice, nor permit any one else to do so. If I discover the writer, then I may set in a different manner; but it will not be in writing.

"An expression in your letter has induced me to write this to you, to entreat you not to interfere in any way in such a business,—it is now nearly over, and you are properly occupied by my silence than they could be by the best defence in the world. I do not know any thing that would vex me more than any further reply to these things. "Ever yours, in haste, "W."

LETTER CCXII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"March 2, 1814."

My Dear Friend,

"I have a great mind to tell you that I am uncomfortable, if only to make you come to town; where no one ever more delighted in seeing you, nor is there any one to whom I would sooner turn for consolation in my most vaporish moments. The truth is, I have a sort of argument, to ponder upon of the most gloomy description, but this arises from other causes. Some day or other, when we are veterans, I may tell you a tale of present and past times; and it is not from want of confidence that I do not —but—but—always a but to the end of the chapter.

"There is nothing, however, upon the spot either to love or hate;—but I certainly have subjects for both at no very great distance, and am besides embarrassed and embarrased. Here are three persons (whose name at least) I do not know. All this would be very well, if I had no heart; but, unluckily, I have found that there is such a thing still about me, though in no very good repair, and also, that it has a habit of attaching itself to one, whether I will or no. 'Divide et impera,' I begin to think, will only do for politics.

"If I discover the 'tawd,' as you call him, I shall 'tread',—and put spikes in my shoes to do it more effectually. The effect of all these fine things, I do not inquire much nor perceive. I believe felt them more than either of us. People are civil enough, and I have had no dearth of invitations,—none of which, however, I have accepted. I went out very little last year, and mean to go about still less.

I have no passion for circles, and have long regretted that I ever gave way to what is called a town life,—which of all the lives I ever saw (and they are nearly as many as Plutarch's) seems to me to leave the least for the past and future.

"How proceeds the Poem? Do not neglect it, and I have no fears. I need not say to you that your fame is dear to me,—I really might say dearer than my own; for I have lately begun to think my things have been strangely overrated; and, at any rate, whether or not, I have done with them for ever. I may say to you, what I would not say to every body, that the last two were written, the Bride in four, and the Corsair in ten days,—which I take to be a most humiliating confession, as it proves my own want of judgment in publishing; and the public might judging this might have stamina for permanent attention. 'So much for Buckingham.'

"I have no dread of your being too hasty, and I have still less of your failing. But I think a year a very fair allotment of time to a composition which is not to be Epic; and even Horace's 'Nonum præmatur' must have been intended for the Millennium, or some longer-lived generation than ours. I wonder how much we should have had of Aion, had he observed his own doctrines to the letter. Peace be with you! Remember that I am always and most truly yours, &c."

P. S. I never heard the 'report' you mention, nor, I dare say, many others. But, in consequence, you, as well as others, have 'dammed good-natured friends,' who do their duty in the usual way. One thing will make you laugh."

LETTER CCXIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"March 11, 1814."

"Guess darkly, and you will seldom err. At present, I shall say no more, and, perhaps—but no matter. I hope we shall some day meet, and whatever years may precede or succeed it, I shall mark the figure of the 'Don Quixote' in my memory with approbation; but not sure that I shall not soon be in your neighborhood again. If so, and I am alone, (as will probably be the case,) I shall invade and carry you off, and endeavor to stone for sorry fare by a sincere welcome. I know the person absent (baring the 'sect') I should be so glad to see again.

I have nothing of the sort you mention but the lines, (the Weepers,) if you like to have them in the bag. I wish to give them all possible circu
tion. The *Vault*ation is downright actionable, and I may be peril to the publisher; but I think the Tears have a natural right to be ragged, and the editor (whoever he may be) might supply a facsimile note or not, as he pleased.

I cannot conceive how the *Vault* has got about,—but so it is. It is too farouche; but, truth to say, my satire is not very playful. I have the plan of an epistle in my head, at him and to him; and, if they are not a little quieter, I shall embody it. As to mirth and ridicule, that is out of my way; but I have a tolerable fund of sternness and contempt, and, with Juvenal before me, I shall perhaps read him a lecture he has not lately heard in the Court. From particular circumstances, which came to my knowledge almost by accident, I could 'tell him what he is—'I know him well.

"I meant, my dear M., to write to you a long letter, but I am hurried, and time clips my inclination down to yours, &c."

"P. S. *Think again* before you shelf your poem. There is a younger, (older than me, by-the-by, but a younger poet,) Mr. G. Knight, with a vol. of Eastern Tales, written since his return, for he has been in the countries. He sent to me last summer, and I advised him to write one in each measure, without any intention, at that time, of doing the same thing. Since that, from a habit of writing in fever, I have anticipated him in the variety of measures, but quite unintentionally. Of the stories I know nothing, not having seen them; but he has some lady in a sack, too, like the Giovour—he told me the other day.

"The best way to make the public 'forget' me is to remind them of yourself. You cannot suppose that I would ask you or advise you to publish, if I thought you would fail. I really have no literary envy; and I do not believe a friend's success ever sat nearer another than yours do to my best wishes. It is for elderly gentlemen to 'bear no brother near, and cannot become our disease for more years than we may perhaps number. I wish you to be out before Eastern Subjects are again before the public.

**LETTER CCXV.**

**TO MR. MURRAY.**

*March 12th, 1814.*

"I have not time to read the whole MS., but what I have seen seems very well written, (both prose and verse,) and, though I am and can be no judge, (at least a fair one on this subject,) containing nothing which you ought to hesitate publishing upon my account. If the author is not Dr. Busby himself, I think it a pity, on his own account, that he should dedicate it to his subscribers; nor can I perceive what Dr. Busby has to do with the matter, except as a translator of Lucretius, for whose doctrines he is surely not responsible. I tell you openly, and really most sincerely, that if published at all, there is no worthy reason why you should not on the contrary I should receive it as the greatest compliment you could pay to my good opinion of my candor, to print and circulate that, or any other work, attacking me in a manly manner, and without any malicious intention, from which, so far as I have seen, I must exonerate this writer.

"He is wrong in one thing,—I am no atheist; but if he thinks I have published principles tending to such opinions, he has a perfect right to contro-

**LETTER CCXVI.**

**TO MR. MOORE.**

*5, Albemarle, April 9, 1814.*

"Viscount Althorp is about to be married, and I have gotten his spacious bachelor apartments in Albany, to which you will, I hope, address a speedy answer to this mine epistle.

"I am but just returned to town, from which you may infer that I have been out of it; and I have been box ing, for exercise, with Jackson for this last month daily. I have also been drinking,—and, on one occasion, with three other friends at the Cocoa Tree, from six till four, yes, unto five in the matin. We claret and champagne till two—then supped, and finished with a kind of regency punch composed of Madeira, brandy, and green tea, no real water being admitted therein. There was a night for you,—without once quitting the table, except to animate home, which, I did alone, and in utter contempt of a hackney-coach and my own *vis,* both of which were deemed necessary for our conveyance. And so,—I am very well, and they say it will hurt my constancy.

"I have also, more or less, been breaking a few of the favorite commandments; but I mean to pull up and marry,—if any one will have me. In the mean time, the other day I nearly killed myself with a collis of brown, which I swallowed for supper, and
undigested for I don't know how long—but that is by-the-by. All this gormandize was in honor of Lent; for I am forbidden meat all the rest of the year,—but it is strictly enjoined me during your solemn fast. I have been, and am very tolerable love—but of that hereafter, as it may be.

"My dear Moore, say what you will in your presence; and quiz any thing, or any body,—me, if you like—sir, I don't see why the old one should rather elderly, school? If one can't jest with one's friends, with whom can we be facetious? You have nothing to fear from * * whom I have not seen, being out of the way when he called. He will be very correct, smooth, and all that, but I doubt whether there will be any grace beyond the reach of art;—and whether there is or not, how long will you base d—d modest? As for Jeffrey, it is a very handsome thing of him to speak well of an old antagonist,—and what a mean mind dared not do. Any one will revoke praise; but—were it not partly my own case—I should say that very few have strength of mind to unray their censure, or follow it up with praise of other things.

"What think you of the review of Lewis? It beats the Bag and my hand-grenade hollow, as an invective, and hath thrown the Court into mysteries, as I hear from very good authority. Have you had from * * * *?

"No more rhyme for—or rather, from—me. I have taken my leave of that stage, and henceforth will mountebank it no longer. I have had my day, and there's an end. The utmost I expect, or even wish, is to have half the British and my countrymen of that I might perhaps have been a poet, had I gone on and amended. My great comfort is that the temporary celebrity I have wrung from the world has been on the teeth of all enemies and prejudices. I have flatter no ruling powers; I have never concealed a single thought that tempted me. They can't say I have trickled to the times, nor to popular topics, (as Johnson, or somebody, said of Cleveland,) and whatever I have gained has been as the expenditure of as much personal favor as possible; for I do believe never was a bard more uncommon, quoad homo, than myself. And now I have, off, off my hand and aliases. Every body may be d—d, as they seem fond of it, and resolved to stickle lustily for endless brimstone.

"Oh—by-the-by, I had nearly forgot. There is a long poem, an 'Anti-Byron,' coming out, to prove the fact of common places. No, I mean, to prove the decay of rhyme, all religion and government, and have already made great progress? It is not very scurrilous, but serious and erethal. I never felt myself important, till I saw and heard of my being such a little Voltaire as to induce such a production.—Murray would not publish it, for he was a fool, and so I told him; but some one else will, doubtless. 'Something too much of this.'

"Your French scheme is good, but let it be Italian; all the Angles will be at Paris. Let it be Rome, Milan, Naples, Florence, Turin, Venice, or Switzerland, and 'egad!' (as Bayes saith) I will conccdate and join you; and will write a new 'I' and 'II,' and 'III,' and 'IV.'—Well, I will really buy a wife and a ring, and say the ceremony, and settle near you in a summer-house upon the Arno, or the Po, or the Adriatic.

"Ah! my poor little paged, Napoleon, has withdrawn. He has abdicated. He has abdicated, they say. This would draw molten brass from the eyes of Zatana. What! 'kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet, and then be bated, by the rabble's curse!' I cannot hear such a crouching catastrophe. I must stick to Sylia, for my modern favorites don't so,—their resignations are of a different kind. All health and prosperity, my dear Moore. Excuse this lengthy letter. Ever, &c.

"P. S. The Quarterly quotes you frequently in an Article on America; and everybody I know asks perpetually after you and yours. When will you answer them in person?"

**NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.**

"April 10, 1814.

"I have written an Ode on the fall of Napoleon, which, if you like, I will copy out, and make you a present of. Mr. Merivale has seen part of it, and likes it. You may show it to Mr. Gifford, and print it, or not, as you please—it is of no consequence. It contains nothing in his favor, and no allusion to your own government or the Bourbons. Yours, &c."

"P. S. It is in the measure of my stanzas at the end of Childe Harrold, which were much liked, beginning, 'And thou art dead.' &c. There are ten stanzas of it—ninety lines in all."

**NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.**

"April 11, 1814.

"I enclose you a lettered from Mrs. Leigh. It will be best not to put my name to our Ode; but you may say as openly as you like that it is mine, and I can inscribe it to Mr. Hobhouse from the author, which will mark it sufficiently. After the resolution of not publishing, though it is a thing of little length and less consequence, it will be better altogether that it is anonymous; but we will incorporate it in the first tone of ours that you find time or the wish to publish."

"Yours alway, "B."

"P. S. I hope you get a note of alterations, sent this matin?"

"P. S. Oh my books! my books! will you never find my books?

"Alter 'potent spell' to 'quickening spell:' the first (as Polonius says) 'is a vile phrase,' and means nothing, besides being common-place and Rosa-Matildaish."

**NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.**

"April 12, 1814.

I send you a few notes and trifling alterations, and an additional motto from Gibbon, which you will find singularly appropriate. A 'Good-Natured Friend' tells me there is a most scurrilous attack on * * in the Antijacobin Review, which you have not seen. Send it, and inform in that state of language which will derive benefit from getting into a出版. Ever, &c."

**LETTER CCXVI.**

**TO MR. MOORE.**

"Albany, April 20, 1814.

"I am very glad to hear that you are to be transient from Mayfield so very soon, and was taken in by the first part of your letter. Indeed, for aught I know, you may be treating me as, Shiloh says, with 'ironing' even now. I shall say nothing of the shock, which had nothing of humour in it; as I am apt to take even a critic, and still more a friend, at his word, and never to doubt that I

*See page 527.*

1. I had begun my letter in the following manner:—'Have you seen the 'Ode to Napoleon in Malvern' and do you suppose it to be other Fitzgerald or Ross Musgrave's? Those rapid and masterly portraits of all the tyrants that preceded Napoleon have a vigor in them which would incline me to say that Ross Musgrave is the present, but then, on the other hand, those powerful group of history, &c. &c. After a little more of this mock parallel, the letter went on thus—'I should like to know what you think of the master? Some friends of mine here will, indeed, it is the work of the author of Childe Harrold,—but then they are not so well read in Fitzgerald and Ross Musgrave as I am; and besides, they seem to forget that you promised, show smooth or two spoons, not to write any more for years. Respectfully, &c. &c.
have been writing cursed nonsense if they say so. There was a mental reservation in my pact with the public, in behalf of anonymous; and, even had there not been the prohibition as such as to make it physically impossible to pass over this damnable epoch of triumphant tameness. Tis a cursed business; and, after all, I shall think higher of rhyme and reason, and vouch for the skill of our heroic people, till—Elba becomes a volcano, and sends him out again. I can't think it all over yet.

"My departure for the Continent depends, in some measure, on the incontinence of the duchy. I have two country invitations at home, and don't know what to say or do. In the mean time, I have bought a macaw and a parrot, and have got up my books; and I box and fence daily, and go out very little. At this present writing, Louis the Gouty is wheeling in triumph into Piccadilly, in all the pomp and ramblement of royalty. I had an offer of seats to see them pass; but, as I have seen a sultan going to mosque, and been at His reception of an ambassador, the most Christian King hath no attractions for me:—though in some coming year of the Hegira, I should not dislike to see the place where he had reigned, shortly after the second revolution of Leqo, and a happy sovereignty of two months, the last six weeks being civil war.

"Pray write, and deem me ever, &c."

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**LETTER CCXV.**

**TO MR. MURRAY.**

"Many thanks with the letters which I return. You know I am a jacobin, and could not wear white, nor see the installation of Louis the Gouty. "This is sad news, and very hard upon the sufferers at any, but more at such a time—I mean the Bayonne sortie. "You should urge Moore to come out. "P.S. I want Moreri to purchase for good and all. I have a Bayle, but want Moreri too. "P.S. Perry hath a piece of compliment to-day; but I think the name might have been as well omitted. No matter—be they the old story of inconsistency in my teeth, let them—let me, I mean as to not publishing. However, now I will keep my word. Nothing but the occasion, which was physically irresistible, made me swerve, and I thought an anonymous within my pact with the public. It is the only thing I have or shall set about."

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**LETTER CCXIX.**

**TO MR. MURRAY.**

"Let Mr. Gifford have the letter and return it at his leisure. I would have offered it, had I thought that he liked things of the kind. "Do you want the last page immediately? I have doubt the lines being worth printing; at any rate, I must see them again, and alter some passages, before they go forth in any shape into the ocean of circulation; a very conected phrase, by-the-by: well then—channel of publication will do. "I am not i' the vein, or I could knock off a stanza or two for the Ode, that might answer the purpose better. At all events, I must see the lines again first, as there be two I have altered in my mind's manuscript already. Has any one seen and judged of them? that is the criticism by which I will abide—only give me a fair report, and 'nothing extenuate,' as I will in that case do something else."

"Ever, &c."

"I want Moreri, and an Athenaeus."

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**LETTER CCXX.**

**TO MR. MURRAY.**

"I have been thinking that it might be as well to publish no more of the Ode separately, but incorpore it with any of the other things, and include the smaller poem too (in that case)—which I must previously correct, nevertheless. I can't for the head of me, add a line worth scribbling; my 'vein' is quite gone, and my present occupations are of the gymnastic order—boxing and fencing—and my principal conversation is with my macaw and Bayle, want my Moreri, and I want Athenaeus. "P. S. I hope you sent back that poetical packet to the address which I forwarded to you on Sunday: if not, pray do, or I shall have the author screaming after his Epic."

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**LETTER CCXXI.**

**TO MR. MURRAY.**

"I have no guess at your author,—but it is a noble Poem, and worth a thousand Odes of any body's. I suppose I may keep this copy;—after reading it, I really regret having written my own. I say this very sincerely, albeit unused to think humbly of myself. "I don't like the additional stanzas at all, and they had better be left out. The fact is, I can't do any thing I am asked to do, however gladly I would; and at the end of a week my interest in a composition goes off. This will account to you for my doing no better for your 'Stamp Duty' Post script. "The S. R. is very civil—but what do they mean by Childe Harold resembling Marmion? and the next two, Giaour and Bride, not resembling Scott? I certainly never intended to copy him; but, if there be any copyism, it must be in the two poems, where the same versification is adopted. However, they exempt the Corsair from all resemblance to any thing,—though I rather wonder at his escape. "If ever I did any thing original, it was it. Childe Harold, which I prefer to the other things always, after the first week. Yesterday I read English Bard,—eating the melons, it is the best. "Ever, &c."

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**LETTER CCXXII.**

**TO MR. MURRAY.**

"G. Albany, April 26, 1814. "Dear Sir, "I enclose a draft for the money: when paid, send the copyright. I release you from the thousand pounds agreed on for the Giaour and Bride, and there's an end. "If any accident occurs to me, you may do them as you please; but, with the exception of two copies of each for yourself only, I expect and request that the advertisements be withdrawn, and the remaining copies of all destroyed; and any expense so incurred, 'I will be glad to defray.' "For all this, it might be as well to assign some reason. I have none to give, except my own caprice, and I do not consider the circumstance of consequence enough to require explanation. "In course, I need hardly assure you that they never shall be published with my consent, directly

"* Rosapina," by Mr. Scroffield Canning. "He held, at this time, formed a resolution of purchasing back the whole of his past copyrights, and suppressing every page and line he had ever written."
or indirectly, by any person whatsoever,—that I am perfectly satisfied and have every reason so to be, with your conduct in all transactions between us as publisher and author. "It will give me great pleasure to preserve your acquaintance, and to consider you as my friend. Because I am very truly, and for much attention, Your obliged and very obedient servant, BYRON.

"P. S. I do not think that I have overdrawn at Hammersley's; but if that be the case, I can draw for the superfluous on Hoares. The draft is at short, but that I will make up. On payment—not before—return the copyright papers."

LETTER CCXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY. "May 1, 1814.

"DEAR MR. MURRAY,

"It your present note is serious, and it really would be inconvenient, there is an end to the matter. tear my draft, and go on as usual: in that case, we will recur to our former basis. That I was perfectly serious, in wishing to suppress all future publication, is true; but certainly not to interfere with the convenience of others, and more particularly your own. Some day, I will tell you the reason of this apparently strange resolution. At present, it may be enough to say that I recall it at your suggestion: and as it appears to have annoyed you, I lose no time in saying so.

"Yours, truly, B."

NOTE TO MR. MOORE. "May 4, 1814.

"Last night we sup'd at R--fe's board, &c. I wish people would not shirk their dinners—ought it not to have been a dinner—and that d—d anchovy sandwich!

"That plaguy voice of yours made me sentimental, and almost fall in love with a girl who was recommending herself, during your song, by pathetic music. But the song is past, and my passion can wait, till the pucello is more harmonious.

"Do you go to Lady Jersey's to-night? It is a large party, and you won't be borne into 'softening rocks,' and all that. Othello is to-morrow and Saturday too. Which day shall we go? When shall I see you? If you call, let it be after three and as near four as you please. Ever, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MOORE. "May 4, 1814.

"DEAR TOM,

"Thou hast asked me for a song, and I enclose you an experiment, which has cost me something more than trouble, and is, therefore, less likely to be worth your taking any in your proposed setting. Now, if it be so, throw it into the fire, without 

"Ever yours,

"BYRON."

"I speak not, I trace not, I breathe not thy song, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MOORE. "May 4, 1814.

"Will you and Rogers come to my box at Covent, then? I shall be there, and none else—or I won't be there, if you twain would like to go without me. You will not get so good a place hustling among the publican boxes, with damnable apprentices (six feet high) on a back row. Will you both oblige me and come—or one or neither—or, what you will?

"P. S. An' you will, I will call for you at half past six, or any time of your own dial."

NOTE TO MR. MOORE. "I have gotten a box for Othello to-night, and send the ticket for your friends the R--fe's. I seriously recommend to you to recommend to them to go for half an hour, if only to see the third act—they will not easily have another opportunity. We—at least, I—cannot be there, so there will be no one in the way. Will you give or send it to them? It will come with a better grace from you than me.

"I am in no good plight, but will dine at * * * with you, if I can. There is music and Covent-g. Will you go, at all events, to my box there after ward, to see a 'd'out of a young sixteen,' in the 'Child of Nature?'

NOTE TO MR. MOORE. "Sunday morn.

"Was not Jago perfection? particularly the last look. I was close to him (in the orchestra,) and never saw an English countenance half so expressive. I am acquainted with no inmaterial sensuality so delightful as good acting; and, as it is fitting there should be good plays, now and then, besides Shakespeare's, I wish you or Campbell would write one; the rest of 't month' have not heart enough.

"You were cut up in the Champion—is it not so? this day, so am I—even to shocking the editor. The critic writes well; and, as at present, poesy is not my passion, predominant, and my snake (Aaron has swallowed up all the other serpents, I don't feel fractious. I send you the paper, which I mean to take in for the future. We go to M.'s together. Perhaps I shall see you before, but don't let me bore you, now, nor ever.

"Ever, as now, truly and affectionately, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MOORE. "May 5, 1814.

"Do you go to Lady Cabin's this even? If you do—and whenever we are bound to the same follies—let us embark in the same 'Shippe of Fools.' I have been up till five, and up at nine: and feel heavy with only winking for the last three or four nights.

"I lost my party and place at supper, trying to keep out of the way of * * *. I would have gone away altogether, but that would have appeared a worse affectation than t' other. You are of course engaged to dinner, or we may go quietly together to my box at Covent Garden, and afterward to this assemblage. Why did you go away so soon?

"Ever, &c.

P. S. Ought not R * * fe's supper to have been a dinner? Jackson is here, and I must fatigue myself in spirits."

NOTE TO MR. MOORE. "May 8, 1814.

"Thanks—and punctuality. What has passed at * * * House? I suppose that I am to know, and 'pars ful' of the conference. I regret that your * * * will detain you so late, but I suppose you will be at Lady Jersey's. I am going earlier with Hobhouse. You recollect that to-morrow we sup and see Ron.

"P. S. Two to-morrow is the hour of pugilism."

* See Poems, p. 295.
LETTER CXXXIV.

TO MR. MOORE.  "May 23, 1814.

"I must send you the Java government gazette of July 3 1814, just sent me by Murray. Only think of our (for it is you and I) setting paper warriors in array in the Indian seas. Does not this sound like fame—something almost like posterity? It is something to have scribblers squabbling about five thousand miles off, while we are agreeing so well at home. Bring it with you in your pocket; it will make you laugh, as it hath me.

"Ever yours,

"P. S. Oh, the anecdote! "B.""

LETTER CXXXV.

TO MR. MOORE.  "May 31, 1814.

"As I shall probably not see you here to-day, I write to request that if not inconvenient to yourself, you will stay in town till Sunday; if not to gratify me, yet to please a great many others, who will be very sorry to lose you. As for myself, I can only repeat that I wish you would either remain a long time with us, or not come at all; for these matches of society make the subsequent separations bitterer than ever.

"I believe you think that I have not been quite fair with that Alpha and Omega of beauty, &c., with whom you would willingly have united me. But if you consider what her sister said on the subject, you will less wonder that my pride should have taken the alarm; particularly as nothing but the every-day fluctuation of every-day people now occurred between your heroine and myself. Had Lady * * * appeared to wish it, or even not to oppose it, I would have gone on, and very possibly married (that is, if the other had been equally accordant) with the same indifference which has frozen over the 'Black Sea' of almost all my passions.

"It is that very indifference which makes me so uncertain and apparently capricious. It is not eagerness of new pursuits, but that nothing impresses me sufficiently to fix; neither do I feel disgusted, but simply indifferent to almost all excitaments. The proof of this is, that obstacles, the slightest even, stop me. This can hardly be timidity, for I have done some impudent things too, in my time; and in almost all cases, opposition is a stimulant. In mine, it is not; if a straw were in my way, I could not stoop to pick it up."

"I have sent this long tirade, because I would not have you suppose that I have been trifling designedly with you or others. If you think so, in the name of St. Hubert (the patron of antlers and hunters) let me be married out of hand—I don't care to whom, so that it amuses any body else, and don't interfere with me much in the day-time.

"Ever, &c."

LETTER CXXXVI.

TO MR. MOORE.  "June 14, 1814.

"I could be very sentimental now, but I won't. The truth is, that I have been all my life trying to harden my heart, and have not yet quite succeeded—though there are great hopes—and you do not know how it sunk with your departure. What adds to my regret is having seen so little of you during your stay in this crowded desert where one ought to be able to oar thirst like a camel,—the springs are so few, and most of them so muddy.

"The newspapers will tell you all that is to be told of emperors, &c. They have dined, and supped, and shown their flat faces in all thoroughfares, and several saloons, but with very little success, but rather short in the skirts; and their conversation is a catechism, for which and the answers I refer you to those who have heard it.

"I think of leaving town for Newstead soon. It so, I shall not be remote from your recess, and (unless Mrs. M. detains you at home over the candle-up and a new cradle,) we will meet. You shall come to me, or I to you, as is fitter—and meet well. An invitation from Aston has reached me, but I do not think I shall go. I have also heard of * * *—I should like to see her again, for I have not met her for years; and though 'the light the honor of making his appearance is set, saying that he that 'one dear smile like those of old' might not make me for a moment forget the 'dulness of life's stream.'"

"I am going to R * * *'s to-night—to one of those suppers which 'ought to be dinners.' I have hardly seen her, and never him, since you set out. I told you, you were the last link of that chain. As for the others, the more syllabed one another's names the more I despise them. The post will not permit me to continue my scrawl. More anon.

"Ever dear Moore, &c.

"P. S. Keep the Journal, I care not what becomes of it, and if it has amused you, I am glad that I kept it. 'Lara' is finished, and I am copying it for my third vol. now collecting; but no separate publication."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY

"I return your packet of this morning. Have you heard that Bertrand has returned to Paris with the account of Napoleon's having lost his senses? It is a report; but, if true, I must, like Mr. Fitzgerald and Jeremiah, (of lamentable memory,) lay claim to a piece of that news; this is to say, that he 'ought to go out of his senses, in the penultimate stanza of a certain Ode,—the which, having been pronounced non sense by several profound critics, has a still further pretension, by its unintelligibility, to inspiration.

"Ever, &c.""

LETTER CXXXVII.

TO MR. ROGERS.  "June 19, 1814.

"I am always obliged to trouble you with my awkwardnesses, and now I have a fresh one. Mr. W. * called on me several times, and I have missed the honor of making his acquaintance, which I regret, but which you, who know my desultory and uncertain habits, will not wonder at; and will, I am sure, attribute to any thing but a wish to offend a person who has shown me much kindness, and possesses character and talents entitled to general respect. My mornings are late, and passed in fencing and boxing, and a variety of most unpoetical exercises, very wholesome, &c., but would be very disagreeable to my friends, whom I am obliged to exclude during their operation. I never go out till the evening, and I have not been fortunate enough to meet Mr. W. at Lord Lansdowne's or Lord Jersey's, where I had hoped to pay him my respects.

"I would have written to him, but a few words from you will go further than all the apologetical excuses I should possibly make on an occasion. It is only to say that, without intending it, I contrive to behave very ill to every body, and am very sorry for it.

"Ever, dear R., &c."

"Mr. Warragulo."

BYRON'S WORKS.
The following undated notes to Mr. Rogers were written about this time.

"Sunday.

"Your non-attendance at Corinne's is very apropos, as I was on the eve of sending you an excuse. I do not feel well enough to go there this evening, and have been obliged to despatch an apology. I believe I need not add one for not accepting Mr. Sheridan's invitation on Wednesday, which I fancy both you and I understood in the same sense,—with him the saying of Mirabeau, that 'words are things,' is not to be taken literally.

"Ever, &c."

"I will call for you at a quarter before seven, if that will suit you. I return you Sir Proteus,* and shall merely add in return, as Johnson said of, and to, somebody or other, 'Are we alive after all this censure?' "Believe me, &c."

Sheridan was yesterday, at first, too sober to remember your invitation, but in the dregs of the third bottle he talked up his memory; The Star out-talked Whitbread, was ironed by Sheridan, con-founded Sir Humphrey, and utterly perplexed your slave. The rest (great names in the red book, nevertheless), were mere segments of the circle. Ma'smelle danced a Russ saraband with great vigor, grace, and expression. "Ever, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"June 21, 1814.

"I suppose 'Lara' is gone to the devil,—which is no great matter, only let me know that I may be saved the trouble of copying the rest, and put the first part into the fire. I really have no anxiety about it, and shall not be sorry to be saved the copying, which goes on very slowly, and may prove to you that you may speak out—or I should be less sluggish. "Yours, &c."

LETTER CCXXVIII.

TO MR. ROGERS.

"June 27, 1814.

"You could not have made me a more acceptable present than Jacqueline,—she is all grace, and softness, and poetry; there is so much of the last, that we do not feel the want of story which is simple, yet enough. I wonder that you do not oftener unbend to more of the same kind. I have some sympathy with the softer affections, though very little in my way, and no one can depict them so truly and successfully as yourself. I have half a mind to pay you in kind, or rather unkind, for I have just 'supped full of horror' in two cantos of darkness and dismay.

"Do you go to Lord Essex's to-night? if so, will you let me call for you at your own hour? I dined with Holland-House yesterday at Lord Cowper's; my lady very gracious, which she can be more than any one, when she likes. I was not sorry to see them again, for I can't forget that they have been very kind to me. "Ever yours most truly, "BN."

"P. S. Is there any chance or possibility of making it up with Lord Carlisle, as I feel disposed to do anything reasonable or unreasonable to effect it? I would before, but for the 'Courier,' and the possible misconstructions at such a time. Perpend, pronunciation."

* A satirical pamphlet, in which all the writers of the day were smeared. 103

LETTER CCXXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"July 8, 1814.

"I returned to town last night, and had some hopes of seeing you to-day, and would have called, but I have beer (though in exceeding distress), and needed good hard liquor a little before receiving, as it is called, and am now at the freezing point of returning sobriety. Of course, I should be sorry that our parallel lines did not deviate into some intersection before you return to the country. After that same nonsuit whereof the papers have told us, but, as you must be much occupied, I won't be afronted, should your time and business militate against our meeting.

"Rogers and I have almost coalesced into a joint invasion of the public. Whether it will take place or not, I do not yet know, and I am afraid Jacqueline (which is very beautiful) will be in bad company. But, in this case, the lady will not be the sufferer.

"I am going to the sea, and then to Scotland; and I have been doing nothing—that is, to good and am very truly, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"July 11, 1814.

"You shall have one of the pictures. I wish you to send the proof of 'Lara' to Mr. Moore, 35 Bury street, to-night. But he leaves us to-morrow, and wishes to see it before he goes; and I am also willing to have the benefit of his remarks. "Yours, &c."

NOTE TO MR. MURRAY.

"July 18, 1814.

"I think you will be satisfied even to repetition with our northern friends; and I won't deprive you of the longer of what I think will give you pleasure: for my own part, my modesty or my vanity must be silent.

"Lara and Jacqueline, the latter by Mr. Rogers, but otherwise in the same volume.

"Purchase of Newstead Abbey. See Letter call.

* He here refers to B. arn in the number of the Edinburgh Review, June published, (No. 14.) on a to Coeur and John of Arran.
LETTER CCXXXI.

TO MR. MURRAY. "July 23, 1814.

"I am sorry to say that the print* is by no means approved of by those who have seen it, who are pretty conversant with the original, as well as with the picture from whence it is taken. I rather suspect that it is from the copy and not the exhibited portrait, and in this dilemma would recommend a suspension, if not an abandonment of the preface to the volumes which you purpose in lithograph upon the public.

"With regard to Lara don't be in any hurry. I have not yet made up my mind on the subject, nor know what to think or do till I hear from you; and Mr. Moore appeared to me in a similar state of indetermination. I do not know that it may not be better to reserve it for the entire publication you proposed, and not adventure in Hardy singleness, or even backed by the fairy Jacqueline. I have been seized with all kinds of doubts, &c., &c., since I left London.

"Pray let me hear from you, and believe me, &c."

LETTER CCXXXII.

TO MR. MURRAY. "July 24, 1814.

"The minority must, in this case, carry it, so pray let it be so, for I don't care sixpence for any of the opinions you mention, on such a subject: and Phillips must be a dupe to agree with them. For my own part, I have no objection at all; but Mrs. Leigh and my cousin must be better judges of the likeness than others; and they hate it; and so I won't have it at all.

"Mr. Hobhouse is right as for his conclusion; but I deny the premises. The name only is Spanish, &c. to the More.

"Waverley is the best and most interesting novel I have read since—I don't know when. I like it as much as I hate * * * * and * * * * and * * * * and all the feminine trash of the last four months. Besides, it is all easy to me, I have been in Scotland so much (though when young enough too,) and feel at home with the people, Lowland and Gael.

"A note will correct what Mr. Hobhouse thinks an error, (about the feudal system in Spain;) it is not Spain. He puts a few words of prose any where, it will set all right.

"I have been ordered to town to vote. I shall disobey. There is no good in so much prating since 'certain issues stocks should arbitrate.' If you have anything to say, let me hear from you.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCXXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY. "Aug. 3, 1814.

"It is certainly a little extraordinary that you have not sent the Edinburgh Review, as I requested, and hence it would not require at him a day to remind you. I see advertisements of Lara and Jacqueline; pray why when I requested you to postpone publication till my return to town."

"This is the most amusing epistle from the Ettrick bard—Hogg; in which, speaking of his bookseller whom he denominates the 'shabbiest' of the trade for not 'lifting his bills,' he adds, in so many words, 'Goddard him and them both.' This is a pretty prelude to asking you to adopt him, (the said Goddard;) but this he wishes; and if you please, you and I will talk it over. He has a poem for the press, (once fund your bills too,) in which he bestows some benedictions on Mr. Moore for his abduction of Lara from the forthcoming Miscellany.

"P. S. Sincerely, I think Mr. Hogg would suit you very well; and surely he is a man of great powers, and deserving of encouragement. I must knock out a tale for him, and you should at all events consider before you reject his suit. Scott is gone to the Orkneys in a gale of wind, and Hogg says that, during the said gale, 'he is sure that Scott is not quite at his ease, to say the best of it.' Ah! I wish these home-keeping bards could taste a Mediterranean white squall, or the Gut in a gale of wind, or even the Bay of Biscay with no wind at all."

LETTER CCXXXIV.

TO MR. MOORE. "Hastings, Aug. 6, 1814.

"By the time this reaches your dwelling, I shall (God willing) be in town again probably. I have here been renewing my acquaintance with my old friend Ocean; and I find his bosom as pleasant a pillow for an hour in the morning as his daughters of Phoebus could be in the twilight. I have been dining and eating turbot, and smoking neat brands and silk handkerchiefs,—and listening to my friend Hodgson's raptures about a pretty wife-elect of his,—and walking on cliffs, and tumbling down hills, and making the most of the 'doleful furniture' for the last fortnight. I met a son of Lord Erskine's, who says he has been married a year, and is the 'happiest of men, and I have met the afore- said Hogg, who is also the 'happiest of men;' so, it is worth while being here, if only to witness the superlative felicity of these foxes, who have cut off their tails, and would persuade the rest to part with their brushes to keep them in countenance.

"It rejences me that you like 'Jeffrey' as the 'triumphant.' I am out with his forty-fifth number, which I suppose you have got. He is only too kind to me, in my share of it, and I begin to fancy myself a golden pheasant, upon the strength of the plumage where with he hath bedecked me. But then, 'surgit amari,' &c.—the gentlemen of the Champion, and Perry, have got hold (I know not how) of the consolatory address to Lady J. on the picture-adjunction by our Regent, and have published them—with my name, too, smack—without even asking leave, or inquiring whether or no. D—n their impudence, and d—n every thing. It has put me out of patience, and so I shall say no more about it.*

"You shall have Lara and Jaque (both with some additions) when out, but I am still demurring and delaying, and in a fuss, and so is Rogers in his way.

"Newstead is to be mine again. Cloughton for feits twenty-five thousand pounds; but that don't prevent me from being very prettily ruined. I mean to bury myself there—and let my beard grow—and hate you all.

"Oh! I have had the most amusing letter from Hogg, the Ettrick minstrel and shepherd. He wants me to be there (in August), and speaking of his present bookseller, whose 'bills are never lifted' he adds, to tidem verba, 'G—d* See Pense, p. 568"
LETTER CCXXXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Aug. 5, 1814.

"The Edinburgh Review is arrived—thanks. Enclose Mr. Hobhouse's letter, from which you will perceive the work you have made. However, I have done: you must now play rhymes to the devil your own way. It seems also that the faithful and spirited likeness is another of your publications. I wish you joy of it; but it is no likeness—that is the agreement. Seriously, if I have drawback from Scotland, I am sorry that you carried your complaisance so far; particularly as upon trifles you have a more summary method:—witness the grammar of Hobhouse's bit of prose, which has put him and me into a fever.

"Hogg must translate his own words: lifting is a quotation from his letter, together with G-d d-n, &c., which I suppose requires no translation.

"I was unaware of the contents of Mr. Moore's letter: I think your offer very handsome, but of that you and he must judge. If he can get more, you won't wonder that he should accept it.

"This item with Lara, since it must be. The tom looks pretty enough—on the outside. I shall be in town next week, and in the mean time wish you a pleasant journey. Yours, &c."

LETTER CCXXXVII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Aug. 12, 1814.

"I was not alone, nor will be while I can help it. Newstead is not yet decided. Claughton is to make a grand effort by Saturday week to complete; if not, he must give up twenty-two thousand pounds, and the estate, with expenses &c., &c. If I resume the Abbacy, you shall have due notice, and a cell seat apart for your reception, with a plaus welcome. Rogers I have not seen, but Larry and Jackey cannot a few days ago. Of their effect, I know notting.

"There is something very amusing in your being an Edinburgh Reviewer. You know, I suppose, that Thurlow is none of the placidest, and may possibly enact some tragedy on being told that he is only a fool. If, now, Jeffrey were to be slain on account of an article of yours, there might be a fine conclusion. For my part, as Mrs. Winifred Jenkins says, 'he has done the handsome thing by me,' particularly in his last number; so he is the best of men and the abest of critics, and I won't have him killed—though I hope many wish he were, for being so good-humored.

"Before I left Hastings, I got in a passion with an ink-bottle, which I flung out of the window one night with a vengeance;—and what then? why, next morning I was horrified by seeing that it had struck, and split upon, the petticoat of Euterpe's graven image in the garden, and grimed her as if it were on purr see. Only think of my distress, and the epigram that might be engendered on the Muse and her misadventure.

"I had an adventure, almost as ridculous, at some private theatres near Cambridge—though of a different complexion—since saw you last. I quarrelled with a man in the dark, for asking me who I was, (insolent enough, to be sure,) and followed him into the green-room (a stable) in a rage. Among a set of nothing, I never thought it turned out to be a low comedian, engaged to act with the amateurs, and be a civil-spoken man.

* His servant had brought him up a large jar of ink, into which, not supposing it to be full, he had thrust his pen down to the very bottom. Escaped on finding it come out all smeared with ink, he flung the bottle at the window into the garden, where it figured, as been described, upon a second edition of Wordsworth's "Lake Poets," as 'the sixpenny ink-stand of a poet, from which it hitherto the sixth having been, by some accident, left behind—"
BYRON'S WORKS.

"I still think Mr. Hogg and yourself might make cut an alliance. Dobson's was, I believe, the last decent thing of the kind, and his had great success in its day, and lasted several years; but then he had the double advantage of editing and publishing. The Spleen, and several of Orary's odes, much of Shenstone, and many others of good repute, made their first appearance in his collection. Now, with the support of Scott, Wordsworth, Southey, &c., I see little reason why you should not do as well; and if once fairly established, you would have assistance from the youngsters, I dare say. Stratford Canning, (whose Bonaparte is excellent,) and many others, and Moore, and Hitherto, and I would try a fall now and then, (if permitted,) and you might coax Campbell, too, into it. By-the-by, he has an unpublished (though printed) poem on a scene in Germany, (Bavaria, I think,) which I saw last year, that is perfectly magnificent, and equal to himself. I wonder he don't publish it.

"Oh!—do you recollect S**'s, the engraver's, mad letter about not engraving Phillips's picture of Lord Foley? (as I have it:) well, I have trace it, I think. It seems, by the papers, a preacher of Johanna Southcoote's is named Foley; and I can no way account for the said S**'s confusion of words and ideas: I don't know what of his head's running on Johanna and her apostles. It was a mercy he did not say Lord Tozer. You know, of course, that S** is a believer in this new (old) virgin of spiritual impregnation.

"I long to know what she will produce: her being with child at sixty-five is indeed a miracle, but her getting any one to beget it, a greater.

"If you were not going to Paris or Scotland, I would send you some game: if you remain, let me know.

"P. S. A word or two of 'Lara,' which your enclosure brings before me. It is of no great promise separately; but, as connected with the other tales, it will do very well for the volumes you mean to publish. I would recommend this arrangement—Child Harold, the smaller Poems, Giaour, Bride, Corsair, Lara; the last completes the series, and its very likeness renders it necessary to the others. Cawthorne writes that they are publishing English Barda in Ireland: pray inquire into this; because it must be stopped."

LETTER CCXXXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Newstead Abbey, Sept. 2, 1814.

"I am obliged by what you have sent, but would rather not see any thing of the kind, we have had enough of these things already, good and bad, and next month you need not trouble yourself to collect even the higher generation—on my account, it gives me much pleasure to hear of Mr. Hobhouse's and Mr. Milvare's good entertainment by the journals you mention.

* The Reviews and Magazine of the month.
LETTERS.

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* I have not seen Hunt's Sonnets nor Descent of Liberty; he has chosen a pretty place wherein to compare the last. Let me hear from you before you embark. Ever, &c.

LETTER CCXLI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Newstead Abbey, Sept. 15, 1814.

"This is the fourth letter I have begun to you within the month. Whether I shall finish or not, or burn it like the rest, I know not. When we meet, I shall explain why I have not written—why I have not asked you here, as I wished—with a great many other why's and wherefores, which will keep cold. In short, you must excuse all my seeming omissions and commissions, and grant me more remission than St. Athanasius will to yourself; if you log off a single shred of mystery from his pious puzzle. It is my creed (and it may be St. Athanasius's too) that your article on T** will get somebody killed, and that, on the Saints, get him d—d afterward, which will be quite enough for one number. Oons, Tom! you must not meddle just now with the in comprehensible; for if Johanna Southcote turns out to be

"Now for a little egotism. My affairs stand thus. To-morrow, I shall know whether a circumstance of importance enough to change many of my plans will occur or not. If it does not, I am off for Italy next month, and London, in the mean time, next week. I have got back Newstead, and twenty-five thousand pounds (out of twenty-eight paid already,)—as a 'sacrifice,' the late purchaser calls it, and he may choose his own name. I have paid some of my debts, and contracted others; but I have for a thousand pounds, which I can't spend after my own heart in this climate, and so, I shall go back to the south. Hobhouse, I think and hope, will go with me; but, whether he will or not, I shall hear to see Venice, and the Alps, and Parmesan cheeses, and look at the coast of Greece, or rather Ephesus, from Italy, as I once did— or fancied I did—that of Italy, when off Corfu. All this, however, depends upon an event, which may, or may not, happen. Whether it will, I shall know probably to-morrow, and if it does, I can't well go abroad at present.

"Pray pardon this parenthetical scratch. You shall hear from me again soon.—I don't call this an answer.

"Ever most affectionately, &c.

The "circumstance of importance," to which he alludes in this letter, was his second proposal for Miss Milbanke, of which he was now waiting the result.

LETTER CCXLII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Newstead Abbey, Sept. 30, 1814.

"Here is her who long
Has wak'd the poet's sigh I
The girl who gave to song
What gold could never buy.

"My dear Moore, I am going to be married—that is, I am accepted, and one usually hopes the rest will follow. My mother of the Gracchi (that are to be) you think too strait-laced for me, although the paragon of only children, and invested with 'golden opinions of all sorts of men,' and full of 'most blessed conditions,' as Dampier calls herself. Miss Milbanke is the lady, and I have her father's invitation to proceed there in my elect capacity,—which, however, I cannot do till I have settled some business in London, and got the boat.

"She is said to be an heiress, but of that I really know nothing certainly, and shall not inquire. But I do know, that she has talents and excellent qualities, and you will not deny her judgment, after having refused six suitors and taken me.

"Now, if you have any thing to say against this, pray do; my mind's made up, positively fixed, determined, and therefore I will listen to reason, be cause now it can do no harm. However, I do not want to break it off, but I will hope not. In the mean time, I tell you (a secret, by-the-by,—at least, till I know she wishes it to be public) that I have proposed and am accepted. You need not be in a hurry to wish me joy, for one is not married for months. I am going to town to-morrow; but expect to be here, on my way there, within a fortnight.

"If this had not happened I should have gone to Italy. In my way thither, perhaps, you will meet me at Nottingham, and come over with me here. I need not say that nothing will give me greater pleasure. I must, of course, reform thoroughly; and, seriously, if I can contribute to her happiness, I shall secure my own. She is so good a person that—that—in short, I wish I was a better.

"Ever, &c."
TO THE COUNTESS OF " **.

"DEAR LADY:" "*

"Your recollection and invitation do me great honor; but I am going to be married, and can't come." My intention is to spend two hundred miles off, and the moment my business here is arranged, I must set out in a great hurry to be happy. Miss Milbanke is the good-natured person who has undertaken me, and, of course, I am very much in love and as silly as all single gentlemen must be in that sentimental situation. I have been accepted there three weeks; but when the event will take place, I don't exactly know. It depends partly upon lawyers, who are never in a hurry. One can be sure of nothing; but, at present, there appears no other interruption to this intention, which seems as mutual as possible, and now no secret, though I didn't tell first—and all our relatives are congratulating away to right and left in the most fatiguing manner.

"I particularly mean the lady. She is niece to Lady Melbourne, and cousin to Lady Cowper, and others of your acquaintance, and has no fault, except being a great deal too good for me, and that I must pardon, if nobody else should. It might have been two years ago, and, if it had, would have saved me a world of trouble. She has employed the interval in refusing about half a dozen of my particular friends, (as she did me once, by the way,) and has taken me at last, for which I am very much obliged to her. I wish it was well over, for I do hate bustle, and there is no marrying without some;—and then I must not marry in a black coat, they tell me, and I can't wear a blue one.

"Pray forgive me for scribbling all this nonsense. You know I must be serious all the rest of my life, and this is a parting piece of buffoonery, which I write with tears in my eyes, expecting to be agitated. Believe most seriously and sincerely your obliged servant,

"BYRON.

"P. S. My best rem. to Lord * * on his return."

TO MR. MOORE.

"Oct. 7, 1814.

"Notwithstanding the contradictory paragraph in the Morning Chronicle which must have been sent by * * or perhaps—I know not why I should suspect Caughef of such a thing, and yet I partly do, because it might interrupt his renewal of purchase, if so disposed; in short, it matters not, but we are all in the road to matrimony—lawyers setting, relations congratulating, my intended as heart could wish, and every one, whose opinion I value, very glad of it. All her relatives, and all mine too, seem equally pleased.

"Perry was very sorry, and has re-contradicted, as you will perceive by this day's paper. It was, to be sure, a devil of an insertion, since the first paragraph came from Sir Ralph's own County Journal, and this in the teeth of it would appear to him and his as my denial. But I have written to do away that, enclosing Perry's letter, which was very polite and kind.

"Nobody hates bustle so much as I do; but there seems a fatality over every scene of my drama, always a row of some sort or other. No matter—Perry, your friend, and all my obligations to her, I hope she will treat me better than she treated the Athenian, who took some merit to himself on some occasion, but (after that) took care. In fact, she, that exquisite goddess, has hitherto carried me through every thing, and will, I hope, now, since I own it will be all her doing.

"Well, now for thee. Your article on * * is perfection itself. You must not leave off reviewing. By Jove, I believe you can do any thing. There is wit, and taste, and learning, and good-humor (though not a whit less severe for that) in every line of that critique. * * *

"Next to your being an E. Reviewer, my being of the same kidney, and Jeffrey's being such a judge to me as yours which, I conceive were not calculated upon in Mr.—what's his name's—Essay on Probabilities.'*

"But, Tom, I say—Oons! Scott menaces the 'Lord of the Isles.' Do you mean to compete? or lay by, till this wave has broke upon the shelves (of booksellers, not rocks—a broken metaphor, by the way.) You ought to be afraid of nobody; but your modersity is really as provoking and unnecessary as a * * *.

"I am very merry, and have just been writing some elegant stanzas on the death of Sir P. Parker. He was my first cousin, but never met since boyhood. Our relations desired me, and I have scribbled and given it to Perry, who will chronicle it to-morrow. I am as sorry for him as one could be for one I never saw since I was a child; but should not have wept melodiously, except 'at the request of friends.'

"I hope to go out of town and be married, but I shall take Newstead in my way, and you must meet me at Nottingham and accompany me to mine Abbey. I will tell you the day when I know it.

"P. S. By the way, my wife-elect is perfection; and I hear of nothing but her merits and her wonders, and that she is 'very pretty.' Her expectations, I am told, are great; but what, I have not asked. I have not seen her these ten months."

TO MR. HUNT.

"My Dear Hunt,

"I send you some game, of which I beg your acceptance. I specify the quantity as a security against the porter; a hare, a pheasant, and two brace of partridges, which I hope are fresh. My stay in town has not been long, and I am in all the agonies of quitting it again next week on business, preparatory to a change of condition, as it is called by the talkers on such matters. I am about to be married: and am, of course, in all the misery of a man in pursuit of happiness. My intended is two hundred miles off, and the efforts I am making with lawyers, &c, &c, to join my future connexions, are for a personage of my single and invertebrate habits, to say nothing of indolence, quite prodigious! I sincerely hope you are better than your paper indicated lately, and that your approaching freedom will find you in full health to enjoy it.

"Yours ever,

"BYRON"

TO MR. MOORE.

"Oct. 15, 1814.

"An' there were any thing in marriage that would make a difference between friends and me, particularly in your case, I would 'none o' 't.' My agent sets off for London next week, and I shall follow him, taking Newstead and you in my way. I certainly did not address Miss Milbanke with these
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LETTER CCXLI.

TO MR. COWELL.

"Oct. 29, 1814.

MY DEAR COWELL,

"Many and fervent thanks for your kind letter—the bet, or rather forfeit, was one hundred to Hawke, and fifty to Hay, (nothing to Kelly,) for a guinea received from each of the two former. I shall feel much obliged by your setting me right if I am incorrect in this statement in any way, and have reasons for wishing you to recollect as much as possible of what passed, and state it to Hodgson. My reason is this: some time ago Mr. ** required a bet of me which I never made, and of course, refused to pay, and have heard no more of it; to prevent similar mistakes is my object in wishing you to remember well what passed, and to put Hodgson in possession of your memory on the subject.

"I hope to see you soon in my way through Cambridge. Remember me to II., and believe me ever and truly, &c."

LETTER CCL.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Dec. 14, 1814.

MY DEAREST TOM,

"I will send the pattern to-morrow, and since you don't go to our friend (of the keeping part of the town) this evening, I shall send my sister at home over a solitary potation. My self-opinion rises much by your eulogy of my social qualities. As my friend Scope is pleased to say, I believe I am very well for a 'holiday drinker.' Where the devil are you? with Woolridge, I conjecture—for which you deserve another absence. Hoping that the American war will last for many years, and that all the prizes may be registered at Bermoothes, believe me, &c.

"P. S. I have just been composing an epistle to the archbishop for an especial license. Oons! It looks serious. Murray is impatient to see you, and would call, if you will give him audience. Your new coat!—I wonder you like the color, and don't go about, like Dives, in purple."

LETTER CCL.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Dec. 31, 1814.

"A thousand thanks for Gibbon: all the additions are very great improvements.

"At last, I must be peremptory with you about the print from Phillips's picture: it is pro nounced on all hands the most stupid and disagree able possible; so do, pray, have a new engraving and let me see it first; there really must be no one from the same plate. I don't much care, myls; if; but every one I honor torment me to death about it, and abuses it to a degree beyond repeating. Now, don't answer with excuses; but, for my sake, have it destroyed: I never shall have peace till it is. I write in the greatest haste.

"P. S. I have written this most illegibly: but it is to beg you to destroy the print, and have another by particular desire.' It must be d—d bad, to be sure, since every body says so but the original; and he don't know what to say. But do it: that is, burn the plate, and employ a new etcher from the other picture. This is stupid and sulky."

* He had agreed to send these sums to the persons mentioned, should he ever marry.
LETTER CLII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Kiedy, Jan. 8, 1815.

"The marriage took place on the 23 instant; so pray make haste and congratulate away.

"Thanks for the Edinburgh Review and the abolition of the prize. Let the next be from the other of Phillips—I mean (not the Albanian, but) the original one in the exhibition; the last was from the copy. I should wish my sister and Lady Byron to decide upon the next, as they found fault with the last. I have no opinion of my own upon the subject.

"Mr. Kinnaird will, I dare say, have the goodness to furnish copies of the Melodies,* if you state my wish upon the subject. You may have them, if you think them worth inserting. The volumes, in their collected state, must be inscribed to Mr. Hobhouse, but I have not yet mastered the expressions of my inscription; but will supply them in time.

"With many thanks for your good wishes, which have all been realized, I remain very truly,

"Yours,

"BYRON."

LETTER CLIII.

TO MR. NATHAN.

"Jan. 7, 1815.

"Dear Nathan,

"Murray, being about to publish a complete edition of my poetical effusions, has a wish to include the stanzas of the Hebrew Melodies. Will you allow him that privilege without considering it an infringement on your copyright? I certainly wish to oblige the gentleman, but you know, Nathan, it is against all good fashion to give and take back. I therefore cannot grant what is not at my disposal. Let me hear from you on the subject. Dear Nathan,

"Yours truly,

"BYRON."

LETTER CLIV.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Halifax, Darlington, Jan. 10, 1815.

"I was married this day week. The parson has pronounced it—Perry has announced it—and the Morning Post, also, under the head of 'Lord Byron's marriage'—as if it were a fabrication, or the puff-direct of a new stay-maker.

"Now for thine affairs. I have rede thee upon the Fathers, and it is excellent well. Positively, you must not leave off reviewing. You shine in it—you kill in it; and this article has been taken for Sydney Smith's, (as I heard in town,) which proves not only your proficiency in paronomy, but that you have all the airs of a veteran critic at your first visit. So, prithee, go on and prosper.

"Scott's 'Lord of the Isles' is out—'the mail-coach copy' I have, by special license of Murray.

"Now is your time;—you will come upon them newly and freshly. It is impossible to read what you have lately done (verse or prose) without seeing that you have trained on tenfold. * * * has flourished. * * has founded. I have tired the rascals (i.e. the public) with my Harrys and Larrys, Pilgrims and Pirates. Nobody but Southey has done any thing worth a slice of bookseller's pudding; and he has not luck enough to be found out in doing a good thing. Now, Tom, is thy time—Oh joyful day I would not take a knighthood for thy fortune.' Let me hear from you soon, and believe me ever, &c.

"P. S. Lady Byron is vastly well. How are Mrs and Mr Moore and Joe Atkinson's 'Graces?' We must present our women to one another."

LETTER CLV.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Jan. 19, 1815.

"Rgad! I don't think he is 'down;' and my prophecy—like most auguries, sacred and profane—is not annulled, but inverted.

"To your question about the 'dog':—Umm—my 'mother I won't say anything against—that is, about her; but how long a 'mistress' or friend may recollect paramours or competitors (lust and thrust being the two great and only bonds between the amatory or the amicable), I can't say,—or, rather, you know as well as I could tell you. But, a, for canine recollections, as far as I could judge by a cursing Bowesain, the dearest, and alas! the maddest of dogs,) I had one (half a wolf by the side) that doted on me at ten years old, and very nearly ate me at twenty. When I thought he was going to enact Argus, he bit away the backside of my breeches, and never would consent to any kind of recognition, in despite of all kinds of bones which I offered him. So, let Southey blush, and Homer too, as far as I can decide upon it.

"I humbly take it, the mother knows the soul that pays her jointure—a mistress her mate, till he * * * refuses salary—a friend his fellow, till he loses cash and character, and a dog his master, till he changes him.

"So, you want to know about Milady and me? But let me not, as Roderick Random says, 'profane the chaste mysteries of Hymen'—damn the word, I had nearly spelled it with a small h. I like Bell as well as you do (or did, you villain!) Bessy—and that is (or was) saying a great deal.

"Address your next to Seaham, Stockton-on-Tees, where we are going on Saturday (on the way) to see father-in-law, Sir Jacob, and my lady's lady-mother. Write—and write more at length—both to the public:

"Yours ever most affectionately, &c."

LETTER CLVI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Seaham, Stockton-on-Tees, Feb. 2, 1815.

"I have heard from London that you have left Chatsworth and all the women full of 'enthralling mystery' * * about you, personally and poetically; and in particular, that * * When first I met thee, has been quite overwhelming in her effect. I told you it was one of the best things you ever wrote, though that dog Power wanted you to omit part of it. They

* Mr. Moore had just been reading Mr. Southey's poem of 'Roderick,' and, with references to an incident in it, had put the following question to Lord Byron:—'I should like to know from you, who are one of the Philo-cynics, and whether it is at all probable, that any dog (out of a mulatto race) could recollect a master, whether either his own master or mistress was able to find out. I don't care about Upham's dog, &c.—all I want to know from you, (who are renowned as 'friend of the dog, companion of the beast,' whether such a thing is possible.)

* Don Juan, cano., cana., stanze xiiil., letter xixi.

* The letter H is blotched in the MS.

* It was due that, according to his account, Mr. Brown, the usher, shivered and shone, used frequently to pronounce the word 'enthralling.'
are all regretting your absence at Chatsworth, according to my informant— all the ladies quite, &c., &c., &c. Stop my vitals!

"Well, now you have got home again—which I dare say is as agreeable as a 'draught of cool small beer to the scorched palate of a waking sat'—now you have got home again, I say, probably I shall hear from you. Since I wrote last, I have been transferred to my father-in-law's, with my lady and lady's maid, &c., &c., and the treacle-moon is over, and I am awake, and find myself married. My spouse and I agree to—and in—admiration. Swift says, 'no wise man ever married'; but, for a fool, I think it the most ambrosial of all possible future states. I still think one ought to marry upon lease; but am very sure I should renew mine at the expiration, though next term were for ninety-nine years.

"I wish you would respond, for I am here 'oblitusque meorum obliviscendus et illis.' Pray tell me what is going on in the way of intriguey, and how the w—s and rogues of the upper Beggar's Opera go on—or rather go off—in or after marriage—or who are going to break a particular commandment. Upon this dreary coast, we have nothing but country meetings and shipwrecks; and I have this day dined upon fish, which probably dined upon the crews of several colliers lost in the late gales. But I saw the sea one night in all the glories of surf and foam,—almost equal to the Bay of Biscay, and the interesting white squalls and short seas of Archipelago memory.

"My papa, Sir Ralph, hath recently made a speech at a Durham tax-meeting; and not only at Durham, but here, several times since, after dinner. He is now, I believe, speaking to himself (I left him in the middle) over various decanters, which can neither interrupt him nor fall asleep,—so might possibly have been the case with some of his audience.

"Ever thing, "B."

I must go to tea—damn tea. I wish it was Kin-nauld's brandy, and with you to lecture me about"

LETTER CCLVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

Godalming, Stockton-on-Tees, Feb. 5, 1815.

You will oblige me very much by making an occasional inquiry at Albany, at my chambers, whether my books, &c., are kept in tolerable order, and how far my old woman* continues in health and industry as keeper of my old den. Your parcels have been duly received and perused; but I had hoped to receive 'Guy Mannering' before this time. I won't intrude further for the present on your avocations, professional or pleasurable, but am, as usual, "Very truly, &c."

LETTER CCLVIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

Feb. 6, 1815.

I enclose you half a letter from **, which will explain itself—at least the latter part—the former refers to private business of mine own. If Jeffrey will take such an article, and you will undertake the revision, or, indeed, any portion of the article itself, (for unless you do, by Phœbus, I will have nothing to do with it,) we can cook up, between us three, as pretty a dish of sou-e-crouet as ever tipped over the tongue of a book-maker.*

* Mrs. Mule is a housekeeper.

You can, at any rate, try Jeffrey's inclination. Your late proposal from him made me hint this to **, who is a much better prosor and scholar than I am, and a very superior man indeed. Excuse haste—answer this.

"Ever yours most, "B."

P.S. All is well at home. I wrote to you yesterday."

LETTER CCLIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

Feb. 10, 1815.

"My Dear Thom,

Jeffrey has been so very kind about me and my damnable works, that I would not be indirect or equivocal with him, even for a friend. So, it may be as well to tell him that it is not mine; but that, if I did not firmly and truly believe it to be much better than I could offer, I would never have troubled him or you about it. You can judge between you how far it is admissible, and reject it, if not of the right sort. For my own part, I have no interest in the article one way or the other, further than to oblige **; and should the composition be a good one, it can neither hurt partly—mine, indeed, any one, saving and excepting Mr. **."

Curse catch me if I know what H ** means, or meant, about the demonstrative pronoun, but I admire your fear of being inoculated with the same. Have you never found out that you have a particular style of your own, which is as distinct from all other people, as Hafiz of Shiraz from Hafiz of the Morning Post?

"So you allowed B ** and such like to hum and haw you, or, rather, Lady Jersey, out of her compliment, and me out of mine.† Sunburn me but this was pitiful-hearted. However, I will tell her all about it when I see her.

Bell desires me to say all kinds of civilities, and assure you of her recognition and high consideration. I will tell you of our movements south, which may be in about three weeks from this present writing. By-the-way, don't engage yourself in any travelling expedition, as I have a plan of travel into Italy, which we will discuss. And then, think of the poesy we dare with which we should overshoot that Venice to Vesuvius, to say nothing of Grecce, through all which—God willing—we might perambulate in one twelvemonth. If I take my wife, you can take yours; and if I leave mine, you may do the same. And you stand by me, in either case, Brother Bruin.

"And believe me inveretately yours,

B."

LETTER CCLX.

TO MR. MOORE.

Feb. 21, 1815.

"Yesterday, I sent off the packet and letter to Edinburgh. It consisted of forty-one pages, so that I have not added a line; but in my letter, I mentioned what passed between you and me in autumn, as my inducement for presuming to trouble him either with my own or **'s lubrations. I am any thing but sure that it will do; but I have told Jeffrey that if there is any decent raw material in it, he may cut it into what shape he pleases, and warp it to his liking.

* Some remark which had been made with respect to the frequent use of the demonstrative pronoun, both by himself and by Sir W. Scott.

† Verses to Lady Jersey (containing an allusion to Lord Byron), which Mr. Moore had written, while at Chatsworth, but after and destroyed.
LETTER CCLXI.

TO MR. MOORE.

March 5, 1815.

"MY DEAR THOM,

"Jeffrey has sent me the most friendly of all possible letters, and has accepted *'s article. He says he has long liked not only, &c., &c., but my 'character.' This must be your doing, you dog— aren't you ashamed of yourself, knowing me so well? This is what one gets for having you for a father confessor.

"I feel merry enough to send you a sad song.† You once asked me for some words which you would set. Now you may set or not, as you like,—but there they are, in a legible hand, and not in mine, but of my own scribbling; so you may say of them what you please. Why don't you write to me? I shall make you a 'speech' if you don't respond quickly.

"I am in such a state of sameness and stagnation, and so totally occupied in consuming the fruits—and sauntering—and playing dull games at cards—and yawning—and trying to read old Annual Registers and the daily papers—and gathering shells on the shore while watching the growth of stuffed gooseberry bushes in the garden—that I have neither time nor sense to say more than "YOURS ever "B."""

"P. S. I open my letter again to put a question to you. From Mr. Crouch, or Lady Cork, or any of their fashionable Pidcock give, to collect you and Jeffrey and me to one party. I have been answering his letter, which suggested this dainty query. I can't help laughing at the thoughts of your face and mine; and our anxiety to keep the Aristarch in good humor during the early part of a compotation, till we got drunk enough to make him 'a speech.' I think the critic would have much the best of us—of one, at least—for I don't think diffidence (I mean social) is a disease of yours."

POEMS.

"If you won't go abroad, then, with me—but alone. I fully purpose starting much about the time you mention, and alone, too."

"I hope Jeffrey won't think me very impatient in sending *'s only; there was not room for a syllable. I have avowed * as the author, and said that you thought or said, when I met you last, that he (J.) would not be angry at the coalition, (though alas! we have not reconciled,) and so, if I have got into a scrape, I must get out of it—Heaven knows low.

"Your Anacreon* is come, and with it I sealed (its first impression) the packet and epistle to our friend.

"Cure the Melodies, and the Tribes to boot. Graham is to assist—or hath assisted—but will do no more gold than a second physician. I merely interfered to oblige a whim of Rinnard's and all I have got by it was 'a speech,' and a receipt for stewed oysters.

"Not meet—pray don't say so. We must meet somewhere or somehow. Newstead is out of the question, being nearly sold again; or, if not, is uninhabitable for my spouse. Pray write again. I will soon.

"P. S. Pray when do you come out? ever, or never? I hope I have made no blunder; but I can truly think you said to me (after Wordsworth, whom I first pondered upon, was given up that *) and I might attempt **. His length alone prevented me from trying my part, though I should have been less severe upon the Reviewers.

"Your seal is the best and prettiest of my set, and I thank you very much therefor. I have just been—or, rather, ought to be—very much shocked by the death of the Duke of Dorset. We were at school together, and there I was passionately attached to him. Since, we have never met—but once, I think; since 1815—and it would be a paltry affection to pretend that I had any feeling for his worth the name. But there was a time in my life when this event would have broken my heart; and all I can say for it now is, that—it is not worth breaking.

"Adieu—it is all a farce."

* A seal, with the head of Anacreon, which Mr. Moore had given him. The verses enclosed were those melancholy one, now printed in his Works.

† There's not a joy the world can give like that it takes away. Poems, p. 548.

** The MS. was in the handwriting of Lady Byron.

†† Those allusions to a "speech" are connected with a little incident, not worth mentioning, which had occurred to both when I was in town. He was at a fact and had been aware, as may be seen in his early letters, of our having, on some conventional phrase or joke.—Moore."

LETTER CCLXII.

TO MR. MOORE.

March 8, 1815.

"An event—the death of poor Dorset—and the recollection of what once felt, and ought to have felt never, but could not—set me pondering, and finally into the train of thought which you have in your hands. I am very glad you like them, for I hate myself they will pass as an imitation of your style. If I could imitate it well, I should have no great ambition of originality—I wish I could make you exclaim with Dennis, 'That's my thunder, by G—dit!' I wrote them with a view to your setting them, and as a present to Power, if he would accept the words, and you did not think yourself degraded, for once in a way, by marrying them to music.

"Sunburn Nathaniel! why do you always twit me with his vile 'Ebrew nasaltices? Have I not told you it was all K.'s doing, and my own exquisite facility of temper? But thou wilt be a wagg Thomas; and see what you get for it. Now for my revenge.

"Depend—and preprend—upon it that your opinion of *'s poem will travel through one or other of the quintuple correspondents, till it reaches the ear and the liver of the author.* Your adventure, however, is truly laughable; but how could you be such a potato for a brother (of the quill) too near the throne, to confide to a man's own publisher (who has 'bought,' or rather sold, 'golden opinions' about him) such a damnable parenthesis! 'Between you and me,' quotha, it reminds me of a passage in the Heir at Law—Tête-a-tête with Lady Dubery. I suppose—'No—tête-a-tête with five hundred people;' and your confidential communication will doubtless be in circulation to that amount, in a short time, with several additions, and in several letters, all signed L. H. R. O. B. &c., &c., &c.

"We leave this place to-morrow, and shall stop on our way to town (in the interval of taking a house there) at Col. Leigh's, near Newmarket, where any epistle of yours will find its welcome way.

"I have been very comfortable here, listening to that d—d monologue, which elderly gentlemen call"
LETTER CCXIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

I meant to write to you before on the subject of your loss,* but the recollection of the uselessness and worthlessness of any observations on such events prevented me. I shall only now add, that I rejoice to see you recover it so well, and trust that I true time will enable Mrs. M. to sustain it better. Every thing should be done to divert and occupy her with other thoughts and cares, and I am sure all that can be done will.

*To my sister. Napoleon—but the papers will have told you all. I quite think with you upon the subject, and for my real thoughts this time last year, I refer you to the last pages of the Journal I gave you. I can forgive the rogue for utterly falsifying every line of mine Ode, which I take to be the last and uttermost stretch of human magnanimity. Do you remember the story of a certain abbé, who wrote a Treatise on the Swedish Constitution, and proved it indissoluble and eternal? Just as he had corrected the last sheet, news came that Gustavus III. had destroyed this immortal government: 'Sir,' quoth the abbé, 'the king of Sweden may overthrow the constitution, but not my book!' I think of the abbé, but not with him.

Making every allowance for talent and most consummate daring, there is, after all, a good deal in luck or destiny. He might have been stopped by our frigate in her chase, or sunk by the gulf of Lyons, which is particularly tempestuous—or a thousand things. But he is certainly Fortune's favorite, and

You must have seen the account of his driving into the middle of the royal army, and the immediate effect of his pretty speeches. And now, if he don't drub the allies, there is 'tob purchase in money.' If he can take France by himself, the devil's in't, for he don't repulse the invaders, when backed by those celebrated sworders—those boys of the blade, the Imperial Guard, and the old and new army. It is impossible not to be dazzled and overwhelmed by his character and career. Nothing ever so disjointed, pointed me as his abdication, and nothing could have reconciled me to him but some such revival as his recent exploit; though no one could anticipate such a complete and brilliant reversion from its antecedent.

*To your question, I can only answer that there have been some symptoms which look a little detrimental. It is a subject upon which I am not particularly anxious, except that I think it would please her uncle, Lord Wentworth, and her father and mother. The former (Lord W.) is now in town, and in very indifferent health. You perhaps know that his property, amounting to seven or eight thou-

sand a year, will eventually devolve upon Bell.

But the old gentleman has been so very kind to him, and me, that I hardly know how to wish him heaven, if he can more comfortable on earth. Her father is still in the country.

'I don't care what Power says to secure the property of the Song, so that it is not complimentary to me, nor any thing about 'condescending' or noble authorship—blessed phrases,' as Polonius says.

'Pray let me hear from you, and when you mean to be in town. Your continental scheme is imprac-
ticable for the present. I have to thank you for a letter, not any longer letter than usual, which I hope will induce you to tax my gratitude still farther in the same way.'

'You never told me about Longman, and 'next winter,' and I am not a 'milestone.'

LETTER CCXIV.

TO MR. COLERIDGE.

'Dear Sir,

'It will give me great pleasure to comply with your request, though I hope there is still taste enough left among us to render it almost unnecessary, sordid and interested as it must be admitted, many of 'the trade' are, where circumstances give them an advantage. I trust you do not permit yourself to be depressed by the temporary partiality of what is called 'the public' for the favorites of the moment; all experience is against the permanency of such impressions. You must have lived to see many of these pass away, and will survive many more—I mean personally, for poetically, I would not insult you by a comparison.

*If I may be permitted, I would suggest that there never was such an opening for tragedy. In Kean, there is an actor worthy of expressing the thoughts of the characters which you have every power of embodying; and I cannot but regret that the part of Oratio was disposed of before his appearance at Drury Lane. We have nothing to be mentioned in the same breath with 'Remorse' for very many years; and I should think that the reception of that play was sufficient to encourage the highest hopes of author and audience. It is to be hoped that you are proceeding in a career which could not but be successful. With my best respects to Mr. Bowles, I have the honor to be,

'Your obliged and very obedient servant,'

*P. S. You mention my 'Satire,' lampoon.' or whatever you or others please to call it. I can only say, that it was written when I was very young and very angry, and has been a thorn in my side ever since; more particularly as almost all the persons animadverted upon became subsequently my acquaintances, and some of them my friends, which is 'heaping fire upon an enemy's head,' and forgiving me too readily to permit me to forgive myself. The part applied to you is pert, and petulant, and shallow enough; but although I have long done everything in my power to suppress the circulation of the whole thing, I shall always regret the wantonness or generality of many of its attempted attacks.'
LETTER CCLXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"April 3, 1815.

"Thanks for the books. I have great objection to your proposition about inscribing the vase, * which is, that it would appear ostentatious on my part; and of course I must send it as it is, without any alteration.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCLXVI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"April 23, 1815.

"Lord Wentworth died last week. The bulk of his property (from seven to eight thousand pounds) is entailed on Lady Milbanke and Lady Byron. The first is gone to take possession in Leicestershire, and attend the funeral, &c., this day.

"I have mentioned the facts of the settlement of Lord W.'s property, because the newspapers, with their usual accuracy, have been making all kinds of blunders in their statement. His will is just as expected—the principal part settled on Lady Milbanke (now Noel) and Bell, and a separate estate left for sale to pay debts, (which are not great,) and legacies to his natural son and daughter.

"Mrs. *'s tragedy was last night damaged. They may bring it on again, and probably will; but damaged it was,—not a word of the last act audible. I went (malgré that I ought to have staid at home in sackcloth, &c., but I could not resist the first night of any thing) to a private suite, in my private box, and witnessed the whole process. The first three acts, with transient glasses of applause, coozed patiently but heavily on. I must say it was badly acted, particularly by **, who was groaned upon in the third act,—something about 'horror—such a horror' was the cause. Well, the fourth act became as muddy and turbid as need be; but the fifth—what Garrick used to call (like a fool) the concoction of a play—the fifth act stuck fast at the King's prayer. You know he says, 'he never went to bed without saying them, and did not like to omit them now.' But he was no sooner upon his knees, than the audience got upon their legs—the damnable pit—and roared, and groaned, and hissed, and whistled. Well, that was choked a little; but the ruffian scene—the pentent penitency—and killing the Bishop and the Princess—oh, it was all over. The curtain fell upon unheard actors, and the announcement attempted by Kean for Monday was equally ineffectual. Mrs. Bartley was so frightened, that, though the people were tolerably quiet, the Epilogue was quite insaudible to half the house. In short, you know all. Iclapped till my hands were skinned, and so did Sir James Mackintosh, who was with me in the box. All the world were in the house, from the Jerseys, Greys, &c., &c. downwards. But it would not do. It is, after all, not an acting play,—good language, but no power.

* * * * *

Women (saving Joanna Baillie) cannot write tragedy; they have not seen enough nor felt enough of life for it. I think Semiramis or Catherine II. might have written (could they have been ungendered) a play.

* * * * *

"It is, however, a good warning not to risk or write tragedies. I never had much bent that way but, if I had; this would have cured me.

"Ever, carissime Thém., thine,

B."
because I am a lazy correspondent; but that shall be remedied. "Ever your obliged
"And very sincere friend,
"BYRON."

"P. S. 'Politics! The barking of the war-dogs for their carrion has sickened me of the present.""

LETTER CLXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

13, Piccadilly, Terrace, June 12, 1815.

"I have nothing to offer in behalf of my late silence, except the most invertebrate and ineffable laziness; but I am too supine to invent a lie, or I certainly should, being ashamed of the truth. Kinnaid, I hope, has appeased your magnanimous indignation at his blunders. I wished and wish you were in committee, with all my heart. It seems so hopeless a business, that the company of yourself and Mr. Peel is of more value to me than I knew of this when we meet. In the mean time, you are entreated to prevail upon Mrs. Esterre to engage herself. I believe she has been written to, but your influence, in person, or proxy, would probably go farther than our proposals. Whose is this, I know not; all my new function consists in listening to the despair of Cavendish Brashaw, the hopes of Kinnaird, the wishes of Lord Essex, the complaints of Whitbread, and the calculations of Mr. Moore— all of which, and whom, seem totally at variance.

C. Brashaw wants to light the theatre with gas, which, may, perhaps, (if the vulgar be believed,) poison half the audience, and all the Dramatis Personae. Essex has endeavored to persuade Keane not to get drunk, the consequence of which is, that he has never been sober since. Kinnaird, with equal success, would have convinced Raymonde that he, the said Raymonde, had too much salary. Whitbread wants us to assess the pit another sixpence,—a most insidious proposition,—which will end in an O. P. combustion. To crown all, Robins, the auctioneer, has the impudence to be displeased, because he has no dividend. The villain is a proprietor of shares, and a long-jungled orator in the meetings. I hear he has prophesied our incapacity,—a foregone conclusion,—whereof I hope to give him signal proofs before we are done.

"Will you give us an Opera? no, I'll be sworn, but I wish you would. • • • •

"To go on with the poetical world,—Walter Scott has gone back to Scotland. Murray, the bookseller, has been cruelly cudgelled of misbegotten knaves, in 'Kendal green,' at Newtoning Butts, in his way home from a purlicue dinner—and robbed—would you believe it?—of three or four bonds of forty pounds apiece, and a seal-ring of his grandfather's, worth a million! This is his version,—but others opine that D'Israeli, with whom he dined, knocked him down with his last publication, 'the Quarrels of Authors,' in a dispute about copyright. Be that as it may, the newspapers have teemed with his 'injury forma,' and he has been embrocated and invisible to all but the apostrophe ever since.

Lady B. is better than three months advanced in her pregnancy, which, I hope, like the weather, will not only go well through with it. We have been very little out this season, as I wish to keep her quiet in her present situation. Her father and mother have changed their names to Nocla, in compliance with Lord Wentworth's will, and in compliance to the property bequeathed by him.

"I hear that you have been gloriously received by the Irish,—and so you ought. But don't let them kill you with claret and kindness at the national dinner in your honor, which, I hear and hope, is in contemplation. If you will tell me the day, I'll get drunk myself on this side of the water, and wait you an applauding hiccup over the Channel."

"Of politics, we have nothing but the yell for war; and Castlerea is preparing his head for the pike, on which we shall see it carried before he has done. The loan has made every body sulky. I hear often from Paris, but in direct contradiction to the home statements of our hirelings. Of domestic doings, there has been nothing since Lady D. • • Not a divorce stirring,—but a good many in embryo, in the shape of marriages."

"I enclose you an epistle, received this morning from I know not whom; but I think it will amuse you. The writer must be a rare fellow."

"P. S. A gentleman named D'Alton (not your Dalton) has sent me a national poem called 'Der- mish.' The same cause which prevented my writing to you operated against my wish to write to him an epistle of thanks. If you see him, will you make all kinds of fine speeches for me, and tell him that I am the laziest and most ungrateful of mortals?"

"A word more,—don't let Sir John Stevenson (as an evidences to the truth of it,) talk about the price of your next poem, or they will come upon you for the Property Tax for it. I am serious, and have just heard a long story of the rascally tax-men making Scott pay for his. So, take care. Three hundred is a devil of a deduction out of three thousand."

LETTER CLXX.

TO MR. MOORE.

July 7, 1815.

"Grata superveniens, &c. &c. I had written to you again, but burnt the letter, because I began to think you seriously hurt at my indolence, and did not know how the buffoonery it contained might be taken. In the mean time I have yours, and all is well.

"I had given over all hopes of yours. By-the-by, my 'grata superveniens' should be in the present tense; for I perceive it looks now as if it applied to this present scrawl reaching you, whereas it is to the receipt of the Kilkenny epistle that I have tacked that venerable sentiment.

"Old Poor Whitehead died yesterday morning,—a sudden and severe loss. His health had been wavering, but so fatal an attack was not apprehended. He dropped down, and, I believe, never spoke afterward. I perceive Perry attributes his death to Drury Lane,—a consolatory encourage-

"ment to the new committee. I have no doubt that • • • who is of a melancholy habit, will be bled imme-

"diately; and as I have since my marriage, lost much of my paleness, and,—horresco referens" (for I hate even moderate fat)—that happy slenderness, to which, when I first knew you, I had attained, I by no means sit easy under this dispensation of the Morning Chronicle. Every one must regret the loss of Whitbread; he was surely a great and very good man.

"Paris is taken for the second time. I presume it, for the future, will have an anniversary capture. In the late battle of the world, I have any connexion,—poor Frederick Howard, the best of his race. I had little intercourse of late years, with his family, but I never saw or heard but good of him. Hobhouse's brother was killed the day short, the havock has not left a family but of its tender mercies.

"Every hope of a republic is over, and we must go on under the old system. But I am sick at heart of politics and slaughters; and the luck
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which Providence is pleased to lavish on Lord **, is only a proof of the little value the gods set upon prosperity, when they permit such ** ** as he and that drunken corporal, old Blucher, to bully their betters. From this, however, Wellington should be excepted. He is a man,—and the Scipio of our Hannibal. However, he may thank the Russian frosts, which destroyed the real elite of the French army, for the successes of Waterloo.

"La! Moore—how you blaspheme about 'Par

masus' and 'Moses!' I am ashamed for you! Wont you do any thing for the drama? We be

seech an opera. Kinnaird's blunder was partly mine. I wanted you of all things in the commit-

tee, and so did he. But we are now glad you were

viser; for its is, I doubt, a bitter business.

"When shall we see you in England? Sir Ralph

Noel (late Milbanke—he don't promise to be late

Noel in a hurry) finding that one man can't inhabit

two houses, has given his place in the north to me

for a habitation: and there Lady B. threatens to be

brought to bed in November. Sir A. and my

Lady Mother are to quarter at Kirby—Lord Went-

worth's that was. Perhaps you and Mrs. Moore

will pay us a visit at Seaham in the course of the

autumn. If so, you and I (without our wives) will

take a bark to Edinburgh and embrace Jeffrey. It

is not much above one hundred miles from us. But

all this, and other high matters we will discuss at

meeting, which I hope will be on your return. We

don't leave town till August.

"Ever, &c."

LETTTER CCXLII.

TO MR. SOTHEBY.

"Sept. 18, 1815. Piccadilly, Terrace.

'Dear Sir,

"I Vian's* is accepted, and will be put in progress

on Keen's arrival.

"The theatrical gentlemen have a confident hope of

its success. I know not that any alterations for

the stage will be necessary: if any, they will be

trivial, and you shall be duly apprized. I would

suggest that you should not attend any except the

latter rehearsals—the managers have requested me
to state this to you. You can see them, viz., Dibdin

and Gifford. Will you please, and I will do any
thing you wish to be done, on your suggestion, in

the mean time.

"Mrs. Mardin is not yet out, and nothing can be
determined till she has made her appearance—I

mean as to her capacity for the part which you mention,

which I take it for granted is not in Vian—as I

think Vian may be performed very well without her.

But of that hereafter.

"Ever yours, very truly,

"BYRON.

"P. S. You will be glad to hear that the season has

begun uncommonly well—great and constant houses

—the performers in much harmony with the com-

munity, and as much good-humour as can be preserved in such complicated and extensive interests as the Drury-Lane proprietory."

LETTTER CCXLII.

TO MR. SOTHEBY.

"Sept. 26, 1815.

'Dear Sir,

"I think it would be advisable for you to see the

acting managers when convenient, as there must be

* A Tragedy, by Mr. Sokeby.

points on which you will want to confer; the objec-

tion I stated was merely on the part of the per-

formers, and is general and not particular to this

instance. I thought it as well to mention it a

once—and some of the rehearsals you will doubtless

see, notwithstanding.

"Rae, I rather think, has his eye on Naritzin for

himself. He is a more popular performer than

Bartley, and certainly the cast will be stronger with

him in it; besides, he is one of the managers, and

will feel doubly interested if he can act in both ca-

pacities. Mrs. Bartley will be Petrowna,—as to the

Empress, I know not what to say or think. The

truth is we are not amply furnished with tragic

women; but make the best of those we have—you

can take your choice of them. We have all great

hopes of the success—on which, setting aside other

considerations, we are particularly anxious, as

being the first tragedy to be brought out since the

old committee.

"By-the-way—I have a charge against you. As

the great Mr. Dennis roared out on a similar occa-

sion—'By G—, that is my thunder!' so do I

exclaim 'This is my lightning! I allude to a speech

of Ivan's, which was put by him last month, and

Dennis and the Empress, where the thought and almost expression are similar to Corrado's in the third canto of the Corsair. I, however, do not say this to accuse you, but to exempt myself from suspicion, as there

is a priority of six months' publication, on my part,

between the appearance of that composition and of

your tragedies.

"George Lambe meant to have written to you.

If you don't like to confer with the managers at

present, I will attend to your wishes—so state

them."

"Yours very truly,

"BYRON."

LETTTER CCXLIII.

TO MR. TAYLOR.

"Sept. 25, Piccadilly, Terrace.

'Dear Sir,

"I am sorry you should feel uneasy at what has

happened. If your editor, his correspondents, and readers, are amused, I have no

objection to be the theme of all the jokes he can

find room for,—provided his luscinations are con-

fined to me only.

"It is a long time since things of this kind have

ceased to fright me from my property: nor do I

know any similar attack which would induce me to

turn again, unless it involved those connected

from me. I hope, are such as to exempt them in the eyes of those who bear no good

will to myself. In such a case, supposing it to oc-

cur,—to reverse the saying of Dr. Johnson,—what

the law could not do for me, I would do for myself; be the consequences what they

might.

"I return you, with many thanks, Colman and the

letters. The poems, I hope, you intended me to

keep; at least, I shall do so, till I hear the con-

trary."

"Very truly yours."

LETTTER CCXLIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Sept. 26, 1815.

"Will you publish the Drury Lane 'Magpie? or what

more, will you give fifty, or even forty, pounds for the copyright of the said? I have un-

An attack on Lord and Lady Byron, in the Sun newspaper, of which

Mr. Sokeby was proprietor.
LETTER CCLXXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Sept. 27, 1815.

'That's right, and splendid, and becoming a publisher of high degree. Mr. Concannon (the translator) will be delighted, and pay his washervoman: and in reward for your bountiful behavior in this instance, I won't ask you to publish any more for Drury Lane, or any lane whatever again. You will have no tragedy or any thing else from me, I assure you, and may think yourself lucky in having got rid of me, for good and all, without more damage. But I'll tell you what we shall do for you,—act Sotheby's will expedite; and the next impression of the dramas of that dramatic gentleman will be expedited to your heart's content; and if there is any thing very good, you shall have the refusal; but you shan't have any more requests.

'Ve have got a thought, and almost the words, from the third canto of the Corsair, which, you know, was published six months before his tragedy. It is from the storm in Conrad's cell. I have written to Mr. Sotheby to claim it; and as Dennis roared out of the pit, 'By G—d, that's my thunder!' so do I, and will I, exclaim, 'By G—d, that's my lightning!' that electrical fluid being, in fact, the subject of the said passage.

'You will have a print of Fanny Kelly, in the Maid, to prefix, which is honestly worth twice the money you have given for the MS. Pray what did you do with the note I gave you about Mungo Park?"

"Ever, &c."

LETTER CCLXXVI.

TO MR. HUNT.

"13, Terence, Picalecty, Oct. 7, 1815.

'My Dear Hunt,

"I had written a long answer to your last, which I put into the fire, partly, because it was a repetition of what I have already said, and next, because I considered what my opinions are worth, before I made you pay double postage, as your proximity lays you within the jaws of the tremendous 'Two-penny,' and beyond the verge of franking, the only parliamentary privilege, (saving one other,) of much avail in these 'costermonger' days.

'Pray don't make me an exception to the 'Long life King Richard' of your bars in the 'Proprietor,' do allow him* to be 'the prince of the barbs of his time,' upon the judgment of those who must judge more impartially than I probably do. I acknowledge him as I acknowledge the Houses of Hanover and Bourbon, the—not the 'one-eyed monarch of the blind,'—but the blind monarch of the one-eyed. I merely take the liberty of a free subject to vituperate certain of his edicts, and that only in private, I shall be very glad to see you, on your remaining canto; if both together, so much the better.—I am interrupted."
be sorry if I suppressed any farther publication of this kind; and I immediately acquiesced, and with great pleasure, for I had attacked them upon a fancied and false provocation with many others; and neither was, nor am sorry, to have done what I could to strike the credit of that tragedy. This was subsequent to my acquaintance with Lord Holland, and was neither expressed nor understood, as a conclu-
sion of that acquaintance. Rogers told me he thought I ought to suppress it. I thought so too, and did as far as I could, and that's all. I sent you my copy, because I consider your having it much the same as having it myself. Lady Byron has one; I desire not to have any other, and sent it only as a curiosity and a memento."

LETTER CCLXXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.


"You are, it seems, in England again, as I am to hear from every body but yourself; and I suppose you punctually as I did not answer your last Irish letter. When did you leave the 'swate country'? Never mind, I forgive you;—a strong proof—I know not what—to give the lie to—

"'He never pardon's who has done the wrong.'

"You have written to * * *. You have also written to Perry, who intimates hope of an opera from you. Coleridge has promised a tragedy. Now, if you keep Perry's word, and Coleridge keeps his own, Drury Lane will be set up;—and, sooth to say, it is in grievous want of such a lift. We began at speed, and are blown already. When I say 'we,' I mean Kinmaird, who is the 'all in all sufficient,' and can count, which none of the rest of the committee can.

"It is really very good fun, as far as the daily and nightly stir of these strutters and frettors goes; and, if the concern could be brought to pay a shilling in the pound, would do much credit to the management. Mr. — has an accepted tragedy, * * * * *, whose first scene is in his sleep, (I don't mean the author's,) It was forwarded to us as a prodigious fav-
vore of Keam's; but the said Keam, upon interro-
gation, denies his eulogy, and protests against his part. How it will end, I know not,

"I say Coleridge about the theme, because there is nothing else alive at this season. All the world are out of it, except us, who remain to lie in,—in December or perhaps earlier. Lady B. is very pon-
derous and prosperous, apparently, and I wish it well over.

"There is a play before me from a personage who signs himself 'Hibernicus.' The hero is Malachi, the Irishman and king; and the villain and usurper, Turgesius, the Dane. The conclusion is fine. Turgesius is chained by the leg (side stage direction) to a pillar on the stage; and 'King Malachi makes him a speech, not unlike Lord Cast-
tleragh's, about the balance of power and the law-
fulness of legitimacy, which puts Turgesius into a phrensy—as Castleragh's would, if his audience was chained by the leg. He draws a dagger and rushes at the orator; but, finding himself at the end of his tether, he strikes it into his own carcass, and dies, saying, he has fulfilled a prophecy.

"Now, this is serious, downright matter of fact, and the gravest part of a tragedy which is not in-
tended for burlesque. I tell you for the honor of Ireland. The writer hopes it will be represented—

"but what is Hope? nothing but the paint on the face of Existence; the least touch of Truth rubs it off, and then we see what a hollow-cheeked harlot we have got hold of. I am not sure that I have not said this last superfine reflection before. But never mind;—it will do for the tragedy of Turgesius, to which I can append it.

"Well, but how dost thou do? thou bard, not of a thousand, but three thousand! I wish your friend, Sir John Barrie, may long have the reputation of the unhappy bard. He designed it not. If the play were not made it public at the trial of the song-seller in Dublin. I tell you why; it is a liberal thing for Longman to do, and honorable for you to obtain; but it will set the 'hungry and discontented land-

"saw judges' upon the fortunate author. But they be d—! the 'Jeffrey and the Moore together are confident against the world in ink!' By-the-

"way, if you mean 'a long'—who is a man of wonderful talent, and in distress, and about to publish two volums of Poesy and Biography, and who has been worse used by the critics than ever we were—will you, if he comes out, promise me to review him favorably in the B. R.? I praise him, I think you must, but you will also praise him well,—of all things the most difficult. It will be the making of him.

"This must be a secret between you and me, as Jeffrey might not like such a project—nor, indeed, might Coleridge himself like it. But I do think he only wants a pioneer, and a spark to two explode most gloriously.

"Ever yours most affectionately,

"B."

LETTER CCLXXX.

TO MR. HUNT.


"MY DEAR HUNT,

"Many thanks for your books, of which you already know my opinion: their external splendor should not disturb you as inopportune—they have still more within than without. I take leave to dif-
fer from you on Wordsworth, as freely as I once agreed with you; at that time I gave him credit for a promise, which is unfulfilled. I still think his capacity warrants all you say of it only, but that his performances since 'Lyrical Ballads' are miserably inadequate to the ability which lurks within him: there is under it all the extraordinary talent spilt over for 'Excursion,' but it is rain upon rocks, where it stands and stagnates, or rain up n sands, where it falls without fertilizing. Who can understand him? Let those who do, make him intelligible. Jacob Behmen, Swedenberg, and J. J. Southcot, are mere types of this arch-apostle of mystery and mys-
ticism. But I have done.—no, I have not done—for I have two petty, and perhaps unworthy, objections in small matter to make to him, which is none of my pretensions to accurate observations, and fury against Pope's false translation of 'the moonlight scene in Homer,' I wonder he should have fallen into those be they.—He says of Greece in the body of his book, that it is a land of

"'Rivers, fertile plains, and sounding shores,

"The rivers are dry half the year, the plains are barren, and the shores still and lifeless as the Mediter-

année can make them; the sky is any thing but variegated, being for months and months but dark-
ly, deeply, beautifully blue.'—The next in his notes, where he talks of our 'Monuments crowded together in the busy, &c., of a large town,' as com-
pared with the 'still seclusion of a Turkish ceme-

tery in some remote place.' This is pure stuff; for

"one monument in our churchyards there are ten in the Turkish, and so crowded that you cannot walk between them; that is, divided merely by a path or road; and as to 'remote places,' men never take the trouble, in a barbarous country, to carry their dead
very far they must have lived near to where they
were buried. There are no cemeteries in 'remote
places,' except such as have the cypress and the
tombstone still left, where the olive and the habitu-
tion of the living have perished. ... These things I
was struck with, as coming peculiarly in my own
way; and in both of these he is wrong: yet I should
have noticed neither, but for his attack on Pope for
a like blunder, and a peevish affection about him
depriving a popularity which he will never obtain.
I write in great haste, and, I doubt, not much to the
purpose, but you have it hot and hot, just as it
comes, and so let it go. By-the-way, both he and
you go too far against Pope's. 'So when the moon,
&c.' It is no translation, I know; but of such false
description as asserted. I have read it on the
spot; there is a burst, and a lightness, and a glow
about the night in the Troad, which makes the
'planets vivid,' and the 'pole glaring.' The moon
is, at least the sky is, clearness itself and I know
no more appropriate expression for the expasion
of such a heaven—o'er the scene—the plain
the sea—the sky—I'de—the Helle-spon—Simon—
Seaman—and the Isles—than that of a flood of
glory.' I am getting horribly lengthy, and must stop
to: the whole of your letter I say 'ditto to Mr. Burke,' as the Bristol candidate cried, by way
of electioneering harangue. You need not speak
of morbid feelings and vexations to me: I have plen-
ity; but I must blame partly the times, and chiefly
myself: but let us forget them. I shall be very apt
do so when I see you next. Will you come to
the theatre and see our new management? You
shall cut it up to your heart's content, root and
branch, afterwards, if you like, but come and see it
if not. I must come and see you.

"Ever yours, very truly and affectionately,"

"BYRON.

"P. S. Not a word from Moore for these two
months. Pray let me have the rest of Rimini. You
have two excellent points in that poem—originality
and Italianism. I will back you as a bard against
half the followers on whom you have thrown away
much good criticism and eulogy; but don't let your
bookseller publish in quarto—it is the worst possible
for circulation. I say this on bibliopolical
authority."

"Again, yours ever,"

"B."

LETTER CCXXXI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Traverse, Piccadilly, Oct. 11, 1815.

"I have not been able to ascertain precisely the
time of duration of the stock market; but I believe
it is a good time for selling out, and I hope so.
First, because I shall see you; and, next, because I
shall receive certain moneys on behalf of Lady B.,
the, which will materially conduct to my comfort.—
I wanting (as the duns say) 'to make up a sum.'
Yesterday I dined out with a largeish party, where
were Sheridan and Colman, Harry Harris of C. G.,
and his brother, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Dr.
Kinnaird, and others of note and notoriety. Like
other parties of the kind, it was first silent, then
larger, then one, then another, then a burst, then
minutegible, then altogether, then inarticulate,
and then drunk. When we had reached the last
step of this glorious ladder, it was difficult to get
down again without stumbling;—and to crown all,
Kinnaird and I had to conduct Sheridan down in
d—d cork-screw staircase, which had certainly been
constructed before the discovery of fermented
liquors, and to which no legs, however crooked,
could possibly accommodate themselves. We de-
posited him safe at home, where his man, evidently
used to the business, waited to receive him in the
hall

"Both he and Colman were, as usual, very good;
but I carried away much wine, and the wine had
previously carried away my memory; so that all
was hiccup and happiness for the last hour or so,
and I am not impregnated with any of the conver-
sation. Perhaps you heard of a late account of
Sheridan to the watchman, who furnished him with
that 'divine particle of air,' called reason,—

"He, the watchman, found Sherry in the street, fuddled and bewitched, and asked

sensible. 'Who are you, sir?'—no answer.

'What's your name?'—a hiccup. 'What's your
name?'—Answer, in a slow, deliberate, and impres-
sive tone,—Wilberforce!!! Is not that Sherry
all over?—and to my mind excellent. Poor fellow,
his very dregs are better than the first sprightly
rungings of others.

"My paper is full, and I have a grievous head-
ache.

"P. S. Lady B. is in full progress. Next month
will bring to light (with the aid of 'Junio Lucina,
for open,' or rather open, for the last are most
wanted) the tenth wonder of the world; Gil Blas
during the eighth, and he (my son's father) the
ninith.'

LETTER CCXXXII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Nov. 4, 1816.

"Had you not bewildered my head with the 'stocks,' your letter would have been answered
directly. Hadn't I to go to the city? and hadn't I
to remember what to ask when I got there? and
didn't I forgotten it?

"I should have immediately delighted to see you;
but I don't like to urge against your reasons my
own inclinations. Come you must soon, for stay
won't. I know you of old;—you have been too
much leavened with London to keep long out of it.

"Lewis is going to Jamaica to suck his sugar
canes. He sails in two days; I enclose you his
farewell note. I saw him last night at D. L. T., for
the last time previous to his voyage. Poor fellow!
he is really a good man—an excellent man—you shall
have me his walking-stick, and a pot of preserved ginger.
I shall never eat the last without tears in my eyes,
it is so hot. We have had a devil of a row among
our ballerinas; Miss Smith has been wronged about
a hornpipe. The committee have interfered; but
Byrne, the d—d ball-master, won't budge a step.
I am furious, so is George Lambe. Kinnaird is very
glad, because—he don't know why; and I am very
sorry, for the same reason. To-day I dine with K—
—we are to have Sheridan and Colman again; and
tomorrow, once more at Sir Gilbert Heathcote's.

"Leigh Hunt has written a real good and very
original poem, which I think will be a great hit.
You can have no notion how very well it is written,
nor should I, had I not redde it. As to us, Tom—
eh, when art thou out? If you think the verses
worth it, I would rather they were embalmed in the
Irish Melodies, than scattered abroad in a separate
song; much rather. But when are thy great things
out? I mean the Po of Pos; thy Shah Nameh.
It is very kind in Jeffrey to like the Hebrew Melo-
dies. Some of the follow here preferred Sternhold
and Hopkins, and said so;—the fiend receive their
souls therefor!

"I must go and dress for dinner. Poor, dear
Murat,—what an end! You know, I suppose,
that his white plume used to be a rallying point in
battle, like Henry the Fourth's. He refused a
confessor and a bandage; so would neither suffer
his soul or body to be bandaged. I was going to
more to-morrow or New Day."

"Ever, &c."

\[\text{[Note: 1943, p. 552.]}\]
LETTER CCLXXXIII

TO MR. MURRAY.  
Nov., 1815.

"When you have been enabled to form an opinion on Mr. Coleridge's MS., you will oblige me by returning it, as, in fact, I have no authority to let it out of my hands. I think most highly of it, and feel anxious that you should be the publisher; but if you are not, I do not despair of finding those who will.

I have written to Leigh Hunt, stating your willingness to treat with him, which, when I saw you, I understood you to be. Terms and time to leave his pleasure and your discernment; but this I will say, that I think it the safest thing you ever engaged in. I speak to you as a man of business; were I to talk to you as a reader or a critic, I should say, it was a very wonderful and beautiful performance, with just enough of fault to make its beauties more remarkable and remarkable.

And now to the last: my own, which I feel ashamed of after the others:—publish or not, as you like, I don't care one damn. If you don't, no one else shall, and I never thought or dreamed of it, except as one in the collection. If it is worth being in the fourth volume, put it there and nowhere else; and if not, put it in the fire.

"Yours,

"N."

LETTER CCLXXXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.  
Nov. 14, 1815.

"I return you your bills not accepted, but certainly not unhonored. Your present offer is a favor which I would accept from you, if I accepted such from any man. Had such been my intention, I can assure you I would have asked you fairly, and as freely as you would give; and I cannot say more of my confidence or your conduct.

"The circumstances which induce me to part with my books,* though sufficiently, are not immediately, pressing. I have made up my mind to them, and there's an end.

"Had I been disposed to trespass on your kindness in this way, it would have been before now; but I am not sorry to have an opportunity of declining it, as it sets my opinion of you, and instead of human nature, in a different light from that in which I have been accustomed to consider it.

"Believe me very truly, &c."

LETTER CCLXXXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.  
Dec. 25, 1815.

"I send some lines, written some time ago, and inscribed as an opening to 'The Siege of Corinth.' I had forgotten them, and am not sure that they and not better be left out now: on that, you and your synod can determine.*"  "Yours, &c."

FRAGMENTS OF LETTERS WRITTEN ABOUT THIS TIME TO MR. HUNT.

"With regard to the English Bards and Scotch Reviewers, I have no complete notes, nor desire to have any, from you or yours, the suppression occurred (I am as sure as I can be of any thing) in the manner stated: I have never regretted that, but very often the composition, that is, the blemish of a great deal in it. As to the quotation you allude to, I have no right, nor indeed desire, to prevent it; but, on the contrary, in common with all other writers, I do and ought to take it as a compliment.

"The paper on the Methodists I redde, and agree with the writer on one point, in which you and he perhaps differ; that an addiction to poetry is very generally the result of an unhealthy, an uneasy body; disease or deformity have been the attendants of many of our best. Collins mad—Chatterton, I think, mad—Cowper mad—Pope crooked—Milton blind—Gray (I have heard that) the last was addicted by an incurable and very grievous distemper, though not generally known; and others—I have somewhere read, however, that poets rarely go mad. I suppose the writer means that their insanity effervesces and evaporates in verses—may be so.

"I have not had time to attack your system, which ought to be done, were it only because it is a system. So, by-and-by, have at you.

"Yours ever,

"BYRON."

"Of 'Rimini,' Sir Henry Englesfield, a mighty man in the blue circles, and a very clever man any where, sent to Murray, in terms of the highest eulogy: and with regard to the common reader, my sister and cousin (who are now all my family, and the last since gone away to be married) were in fixed perusal and delight with it, and they are 'not critical,' but fair, natural, unaffected, and understanding persons. Freer, and all the arch-literati, I hear, are also unanimous in a high opinion of the poem."

LETTER CCLXXXVI.

TO MR. MOORE.  
Jan. 5, 1816.

"I hope Mrs. M. is quite reestablished. The little girl was born on the 10th of December last: her name is Augusta Ada, (the second a very antique family name) but never used since the reign of King John.) She was, and is, very flourishing and fat, and reckoned very large for her days—squalls and snucks incessantly. Are you answered? Her mother is doing very well, and up again.

"I have now been married a year on the second of this month—heigh-ho! I have seen nobody lately much worth noting, except S**, and another general of the Gauls, once or twice at dinner out of doors. S** is a fine, foreign, villainous-looking, intelligent, and very agreeable man; his comrade is more of the petit-maître, and younger, but I should think not at all of the same intellectual caliber with the Coriscaian—which S** you know is, and a cousin of Napoleon's.

"Are you never to be expected in town again? To be sure, there is no one here of the fifteen hundred friends of last rooms, called the fashionable world. My approaching papa-ship detained us for advice, &c., &c.,—though I would as soon be here as any where else on this side of the straits of Gibraltar."

"I would gladly—or, rather, sorrowfully—comply with your request of a dirge for the poor girl you mention. But how can I write on one I have never seen or known? Besides, you will do much better

* In consequence of his pecuniary embarrassment at this time, he had expressed an intention of parting with his books. On hearing this, Mr. Murray instantly forwarded him 1500l, with an assurance that another sum of the same amount she should do at his service in a few weeks, and that if such assurance should not be sufficient, Mr. Murray was most ready to dispose of the uprightness of all his past works for his use.

* See Poems, p. 669.

* I had mentioned to him, as a sub-ject worthy of his best powers of phatus, a melancholy event which had just occurred in my neighborhood, and to which I have myself made allusion is one of the 'Stolen Medals.'—"Upon not for her."—Moore.
yourself. I coul'd not write upon any thing, without some personal experience and foundation; far less on a theme so peculiar. Now, you have both in this case; and, if you had neither, you have more imagination, and would never fail.

"This is but a dull scrawl, and I am but a dull fellow. Just at present, I am absorbed in five hundred contradictory contemplations, though with but little view—which will probably end in nothing, as most things we wish to. But never mind—as somebody says, 'for the blue sky bends over all.' I only could be glad, if it bent over me where it is a little bluer; like the 'skysih top of blue Olympus,' which, by-the-way, looked very white when I last saw it.

"Ever, ec.'"

LETTER CCLXXXVII.

TO MR. HUNT.

"DEAR HUNT,

"I return your extract with thanks for the perusal, and hope you are by this time on the verge of publication. My pencil-marks on the margin of your former manuscripts I never thought worth the trouble of deciphering, but I had no such meaning as you imagine for their being withheld from Murray, from whom I differ entirely as to the terms of your agreement; nor do I think you asked a piastre too much for the poem. However, I doubt not he will deal fairly by you on the whole; he is really a very good fellow, and his faults are merely the leaven of his 'trade'—the trade! the slave-trade of many an unlucky writer."

"The said Murray and I are just at present in no good humor with each other; but he is not the worse for that: I feel sure that he will give your work as fair or a fairer chance in every way than your late publishers; and what he can't do for it, it will do for itself.

"Continual business and occasional indisposition have been the causes of my negligence (for I deny neglect) in not writing to you immediately. These are excuses; I wish they may be more satisfactory to you than they are to me. I opened my eyes yesterday morning on your compliment of Sunday. If you knew what a hopeless and leptargic den of dulness and draving our hospital is during a debate; and what a mass of corruption in its patients, you would wonder, not that I very seldom speak, but that I ever attempted it, feeling, as I trust, I do, independently. However, when a proper spirit is manifested without doors, I will endeavor not to be idle within. Do you think such a time is coming? Methinks there are gleams of it. My forefathers were of the other side of the question in Charles' days, and the fruit of it was a title and the loss of an enormous property.

"If the old struggle comes on, I may lose the me, and shall never regain the other, but no matter; there are things even in this world, better than either.

"Very truly, ever yours, "B.""

LETTER CCLXXXVIII.

TO MR. ROGERS.

"Feb. 8, 1816.

"Do not mistake me—I really returned your rock for the reason assigned, and no other. It is too good for so careless a fellow. I have parted with all my own books and papers, except a Nikolaus, astride dirty, and possibly don't deprive you of so valuable a drop of that immortal man.

"I shall be very glad to see you, if you like to call, though I am at present contending with 'the slain and arrows of outrageous fortune,' some of which have struck me from a quarter whence I did not indeed expect them. But no matter, 'tis a world elsewhere,' and I will cut my way through this as I can.

"Then if you write to Moore, will you tell him that I shall answer his letter the moment I can muster time and spirits?"

"Ever yours, "B.""

LETTER CCLXXXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Feb. 29, 1816.

"I have not answered your letter for a time; and, at present, the reply to part of it might extend to such a length, that I shall delay it till it can be made in person, and then I will shorten it as much as I can.

"In the mean time, I am at war 'with all the world and his wife;' or rather, 'all the world and my wife' are at once with me, and I have yet touched me; I never better knew that in the course of a hair-breadth existence I was ever, at home or abroad, in a situation so completely uprooting of present pleasure, or rational hope for the future, as this. I say this because I think so, and feel it. But I shall not sink under it the more for that mode of considering the question. I have made up my mind.

"By-the-way, however, you must not believe all you hear on the subject; and don't attempt to defend me. If you succeeded in that, it would be a mortal, or an immortal, offence—who can bea refutation? I have but a very short answer for those whom it concerns; and all the activity of myself and some vigorous friends have not yet fixed on any tangible ground or personage, on which or with whom I can discuss matters, in a summary way, with a fair pretext, though I nearly had needed one yesterday, but he evaded by—what was judged by others—a satisfactory explanation. I speak of circulators—against whom I have no enmity, though I must act according to the common code of usage when I hit upon those of the serious order.

"Now for other matters—Poesy, for instance. Leigh Hunt's poem is a devilish good one—quaint, here and there, but with the substratum of originality, and with poetry about it that will stand the test. I do not say this because he has inscribed it to me, which I am sorry for, as I should otherwise have begged you to review it in the Edinburgh. It is really deserving of much praise, and a favorable critic in the B. R. would but do it justice, and set it up before the public eye where it ought to be.

"How are you? and where? I have not the most distant idea what I am going to do myself, or with myself—or what. I had, a few weeks ago, some things to say, that would have made you laugh; but they tell me now that I must not laugh, and so I have been very serious and am.

"I have not been very well with a fever complaint—but better within the last fortnight, though still under medical advice. I have latterly seen a little of... * * * * * *..."

*I must go and dress to dine. My little girl is in the court; she told them as this was a very fine child, and now nearly three months old. Lady Noel (my mother-in-law, or rather, at law) is at present overlooking it. Her daughter (Miss Milbanke that was) is, I believe, in London with her father. A Mrs. Charlont, (now a kind of housekeeper and spy of Lady N.'s) who, in her better days, was a washerwoman, is supposed to be by the learned—very much the occa'st cause of our late..."

* See Poem. p. 960.
BYRON'S WORKS.

magna pars quem similis in our affliction. Yet it is hard for both to suffer for the fault of one, and yet it is—I shall be separated from my wife; he will retain his.

"Ever, &c."

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LETTER CCXC.

TO MR. HUNT.

"Feb. 29, 1819.

DEAR HUNT,

Your letter would have been answered before, had I not thought it probable that, as you were in town for a day or so, I should have seen you;—I don't mean this as a hint at reproach for not calling, but merely that of course I should have been very glad if you had called in your way, home or abroad, as I always would have been, and always shall be. With regard to the circumstances to which you allude, there is no reason why you should not speak openly to me on a subject already sufficiently rife in the months and minds of what is called 'the world.' Of the fifty reports, it follows that forty-nine must have more or less exaggeration; but I am sorry to say, that on the main and essential point of an intended, and, it may be, an inevitable separation, I can contradict none. At present I shall say no more, but this is not from want of confidence; in the mean time, I shall merely request a suspension of opinion. Your preatory letter to 'Himmie' I accepted as I thought, as a public compliment and a private kindness. I am only sorry that it may perhaps operate against you as an inducement, and, with some, a pretext for attack on the part of the political and personal enemies of both; not that this can be of much consequence, for in the end the worst must be judged by its merits, and, in that respect, you are well armed. Murray tells me it is going on well, and you may depend upon it, there is a substratum of poetry, which is a foundation for solid and durable fame. The objections (if there be objections, for this is a presumption, and not an assumption) will be merely as to the mechanical part, and such, as I stated before, the usual consequences of either novelty or reverse. I desired Murray to forward to you my pamphlet with two things of mine in it, the most part of both of them, and of one in particular, written before others of my composing, which have preceded them in publication; they are neither of them of much pretension, nor intended for any subject, but will perhaps wonder at my dwelling so much and so frequently on former subjects and scenes; but the fact is, that I found them fading fast from my memory; and I was not the same much, so partial to their place, (and events connected with it,) that I have stamped them while I could, in such colors as I could trust to now, but might have confused and misplaced hereafter, had I longer delayed the attempted delineation."

LETTER CCXI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"March 3, 1819.

I rejoice in your promotion as Chairman and Charitable Steward, &c., &c. These be dignities which await only the virtuous. But then, recollect, you are six-and-thirty. (I speak this earnestly—not of your age, but the 'honor—love—obedience—troops of friends,' which accompany it,) and I have eight years good to run before I arrive at such honors, which, perhaps, if I am at all, it will probably be in a state of grace or progressive merits."

"I must set you right in one point, however. The fault was not—no, nor even the misfortune,

in my 'choices' (unless in choosing at all) for I don't believe I have, but there is in the drags of all this bitter business, that there ever was a better or even a brighter, a kinder, or a more amiable and agreeable being than Lady B. I never had, nor can have, any reproach to make her, while with me. Where there is blame, it belongs to myself, and, if I cannot redeem, I must bear it.

"Her nearest relatives are a • • •—my circumstances have been and are in a state of great confusion—and your being here has been a good deal of comfort, and my mind ill at ease for a considerable period. Such are the causes (I do not name them as excuses) which have frequently driven me into excess, and disqualified my temper for comfort. Something also may be attributed to the strange and disordered habits which, becoming my own master at an early age, and scrambling about, over and through the world, may have induced. I still, however, think that, if I had had a fair chance, by being placed in even a tolerable situation, I might have gone on fairly. But that seems hopeless, and there is nothing more to be said. At present—except my health, which is better (it is odd, but agitation or contest of any kind has been an encourager of meditations) and up for the time—I have to battle with all kinds of unpleasantnesses, including private and pecuniary difficulties, &c., &c.

"I believe I may have said this before to you,—but I risk repeating it. It is nothing to bear the privations of adversity, or, more properly, ill fortune; but my pride recoils from its indignities. However, I have no quarrel with that same pride, which was, I think, buckler me too much, every thing. If my heart could have been broken, it would have been so years ago, and by events more afflicting than these.

"I agree with you (to turn from this topic to our shop) that I have written too much. The last things were, however, published very reluctantly by me, and for reasons I will explain when I meet. I know not why I have dwelt so much on the same scenes, except that I find them fading, or confining (if such a word may be) in my memory, in the midst of present turbulence and pressure, and I felt anxious to stamp before the die was worn out. I now break with you. With those countries, and events connected with them, all my really poetical feelings begin and end. Were I to try, I could make nothing of any other subject, and that I have apparently exhausted. Who to him," says Voltaire, 'who says all he could say, now there are some on which, perhaps, I could have said still more: but I leave them all, and not too soon.

"Do you remember the lines I sent you early last year, which you still have? I don't wish (like Mr. Fitzgerald, in the Morning Post) to claim the character of 'Vates' in all its translations; but were they not a little prophetic? I mean those beginning: 'This is not the joy the world can,' &c., &c., on which I rather picture myself as being the truest, though the most melancholy, I ever wrote.

"What a scrawl have I sent you! You say nothing of yourself, except that you are a Lancasterian churchwarden, and an encourager of mendicants. When are you out? and how is your family? My child is very well and flourishing, I hear; but I must see also. I feel no disposition to resign it to the control of its own grandmothers, I fear, though I am unwilling to take it from the mother's. It is weaned, however, and something about it must be decided."

"Ever, &c."

"The letter that follows was in answer to one received from Mr. Murray, in which he had enclosed him a draft for a thousand guineas for the copy right of his two poems, the Siege of Corinth and Parisia."

"See Buss, p. 869."
LETTER CCXCVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Jan. 2, 1816.

"Your offer is liberal in the extreme, (you see I see the word to you of and you, though I would not consent to your using it of yourself to Mr. * * * *) and much more than the two poems can possibly be worth; but I cannot accept it, nor will not. You are most welcome to them as additions to the collected volumes, without any demand or expectation on my part whatever. But I cannot consent to their separate publication. I do not like to risk any fame (whether merited or not) which I have been favored with, upon compositions which I do not feel to be at all equal to my own notions of what they should be, (as I flatter myself some have been, here and there,) though they may do very well as things without pretension, to add to the publication with the lighter pieces.

"I am very glad that the handwriting was a favorable omen of the morale of the piece: but you must not trust to that, for my copyist would write out any thing I desired in all the ignorance of innocence—I hope, however, in this instance, with no great peril to either.

"P. S. I have enclosed your draft torn, for fear of accidents by the way—I wish you would not throw temptation in mine. It is not from a disdain of the universal idol, not from a present superficiality of his treasures, I can assure you, that I refuse to worship him; but what is right is right, and must not yield to circumstances."

LETTER CCXCVIII.

TO MR. ROGERS.

"Feb. 8, 1816.

"I wrote to you hastily this morning by Murray, to say that I was glad to do as Mackintosh and you suggested about Mr. * *. It occurs to me now, that as I have never seen Mr. * * but once, and consequently have no claim to his acquaintance, that you or Sir J. had better arrange it with him in such a manner as may be least offensive to his feelings, and so as not to have the appearance of officiousness nor obstruction on my part. I hope you will be able to do this, as I should be very sorry to do any thing by him that may be deemed indelicate. The sum Murray offered and offers was and is one thousand and fifty pounds: this I refused before, because I thought it more than the two things were worth to Murray, and from other objections, which are of no consequence. I have, however, closed with M., in consequence of Sir J.'s and your suggestion, and propose the sum of six hundred pounds to be transferred to Mr. * * in such manner as may seem best to your friend,—the remainder I think of for other purposes.

"As Murray has offered the money down for the copyrights, it may be done directly. I am ready to sign and seal immediately, and perhaps it had better not be delayed. I shall feel very glad if it can be of any use to * *; only don't let him be plagued; nor think himself obliged and all that, which makes people hate one another, &c.

"Yours, very truly, "B."

LETTER CCXCIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Feb. 9, 1816.

"It was large, I admitted and admit; and that made part of my consideration in refusing it, till I knew better what you were likely to make of it. With regard to what is passed or is to pass about Mr. * * the case is in no respect different from the transfer of former copyrights to Mr. Dallas. Had I taken you at your word, that is, taken your money, I might have used it as I pleased; and it could be in no respect different to you whether I paid it to a w—, or a hospital, or assisted a man of talent in distress. The truth of the matter seems this: you offered more than the poems are worth. I said so, and I think so; but you know, or at least ought to know, your own business best; and when you collect what passed between you and me upon pecuniary subjects before this occurred, you will acquit me of any wish to take advantage of your imprudence.

"The things in question shall not be published at all, and there is an end of the matter.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCXCV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"March 5, 1816.

"I sent to you to-day for this reason—the books you purchased are again seized, and, as matters stand, had much better be sold at once by public auction. I wish to see you, to return your bill for them; which, thank God, is neither due nor paid. That part, as far as you are concerned, being settled, (which it can be, and shall be, when I see you to-morrow,) I have no further delicacy about the matter. This is about the tenth execution in as many months; so I am pretty well hardened: but it is fit I should pay the forfeit of my forefather's extravagance and my own; and whatever my faults may be, I suppose they will be pretty well explained in time—or eternity.

"Ever, &c."

"P. S. I need hardly say that I knew nothing till this day of the new seizure. I had released them from former ones, and thought, when you took them, that they were yours.

"You shall have your bill again to-morrow"

LETTER CCXCVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Feb. 3, 1816.

"I sent for 'Marmion,' which I return, because it occurred to me, there might be a resemblance between part of 'Parisina' and a similar scene in canto II. of 'Marmion.' I fear there is, though I never thought of it before, and could hardly wish to imitate that which is imitable. I wish you would ask Mr. Gifford whether I ought to say any thing upon it;—I had completed the story on the passage from Gibbon, which indeed leads to a like scene naturally, without a thought of the kind: but it comes upon me not very comfortably.

"There are a few words and phrases I want to alter in the MS., and should like to do it before you print, and will return it in an hour.

"Yours ever.

LETTER CCXCVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Mar. 20, 1816.

"To return to our business—your epistles are vastly agreeable. With regard to the observations..."
on carelessness, &c. I think, with all humility, that the gentle reader has considered a rather uncommon, and designedly irregular, versification for haste and negligence. The measure is not that of any of the other poems, which (I believe) were allowed to be tolerably correct, according to Bysshe and the fingers—or ears—by which bards write, and readers reckon. Great part of the 'Siege' is (I think) what the learned called Anapaests, (though I am not sure, being heinously forgetful of my metres and my 'Gradus,' and many of the lines intentionally longer or shorter than its rhyming companion; and rhyme also occurring at greater or less intervals of caprice or convenience.

"I mean not to say that this is right or good, but merely that I could have been smoother, had it appeared to me of advantage; and that I was not otherwise without being aware of the deviation, though I now feel sorry for it, as I would undoubtedly rather please than not. My wish has been to try at something different from my former efforts; as I endeavored to make them differ from each other. The versification of the 'Corsair' is not that of 'Lara;' nor the 'Gloamer' that of the 'Bridge.' 'Childe Harold' is again varied from these; and I strove to vary the last somewhat from all of the others.

"Excuse all this—d nonsense and egotism. The fact is, that I am rather trying to think on the subject of this note, than really thinking on it—I did not know you had called: you are always admitted and welcome when you choose.

"Yours, &c., &c.,

P. S. You need not be in my apprehension or grief on my account: were I to be beaten down by the world and its inheritors, I should have succumbed to many things years ago. You must not mistake my not bullying for dejection; nor imagine that because I feel, I am too faint—but enough for the present.

"I am sorry for Sotheby's row. What the devil is it about? I thought it all settled; and if I can do any thing about him or Ivan still, I am ready and willing. I do not think it proper for me just now to be much behind the scenes, but I will see the committee and move upon it, if Sotheby likes.

"If you see Mr. Sotheby, will you tell him that I wrote to Mr. Coleridge, on setting Mr. Sotheby's note, and have, I hope, done what Mr. S. wished on that subject?"

LETTER CCXVIII.

TO MR. ROGERS.

"March 25, 1816.

"You are one of the few persons with whom I have lived in what is called intimacy, and have heard me at times conversing on the untoward topic of my recent family disquietudes. Will you have the goodness to say to me at once, whether you ever heard me speak of her with disrespect, with unkindness, or defending myself at her expense by any serious imputation of any description against her? Did you never hear me say, 'that when there was the right, she had the right?'—The reason I put these questions to you or others of my friends is, because I am said, by her and here, to have resorted to such means of excitation.

"Ever very truly yours,

"B."

LETTER CCXCIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Cheshley, near Lazonbe, June 27, 1816.

"I am thus far (kept by stress of weather) on my run back to Diodati, (near Geneva,) from a voyage in my boat round the lake; and I enclose you a sprig of Gibbon's acacia and some rose leaves from his garden, which, with part of his house, I have just seen. You will find honorable mention, in his Life, made of this 'acacia,' when he walked out on the night of concluding his history. The garden and summer-house, where he composed, are neglected, and utterly decayed; but they still show it as his 'cabinet,' and seem perfectly aware of his memory.

"My route, through Flanders, and by the Rhine, to Switzerland, was what I expected from its rhyming companion; and rhyme also occurring at greater or less intervals of caprice or convenience.

"Three days ago, we were nearly wrecked in a squall off Meillerie, and driven to shore. I ran no risk, being so near the rocks, and a good swimmer; but our party were wet, and incommoded a good deal. The wind was strong enough to blow down some trees, as we found at landing; however, all is righted and right, and we are thus far on our return.

"Dr. Polidori is not here, but at Diodati, left behind in the hospital with a sprained ankle, which he is no doubt acquiring from a wall—he cannot jump.

"I shall be glad to hear you are well, and have received for me certain helms and swords, sent from Waterloo which I rode over with pain and pleasure.

"I have finished a third canto of Childe Harold, (consisting of one hundred and seventeen stanzas,) longer than either of the two former, and in some parts, it may be, better; but of course on that I cannot determine. I shall send it by the first safe-looking opportunity.

"Ever &c.

LETTER CCC.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Diodati, near Geneva, July 28, 1816.

"I wrote to you a few weeks ago, and Dr. Polidori received your letter; but the packet has not made its appearance, nor the epistle, of which you gave notice therein. I enclose you an advertisement, which was copied by Dr. Polidori, and which assures me he is about the most appearance of the most impudent imposition that ever issued from Grub street. I need hardly say that I know nothing of all this trash, nor whence it may spring,—'Odes to St. Helens,' 'Parewinds to England,' &c. &c.—and which is to be disavowed, or is worth disavowing, you have full authority to do so. I never wrote nor conceived a line on any thing of the kind, any more than of two other things with which I was saddled—something about 'Gaul,' and another about 'Mrs. La Valette,' and as to the 'Lily of France,' I should as soon think of celebrating a turnip. 'On the morning of my daughter's birth,' I Lad other things to think of than verses; and could never have dreamed of such an invention, till Mr. Johnston and his pamphlet's advertisement broke in upon me with a new light on the crafts and subtleties of the demon of imitating, or rather publishing.

"I did hope that some succeeding lie would have superseded the thousand and one which were accumulated.

* See notes to canto iii. of Childe Harold.
† The following was the advertisement enclosed:
‡ Newly printed and hot-pressed, 2x, 6d.
§ Lord Byron's Fares to England, with three other poems Odo to St. Helen, To my Daughter on her Birthday, and To the Lily of France.

Printed by J. Johnson, Cheapside, 263; Oxford, 9.

The above beautiful poems will be read with the most lively interest, as it is probably they will be the last of the author's that will appear in Eng land.—(They were written by a Mr. John Agg.)
unrelated during last winter. I can forgive whatever may be said of or against me, but not what they make me say or sing for myself. It is enough to answer for what I have written; but it were too much for Job himself to bear what one has not. I suppose that all that has been wished that his 'enemy had written a book,' he did not anticipate his own name on the title-page. I feel quite as much bored with this foolishly, as it deserves, and more than I should be if I had not a headache.

"Of Glenarvon.* Madame de Staël told me (ten days ago at Copet) marvellous and grievous things; but I have seen nothing of it but the motto, which promises amably 'for us and for our tragedy.' If such be the poet's wish, what should the ring be—a name to all succeeding,† &c. The generous moment selected for the publication is probably its kindest accompaniment, and—truth to say—the time one well chosen. I have not even a guess at the contents, except from the very vague accounts I have heard.

* "I ought not be ashamed of the egotism of this letter. It is not my fault altogether and I shall be but too happy to drop the subject, when others will allow me.

I am in tolerable plight, and in my last letter told you what I had done in the way of rhyme; I trust that you prosper, and that your authors are in good condition. I should suppose your study has received some increase by what I hear. Bertram must be a good horse; does he run next meeting? I hope you will beat the Row.

"Yours always, &c."

LETTER CCCI.

TO MR. ROGERS.

* Vicissi, near Geneva, July 29, 1816.

"Do you recollect a book, Matheson's Letters, which you lent me, which I have still, and yet hope to return to your library? Well, I have encountered at Copet and elsewhere Gray's correspondent, that same Bonstetten, to whom I lent the translation of his correspondent's epistles for a few days; but all he could remember of Gray amounts to little, except that he was the most 'melancholy and genial' of all possible poets. Bonstetten himself is a fine and very lively old man, and much esteemed by his compatriots; he is also a litterateur of good repute, and all his friends have a mania of addressing him, volumes of letters—Matheson, Muller the historian, &c., &c. He is a good deal at Copet, where I have met him a few times. All there are well, except Rocca, who, I am sorry to say, looks in a very bad state of health. Schlegel is in high force, and Madame as brilliant as ever.

"I came here by the Netherlands and the Rhine route, and Basle, Berne, Morat, and Lausanne. I have circumnavigated the Lake, and go to Chamouni with the first fair weather; but really we have had lately such stupid nasts, fogs, and perpetual density, that one would think Castlereagh had the foreign affairs of the kingdom of Heaven also on his hands. I need say nothing to you of these parts, you having traversed them already. I do not think of Italy before September. I have read Glenarvon, and have also seen Ben. Constant's Adolphe, and his preface, denying the real people. It is a work which leaves an unpleasant impression, but very consistent with the consequences of not being in love, which is perhaps as disagreeable as any thing, except being so. I doubt, however, whether all such please (as he calls them) terminate so wretchedly as his hero and heroine's.

"There is a third canto (a longer than either of the former) of Childe Harold finished, and some smaller things,—among them a story on the Chateau de Chillon. I only want a good opportunity to transmit them to your friend Murray, who, I hope, will publish. Where is Moore? Why is he not out? My love to him, and my perfect consideration and remembrances to all, particularly to Lord and Lady Holland, and to your Duchess of Somerset.

"Ever, &c."

* A novel, by Lady Caroline Lamb: Lord Byron, under another name was one of its principal characters.

† The motto is: "He left a name to all succeeding times, Link'd with one virtue and a thousand crimes."

† Maturin's tragedy.

"P. S. I send you a fac simile, a note of Bonstetten's, thinking you might like to see the hand of Gray's correspondent."

LETTER CCCII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Vicissi, Sept. 29, 1816.

"I am very much flattered by Mr. Gifford's good opinion of the MSS. and shall be still more so, if it answers your expectations and justifies his business. I liked it myself, but that must go for nothing. The feelings with which most of it was written need not be envied me. With regard to the price, I fixed none, but let it to Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. Shelley, and yourself, to arrange. Of course, they would do their best; and as to yourself, I knew you would make no difficulties. But I agree with Mr. Kinnaird perfectly, that the concluding few hundred should be only conditional; and for my own sake, I wish it to be added, only in case of your selling a certain number, that number to be fixed by yourself. I hope this is fair. In every thing of this kind there must be risk; and till that be past, in one way or the other, I would not willingly add to it, particularly in times like the present. And pray always recollect that nothing could mortify me more—no failure on my own part—than having made you lose by any purchase of me.

"The Monday† was written by request of Mr. Kinnaird for the theatre. I did as well as I could; but where I have not my choice, I pretend to answer for nothing. Mr. Hoehnse and myself are just returned from a journey of lakes and mountains. We have been to the Grindelwald, and the Jungfrau, and stood on the summit of the Wengel Alp; and seen torrents of nine hundred feet in fall, and glaciers of all dimensions; we have heard shepherd's pipes, and avalanches, and looked on the clouds foaming up from the valleys below us, like the spray of the ocean of hell.† Chamouni, and that which it inherits, we saw a month ago; but, though Mont Blanc is higher, it is not equal in wildness to the Jungfrau, the Eiger, the Shreckhorn, and the Rose Glaciers.

"We set off for Italy next week. The road is within this month infested with bandits, but we must take our chance and such precautions as are requisite."

"Ever, &c.

"P. S. My best remembrances to Mr. Gifford Fray say all that can be said from me to him.

"I am sorry for Mr. Maturin. Maturin is not like Philip's picture. I thought it reckoned a good one. If he had made the speech on the original, perhaps he would have been more readily forgiven by the proprietor and the painter of the portrait."
LETTER CCCIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Diederc, Sept. 30, 1816.

"I answered your obliging letters yesterday; to-day the Monody" arrived with its title-page, which is, I presume, a separate publication. 'The request of a friend:

'Obiged by hunger and request of friends.'

will request you to expunge that same, unless you, please to add, 'by a person of quality,' or 'a wit and humor about town.' Merely say, 'written to be spoken at Drury Lane.' To-morrow I dine at Copet. Saturday I strike tents for Italy. This evening, on the lake in my boat with Mr. Hobhouse, the pole which sustains the mainsail, slipped in tacking, and struck me so violently on one of my legs, (the worst, luckily,) as to make me do a foolish thing, viz., to false—a downstream swoon; the thing must have jolted some nerves or others; for the bone is not injured, and hardly painful, (it is six hours since,) and cost Mr. Hobhouse some apprehension and much sprinkling of water to recover me. The sensation was a very odd one; I never had but two such before, once from a cut on the head from a stone, several years ago, and once (long ago also) in falling into a great wreath of snow;—a sort of gray giddiness first, then nothingness and a total loss of memory on beginning to recover. The last part is not disagreeable, if one did not find it again. You want the original MSS. Mr. Davies has the first fair copy in my own hand, and I have the rough composition here, and will send or save it for you, since you wish it.

"With regard to your new literary project, if any thing falls in the way which will, to the best of my judgment, suit you, I will send you what I can. At present I must lay by a little, having pretty well exhausted myself in what I have sent you. Italy or Dalmatia and another summer may, or may not, set me off again. I have no plans, and am nearly as indifferent what may come as where I go. I shall take Felicia Hemans' Restoration, &c., with me; it is a good poem—very.

'Pray repeat my best thanks and remembrances to Mr. Gifford for all his trouble and good nature towards me.

'Do not fancy me laid up, from the beginning of this scrawl. I tell you the accident for want of better to say; but it is over, and I am only wondering what the deuce was the matter with me. I have lately been over all the Bernese Alps and their lakes. I think many of the scenes (some of which were not those usually frequented by the English) finer than Chamouni, which I visited some time before. I have been to Clarens again, and crossed the mountains behind it; of this tour I kept a short journal for my sister, which I sent yesterday in three letters. It is not all for pupils; but if you like to hear about the romantic part, she will, I dare say, show you what touches upon the rocks, &c.

'Christabel—I want have any one sneer at Christabel: it is a fine, wild poem.

'Madame de Stael wishes to see the Antiquary, and I am going to take it to her to-morrow. She was made Copet as agreeable as society and talent can make any place on earth. 'Yours ever, "N.""

* On the death of Sheri. See Letter Lxxix.

LETTER CCCIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Diederc, Oct. 4, 1816.

"Save me a copy of 'Buck's Richard III.' republished by Longman; but do not send out more books—I have too many.

'The Monody" is in too many paragraphs, which makes it unintelligible to me; if any one else understands it in the present form, they are wiser; however, as it cannot be rectified till my return, and has been already published, even publish it on in the collection—it will fill up the place of the omitted epistle.

'Strike out 'by request of a friend,' which is sad trash, and must have been done to make it ridiculous.

'Be careful in the printing the stanzas beginning "Though the day of my destiny, &c.," which I think well of as a composition.

'The Antiquary' is not the best of the three, but much more above all the last twenty years, saving its older brothers. His Memoirs are valuable, as showing the strength of endurance in the man, which is worth more than all the talent in the world.

'And so you have been publishing 'Margaret of Anjou' and an Assyrian tale, and refusing W.W.'s Waterloo and the 'Buck's GRE,' I know not which most to admire, your rejections or acceptances. I believe that prose is, after all, the most putable; for certes, if one could foresee—but I won't go on—that is, with this sentence, but poetry is. I fear, incurred. God help me! If I proceed in this scribbling, I shall have frustrated away my mind before I am thirty; but it is at times a real relief to me. For the present—good evening"

LETTER CCCIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Marburg, Oct. 9, 1816.

"Thus far on my way to Italy. We have just passed the 'Pisse Vache' (one of the first torrents in Switzerland) in time to view the iris which the sun flings along it before noon.

'I have written to you twice lately. Mr. Davies, I hear, is arrived. He brings the original MS. which you wished to see. Recollect that the printing is to be from that which Mr. Shelley brought; and recollect also that the concluding stanzas of Childe Harold (those to my daughter) which I had not made up my mind whether to publish or not when they were first written, (as you will see marked on the margin of the first copy,) I had (and have) fully determined to publish with the rest of the canto, as in the copy which you received by Mr. Shelley, before I sent it to England.

'Our weather is very fine, which is more than the summer has been. At Milan I shall expect to hear from you Address either to Milan, poste restante, or by way of Geneva, to the care of Mons. Bentche, Banquier. I write these few lines in case my other letter should not reach you; I trust one of them will.

'P.S. My best respects and regards to Mr. Gifford. Will you tell him, it may perhaps be as well to put a short note to that part relating to Clarens, merely to say, that of course the description does not refer to that particular spot so much as to the

* See Poems, p. 354.
LETTER CCCVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"I hear that Mr. Davies has arrived in England, but that of some letters, &c., committed to my care, by Mr. Hobhouse, only half have been delivered. This intelligence naturally makes me feel a little anxious for mine, and among them for the MS. which I wished to have compared with the one sent by me through the hands of Mr. Shelley. I trust that it has arrived safely, and indeed not less so, than some little samples, &c., from Mont Blanc, for my daughter and my nieces, have reached their addresses in the good unprecedented manner from Mr. Davies that no accident (by custom house or loss) has befallen them, and satisfy me on this point at your earliest convenience.

If I recollect rightly, you told me that Mr. Gifford had kindly undertaken to correct the press (at my request) during my absence—least I hope so. It will add to my many obligations to that gentleman.

I wrote to you, on my way here, a short note, dated Martigny. Mr. Hobhouse and myself arrived here a few days ago, by the Simplon and Lago Maggiore route. Of course we visited the Borromean Islands, which are fine, but too artificial. The Simplon is magnificent in its nature and its aspect—both God and man have done wonders—to say nothing of the devil, who must certainly have had his hand (or a hoof) in some of the rocks and ravines through and over which the works are carried.

"Milan is striking—the cathedral superb. The city altogether reminds me of Seville, but a little inferior. We had heard divers bruits, and took precautions on the road, near the frontier, against some 'many worthy fellows (i.e. fellows) that were out,' and had ransacked some preceding travellers, a few weeks ago, near Neuchatel, I forget which, of cash and raiment, besides putting them in bodily fear, an I lodging about twenty slugs in the retreating part of a courier belonging to Mr. Hope. But we were not molested, and, I do not think, in any danger, except of making mistakes in the way of cooking and priming whenever we saw an old house, or an ill-looking thickset, and now and then suspecting the 'true men,' who have very much the appearance of the thieves of another country. What the thieves may look like, I know not, nor desire to know, for it seems they come upon you in bodies of thirty ("in buckram and Kendal green") at a time, so that voyagers have no great chance. It is something like poor Turkey in that respect, but not so bad; for there you can have as great a body of rogues to match the regular banditti; but here the gens d'armes are said to be no great things, and as for what you have heard, poor Mr. W. and Mr. M. and the rest of the other literati."

"I have been to the Ambrosian library—it is a fine collection—full of MSS. edited and unedited. I enclosed you a list of the former recently published; these are matters of great force. For me, in my simple way, I have been most delighted with a correspondence of letters, all original and amatory, between Lucretia Borgia and Cardinal Bembo, preserved there. I have poured over them and a long hair, the prettiest and fairest imaginable—I never saw fairer—and shall go repeatedly to read the epistles over and over; and if I can obtain some of the hair by fair means, I shall try. I have already persuaded the librarian to promise me copies of the best letters, and I hope he will not disappoint me. They are short, but very simple, sweet, and to the purpose; there are some copies of verses in Spanish also by her; the rest of her hair is long, and as I said before, beautiful. The Brera gallery of paintings has some fine pictures, but nothing of a collection. Of painting I know nothing; but I like a Guercino—a picture of Abraha, in Fagar and Ishmael—which seems to me natural and goodly. The Flemish school, such as I saw it in Flanders, I utterly detested, despised, and abhorred; it might be painting, but it was not nature; the Italian is pleasing, and their ideal very noble."

"The Italians I have encountered here are very intelligent and agreeable. In a few days I am to meet Monti. By the way, I have just heard an anecdote of Becarría, who published such admirable things against the punishment of death. As soon as his book was out, his servant (having read it, I presume) stole his patch. and his master, while correcting the press of a second edition, did all he could to have him hanged by way of advertisement."

"I forgot to mention the triumphal arch begun by Napoleon, as a gate to this city. It is unfinished. But the part that is worthy of a Roman and the same country. The society here is very odd, and carried on,—at the theatre, and the theatre only,—which answers to our opera. People meet there as at a rout, but in very small circles. From Milan I shall go to Venice. If you write, I shall go to Geneva, as before—the letter will be forwarded."

"Yours ever"

LETTER CCCVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"I have recently written to you rather frequently, but without any late answer. Mr. Hobhouse and myself set out for Venice in a few days; but you had better still address me at Mr. Hentsch's, Banquier, Geneva; he will forward your letters."

"I do not know whether I mentioned to you, some time ago, that I had parted with the Dr. Poli's Divan to a few very friends in London, but I know no great harm of him; but he had an alacrity of getting into scrapes, and was too young and heedless; and having enough to attend to in my own concerns, and without time to become his tutor, I have not thought it necessary to watch his career. I arrived at Milan some weeks before Mr. Hobhouse and myself. About a week ago, in consequence of a quarrel at the theatre with an Austrian officer, in which he was exceedingly in the wrong, he has contrived to get sent out of the territory, and is gone to Florence. I was not present, the pit having been the scene of altercation; but on being sent for from the Cavalier Breme's box where I was quietly sitting at the ballet, I found the man of medicine begirt with grenadiers, arrested by the guard, conveyed into the guard-room, where there was much swearing in several languages. They were going to keep him there for the night; but on giving my name, and answering for his apparition next morning, he was permitted egress. Next day he had an order from the government to be gone in twenty-four hours, and accordingly gone he is, some days since. I do not think we could have done, for to no great purpose; and indeed he brought it upon himself, as far as I could learn, for I was not present at the squabble itself. I believe this was the real state of his body of literature, and I tell you it because I believe, and sometimes reach you in England in a false or exaggerated form. We found Milan very polite and hospitable, and have the same hopes of Verona and Venice. I have finished my paper."

Ever yours, &c.
LETTER CCCCIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

Vernon, Nov. 6, 1819.

"My dear Moore," your letter, written before my departure from England and addressed to me in London, only reached me recently. Since that period, I have been over a portion of that part of Europe which I had never visited. About the middle of August, I crossed the Alps from Switzerland to Milan, which I left a few days ago, and am thus far on my way to Venice, where I shall probably winter. Yesterday I was on the island of San Giorgio, where the Florissus with fremitu. Catullus's Sirmium has still its name and site, and is remembered for his sake; but the very heavy autumnal rains and mists prevented our quitting our route (that is, Hobhouse and myself, who are at present voyaging together,) as it was better not to see it all than to a great disadvantage.

"I found on the Benacus the same tradition of a city still visible in calm weather below the waters, which you have preserved of Lough Neagh, 'When the clear, cold eve's declining.' I do not know that it is authorized by records; but they tell you such a story, and say that the city was swallowed up by an earthquake. We moved to-day nearer to the frontier to Verona, by a road suspected of thieves—'the wise convoy it call,'—but without molestation. I shall remain here a day or two to gaze at the usual marvels—opera, theatres, paintings, and all that time-tax of travel—though Catullus, Claudian, and Shakespeare have done more for Verona than it ever did for itself. They still pretend to show, I believe, the 'tomb of all the Capulets'—we shall see.

"Among many things at Milan, one pleased me particularly, viz., the correspondence (in the prettiest love-letters in the world) of Lucretia Borgia with Cardinal Bembo, (who, you say, made a very good cardinal), and very fond of art, and songs, and Spanish verses of hers.—the lock very fair and beautiful. I took one single hair of it as a relic, and wished sorely to get a copy of one or two of the letters; but it is prohibited: 'that I don't mind,' but it was impracticable; and so I only got some of them by heart. They are kept in the Ambrosian Library, which I often visited to look them over—to the scandal of the librarian, who wanted to enlighten me with sundry works of MSS., the bibliographical, and pious. But I stick to the Pope's daughter, and wish myself a cardinal.

"I have seen the finest parts of Switzerland, the Rhone, and the Swiss and Italian lakes, and the beauties of which I refer you to the guide-book. The north of Italy is tolerably free from the English; but the south swarms with them, I am told. Madame de Stael I saw frequently at Copet, which she renders remarkably pleasant. She has been particularly kind to me. I was for some months her neighbour, in a country-house called Diodati, which I had on the Lake of Geneva. My plans are very uncertain; but it is probable that you will see me in England in the spring. I have some business there. If you write to me, will you address to the care of Mons. Hentsch, Banquier, Geneva, who receives and forwards my letters. Remember me to Rogers, who wrote to me lately, with a short account of your poem, which, I trust,ns near the light. He speaks of it most highly.

"I am very endurable; not that I am subject to casual giddiness and faintness, which is so like a fine lady, that I am rather ashamed of the disorder. When I sailed, I had a physician with me, whom, after some months of patience, I found it expedient to part with, before we left Geneva with safety. On arriving at Milan, I found this gentleman in very good society, where he prospered for some weeks; but, at length, at the theatre, he quarrelled with a gentleman, and was left out by the government in twenty-four hours. I was not present at his squabble; but on hearing that he was put under arrest, I went and got him out of his confinement, but could not prevent his being sent off which, indeed, he partly deserved, being quite it, the wrong, and having begun a row for row's sake. It had been his custom to take the Austrian months myself, in giving him his congé from Geneva. He is not a bad fellow, but very young and hot-headed, and more likely to incur diseases than to cure them. His manners and my conduct found it useless to intercede for him. This happened some time before we left Milan. He is gone to Florence.

"At Milan I saw, and was visited by, Monti, the most celebrated of the living Italian poets. He seems now about 65, but of a damp constitution, and only capable of delivering his verse, as the actor. His frequent changes in politics have made him very unpopular as a man. I saw many more of their literati; but none whose names are well known in England, except Rogers. I lived much with the Italians, particularly with the Marquis of Brome's family, who are very able and intelligent men, especially the Abate. There was a famous impresario who held forth while I was there. His scenery astonished me; but although I understand Italian, and speak it, (with more readiness than accuracy,) I could only carry off a few very common-place mythological images, and one line about Artemisia, and another about Algiers, with sixty words of an entire tragedy about Etiocles and Polyynes. Some of the Italians liked him—others called his performance 'seccatura' (a devilish good word, I must say)—and all Milan was in controversy about him.

"The state of morals in these parts is in some sort lax. A mother and son were pointed out at the theatre, as being pronounced by the Milanese the world to be of the Theban dynasty—but this was all. The narrator (one of the first men in Milan) seemed to be not sufficiently scandalized by the taste or the tie. All society in Milan is carried on at the opera; they have private boxes, where they play at cards, or talk, or any thing else; but (except at the cassino) there are no open houses, or balls, &c., &c.

"The peasant girls have all very fine dark eyes, and many of them are beautiful. There are also two dead bodies in fine preservation—one Saint Carlo Borromeo (which is in the church) and but a chief, named Visconti, at Monza—both of which appeared very agreeable. In one of the Baromese isles, (the Isola bella,) there is a large temple of Apollo, and a noble palace. I am staying there just before the battle of Marengo, carved with his knife the word 'Battaglia.' I saw the letters, now half worn out and partly erased.

"Excuse this tedious letter. To be tiresome is the privilege of old age and absence. I am myself of the latter, and the former I have anticipated. If I do not speak to you of my own affairs, it is not from want of confidence, but to spare you and myself. My day is over; what then?—I have had it. To be sure, I have shortened it;* and if I had done as much by this letter, it would have been as well. But you will forgive that, if not the other faults of an old man.

Yours, ever and most affeetionately yours, B."

* P. S. I have been over Verona. The amphitheatre is wonderful—heats even Greece. Of the truth of Juliet's story, they seem tenacious to a degree, insisting on the fact—giving a date, (1903,) and showing a tomb. It is a plain, open, and partly decayed structure, with whitewashed leaves in it, in a wild and desolate conventual garden, once a cemetery, now ruined to the very graves. The situation struck me as very appropriate to the legend, being lighted as their love. I have brought away a

---

See Deon Jean, carte L. stanoe cowell, &c.
few pieces of the granite, to give my daughter and my nieces. Of the other marvels of this city, of the palaces, &c., excepting the tombs of the Scaliger princes, I have no pretensions to judge. The Gothic monuments of the Scaligers pleased me, but 'a poor virtuo am I,' and "Ever yours."

LETTER CCCIX

TO MR. MOORE.

"Venice, Nov. 17, 1816.

I wrote to you from Verona the other day in my progress hither, which letter I hope you will receive. Some three years ago, or it may be more, I recollect your telling me that you had received a letter from our friend Sam, dated 'On board his gondola.' My gondola is, at this present, waiting for me on the canal; but I prefer writing to you in the house, it being autumn—and rather an English autumn than otherwise. It is my intention to remain at Venice during the winter, probably, as it has always been (next to the East) the greenest island of my imagination. It has not disappointed me; though the evident decay would, perhaps, have been felt upon others. But I have been familiar with ruins too long to dislike desolation. Besides, I have fallen in love, which, next to falling into the canal, (which would be of no use, as I can swim,) is the best or the worst thing I could do. I have got some extremely good apartments in the house of a 'Merchant of Venice,' who is a good deal occupied with business, and has a wife in her twenty-second year. Marion (that is her name,) is in her appearance altogether like an antelope. She has large, black, oriental eyes, with that peculiar expression in them which is seen rarely among Europeans—especially the Italians—and which many of the Turkish women give themselves by tinging the eye-lid,—an art not known out of the country, I believe. This expression she has naturally—and something more than this. In short, I cannot describe the effect of this kind of eye,—at least upon me. Her features are regular, and rather aquiline—mouth small—skin clear and soft, with a kind of hectic color—forehead remarkably good; her hands as big as gloves, and her voice as sweet as that of Lady Martha's: her figure is light and pretty, and she is a famous songstress—scientifically so: her natural voice (in conversation, I mean) is very sweet; and the naïveté of the Venetian dialect is always pleasing in the mouth of a woman.

"Nov. 23.

"You will perceive that my description, which was proceeding with the minuteness of a passport, has been interrupted for several days. In the mean time,"

"Dec. 5.

"Since from my former dates, I do not know that I have much to add on the subject, and, luckily, nothing to take away from it; for I am not so much impressed than any Venetian, and begin to feel very serious on that point,—so much so, that I shall be silent.

"By way of diversion, I am studying daily, at an Armenian monastery, the Armenian language; I found that my mind wanted something craggly to break upon; and this—as the most difficult thing I could discover here for an amusement—I have chosen, to torture me into attention. It is a rich language, however, and would amply repay any one the trouble of learning it. I try, and shall go on; but I answer for nothing, least of all for my intentions or my success. There are some very curious MSS. in the monastery, as well as books; translations also from Greek originals, now lost, and from Persian and Syriac, &c.; besides works of their own people. Four years ago the French instituted an Armenian professorship. Twenty pupils presented themselves on Monday morning, full of noble ardor, ingenuous youth, and improppable industry. They persevered, with a courage worthy of the nation, and of universal conquest, till Thursday; when fifteen of them succumbed to the sixteenth and twentieth letter of the alphabet. It is, to be sure, a Waterloo of an alphabet—that must be said for them. But it is so like these fellows, to do by it as they did by their sovereigns—abandon both to parody the old rhymes. 'Take a thing and give a thing!' 'Take a king and give a king.' They are the worst of animals, except their conquerors.

"I hear that Hodgson is your neighbor, having a living in Derbyshire. You will find him an excellent-hearted fellow, as well as one of the cleverest; a little, perhaps too much, japauned by preference in the church, and the tuition of youth, as well as inoculated with the disease of domestic felicity, besides being overrun with fine feelings about woman and constancy, (that small change of love, which people exact so rigidly, receive in such couterier coin, and repay in baser metal;) but, otherwise, a very decent fellow, who has a daughter, his wife, and (I suppose) a child by this time. Pray remember me to him, and say that I know not which to envy most—his neighborhood, him, or you.

"Of Venice there is said little, as if there have been seen many descriptions; and they are most of them like. It is a poetical place; and classical, to us, from Shakespear and Otway.* I have not yet sinned against it in verse, nor do I know that I shall do so, having been tuneless since I crossed the Alps, and feeling, as yet, no renewal of the 'estro.' By-the-way, I suppose you have seen 'Glenarvon.' Madame de Stael lent it to me to read. Copet last night. It seems to me, that if the authores had written the truth, and nothing but the truth—the whole truth—the romance would not only have been more romantic, but more entertaining. As for the likeness, the picture can't be good—I did not sit long enough. When you have leisure, let me hear from and of you, believing me ever and truly yours, most affectionately, "B.

"P. S. Oh! your poem—is it out? I hope Longman has paid his thousands: but don't you do as Horace Twiss's father did, who, having made money by a quarat tour, became a vinegar merchant; when lo! his vinegar turned sweet (and he d—d to it) and ruined him. My last letter to you (from Verona) was enclosed to Murray—have you got it? Direct to me here, poste restante. There are no English here at present. There were several in Switzerland—some women; but, except Lady Dalrymple Iam Iton, most of them as ugly as virtue—at least, those that I saw."

LETTER CCX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Venice, Dec. 24, 1816.

"I have taken a fit of writing to you, which portends postage—once from Verona—once from Venice, and again from Venice—three is that. For this you may thank yourself, for I heard that you complained of my silence—so, here goes for a gabulity.

"I trust that you received my other twain of letters. My 'way of life' (or 'May of life,' which is, according to another denomination, 'May of pot life') is fallen into great regularity. In the mornings I go over in my gondola to hobble Armenian with the friars of the convent of St. Lazarus, and to help one of them in correcting the English of an

* See Childe Harold, cano iv., stanza iv. and xvii.
BYRON'S WORKS.

English and Armenian grammar which he is publishing. In the evenings I do one of many nothingseither at the theatres, or some of the conversa-
tions, which are like our routs, or rather worse, for
the women sit in a semi-circle by the lady of the man-
sion, and then stand up when the room is full. But
be sure, there is one improvement upon ours instead
of lemonade with their ice, they hand about stiff
um-punch—punch, by my palate! and this they think
English. I do not disfigure them of so
agreeable an error,—no, not for Venice.'

"Last night I was at the Count Governor's,
which, of course, comprises the best society, and is
very much like other gregarious meetings in every
consequence, but the hospitable and the ninte of the
bishop of Winchester, you have the patriarchy of
Venice; and a motley crew of Austrians, Germans,
noble Venetians, foreigners, and, if you see a quiz,
you may be sure he is a consul. Oh, by-the-way, I
forgot, when I wrote from Verona, to tell you that at
Milan I met with a countryman of yours—a Colonel
****, a very excellent, good-natured fellow, who
knows and shows all about Milan and is, as it were,
a native there. He is particularly civil to strangers,
and this is his history,—at least, an episode of it.

"Six-and-twenty years ago Col. *****, then an
enfant being in Italy, fell in love with the Marchesa
*****, and she with him. The lady must be, at
least, twenty years his senior. The war broke out;
he returned to England, to serve— not his country,
for that's Ireland, but England, which is a different
thing; and she—heaven knows what she did. In
the year 1814, the first announcement of the defini-
tive treaty of peace (and tyranny) was developed to
the astonished Milanese by the arrival of Col. ****,
who, flinging himself full length at the feet of
Madame *****, murmured forth, in half-forgotten
Irish Italian, eternal vows of indelible constancy.
The lady screamed and exclaimed, 'Who are you?'
The Colonel cried, 'What, don't you know me? I
am so and so,' &c., &c., &c.; till, at length, the
Marchesa, mounting from reminiscence to remi-
niscence, through the lovers of the intermediate
twenty-five years, arrived at last at the recollection
of her povero sub-lieutenant. She then said, 'Was
there ever such virtue? ' (that was her very word,
and, being now a widow, gave him apartments in
her palace, reinstated him in all the rights of wrong,
and held him in the most admiring world, as a mira-
cle of incontinent fidelity, and the unshaken Abdell of
absence.

"Methinks this is as pretty a moral tale as any of
Marmontel's. Here is another. The same lady,
several years ago, made an escapade with a Swede,
Count Fersen, (the same whom the Stockholmb mob
quarter'd and lapsed not very long since,) and
they arrived at an ostelia on the road to Rome, or
thereabouts. It was a summer evening, and, while
they were at supper, they were suddenly regaled by
a symphony of fiddles in an adjacent apartment, so
prettily played, that, wishing to hear them more
distinctly, the Count rose, and going into the mu-
sical society, said, ' Gentlemen, I am sure that, as
a company of gallant cavaliers, you will be delighted
to show your skill to a lady, who feels anxious,' &c.
&c. The men of harmony were all acquain-
tance—every instrument was tuned and toned, and,
striking up one of their most ambrosial airs, the
whole band followed the Count to the lady's apart-
ment. At their head was the first fiddler, who
bowing and fiddling at the same moment, headed
his troop and advanced up the room. Death and
discord—it was the Marquis himself, who was on a
scandling party in the court, while his sponsor
had run away from the town. The rest may be imag-
ined—but, first of all, the lady tried to persuade
him that she was there on purpose to meet him,
and he acquiesced in this method of an harmonic sur-
prise So much for this gossip, which amused me
when I heard it, and I send it to you, in the hope it
may have the like effect. Now we I return to
Venice.

"The day after to-morrow (to-morrow being
Christmas day) the Carnival begins. I dine with
the Countess Albornizi and a party, and go to the
opera. On that day the Phoenix (not the insurance
office but the theatre of that name) opens: I have
got me a box there for the season, for two reasons,
one of which is, that the music is remarkably good
The Conte a Alberti, of whom I have made men-
tion, is the De Stael of Venice, not young, but a
very learned, unaffected, good-natured woman, very
polite to strangers, and, I believe, not at all dross,
late, as most of the women are. She has written
very well on the politics of Carneval, and also a volume
of characters, besides other printed matter. She is
of Corfu, but married a dead Venetian—that is,
dead since he married.

"My name (my ' Donna ') whom I spoke of in my
former epistle, my Marianna, and I her—what she
pleases. She is by far the prettiest woman I have
seen here, and the most lovable I have met with
anywhere—as well as one of the most singular. I
believe I told you the rise and progress of our liaisons
in my former letter. Lest that should not have
reached you, I will merely repeat that she is a Venet-
ian, two-and twenty years old, married to a mer-
chant well to do in the world, and that she has great
black oriental eyes, and all the qualities which her
eyes promise. Whether being in love with her has
steeled me or not, I do not know; but I have not
seen many other Venetians who seemed pretty. The
nobility, in particular, are a sad-looking race—the
gentry rather better. And now, what art thou
doing?

"What are you doing now?
Oh, Thomas Moore?
What are you doing now,
Oh, Thomas Moore?
Ringing or swinging now,
RHYMING or wooling now,
Billing or cooing now.
Which, Thomas Moore?

Are you not near the Luddites? By the Lord! If
there's a row, but I'll be among ye! Ho! How go
the weavers—the breakers of frames—the Lutherans
of politics—the reformers?

"As the liberty lies over the sea
Bought their freedom, and cheaply, with blood,
So we, boys, we,
Will die fighting, or live free,
And down with all kings but king Ludd!

"When the web that we weave is complete,
And the shuttle exchanged for the sword,
We will sing the winding-sheet
Over the dead at our feet,
And lie it deep in the grave he has pour'd.

"Though black as his heart is he base,
Since his veins are corrupted to mud,
Yet, this is the jewels
Which the tree shall renew,
Of liberty, planted by Ludd!

There's an amiable chanson for you—all impromptu.
I have written it principally to shock your neighbor
Hodgson, who is all clergy and loyalty—mirth and
innocence—milk and water.

"But the Carnival's coming,
Oh, Thomas Moore
The Carnival's coming,
Oh, Thomas Moore
Masking and humming,
Filing and drumming,
Guttaeering and strumming,
Oh, Thomas Moore.

The other night I saw a new play,—and the author
The subject was the sacrifice of Isaac. The play

*See Letter cvii.
and regret theattle of hackney coaches, without which they can sleep.

I have got remarkably good apartments in a private house; I see something of the inhabitants, having had a good many letters to some of them; I have got my gondola; I read a little, and luckily could speak Italian (more fluently than correctly) long ago. I am studying out of curiosity, the Venetian dialect, which is very native, and soft, and peculiar, though not at all classical; I go out frequently, and am in very good contentment.

'The Helen of Canova (a bust which is in the House of Madame the Countess d'Alberti, whom I know), is without exception, to any mind, the most perfectly beautiful of human conceptions, and far beyond my ideas of human execution.

Talking of the 'heart' reminds me that I have fallen in love, which, except falling into the canal (and that would be useless, as I swim,) is the best (or worst) thing I could do. I am therefore in love—fathomless love; but lest you should make some splendid mistake, and envy me the possession of some of those princesses or countesses with whose affections your English voyagers are apt to invest themselves, I beg leave to tell you that my goddess is only the voice of a merchant (Merchant of a Merchant, as the saying is) and that she is very plain, and not twenty years old, has the large, black, oriental eyes, with the Italian countenance, and dark glossy hair, of the curl and color of Lady Jersey's. Then she has the voice of a late, and the song of a seraph (though not quite so sacred,) besides a long postscript of graces, virtues, and accomplishments, enough to furnish out a new chapter of Solomon's Song. But her great merit is in finding out mine, for there is nothing so amiable as discernment. Our little arrangement is completed, the usual oaths having been taken, and every thing fulfilled according to the 'understood relations' of such liaisons.

'The general race of women appear to be handsomely in Italy, as on almost all the continent, The highest orders are by no means a well-looking generation, and indeed reckoned by their countrymen very much otherwise. Some are exceptions, but most of them are as ugly as Virtue herself.

'If you write, address to me here, poste restante, as I shall probably stay the winter over. I never see a newspaper and know nothing about England, except in a letter now and then from my sister. Of the MS. sent you, I know nothing, except you have received it, and are to publish it, &c., &c.; but when, where, and how, you leave me to guess; but it doesn't much matter.

'I suppose you have a world of works passing through your process for next year? When does Moore's Poem appear? I sent a letter for him, addressed to your care the other day.'
your publication anticipated by the 'Cambridge,' or other Chronicles. In the next place—I forget what was next; but, in the third place, I want to hear whether you have yet published, or when you mean to do so, or why you have not done so, because your friend, (Sept. 28—you may be ashamed of the date,) you talked of this being done immediately.

"From England I hear nothing, and know nothing of anything or any body. I have but one correspondent, Mr. Kinnaird, on business now (and then,) and her a female; so that I know no more of your island, or city, than the Italian version of the French papers chooses to tell me, or the advertisements of Mr. Collurn tagg'd to the end of Mr. Quarterly Reviews for the year ago. I wrote to you at some length last week, and have little to add, except that I have begun, and am proceeding in, a study of the Armenian language, which I acquire, as well as I can, at the Armenian convent, where I go every day to take lessons of a learned friar, and have gained some singular and not useless information with regard to the language and customs of that oriental people. They have an establishment here—a church and a convent of ninety monks—very learned and accomplished men, some of them. They have also a press, and make great efforts for the enlightening of their nation. I find the language (which is twin, the literal and the vulgar) difficult, but not invincible, (at least, I hope not,) I shall go on. I found it necessary to twist my mind round some severe study, and this, as being the hardest I could devise here, will be a file for the serpent.

"I mean to remain here till the spring, so address to me directly to Venice, poste restante.—Mr. Hobhouse, for the present has gone to Rome, with his brother, brother's wife, and sister, who overtook him here; he returns in two months. I should have gone too, but I fell in love, and must stay that over. I should think that and the Armenian alphabet will last the winter. The lady has, luckily for me, been less obdurate than the language, or, between the two, I should have lost my remains of sanity. By-the-way she is not an Armenian but a Venetian, as I believe I told you in my last. As for Italian, I am fluent enough, even in its Venetian modification, which is something like the Somersetshire version of English; and as for the more classical dialects, I had not forgot my former practice much during my voyaging.

"Yours, ever and truly,

"P. S. Remember me to Mr. Gifford."
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...so say) he left it on, and she got up and sang a trio with the two Consuls, the Senate in the back ground being chorus. The ballet was distinguished by nothing remarkable, except that the principal shepherdess, a lady of her age, came on the first act, being applauded on her first appearance; and the manager came forward to ask if there was ' ever a physician in the theatre.' There was a Greek in my box, who remarked, 'It makes no matter, they have but to order the service, being sure that in this case these would have been the last convulsions which would have troubled the ballants; but he would not. The crowd was enormous, and in coming out, having a lady under my arm, I was obliged, in making way, as almost to 'beat a Venetian, and traduce the state,' being compelled to regale a person with an English punch in the guts, which sent him as far back as the squeeze and the passage would admit. He did not ask for another, but with great signs of disapprobation and dismay, appealed to his compatriots, who laughed at him.

I am going on with my Armenian studies in a morning, and assisting and stimulating in the English portion of an English and Armenian grammar, now publishing at the convent of St. Lazarus.

'The superior of the friars is a bishop, and a fine old fellow, with the board of a meteor. Father Paschal is also a learned and pious soul. He was two years in England.

I am still dreadfully in love with the Adriatic lady whom I spoke of in a former letter (and not to this) — I add, for fear of mistakes, for the only one mentioned in the first part of this epistle is elderly and bookish, two things which I have ceased to admire, and love in this part of the world is no shewere. This is also the season when every body make up their intrigues for the ensuing year, and cut for partners for the next deal.

And now, if you don't write, I don't know what I won't say or do, for what I will. Send me some rows — good rows.

"Yours, very truly, &c., &c., &c.,"

"B."

"P. S. Remember me to Mr. Gifford, with all my love.

I hear that the Edinburgh Review has cut up Coleridge's Christabel, and me for praising it, which, I think, bodes no great good to your forth-coming or coming canto and Cato (of Chillon.) My run of luck within the last year, has taken a turn every way; but never mind, I will bring myself through in the end—if not, I can be but where I began. In the mean time, I am not displeased to be where I am—I mean at Venice. My Adriatic my love is not diverted here, and I must therefore repose from this letter."

LETTER CCCXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Jan. 9, 1817.

"Your letter has arrived. Pray, in publishing the third canto, have you omitted any passages? I hope not; and indeed wrote to you on my way over the Alps to prevent such an incident. Say in your next whether or not the whole of the canto (as sent to you) has been published. I wrote to you again the other day, (twice I think,) and shall be glad to hear of the receipt of those letters.

To-day is the 2d of January. On this day three years ago, the Corinna's publication is dated, I think in my letter to Moore. On this day two years I married (Whom the Lord love he chasteneth)—I shan't forget the day in a hurry, and it is odd enough that I this day received a letter from you announcing the publication of Child Harold, &c., &c., on the day of the date of the Corinna; and I also received one from my sister, written on the 10th of December, my daughter's birth-day, and relative chiefly to my daughter, and arriving on the day of my marriage, this present 2d of January, the month of my birth, and various other astrologers matters, which I have no time to enumerate.

By the way, you might as well write to Hentsch my Geneva banker, and inquire whether the two packets consigned to his care were or were not delivered to Mr. St. Aubyn, or if they are still in his keeping. One contains papers, letters, and the other the original MSS. &c., which I was compelled to send in fragments; and the other some bones from the field of Morat. Many thanks for your news, and the good spirits in which your letter is written.

"Venice and I agree very well; but I do not know that I have anything new to say except of the last new opera, which I sent in my late letter. The Carnival is commencing, and there is a good deal of fun aere and there—besides business; for all the worst have made up their intrigues for the season, changing, or going on upon a renewed lease. I am very well off with Marianna, who is not at all a person to tire me; firstly, because I do not expect that tire of a meteor. Father Paschal is also a learned and pious soul. He was two years in England.

I am still dreadingly in love with the Adriatic lady whom I spoke of in a former letter (and not to this) — I add, for fear of mistakes, for the only one mentioned in the first part of this epistle is elderly and bookish, two things which I have ceased to admire, and love in this part of the world is no shewere. This is also the season when every body make up their intrigues for the ensuing year, and cut for partners for the next deal.

And now, if you don't write, I don't know what I won't say or do, for what I will. Send me some rows—good rows.

"Yours, very truly, &c., &c., &c.,"

"B."

"P. S. Remember me to Mr. Gifford, with all my love.

I hear that the Edinburgh Review has cut up Coleridge's Christabel, and me for praising it, which, I think, bodes no great good to your forth-coming or coming canto and Cato (of Chillon.) My run of luck within the last year, has taken a turn every way; but never mind, I will bring myself through in the end—if not, I can be but where I began. In the mean time, I am not displeased to be where I am—I mean at Venice. My Adriatic my love is not diverted here, and I must therefore repose from this letter."

* See Childe Harold, canto III., stanza 163. and note.
and France - French the res. I still pursue my
lessons in the language without any rapid progress,
but advancing a little daily. Padre Paschal, with
some little help from me, as translator of his Italian
into English, is also proceeding in a MS. grammar
for the English acquisition of Armenian, which will
be printed also when finished.

"We want to know if there are any Armenian
types and letter-press in England, at Oxford, Cam-
bridge, or anywhere else? You know, I suppose, that,
many years ago, the two Whistons published in
England an original text of a history of Armenia,
with their own Latin translation? Do those types
still exist, and where? Pray inquire among your
learned acquaintance.

"When this grammar (I mean the one now print-
ing) is done, will you have any objection to take
forty or fifty copies, which will not cost in all above
five or ten guineas, and try the curiosity of the
learned with a sale of them? Say yes or no, as you
like. I can assure you that they have some very
curious books and MSS., chiefly translations from
Greek originals now lost. They are, besides, a
much-respected and learned community, and the
study of their language was taken up with great
ardor by some literary Frenchmen in Bonaparte's
time.

"I have not done a stitch of poetry since I left
Switzerland, and have not at present the estro
upon me. The truth is, that you are afraid of having a
fourth canto before me, and I fear not my copy
right, but I have at present no thoughts of resume-
ing that poem, nor of beginning any other. If I
write, I think of trying prose, but I dread intro-
ducing living people, or applications which might
be made to living people. Perhaps one day or other
I may attempt some work of fancy in prose, descrip-
tive of Italian manners and of human passions;
but at present I am preoccupied. As for poesy,
mine is before me, and I have not passion for it
when they are awake, I cannot speak their language,
only in their somnambulism, and just now they are
not dormant.

"If Mr. Gifford wants carte blanche as to the Siege
of Corinth, he has it, and may do as he likes with
it.

"I sent you a letter contradictory of the Cheap-
side man (who invented the story you speak of) the
other day. I have not heard from him for some time,
and such of my friends as you may see at your house.
I wish you all prosperity and your new year's gratula-
tion, and am,

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCCXVI.

TO MR. MOORE.

Venice, Jan. 26, 1817.

Your letter of the 8th is before me. The repre-
dy for your plethora is simple - abstinence. I was
obliged to have recourse to the like some years ago,
I mean in point of diet, and, with the exception of some
convivial weeks and days, (it might be months
now and then,) I have kept to Pythagoras ever since.
For all this, let me hear that you are better. You
must not indulge in "filthy beer," nor in porter, nor
eat suppers - the last are the devil to those who
swallow dinners.

"I am truly sorry to hear of your father's mis-
fortune - cruel at any time, but doubly cruel in
advanced life. However, you will, at least, have
the satisfaction of doing your duty by him, and,
depend upon it, it will not be in vain. Fortune
be sure, is a female, but not such a b - as the rest
(always excepting your wife and my sister from
such sweeping terms); for she generally has some
justice in the long run. I have no spite against her,
though, between her and Nemesis, I have had
some sore gauntlets to run - but then I have done
my best to deserve no better. But to you, she is a
good deal in arrear, and she will come round - mind
if she don't: you have the vigor of life, of inde-
pendence, of talent, spirit, and character, all with
you. With you, I suppose, that you will do and
will; and surely there are some others in the
world who would not be sorry to be of use, if
you would allow them to be useful, or at least
attempt it.

"I think of being in England in the spring. If
there is a row, by the sceptre of King Ludd, but:
I'll be one; and if there is none, and only a con-
nexion of 'this weak, piping time of peace,' I
will take a grand sweep in my hundred yard of
your abode, and become your neighbor; and we
will compose such canticles, and hold such dia-
logues, as shall be the terror of the Times, (includ-
ing the newspaper of that name,) and the wonder,
and honor, and praise of the Morning Chronicle
and posterity.

"I rejoice to hear of your forthcoming in Febru-
ary - though I tremble for the magnificence which
you attribute to the new Childe Harold. I am glad
you like it; it is a fine, indistinct piece of poetical
desolation, and my favorite. I was half mad during
the time of its composition, between metaphysics,
and mountains, and nights, and unutterable, and
the nightmare of my own delin-
quences. I should, many a good day, have blown
my brains out, but for the recollection that it would
have given my sister her due, and to her even then, if I
could have been certain to haunt her, and fling the
shattered scalp of my sinicup and oeciput in her frightful face - but I don't dwell
upon these trifling family matters.

"Venice is in the estro of her Carnival, and I have
been up these last two nights at the ridotto
and the opera, and all that kind of thing. Now
for an adventure. A few days ago a gondolier
brought some conversations; when I was
writing a wish on the part of the writer to meet me
either in gondola, or at the island of San Lazaró,
or at a third rendezvous indicated in the note. 'I
know the country's disposition well,' - in Venice
they do let heaven see those tricks they dare not show,' &c., &c.; so for all response, I said
that neither of the three places suited me; but that I
would either be at home at ten at night alone,
but that I might meet me masked. At ten o'clock I was at
home and alone, (Marianna was gone with her hus-
band to a conversazione,) when the door of my
apartment opened, and in walked a well-looking
and (for an Italian) bionda girl of about nineteen,
who informed me that she was married to the bro-
ther of my amoro, and wished to have some con-
versation with me. I made a decent reply, and
we had some talk in Italian and Romaine, (her
mother being a Greek of Corfu;) when lo! in a
very few minutes in marchese, to my very great
astonishment, Marianna 5 * 5, in propria persona
and, after making a most polite curtsey to her
sister-in-law and to me, without a single word,
seizes her said sister-in-law by the hair, and ce-
stows upon her some sixteen slaps, which would
have made your ear ache only to hear their echo.
I need not describe the screaming which ensued.
The luckless visiter took flight. I seized Marianna,
who, after several vain efforts to get away in pursuit
of the enemy, fairly went into fits in my arms; and,
in spite of knocking, eau de Cologne, vinegar, half
a pint of water, and God knows what other water.
besides, continued so till past midnight.

After damning my servants for letting people
in without a signal (which is done by me, Marianna in
the morning had seen her sister-in-law's gondolier
on the stairs; and, suspecting that his apparition
boded her no good, had either returned of her own
accord, or was snatched away by her maid, who
spyed her people to the conversazione, from whence
she returned to perpetrate this piece of pugilism
LETTER CCXCVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Jan. 34, 1817.

"I have been requested by the Countess Albrizzi here to present her with 'the Works;' and wish you therefore to send me a copy, that I may comply with her requisition. You may include the last published, of which I have seen and know nothing, but only your letter of the 15th of December last.

"Mrs. Leigh tells me that most of her friends prefer the first two cantos. I do not know whether this be the general opinion or not, (it is not here;) but it is natural it should be so. I, however, think differently. I consider it natural, as it is right, or who is wrong, is of very little consequence.

"Dr. Polidori, as I hear from him by letter from Pisa, is about to return to England, to go to the Brazils on a medical speculation with the Consul. As you are in the favor of the powers that be, could you not get him some letters of recommendation from some of your government friends to some of the Portuguese settlers? he undoubtedly is in want of general talents; his faults are the faults of a pardonsable vanity and youth. His remaining with me was out of the question: I have enough to do to manage my own scrapes; and as precepts without example are not the most gracious homilies, I thought it better to give him your congé: but I know no great harm of him, and some good. He is clever and accomplished, and accounts, well; and is honorable in his dealings and not at all malevolent. I think, with luck, he will turn out a useful member of society, (from which he will profit, and the College of Physicians. If you can be of any use to him, or know any one who can, pray be so, as he has his fortune to make. He has kept a medical journal under the eye of Vvecce, (the first surgeon on the continent,) and Vvecce is a very valuable man; and it must contain some valuable hints or information on the practice of this country. If you can aid him in publishing this also, by your influence with your brethren, do; I do not ask you to publish it yourself, because that sort of request is too personal and embarrassing. He has also a tragedy, of which, having seen nothing, I say nothing: but the very circumstance of his having made these efforts (if they are only efforts), at one-and-twenty, to gain his favor, and proves him to have good dispositions for his own improvement. So if, in the way of commendation or recommendation, you can aid his objects with your government friends, I wish you success. For besides my own, I fear he on his part, who was such a member of the Charity Board might be likely to have it in their power."

LETTER CCXCVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Feb. 15, 1817.

"I have received your two letters, but not the parcel you mention. As the Waterloo spoils are arrived, I will make you a present of them, if you choose to accept of them; pray do.

"I do not exactly understand from your letter what has been omitted, or what not, in the publication; but I shall see probably some day or other I could not attribute any but a good motive to Mr. Gifford or yourself in such omission; but as our politics are so very opposite, we should probably differ as to the passages. However, if it is only a note or notes, or a line or so, I cannot signify, You say 'a poem,' what poem? You can tell me in your next.

"Of Mr. Hobhouse's quarrel with the Quarterly Review, I know very little except *'s an article itself, which was certainly harsh enough: but I quite agree that it would have been better not to answer—particularly after Mr. W. W., who never more will trouble you, trouble you. I have been uneasy, because Mr. H. told me that his letter or preface was to be addressed to me. Now, he and I are friends of many years; I have many obligations to him, and he none to me, which have not been cancelled and more than repaid; but Mr. Gifford and I are friends also, and he has moreover cut us really so close, and thin, in despite of difference of years, morals, habits, and even politics: and therefore I feel in a very awkward situation between the two. Mr. Gifford and my friend Hobhouse, and can only wish that they had no difference; tip that such as they have were accommodated. The answer I have not seen, for—"it is odd enough for people so intimate—Mr. Hobhouse and I are very sparing of our literary confidence, and from the example of the Danish, I wished to have a MS. of the third canto to read over to his brother, &c., which was refused; and I have never seen his journals, nor he mine.—(Only kept the short one of the mountains for my sister)—nor do I think they have ever been published, or his other's productions previous to their publication.

"The article in the Edinburgh Review on Coleridge I have not seen; but whether I am attacked
BYRON'S WORKS

in it or not, or in any other of the same journal, I shall never think ill of Mr. Jeffrey on that account, nor forget that his conduct towards me has been certainly most handsome during the last four or more years.

I forgot to mention to you that a kind of poem in dialogue* (in blank verse) or drama, from which the Inquisition is an extract, begun last summer in Switzerland, is finished; it is in three acts; but of a very wild, metaphysical, and inexplicable kind. Almost all the persons—three or three—a-spirits of the earth and air, or the waters; the scene is in the Alps; the hero a kind of magician, who is tormented by a species of remorse, the cause of which is left half unexplained. He wanders about jokkering these spirits, which appear to him, at are of no use; he at last goes to the very abode of the Evil Principle, in propria persona, to evoke a ghost, which appears, and gives him an ambiguous and disagreeable answer; and in the third act he is found by his attendants dying in a tower where he had studied his art. You may perceive by this outline that I have no great opinion of this piece of phantasy; but I have at least endeavored it quite impossible for the stage, for which my intercourse with Drury Lane has given me the greatest contempt.

I have not even copied it off, and feel too lazy at present to attempt the whole; but when I have, I will send it you, and you may either throw it into the fire or not.

LETTER CCCXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

Venice, Feb. 26, 1817.

I wrote to you the other day in answer to your letter; at present, I would trouble you with a commission, if you would be kind enough to undertake it.

You perhaps know Mr. Love, the jeweller, of Old Bond street. In 1813, when in the intention of returning to Turkey, I purchased of him, and paid (argent comptant) about a dozen snuff-boxes, of more or less value, as presents for some of my Musulman acquaintance. These I have now with me. The other day, having occasion to make an alteration in the lid of one, (to place a portrait in it,) it has turned out to be silver gilt instead of gold, to which last it was sold and paid for. This was discovered by the workman in trying it, before taking off the hinges and working upon the lid. I have of course recalled and preserved the box in statu quo. What I wish you to do is, to see the said Mr. Love, and inform him of this circumstance, adding from me, that I will take care he shall not have done this with impunity.

If there is no remedy in law, there is at least the equitable one of making known his guilt,—that is, his silver gilt, and be d—d to him.

I will carefully preserve all the purchases I made of him on that occasion for my return, as the plague in Turkey is a barrier to travelling there at present, or rather the endless quarantine which would be the consequence before one could land in the country. Pray state the matter to him with due ferocity.

I sent you the other day some extracts from a kind of drama which I had begun in Switzerland and finished here; you will receive them as I have already copied them, and preserved them in a letter. I have not yet had energy to copy it out, or I would send you the whole in different covers.

The Carnival closed this day last week.

Mr. Hobhouse is still at Rome, I believe. I am at present a little unwell; sitting up too late and some subsidiary dissipations have lowered my blood a good deal; but I have at present the quiet and temperance of Lent before me.

P. S. Remember me to Mr. Gifford. I have not received your parcel or parcels. Look into Moore's (Dr. Moore's) View of Italy for me; in one of the volumes you will find an account of the Doxe Valiere (it ought to be Falleri) and his conspiracy, or the motives of it. Get it transcribed for me, and send it in a letter to me soon. I want it, and cannot find so good an account of that business here; though the veiled patriot, and the place where he was crowned, and afterwards decapitated, still exist, and are shown. I have searched all their histories; but the policy of the old aristocracy made their writers silent on his motives, which were a pitiful grievance against one of the patriots.

I mean to write a tragedy on the subject, which appears to me very dramatic; an old man, jealous, and conspiring against the state, of which he was the actually reigning chief. The last circumstance makes it the most remarkable and only feet of the kind in all history of all nations.

LETTER CCCXXX.

TO MR. MOORE.

Venice, Feb. 26, 1817.

You will, perhaps, complain as much of the frequency of my letters now, as you were wont to do of their rarity. I think this is the fourth within as many moons. I feel anxious to hear from you, even more than usual, because your last indicated that you were unwell. At present, I am on the invalid regimen myself. The Carnival—that is, the latter part of it—and sitting up late one night, had knocked me up a little. But it is over,—and it is now Lent, with all its abstinance and sacred music.

The mumming closed with a masked ball at the Fenice, where I went, as also to most of the Ridottas, &c., &c.; and though I did not dissipate much upon the whole, yet I found the sword wearing out the seaboard, though I have but just turned the corner of twenty-nine.

So we'll go no more a roving, Though the heart be still as loving, Though the moon be still as bright, For the sword of passion is sheath'd, And the soul wears out the breast, And the heart must pause to breathe, And love half lost have rest.

Though the night was made for loving, And the day returns too soon, Yet we'll go no more a roving By the light of the moon.

I have lately had some news of literature, as I heard the editor of the Monthly pronounce it once upon a time. I heard that W. W. has been publishing and responding to the attacks of the Quarterly, in the learned Perry's Chronicle. I read his poems last autumn, and, among other epistles, found an epithalam on his bull-dog, and another on myself. But I beg leave to assure him (like the astrologer Partridge) that I am not only alive now, but was alive also at the time he wrote it.

Hobhouse has (I hear, also) expectorated a letter against the Quarterly, addressed to me. I feel awkwardly situated between him and Gifford, both closed the Quarterly last week.

And this is your month of going to press—by the body of Diana! (a Venetian oath,) I feel as anxious—but not fearful for you—as if it were myself coming out in a work of humanities which would, you know, be the antipodes of all my previous
I don't think you have anything to dread but your own reputation. You must keep up to that. 

To Murray.

"Venice, March 8, 1817.

"In acknowledging the arrival of the article from the Quarterly, which I received two days ago, I cannot express myself better than in the words of my sister Augusta, who (speaking of it) says, that it is "in the spirit of the Rush (as) of kind nature. It is, however, something more: it seems to me (as far as the subject of it may be permitted to judge) to be very well written as a composition, and I think will do the journal credit, because even those who condemn its partiality must praise its generosity. The temptations to take another and a less favorable view of the question have been so great and numerous, that what with public opinion, politics, &c., he must be a gallant as well as a good man, who has ventured in that place, and at this time, to write such an article even anonymously. Such things are, however, the best revenge, and I even flatter myself that the writer, whoever he may be, and I have no guess, will not regret that the perusal of this has given me so much gratification as any composition of that nature could give, and more than any other has given, and I have had a good many in my time of one kind or the other. It is not the mere praise, but there is a tacit and a delicacy throughout, not only with regard to me, but to others, which, as it had not been observed elsewhere, I had till now doubted whether it could be observed any where.

"Perhaps some day or other you will know or tell me the writer's name. Be assured, had the article been a harsh one, I should not have asked it.

"I have lately written to you frequently, with extracts, &c., whether I have received, or will receive, with or becure this letter. Ever since the conclusion of the Carnival I have been unwell, (do not mention this, on any account, to Mrs. Leigh: for it is a great horse, should I recover, and if I get better, there is no occasion that she should know it at all,) and have hardly stirred out of the house. However, I don't want a physician, and if I did, very likely those of Italy are the worst in the world, so that I should still have a chance. They have, I believe, one famous surgeon, Vacca, who lives at Pisa, who might be useful in case of dissection—but he is some hundred miles off. My malady is a sort of slow fever, originating from what my 'pastor and master,' Jackson, would call 'taking too much out of one's self.' However, I am better within this day or two.

"I missed seeing the new Patriarch's procession to St. Mark's on Monday, (owing to my indisposition,) with six hundred and fifty priests in his rear—a 'goody army.' The admirable government of Vienna, in its edict from thence, authorizing his Holiness to remit, or not remit, his coat of arms, &c., &c., the grandeur, the mass of installation, in short, will puzzle the philosophers of all ages. But I doubt whether my constitution will hold out. I have, at intervals, exercised it most devilishly.

"I have not yet fixed a time of return, but I think of the spring. I shall have been away a year in April next. You never mention Rogers, nor Hodgson, your clerical neighbor, who has lately got a living near you. Has he also got a child yet? his desideratum when I saw him last.

"Pray, let me hear from you, at your time and leisure, believing me ever and truly, and affectionately, &c."

LETTER CCXXI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, March 9, 1817.

"In remedy the third act of the sort of dramatic poem, of which you will by this time have received the first two, (at least I hope so,) which were sent within the last three weeks, I have little more to observe, except that you must not suppose that the author of the Rush (as) of kind nature. It is, however, something more: it seems to me (as far as the subject of it may be permitted to judge) to be very well written as a composition, and I think will do the journal credit, because even those who condemn its partiality must praise its generosity. The temptations to take another and a less favorable view of the question have been so great and numerous, that what with public opinion, politics, &c., he must be a gallant as well as a good man, who has ventured in that place, and at this time, to write such an article even anonymously. Such things are, however, the best revenge, and I even flatter myself that the writer, whoever he may be, and I have no guess, will not regret that the perusal of this has given me so much gratification as any composition of that nature could give, and more than any other has given, and I have had a good many in my time of one kind or the other. It is not the mere praise, but there is a tacit and a delicacy throughout, not only with regard to me, but to others, which, as it had not been observed elsewheres, I had till now doubted whether it could be observed any where.

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LETTER CCXXXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, March 9, 1817.

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"Pray, let me hear from you, at your time and leisure, believing me ever and truly, and affectionately, &c."

* A's article in number xxvi. of this Review, written, as Lord Byron afterward discovered, by Sir Walter Scott.
LETTER CCXXXIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

[Venice, March 16, 1817.]

"I wrote again to you lately, but I hope you won't be sorry to have another epistle. I have been unwell this last month, with a kind of slow and low fever, which fixes upon me at night, and goes off in the morning; but, however, I am now better. In spring it is probable we may meet; at least I intend for England, where I have business, and hope to meet in your restored health and additional laurels.

"Murray has sent me the Quarterly and the Edinburgh. When I tell you that Walter Scott is the author of the article in the former, you will agree with me that such an article is still more honorable to him than to myself. I am perfectly pleased with Jeffrey's also, which I wish you to tell him, with my remembrances—not that I suppose it is of any consequence to him, or ever could have been, whether I am pleased or not,—but simply in my private relation to that your poem is unjust, and in the name of to-day, as his acquaintance. I wish you would also add,—what you know,—that I was not, and, indeed, am not even now, the misanthropical and gloomy gentleman he takes me for, but a facetious companion, well to do with those with whom I am intimate, and as loquacious and laughing as if I were a much cleverer fellow.

"I suppose now I shall never be able to shake off my sables in public imagination, more particularly since my moral clove down my fame. However nor that, nor more than that, has yet extinguished my spirit, which always rises with the rebound.

"At Venice we are in Lent, and I have not lately moved out of doors,—my feverishness requiring quiet,—and by way of being more quiet—here is the Signora Marianna just come in and seated at my elbow.

"I have seen * * *'s book of poetey and, if you have seen it, are you not delighted with it? And have you—I really cannot go on. There is a pair of great black eyes looking over my shoulder, like the angel leaning over St. Matthew's in the old frontispiece to the Evangelists,—so that I must turn and answer them instead of you.

"Ever, etc."

LETTER CCXXXIV.

TO MR. MOORE.

[Venice, March 25, 1817.]

"I have at last learned, in default of your own writing, (or not writing—which should it be?) for I am not very clear as to the application of the word default,) from Murray, two particulars of (are belonging to) you; one, that you are removing to Hornsey, which is, I presume, to be nearer London; and the other, that you are contracted to have a booth in my 'Persian Tales,' not that I suppose you want either dog or tail. Talking of tail, I wish you had not called it a 'Persian Tale.' Say a 'poem' or 'romance,' but not 'tail.' I am very sorry that I called some of my own things tail because I think that they are something better. Besides, we have had Arabian, and Hindoo, and Turkish, and Assyrian Tales. But, after all, this is frivolous in me; you would, however, mind my sentence.

"Really and truly, I want you to make a great hit, if only out of self-love, because we happen to be old cronies, and I have no doubt you will— I am sure you can. But you are, I'll be sworn, in a devil
of a pucker; and I am not at your elbow, and Rogers is. I curvily (which is the air, because
they does not curvily any body. Mind you send to me
—that is, make Murray send—the moment you are.

I have been very ill with a slow fever, which at
last, after some days fighting, I became
But, at length, after a week of half delirium, burning
skin, thirst, hot headache, horrible pulsation, and
no sleep, by the blessing of barley water, and
refusing to see any physician, I recovered.

In the epidemic of smallpox, which is annual, and
visits strangers. Here follow some versicles, which I
made one sleepless night:

"I read the 'Christian';
Very well;
I read the 'Miscellany';
Pretty well;
2 tried at 'Milton';
Alms
I read a sheet of 'Margaret of Anjou'
Char. gen.? I turn'd a page of 'A Winter's;
Foot! Foot!
Looked at Wordsworth's milk-white 'Rylstone Doe';
Ville!
I read another 'too, by * * *
God bless you!"

"I have not the least idea where I am going,
or what I am to do. I wished to have gone to
Rome; but at present it is pestilent with English,
a parcel of staring boobies, who go about gaping
and wishing to be at once cheap and magnificent.
A man is a fool who travels now in France or Italy,
and this tribe of wretches is swept home again.
In two or three years the first rush will be over, and
the Continent will be roomy and agreeable.

"I stayed at Venice chiefly because it is not one
of their 'dens of thieves;' and here they but pause
and pass. In Switzerland it was really noxious.
Luckily, I was early, and had got the prettiest place
on all the lake before they were quickened into
motion with the rest of reptiles. But they crossed me
every where. I met a family of children and
old women half way up the Weingen Alp (by the
Jungfrau) upon males, some of them too old and
others too young to be the least aware of what they
saw.

"By-the-way, I think the Jungfrau, and all that
region of Alps, which I traversed in September—
going to the very top of the Weingen, which is now
the highest, (the Jungfrau itself is inaccessible),
but the best point of view—much finer than Mont
Blanc and Chamouni, or the Simplon. I kept a
journal of the whole for my sister Augusta, part of
which she copied and let Murray see.

"I wrote a sort of mad drama, for the sake of
introducing the Alpine scenery in description; and
this I sent lately to Murray. Almost all the dramas
purs. are spirits, ghosts, or magicians, and the scene
is in the Alps and the other world; so you may sup-
pose what a heraldic tragedy it must be: make him
show it you. I sent him all three acts piecemeal,
by the post, and suppose they have arrived.

"I have now written to you at least six letters, or
letterets, and all I have received in return is a note
about the length you used to write from Bury street
to St. James's street, when we used to dine with
Rogers, and talk lastly, and go to parties, and bear
the poor Sheridan now and then. Do you remember
one night he was so tipsy that I was forced to put
his cocked hat on him—for he could not, and—
I let him do what his brother's, much as he must shun
have been let down into his grave. Heigh ho! I
wish I was drunk—but I have nothing but this d—
barley water before me.

"I am still in that which is a dreadful drawback
in quitting a place, and I can't stay at Venice much
longer (but I shall do on this point I don't
know. The girl means to go with me, but I do not
like this for her safety, and so many conflicts in my own mind on this subject, that I may
not at all sure they did not help me to the fever I
mentioned above. I am certainly very much at-
tached to her, and I have cause to be so, if you knew all. She is a child, and needs the care of all
the 'children of the sun,' she consults nothing but
passion, it is necessary I should think for both;
and it is only the virtuous, like * * *, who can
afford to give up husband and child, and live happy
ever after.

"The Italian ethics are the most singular ever
met with. The perversion, not only of action, but
of reasoning, is singular in the women. It is not
that they do not consider the thing itself as wrong,
and very wrong, but love (the sentiment of love) is
not merely an excuse for it, but makes it an actual
virtue, provide, it is disinterested, and not a caprice,
and is confined to one object. They have awful
notions of constancy; for I have seen some ancient
figures of eighty pointed out as amorous of forty,
fifty, and sixty years' standing. I can't say I have
ever seen a husband and wife so coupled.

"P. S. Marianna, to whom I have just translated
what I have written on our subject to you, says—
"If you loved me thoroughly, you would not make
so many fine reflections, which are only good for
"Avert i scarpe, what is, 'to clean shoes with,'
"Venetian proverb of appreciation, which is applicable
to reasoning of all kinds.'"

LETTER CCCXV

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, March 25, 1817.

"Your letter and enclosure are safe; but 'Eng-
lish gentlemen' are very rare—at least in Venice. I
doubt whether there are at present any save the
consul and vice-consul, with neither of whom I have
the slightest acquaintance. The moment I can
pounce upon a witness, I will send the deed properly
signed: but must he necessarily be gentile? Venice
is not a place where the English are gracious;
their pigeon-houses are Florence, Naples, Rome,
&c.; and to tell you the truth, this was one reason
why I stayed here till the season of the purgation
of Rome from these people, which is infected with
them at this time, should arrive. Besides, I abhor
the nation, and the nation me; it is impossible for
me to describe my own sensation on that point, but
it may suffice to say, that, if I met with any of the
race in the beautiful parts of Switzerland, the most
distant glimpse or aspect of them poisoned the
whole scene; and I do not choose to have the Pan-
theon, and St. Peter's, and the Capitol, spoiled for
me too. This feeling may be probably owing to
recent events; but it does not exist the less, and
while it exists, I shall conceal it as little as any
other.

"I suppose I have been seriously ill with a fever, but it is
gone. I believe or suppose it was the indigenous
fever of the place, which comes every year at this
time, and of which the physicians change the name
annually, to despatch the people sooner. It is a
kind of typhus, and kills occasionally. It was pret-
ty smart, but nothing particular, and has left me
some debility and a great appetite. There are a
good many ill at present, I suppose of the same.

"I feel some for Fortune, if there is any thing
in the world to make him like it: and still more
sorry for his friends, as there was much to make
them regret him. I had not heard of his death till
after your letter.

"Some weeks ago I wrote to you my acco
ledgments of Walter Scott's article. Now I know
BYRON'S WORKS.

"And mind you do not let cases
These rhymes to Morning Post or Petty,
What would be for very touching—very,
And get me into such a scrape?
For, firstly, I should have to sadly,
All in a little box, against a Galaxy;
And should I chance to say the Assyrian night,
Have next to combat with the female knight,
And, pitch'd to death, expire upon her score—
A sort of end which I should take indeed ill.

"You may shew these matters to Moore and the select, but not to the profane; and tell Moore, that wonder he don't write to one now and then.""

LETTER CCXXXVI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Vendoe, March 31, 1817.

"You will begin to think my epistolary offerings (to whatever altar you please to devote them) rather prodigal. But until you answer I shall not abate, because you deserve no better. I know you are well, and that you have nothing on your voyage. Romance? I feel as anxious for Moore as I could do for myself, for the soul of me, and I would not have him succeed otherwise than splendidly, which I trust he will do.

"With regard to the 'Whit' Drama,' I sent all the things I have so far written, we expect a week, within this last month. I repeat that I have not an idea if it is good or bad. If bad, it must, on no account, be risked in publication; if good, it is at your service. I value it at three hundred guineas, or less, if you like it. Perhaps, if published, the best way will be to add it to your winter volume, and not publish separately. The price will show you I don't pique myself upon it. I speak out. You may put it in the fire, if you like, and Gifford don't like.

"The Armenian Grammar is published—that is, one; the other is still in MS. My illness has prevented me from moving this month past, and I have done nothing more with the Armenian.

"Of Italian or rather Lombard manners, I could tell you little or nothing: I went two or three times to the governor's conversations, (and if you care you may always go there,) but I saw very plain women, a formal circle, in short, a worst sort of rout, I did not go again. I went to Academie and to Madame Albrizzi's, where I saw pretty much the same thing, with the addition of some little gossip, as was the same for every other over the world. I fell in love the first week with Madame *, *, and I have continued so ever since, because she is very pretty and pleasing, and talks Venetian, which amuses me, and is naive. I have seen all their spectacles and sights; but I do not know any thing very worthy of observation, except that the women kiss better than those of any other nation, which is notorious, and attributed to the worship of images, and the early habit of osculation induced thereby. Very truly, &c.

P. S. Pray send the red tooth-powder by a sole kid, and speedily."

Mr. Galley Knight, the author of 'Elibraria.'
LETTER CCCXXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, April 2, 1817.

I sent you the whole of the drama at three several times, act by act, in separate covers. I hope that you have, or will receive, some or the whole of it.

So Love has a conscience. By Diana! I shall make him take back the box, though it were Pandora's. The discovery of its intrinsic silver occurred on sending it to have the lid adapted to admit of Marianne's portrait. Of course I had the box remitted to stato quo, and had the picture set in another, which suits it (the picture) very well. The defaulting box is not touched, hardly, and was not in the man's hands above an hour.

I am aware of what you say of Otway; and am a very great admirer of his—allexcept of that mandarin b— of chaste lewdness and blubbering curiosity, Belvidera, whom I utterly despise, abhor, and detest. But the story of Marino Faliero is different, and, I think, so much finer, that I wish Otway had taken it instead: the head conspiring against the body for refusal ofredress for a real injury, jealousy, treason, with the more fixed and invertebrate passions (mixed with policy), he are old or elderly man—the devil himself could not have a finer subject, and he is your only tragic dramatist.

There is still, in the Doge's palace, the black wall painted over Faliero's picture, and the staircase, whereon he was first crowned Doge, and subsequent decapitated.† This was the thing that most struck my imagination in Venice—more than the Rialto, which I visited for the sake of Shylock: and more, too, than Schiller's 'Armenian,' a novel which took a great hold of me when a boy. It is also called the 'Ghost Seer,' and I never walked down St. Mark's by moonlight without thinking of it, and 'at nine o'clock, he died!'—But I have things all fiction; and therefore The Merchant and Othello have no great associations to me: but Pierre has. There should always be some foundation of fact for the most airy fabric, and pure invention is out the talent of a liar.

Marian's tragedy. By your account of him last year to me, he seemed a bit of a coxcomb, personally. Poor fellow! I must be sure, he had had a long wearing adversary, which is not hard to him as 'tis other thing. I hope this won't throw him back into the 'slough of despond.'

You talk of marriage: *ever since my own funeral, the word makes me giddy, and throws me into confusion, so don't repeat it.*

You should close with Madame de Staël. This will be her best work, and permanently historical; it is on her father, the Revolution, and Bonaparte, &c. Bonstetten told me in Switzerland it was very great. I have not seen it my self out on the other side, nor often. She was very kind to me at Copet.*

"There have been two articles in the Venice papers, one a review of Glenaron,* * *, and the other a review of Childe Harold, in which it proclaims me the most rebellious and unconformable admirer of Bonaparte now surviving in Europe. Both these articles are translated from the Literary Gazette of German Jean. * * *

Tell me W. Scott is better. I would not have him * * the world. I suppose it was by sympathy that I had my fever at the same time.

I joy in the success of your Quarterly, but I must still stick by the Edinburgh; Jeffrey has done so by me, I must say, through everything, and this is more than I deserve from him. I have more than once acknowledged to you by letter the 'Article' (and articles;) say that you have received the said letters, as I do not otherwise know what letters arrive.—Both Reviews came, but nothing more. M.'s play and the extract not yet come.* * *

Write to say whether my Magician has arrived, with all his scenes, spells, &c.

Yours ever, &c.

LETTER CCCXXVIII.

TO MR. ROGERS.

"Venice, April 4, 1817.

"It is a considerable time since I wrote to you last, and I hardly know why I should trouble you now, except that I think you will not be sorry to hear from me now and then. You and I were never correspondents, but always some thing better, which is, very good friends.

"I saw your friend Sharp in Switzerland, or rather in the German territory, (which is and not Switzerland,) and we have Holden a good route for the Bernese Alps; however, we took another from a German, and went by Clares, the Dent de Jaman to Montbovier and through Simmental to the Rhone at a good and such countrymen except that from thence to the Grindelwald instead of round about, we went right over the Wener Alps' very summit, and being close under the Jungfrau saw it, its glaciers, and heard the avalanches in all their glory, having famous weather thereby. We of course went from the Grindelwald over the Sheidech to Brients and its lake; past the Reichs enbach and all that mountain road, which reminded me of Albanis, and Estolia, and Greece, except that the people here were more civilized and rascally. I did not think so very much of Chamouni (except the source of Arveron, to which we went up to the teeth of the ice, where we looked into and touch the cavity, against the warning of the guides, only one of whom would go with us so close), as of the Jungfrau, and the Pisavache, and Simpion, which are quite out of all mortal comprehension.

"I was at Milan about a moon, and saw Monti and some other living curiosities, and thence on to Verona, where I did not forget your story of the assassination between your soyen there, but brought away with me some fragments of Juliet's tomb and a lively recollection of the amphitheatre. The Countess Goetz (the governor's wife here), told me that there is still a ruined castle of the Montecchi between Verona and Vicenza. I have been at
Venice since November, but shall proceed to Rome shortly. For my deers here, are they not written in parings? I mention Thomas Moore? to him I refer you: he has received them all, and not answered one.

* * * Will you remember me to Lord and Lady Holly? I shall not. I am a book whisperer. I have not yet received, but expect to repurpose with great pleasure on my return, viz., the second edition of Lopez de Vega. I have heard of Moore's forthcoming poem: he cannot wish himself more success than wish and sugar for him. I have also heard great things of 'Tales of my Landlord,' but I have not yet received them; by all accounts they beat even Waverly, &c., and are by the same author. Maturin's second tragedy has, it seems, failed, for which I should think any body would be sorry. My health was very victorious till within the last month, when I had a fever. There is a typhus in these parts, but I don't think it was that. However, I got well without a physician or drugs.

* * * I forgot to tell you that last autumn, I furnished Lewis with 'bread and salt' for some days at Maynooth (besides his conversation) he translated 'Goethe's Faust' to me by word of mouth, and I set him by the ears with Madame de Stael about the slave trade. I am indebted to many, and I will express it to Mr. Leo, of Copet, and I now love her as much as I always did her works, of which I was and am a great admirer. When are you to begin with Sheridan? what are you doing, and how do you do? * * * Ever very truly, &c.*

LETTER CCCCX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

* * * Venice, April 8, 1817.

Your letters of the 18th and 20th are arrived. In my own I have given you the rise, progress, decline, and fall of my recent malady. It is gone to the devil; I won't pay so bad a compliment as to say it came from him—he is too much of a gentleman. It was nothing but a slow fever, which quickened its pace towards the end of its journey. I had been bored with it some weeks—with nocturnal ferment and morning perspirations; but I am quite well again, which I attribute to having had neither medicine nor doctor therefor.

In a few days I set off for Rome: such is my purpose, or I manage it very well before Monday next, but do you continue to direct and address to Venice, as heretofore. If I go, letters will be forwarded: I say 'If,' because I never know what I shall do till it is done; and as I mean most firmly to set out for Rome, it is not unlikely I may find myself at St. Petersburg.

You tell me to 'take care of myself,' faith, and I will. I won't be posthumous yet, if I can help it. Nowwithstanding, only think what a 'Life and Adventures,' while I am in full scandal, would be worth, together with the rememba of my writing desk, the sixteen beginnings of poems never to be finished! Do you think I would not have shot myself last year, had I not luckily recollected that Mrs. Chalmont, and Lady Nocl, and all the old women in England would have been delighted—besides the 'Globe' 'Lyceum,' the 'Crown's Quest,' and the regrets of two or three or half a dozen? * * * * I assure that I would have for two reasons, or more;—there are one or two people whom I wish to put out of the world, and as many into it, before I can depart in peace; or, if I do so before, I have not fulfilled my mission. Besides, when I turn thirty, I will turn devout; I feel a great vocation that way in Catholic churches, and when I hear the organ.

* * * So * * is writing again! Is there no bedan in Scotland? nor thumb-screw? nor gag? nor handcuff? I went to him to kiss him almost some years ago, to prevent him from publishing a political pamphlet, which would have given him a livelier idea of 'Habas Corpus' than the world would have derived from a book wherein I have not yet received, but expect to repurpose with great pleasure on my return, viz., the second edition of Lopez de Vega. I have heard of Moore's forthcoming poem: he cannot wish himself more success than wish and sugar for him. I have also heard great things of 'Tales of my Landlord,' but I have not yet received them; by all accounts they beat even Waverly, &c., and are by the same author. Maturin's second tragedy has, it seems, failed, for which I should think any body would be sorry. My health was very victorious till within the last month, when I had a fever. There is a typhus in these parts, but I don't think it was that. However, I got well without a physician or drugs.

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LETTER CCCCXX.

TO MR. MOORE.

* * * Venice, April 11, 1817.

I shall continue to write to you while the fit on me, by way of romance upon you, or former complaints of long silence. I dare say you would blush, if you could, for not answering. Next week I set out for Rome. Having seen Constantinople, I should like to look at t'other follow. Besides I want to see the Pope, and shall take care to tell him that I vote for the Catholics and no Veto.

* * * I shan't go to Rome. It is but the second best sea-view, and I have seen the first as a third
LETTERS.

63.

CONSTANTINO's and Lisbon, (by-Gee-way, the last is but a review; however, they reckon it after Stamboul and Naples, and before Genoa,) and Venice, and of the goodness to the Duke of St. Julians. I shall e'en return to Venice in July; and if you write, I pray you adores to Venice which is my head, or rather my heart-quarters.

"My late physician, Dr. Polidori, is here, on his way to Exeter, where the present Lord Guilford and the widow of the late earl. Doctor Polidori has, just now, more patients, because his patients are no more. He had lately three, who are now dreading "to be afflicted by the present Lord Guilford."

Thomps Hose's are 'inter'd at Fisa and Rome. Lord Guilford died of an inflammation of the bowels; so they took them out, and sent them (on account of their discrepancies), separately from the sarcas, to England. Conceive a man going one way, and his intestines another, and his immortality a third!—was there ever such a distribution? One certainly has a soul; but how it came to allow itself to be enclosed in a body is more than I can imagine. I only know if once mine gets out, I will have a bit of a tussle before I let it get in again to that or any other.

"Rogers, a most learned man, has just been at the library, where he has united Titian's poems—immortal already. You and I must wait for it."

"I hear nothing—know nothing. You may easily suppose that the English don't reck me, and I avoid them. To be sure, there are but a few or none here, save passengers. Florence and Naples are their Margate and Ramage, and much the same sort of company too, by all accounts, which has been, perhaps, a disappointment.

"I want to hear of Lalla Rookh—are you out? Death and diseases! why don't you tell me where you are, what you are, and how you are? I shall go to Bologna by Ferrara, instead of Mantua; because I would rather see the cell where they caged Tasso, and where he became mad and **, (than his own MSS. at Modena, or the Mantuan birthplace of that harmonious plagiary and miserable fatterer, whose cursed hands were privileged into me at Harrow) I saw Verona and Vicenza on my way here—Padua too."

"I go alone—but alone, because I mean to return here—I only want to see garment and a bit of old curiosity about Florence, though I must see it for the sake of the Venus, &c., &c.; and I wish also to see the Fall of Terni. I think to return to Venice by Ravenna and Rimini of both of which I mean to take notes for Leigh Hunt, who will be glad to hear of the scenery of his Poem. There was a devil of a review of him in the Quarterly, a year ago, which he answered. All answers are impudent; but, to be sure, poetical flesh and blood must have the last word—that's certain. I thought and think, very highly of his Poem; but I warned him of the row his favorite antique phraseology would bring him.

"You have taken a house at Hornsey; I had much rather you had taken one in the Apenines. If you think of coming out for a summer or so, tell me, that I may be upon the hover for you."

"Ever, &c."
BYRON'S WORKS.

LETTER CCCCXXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, April 14, 1817.

"The present proofs * (of the whole) begins only at the 17th page; but as I had corrected and sent back the first act, it does not signify.

"The thing I am certainly afraid of—and, like the Archbishop of Grenada's homily, (which savored of the pulpy,) has the dregs of my fever, during which it was written. It must on no account be published in its present state. I will try and rewrite it altogether; but the impulse is gone, and I have no chance of making any thing out of it. I would not have it published as it is on any account. The speech of Manfred to the sun is the only part of this act I thought good myself; the rest is as bad as bad can be, and I wonder what the devil possessed me.

"I am very glad indeed that you sent me Mr. Gifford's opinion without deduction. Do you suppose me such a booby as not to be very much obliged to him? or that in fact I was not, and am not, convinced and convicted in my conscience of this same overt act of nonsense? * * * * * * * * *

"I shall try it at last; in the mean time lay it upon the shelf, (the whole drama, I mean;) but pray correct your copies of the first and second act from the original MS.

"I am not coming to England; but going to Rome in a few days. I return to Venice in June; so, pray, address all letters, &c., to me here, as usual, that is, to Venice. Dr. Pulidori this day left this city with Lord Guilford for England. He is charged with some books to your care (from me), and two miniatures also to the same address, both for my sister.

"Recollect not to publish, upon pain of I know not what, until I have tried again at the third act. I am not sure that I shall try, and still less that I shall succeed if I do; but I am very sure, that (as it is) it is unfit for publication or perusal; and unless I can make it out to my own satisfaction, I won't have any part published.

"I write in haste, and after having lately written very often.

Yours, &c."

LETTER CCCCXXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Palermo, April 26, 1817.

"I wrote to you the other day from Florence, enclosing a MS. entitled 'The Lament of Tasso.' It was written in consequence of my having been lately at Ferrara. In the last section of this MS. but one (that is, the penultimate), I think that I have omitted a line in the copy sent you from Florence, viz., after the line—

And woo comprision to a blighted name,

insert,

Beating the sentence which my foes proclaim.

The context will show you the sense, which is not clear in this quotation. Remember, I write this in the supposition that you have received my Florence packet.

"At Florence I remained but a day, having a hurry for Rome, to which I am thus far advanced. However, I went to the two galleries, from which one returns drunk with beauty. The Venus is more for admiration than love: but there are sculpture and painting, which for the first time at all gave me an idea of what people mean by their cast and what Mr. Braham calls 'enthusiasm' (i.e. enthusiasm,) about those two most artificial of the arts. What struck me most were, the mistress of Raphael, a portrait; the mistress of Titian, a portrait; a Venus of Titian in the Medici gallery—the Venus; Canova's Venus also, in the other gallery; Titian's mistress is also in the other gallery (that is, in the Pitti Palace gallery;) the Farcce of Michael Angelo, a picture; and the Antinoo, the Alexander, and one or two not very decent groups in marble; the Genius of Death, a sleeping figure, &c., &c.

"I also went to the Medici Chapel—the fine frippery, in great slabs of various expensive stones, to commemorate fifty rotten and forgotten carcasses. It is unfinished and will remain so.

"The tomb of Croce contains much illustrious nothing. The tombs of Machiaveli, Michael Angelo, Galileo Galilei, &c., Alfieri, make it the Westminster Abbey of Italy. I did not admire any of these tombs—beyond their contents. That of Alfieri is heavy, and all of them seem to me overloaded. What is necessary but a bust and a name? and perhaps a date? the last for the uncharologial, of whom I am one. But all your acumen and eulogy is infernal, and worse than the long wigs of English mumskulls upon Roman bodies in the statue of the reign of Charles II, William, and Anna.

"When you write, write to Venice, as usual; it is mean to return there in a fortnight. I shall not be in England for a long time. This afternoon I met Lord and Lady Jersey, and saw them for some time: all well; children grown and healthy; she very pretty, but sunburnt; he very sick of travelling; bound for Paris. There are not many English on the move, and those who are, mostly homewards. I shall not return till business makes me, being much better where I am in health, &c., &c.

"For the sake of my personal comfort, I pray you send me immediately to Venice—mind, Venice—viz., Waite's tooth-powder, red, a quantity; calcined magnesia, of the best quality, a quantity; and all this by safe, sure, and speedy means; and, by the Lord I do it.

"I have done nothing at Manfred's third act. You must wait; I'll have at it in a week or two, or so.

"Yours ever, &c."

LETTER CCCCXXXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Rome, May 5, 1817.

"By this post (or next at farthest) I send you in two other covers, the new third act of 'Manfred.' I have re-written the greater part, and returned what is not altered in the proof you sent me. The Aabot is become a good man, and the Spirits are brought in at the death. You will find, I think, some good poetry in this new act, here and there; and if so, print it, without sending me farther proofs, under Mr. Gifford's correction, if he will have the goodness to overlock it. Address all answers to Venice, as usual; I mean to return there in ten days.

"The Lament of Tasso,' which I sent from Florence, has, I trust, arrived: I look upon it as these be good rhymes," as Pope's papa said to him when he was a boy. For the two—it and the Drama—you will disburse to me (viz. Kinnaird) six hundred guineas. You will perhaps be surprised that I set the same price upon this as upon the drama; but, besides that I look upon it as good, I won't take less than three hundred guineas for anything. The two together will make you a larger publication than the 'Sage,' &c. So you may think yourself let off very easy: that is to say, if these poems are good for anything, which I hope and believe.

"I have been some days in Rome the Wonderful I am seeing sights, and have done nothing else, ex
kept the new third act for you. I have this morning seen a live post-card from Roman Catholic — Piz Vit has been burying Cardinal Bracchi, whose body I saw in state at the Chiesa Nuova. Rome has delighted me beyond every thing, since Athens and Constantinople. But I shall not remain long this visit. Address to Venice.

"Ever, &c.

"P. S. I have got my saddle-horses here, and have ridden, and am riding, all about the country."

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LETTER CCCCCXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Rome, May 9, 1817.

"Address all answers to Venice; for there I shall return in fifteen days, God willing.

"I sent you from Florence 'The Lamont of Tasso,' and from Rome, the third act of Manfred, both of which I find duly arrived. The terms of these two are mentioned in my last, and will repeat in this: it is three hundred for each, or six hundred guineas for the two—that is, if you like, and they are good for any thing.

"The last one of the parcels is arrived. In the notes to Childe Harold there is a blunder of yours or mine: you talk of arrival at St. Gingo, and immediately after, add—'on the height is the chateau of Clarac.' This is bad work; Clarac is on the other side of the lake, and it is quite impossible that I should have so bungled. Look at the MS; and, at any rate, rectify.

"The 'Tales of my Landlord' I have read with great pleasure. Alas! it is only true. The juste De Noy really why my sister and aunt are so very positive in the very erroneous persuasion that they must have been written by me. If you knew me as well as they do, you would have fallen, perhaps, into the same mistake. Some day or other, I will explain to you why—when I have time; at present it does not much matter; but you must have this blunder of theirs very odd, and so did I, till I had read the book. Croker's letter to you is a very great compliment; I shall return it to you in my next.

"I perceive you are publishing a life of Rafael d'Urbino: it may perhaps interest you to hear that a set of German artists here allow their hair to grow, and trim it into his fashion thereby drinking the cummin of the disciples of the old philosopher; if they would cut their hair, convert it into brushes, and paint like him, it would be more 'german' to the matter.

"I'll tell you a story: the other day, a man here—an English—mistaking the statues of Charlemagne and Constantine, which are 'equestrian,' for those of Peter and Paul, asked another très-bas Paul of these same horsemen — to which the reply was—'I thought, sir, that St. Paul had never got on horseback since his accident!'

"I'll tell you another: Henry Fox, writing to some one from N. of the Lord Lansdowne, after an illness, adds—'and I am so changed, that my oldest creditors would hardly know me.'

"I am delighted with Rome—as I would be with a bandbox—that is, if it is a fine thing to see, finer than Greece; but I have not been here long enough to affect it as a residence, and I must go back to Lombardy, because I am wretched at being away from Marianna. I have been riding my saddle-horses every day, and to Albano; I have visited to the top of the Alban Mount, and to Frescati, Ariccia, &c., &c., with an &c, &c, &c, about the city, and in the city: for all of which—vide guide-book. As a whole, pleasant, and modelly, but works (grown) Constantinople, every thing—at least that I have ever seen. But I can't describe, because my first impressions are always strong and confused, and my memory selects and reduces them to order, like distance in the landscape, and blends them better, although they may be less distinct. There must be sense or two more than we have, us mortals; for * * * * where there is much to be grasped we are always at a loss, and yet feel that we ought to have a higher and more extended comprehension.

"I have had a letter from Moore, who is in some alarm about his poem. I don't see I have had another from my poor dear Augusta, who is in a sad fuss about my late illness; do pray, tell her, (the truth,) that I am better than ever, and in imported health, growing (if not grown) large and ruddy, and very much congratulated by impertinent per sons on my robustous appearance, when I ought to be pale and interesting.

"You tell me that George Byron has got a son, and Augusta says, a daughter; which is it? It is no great matter: the father is a good man, an excellent officer, and has married a very nice little woman, who will bring him more babies than incomes however, she has a handsome dowry, and is a very charming girl—but he may as well get a ship.

"I have no thoughts of coming among you yet awhile, so that I can fight off business. If I could but make a tolerable sale of Newstead, there would be no occasion for my return; and I can assure you very sincerely, that I am much happier (or, at least, have been so), out of your island than in it.

"Yours ever.

"P. S. There are few English here, but several of my acquaintance: among others, the Marquis of Lansdowne, with whom I dine to-morrow. I met the Jerseys on the road at Foligno—all well.

"Oh—l'I forgot—the Italians have printed Chil de, &c, a 'privy'—a pretty little poem, prettier than yours—and published, as I found to my great astonishment on arriving here; and what is odd, is, that the English is quite correctly printed. Why they did it, or who did it, I know not; but so it is:

"I suppose, for the English people. I will send you a copy."

LETTER CCCCCXVI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Rome, May 12, 1817.

"I have received your letter here, where I have taken a cruise lately; but I shall return back to Venice in a few days, so that if you write again, and address there, as usual, I am not for returning to England so soon as you imagine; and by no means at all as a residence. If you cross the Alps in your projected expedition, you will find me somewhere in Lombardy, and very glad to see you. Only give me a word or two beforehand, for I would really diverge some leagues to meet you.

"Of Rome I say nothing: it is quite indescribable, and the guide-book is as good as any other. I dined yesterday at the Lord Lansdowne, who is on his return. But there are few English here at present: the winter is their time. I have been on horseback most of the day, all days since my arrival, and have taken it as I did Constantinople. But Rome is the elder sister, and the finer. I went some days ago to the top of the Alban Mount, which is superb. As for the Colosseum, Pantheon, St. Peter's, the Vatican, Palestine, &c, &c, &c—as I said, vide guide-book. They are indefinitely good, and must be seen. The Apollo Belvidere is the image of Lady Adelaide Forbes—I think I never saw such a likeness.

"I have seen the Pope-alive, and a cardinal dead,—both of whom looked very well indeed. The latter was in state in the Chiesa Nuova, previous to his interment."
Your poetical alarms are groundless; go on and prosper. He is Hobhouse just come in, and my horses at the door, so that I must mount and take the field in the Campus Martius, which, by-the-way, is all built over by modern Rome.

"Yours very and ever, &c."

P. S. Hobhouse presents his remembrances, and is eager, with all the world, for your new poem."

LETTER CCCCXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, May 30, 1817.

"I returned from Rome two days ago, and have received your letter; but no sign nor tidings of the parcel sent through Sir G. Stuart, which you mention. After an interval of months, a packet of 'Tales,' &c., found me at Rome; but this is all, and may be all that ever will find me. The post seems to be belaboured, and conveyance, and that only for letters. From Florence I sent you a poem on Tasso, and from Rome the new third act of 'Manfred,' and by Dr. Polidori two portraits for my sister. I left Rome and made a rapid journey home. You will continue to direct here, as usual. Yours, &c."

"The day before I left Rome, I saw three robbers guillotined. The ceremony—including the masked priests; the half-naked executioners; the bandaged criminals; the black Christ and his banner, the scaffold; the soldiery; the slow procession, and the quick rattle and heavy fall of the axe; the splash of the blood, and the ghastliness of the exposed heads—is altogether more impressive than the vulgar and ungentlemanly dirty 'new drop,' and dog-like agony of infliction upon the sufferers of the English sentence. Two of these men behaved calmly enough, but the first of the three died with great terror or reluctance. What was very horrible, he would not lie down; then his neck was too large for the aperture, and the priest was obliged to drown his exclamations by still louder exhortations. The head was off before the eye could trace the blow; but from an attempt to draw back the head, notwithstanding it was held forward by the hair, the first head was cut off close to the ears: the other two were taken off more cleanly. It is better than the oriental way, and I (should think) than the axe of our ancestors. The pain seems little, and yet the effect to the spectator, and the preparation to the criminal, is very striking and chilling. The first turned me quite hot and thirsty, and made me shake so that I could hardly hold the opera glass; (I was close enough to see, as one should see everything, once, with attention;) the second and third, (which shows how dreadfully soon things grow indifferent,) I am ashamed to say, had no effect on me as a horror, though I would have saved them if I could. Yours, &c."

"RomE, which I sent soon after my arrival there. My date will apprise you of my return home within these few days. For me, I have received none of your packets, except, after long delay, the 'Tales of my Landlord,' which I before acknowledged. I cannot quite understand the signification, but so it is;—no Manuel, no letters, no tooth-powder, no extract from Moore's Italy concerning Marino Faliero, for nothing—as a man haled out at one of Burdett's elections, after a long oration of 'No Bastille!—and every authority! No,—and my receipts of your packages amount to about his meaning. I want the extract from Moore's Italy very much, and the tooth-powder, and the magnesia; I don't care so much about the poetry, or the letters, or Mr. Maturin's by-Jesus tragedy. Most of the things sent by the post have come—I mean the packets and letters; therefore, send me Marino Faliero by the post, in a letter.

"I was delighted with Rome, and was on horseback all road it many hours daily, besides in the rest of my time, bothering over its marvels. I excused myself to the Countess, Tivoli, Frescari, Licenza, &c., &c.; besides I visited twice the Fall of Terni, which beats everything. On my way back, close to the temple by its banks, I got some trout of the prettiest little stream in all poetry, near the first post from Foligno and Spoleto.† I did not stay at Florence, being anxious to get home to Venice, and having already seen the galleries and other sights. I left my commissary letters the evening before I went; so I saw nobody.

"To-day, Pindemonte, the celebrated poet of Verona, called on me; he is a little, thin man, with acute and pleasing features; his air was good and gentle; his appearance altogether very philosophical; his age about sixty, or more. He is one of their best going. I gave him Forsyth, as he speaks, or reads rather, a little English, and will find there a favorable account of himself. He inquired after his old Cruscan friends, Parsons, Greaterhead, Mrs. Piozzi, and Mory, all of whom he had known in his youth. I gave him as bad an account of them as I could, answering, as the false Solomon Lob does to 'Totterton in the face, 'all gone dead,' and damned by a satire more than twenty years ago; that the name of their extingusher was not kept, that they were not allowed to write, nor to scribes after all, and no great things in any other way. He seemed, as was natural, very much pleased with this account of his old acquaintances, and went away greatly gratified with that and Mr. Forsyth's second edition, (I was obliged to put up with his own (Pindemonte's) favor. After having been a little libertine in his youth, he is grown devout, and takes prayers, and talks to himself, to keep off the devil; but for all that, he is a very nice little old gentleman."

"I am sorry to hear of your row with Hunt; but suppose him to be exasperated by the Quarterly and your paper to deal; and when one is angry and edits a paper, I should think the temptation too strong for literary nature, which is not always human. I can't conceive in what, and for what, it abuses you: what have you done? you are not an author, nor a politician, nor a public character; I know no scruple that you have tumbled into. I am the more sorry for this because I introduced you to Hunt, and because I believe him to be a good man; but till I know the particulars, I can give no opinion.

"Let me know about Lalla Rookh, which must be out by this time.

"I received no proofs, but the punctuation should be corrected. I feel too lazy to have it at myself; so beg and pray Mr. Gifford for me.—Address to

† Childe Harold, canto iv., stanza 16., line 118., and note.
‡ Childe Harold, canto iv., stanza 16., line 63., and note.
VENICE. In a few days, I go to my villegiatura, in a casino near the Brenta, a few miles only on the main land. I have determined on another year, and many years of residence, if I can compass them. Marianna is with me, hardly recovered of the fever, which has been attaching all Italy this winter. I am afraid she is a little hectic; but I hope the best.

"Ever, &c."

"P. S. Thowalden has done a bust of me at Rome for Mr. Hobhouse, which is reckoned very good. He is, I believe, better after Canova, and by some preferred to him."

"I have had a letter from Mr. Hodges. He is very happy, has got a living, but not a child: if he had stuck to a curacy, babes would have come of course, because he could not have maintained them."

"Remember me to all friends, &c., &c."

"An Austrian officer, the other day, being in love with a Venetian, was ordered, with his regiment, into Hungary. Distracted between love and duty, he purchased a deadly drug, which, dividing with his mistress, both swallowed. The ensuing pains were terrific, but the pills were purgative, and not poisonous, but the privation of contact, to say the least, a sensational apothecary; so that so much suicide was all thrown away. You may conceive the previous confusion and the final laugh; but the intention was good on all sides."

LETTER CCXXXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, June 8, 1817

"The present letter will be delivered by you, my dear sir, to my friend, Mr. Hodges, at Marona. They will also convey some copies of the grammars, which I think you agree to take. If you can be of any use to them, either among your naval or East Indian acquaintances, I hope you will so far oblige me, as they and their order have been remarkably attentive and friendly towards me since my arrival at Venice. Their names are Father Sukiras, Syrian, and Father Sarkis, Theodosian. They were, I am assured, of Greek, and probably French, or a little English. Repeating earnestly my recommendatory request, believe me very truly yours,

"BYRON"

"Perhaps you can help them to their passage, or give or get them letters for India."

LETTER CCXL.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"La Mira, near Venice, June 14, 1817.

"I write to you from the banks of the Brenta, a few miles from Venice, where I have colonized for six months to come, as at Venice."

"Three months after date, (17th March.),—like the unnoted bill despondingly received by the reluctant tailor,—your despatch has arrived, containing the extract from Moore's Italy, and Mr. Maturin's bankrupt tragedy. It is the absurd work of a clever man. I think it might have done upon the stage if he had made Manuel (by some trickery, in a mask or visor), fight his own battle instead of employing Molineux as his champion; and, after the defeat of Torrismond, have made him spare the son of his enemy, by some revulsion of feeling, not incompatible with a character of extravagant and disturbed emotions, that with the Justiza, and the ridiculous conduct of the whole dran. pêra (for they are all as mad as Manuel, who surely must have had more interest with a corrupt bench than a distant relation and heir presumptive, somewhat suspected of homicide,) I do not wonder at its failure. As it plays, it is impracticable; as a poem, no great things. Who was the 'Greek that grappled with glory naked' the Olympian wrestlers? or Alexander the Great, when he ran stark naked round the tomb of 'other fellow' or the Spartan who was fined by the Ephori for fighting with his own sword? And as to 'flying off life like a garment,' helas! that's in Tom Thumb—""King Arthur's soliloquy:

"'Life's a mere rag, not worth a prince's wearing; I'll cast it off.'"

"And the stage-directions — 'Staggers among the bodies;' the siren are too numerous, as also the blacksmoor knights-penitent being one too many: and De Zoles is such a shabby Mommouth-street villain, without any redeeming quality—Stap my vitals! Maturin seems to be declining into Nat. Lee. But let him try again; he has talent, but not much sense. I shall not try, or hope, that Sotbeby after all is to realize Excalibur. As for to Mr. Shiel be really worthy his success. The more I see of the stage, the less I would wish to have any thing to do with it; as a proof of which, I hope you have received by the third act of the play, which will at least prove that I wish to steer very clear of the possibility of being put into scenery. I sent it from Rome."

"I returned the proof of Tasso. By-the-way have you never received a translation of St. Paul, which I sent you, not for publication, before I went to Rome?"

"I am at present on the Brenta. Opposite is a Spanish mansion, ninety years old; next to it is a Frenchman's,—besides the natives; so that, as somebody said the other day, we are exactly one of Goldoni's comedies, (La Vedova Scaltra,) where a Spaniard, English, and Frenchman are introduced: but we are all very good neighbors, Venetians, &c., &c.

"I am just getting on horseback for my evening ride, and a visit to a physician, who has an agreeable family, of a wife and four unmarried daughters, all under eighteen, who are friends of Signora S * &c., and enemies to nobody. There are, and are to be, besides, conversations and I know not what, at a Countess Labro, I know not whom. The weather is mild; the thermometer 10° in the sun this day, and 80 odd in the shade."

"Yours, &c.,

"N"

LETTER CCXLI.

TO Mr. MURRAY.

"La Mira, near Venice, June 11, 1817.

"It gives me great pleasure to hear of Moore's success, and to more so than that, I hope he is as happy in his family relations as I wish him to be; for I know no one who deserves both more— if any so much.

"Now to business; ••••• I say unto you, verily, it is not so; or, as the forefather said to the hater, after asking him to bring a glass of water, to which the man answered, 'I will, sir,'—'You will!—G—d d—n,—I say you must!' And I will submit this to the decision of any person or persons to be appointed by both of us, on a fair examination of the circumstances of this compared with the preceding publications. So, there's for you. There is always some row or other previously to all our publications: it should seem that, on approximating, we can never
quite get over the natural antipathy of author and book-seller, and that more particularly the serene nature of the latter must break forth.

"You are out about the third canto: I have not done, nor designed a line of continuation to that poem. I was too short a time at Rome for it, and have no thought of recommencing."

"I cannot well explain to you by letter what I conceive to be the origin of Leigh's notion about 'Tales of My Landlord;' but it is some points of the characters of Sir E. Manley and Burley, as well as one or two of the jocular portions, on which it is founded, probably."

"If you have received Dr. Polidori, as well as a parcel of books, and you can be of use to him, be so. I never was much disgusted with any human production than with the eternal nonsense, and truacies, and emptiness, and ill humor, and vanity of that young person; but he has some talent, and is a man of honor, and has dispositions of amendment, in which he has been aided by a little subsequent experience, and may turn out well. Therefore use your government interest for him, for he is improved and improvable."

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCCXLII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

June 16, near Venice, June 15, 1817.

Enclosed is a letter to Dr. Holland from Pindone. Not knowing the doctor's address, I am desired to inquire, and perhaps, being a literary man, you will know or discover his haunt near some populous churchyard. I have written to you a scolding letter, I believe, upon a misapprehended casus in your letter—but never mind: it will do for next time, and you will surely deserve it. Talking of doctors reminds me once more to recommend to you one who will not recommend himself—the Doctor Polidori. If you can help him to a publisher, do; or, if you have any sick relation, I would advise his advice: all the patients he had in Italy are dead—Mr. *'s son, Mr. Horner, and Lord Guildford, whom he embalmed with great success at Pisa."

"Remember me to Moore, whom I congratulate. How is Rogers? and what is become of Campbell and all other fellows of the Druid order? I got Maturin's Jedda at last, but no other parcel; I am in fits for the tooth-powder, and the magnesia. I want some of Burkitt's Soda powers. Will you tell Mr. Kinnaird that I have written him two letters on pressmg business, (about Newstead, &c.,) to which I humbly solicit his attendance. I am just returned from a gallop along the banks of the Brenta—time sunset."

"Yours,"

"B."

LETTER CCCXLIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

June 1, near Venice, July 1, 1817.

"Since my former letter, I have been working up my impressions into a fourth canto of Childre Har- rold, of which I have roughened off about rather better than thirty stanzas, and mean to go on; and probably to make this 'Pity' the concluding one of the poem, so that you may propose against the autumn to draw out the conception for 1818. You must provide moneys, as this new resumption boxes you certain disbursements. Somewhere about the end of September or October I propose to be under way, (i.e. in the press;) but I have no idea yet of the probable length or calibre of the other canto, or what it will be good for; but I mean to be as mercenary as possible, an example (I do mean of any individual in particular, and least of all any person or persons of our mutual acquaintance,) which I should have followed in your youth, and I might still have been a prosperous gentleman."

"No tooth-powder, no letters, no recent tidings of you."

"Mr. Lewis is at Venice, and I am going up to stay a week with him there—as it is one of his enthusiasms also to like the city."

"I stood in Venice on the 'Bridge of Sighs,' &c., &c."

The 'Bridge of Sighs' (i.e. Ponte del Sospiri,) is that which divides, or rather joins, the palace of the Doge to the prison of the state. It has two passages; the criminal went by the one to judgment, and returned by the other to death, being strangled in a chamber adjoining, where there was a mechanical process for the purpose.

"This is the first stanza of our new canto; and now for a line of the second:

"In Venice, Tasso's executors are no more, And in the gorgeous gondolier,
Her palace, &c., &c."

"You know that formerly the gondoliers sung always, and Tasso's Gierusalemme was their ballad. Venice is built on seventy-two islands. "There! there's a brick of your new Babel! and now, sirrah! what say you to the sample?"

"Yours, &c."

"P. S. I shall write again by-and-by."

LETTER CCCXLIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

La Mira, near Venice, July 8, 1817.

If you can convey the enclosed letter to its address, or discover the person to whom it is directed, you will confer a favor upon the Venetian creditor of a deceased Englishman. This epistle is a sum to his executor, for house-rent. The name of the insolvent defunct is, or was, Porter Valter, according to the account of the plaintiff, which I rather suspect ought to be Walter Porter, according to our modern pronunciation. If you are acquainted with any dead man of the like name a good deal in debt, pray dig him up, and tell him that 'a pound of his fair flesh' or the ducats are required, and that if you deny them, lie upon your law!"

"I hear nothing more from you about Moore's poem, Rogers, or other literary phenomena; but tomorrow being post-day, will bring perhaps some tidings. I write to you with people talking Venetian all about, so that you must not expect this letter to be all English.

"The other day, I had a squabble on the highway, as follows: I was riding pretty quickly from Dolo home about eight in the evening, when I passed a party of people in a hired carriage, one of whom, pok[ing his] head out of the window, began bawling to me in an inarticulate but insolent manner. I wheeled my horse round, and overtaking, stopped the coach, and said, 'Signor, have you any commands for me?' He replied, impudently as to manner, 'No.' I then asked him what he meant by that unseemly noise, to the discomfiture of the passengers by. He replied by some piece of impertinence, to which I answered by giving him a violent slap in the face. I then dismounted, (for this passed at the window, I being on horseback still,) and opening the carriage, desired him to walk out, or I would give him another. But the first had settled him except as to words, of which he poured forth as a profusion in blasphemies, swearing that he would
to the police and avouched a battery sans provocatión. I said he lied, and was a * *, and if he did not hold his tongue, should be dragged out and beaten anew. He then held his tongue. * I of course told him my name and residence, and defied him to the death, if he were a gentleman, or not a gentleman, and had the inclination to be gêntel in the way of combat. He went to the police, but there having been bystanders in the road,— particularly a soldier who had seen the business,— as well as my servant, notwithstanding the oaths of the coachman and five insides besides the plaintiff, and a good deal of paying on all sides, his complaint was dismissed, he having been the aggressor; and I was subsequently informed that, had I not given him a blow, he might have been had into durance.

"So set down this,— that in Aleppo once I 'beat a Venetian;' but I assure you that he deserved it, for I am a quiet man, like Candide, though with somewhat of his fortune in being forced to forego my natural meekness every now and then.

"Yours, &c.
"B.

LETTER CCCXLV.
To MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, July 5, 1817.

"I have got the sketch and extracts from Lalla Rookh,— which I humbly suspect will knock up * *, and show young gentlemen that something more than having been across a camel's hump is necessary to write a good oriental tale. The plan, as well as the extracts I have seen, please me very much indeed, and I feel impatient for the whole.

"With regard to the critique on 'Manfred,' you have been in such a devil of a hurry that you have only sent me the half: it breaks off at page 294. Send me the rest; and also page 270, where there is an account of the supposed origin of this dreadful story,—in which, by the way, whatever it may be, the conjecturer is out, and knows nothing of the matter. I had a better origin than he can devise or divine, for the soul of him.

"You say nothing of 'Manfred's luck in the world; and I care not. He is one of the best of my misbegotten, say what they will.

"I got at last an extract, but no parcels. They will come, I suppose, some time or other. I am come up to Venice for a day or two to bathe, and am just going to take a swim in the Adriatic; so, good evening—the post waits. "Yours, &c.
"B.

"P.S. Pray was Manfred's speech to the sun still retained in act third? I hope so: it is one of the best in the thing and better than the Colosseum. I have done fifty-six of canto fourth, Childe Harold; so down with your dues.

LETTER CCCXLVI.
To MR. MOORE.

"La Mina, Venice, July 10, 1817.

"Murray, the Mokanna of booksellers, has contrived to send me extracts from Lalla Rookh by the post. They are taken from some magazine, and contain a short outline and quotations from the first two poems. I am very much delighted with what is before me, and very thirsty for the rest. You have caught the colors as if you had been in the rainbow, and the tone of the East is perfectly preserved; so that * * * and its author must be some what in the back-ground, and learn that it requires something more than to have been upon the hands of a dramatery to compose a good oriental story. I am glad you have changed the title from 'Persian Tale.'

"I suspect you have written a devilish fine composition, and I rejoice in it from my heart; because the Douglas and the Percy both together are con fident against a world in arms. * I hope you won't be affronted at my, looking on us as 'birds of a feather;' though on whatever subject youa a writ ten, I should have been very happy in your success of it.

"There is a simile of an orange tree's 'flowers and fruits,' which I should have liked better, if I did not believe it to be a reflection on

"Do you remember Thunlow's poem to Sans.* When Rogers, and that d—d supper of Hanchiffe's, that ought to have been a dinner? 'Ah, Master Shallow, we have heard the chimes at midnight.' But

"This should have been written fifteen moons ago—the first stanza was. I am just come out from an hour's swim in the Adriatic; and I write to you with a black-eyed Venetian girl before me, reading Boccaccio.

"Last week I had a row on the road (I came up to Venice from my campo, a few miles off the Pordun road, this blessed day to bathe) with a fellow in a carriage, who was impudent to my horse. I gave him a swinging box on the ear, which sent him to the police, who dismissed his complaint, and said, that if he did not thumped him, they would have trounced him for being impertinent. Wits hes had seen the transaction. He first shouted in an unseemly way, to frighten my palfrey. I wheeled round, rode up to the window, and asked him what he meant. He grinned, and said some theory which produced him an immediate slap in the face to his utter discomfiture. Much blasphemy ensued, and some menace, which I stopped by dismounting and opening the carriage-door, and intimating an intention of mending the road with his immediate remains, if he did not hold his tongue. He held it.

"The fellow went sneakingly to the police: but a soldier, who had seen the matter, and thought me right, went and counter-oathed him; so that he had to retire—and cheap too:— I wish I had hit him harder.

"Monk Lewis is here—how pleasant! He is a very good fellow, and very much yours. So is Sam—so is everybody—and among the number.

"Yours ever, "B.

"P.S. What think you of Manfred?
"If ever you see * * * ask him what he means by telling me, 'Oh, my friend, invent portum?'—What 'portum?' Port wine, I suppose—the only port he ever sought or found, since I knew him.'

LETTER CCCXLVII.
To MR. MURRAY.

"La Mina, near Venice, July 13, 1817.

"I have finished (that is, written—the file comes afterward) ninety and eight stanzas of the fourth canto, which I mean to be the concluding one, It will probably be about the same length as the third, being already of the dimensions of the first or second cantos. I look upon parts of it as very good, that is, if the three former are good, but this

* See Poems, p. 365.

* See Poems, p. 572.

* An almost (even as often occurs in shore terraces) or acrostics with which he had been amused.
we shall see; and at any rate, good or not, it is
rather a different style from the last—less meta-
physic, and at any rate, will be a variety. I
sent you the shaft of the column as a specimen the
other day, i.e. the first stanza. So you may be
thinking of its arrival towards autumn, whose
winds will not be the only ones to be raised; if so be
as how that it is ready by that time.
"I lent Lewis, who is at Venice (in or on the
Canalcecco, the Grand Canal), your extracts from
Lalla Rookh and Manuel, and, of course, like the
last, and is not much taken with the first, of these performances. Of Manuel
I think, with the exception of a few capers, it is as
heavy a nightmare as was ever bestowed by indu-
gence.
"Of the extracts I can but judge as extracts,
and I prefer the 'Peri' to the 'Silver Veil.' He
seems not so much at home in his versification of
the 'Silver Veil,' and a little embarrassed with his
horrors; but the conception of the character of the
impostor is fine, and the plan of great scope for his
genius, and I doubt not that, as a whole, it will be
very Arabesque and lusty enough.
"Your late epistle is not the most abundant in
information, and has not yet been succeeded by any
other; so that I know nothing of your own concerns
or of any concerns, and as I never hear from anybody
but yourself who does not tell me something as dis-
agreeable as possible, I should not be sorry to hear
from you: and as it is not very probable,—if I can,
by any device or possible arrangement with regard
to my personal affairs, so arrange it,—that I shall
return soon, or reside ever in England, all that you
tell me will be all I shall know or inquire after, as
our beloved realm of Grub street, and the black
bureten and blue sisterhood of that extensive
suburb of Babylon. Have you had any new babie of
literature sprung up to replace the dead, the dis-
tast, the tired, and the retired? no prose, no verse,
no nothing!"

 LETTER CXCXLIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, July 28, 1817.

I write to give you notice that I have completed
the fourth and ultimate canto of Childo Harold. It
consists of one hundred and twenty-six stanzas, and
is consequently the longest of the four. It is yet
to be copied and polished; and the notes are to
come, of which it will require more than the third
canto, as it necessarily treats more of works of art
than of nature. It shall be sent towards autumn;
and now for our barter. What do you bid? eh?
you shall have samples, an' it so please you: but
I wish to know what I am to expect (as the saying
is) half its value. If you are disposed to do what Mrs.
Winifred Jenkins calls 'the handsomely,' I may
perhaps throw you some odd matters to the lot,—
translations, or slight originals; there is no saying
what may come between this and the book-
season. Recollect that it is the last canto, and
completes the work; whether as good as the others,
I cannot judge, in course—least of all as yet, but it
shall be the best as I can help. I may per-
haps, give some little gossip on the notes as to the
present state of Italian litterati and literature, being
acquainted with some of their capi—men as well as
books; and that depends upon your humor at the
time. So, now, pronounce: I say nothing.
"When you have got the whole four cantos, I
think you might venture on an edition of the whole
poem in quarto, with spare copies of the last two for
the purchasers of the old edition of the first two.
LETTER CCCL.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"La Mina, near Venice, Aug. 21, 1817.

I take you at your word about Mr. Hansan, and will feel obliged if you will go to him, and request Mr. Davies also to visit him by my desire, and repeat that I trust that neither Mr. Kinnaird’s absence nor mine will prevent his taking all proper steps to accelerate and promote the sale of Newstead and Rochdale, upon which the whole of my future personal comfort depends. It is impossible for me to express how much any delays upon these points would inconvenience me; and I do not know a greater obligation that can be conferred upon me than the pressing these things upon Hansan, and making him act according to my wishes. I wish you would speak out, at least to me, and tell me what you allude to by your cold way of mentioning him. All my mysteries at such a distance are not merely tormenting but mischievous, and may be prejudicial to my interests; so pray expound, that I may consult with Mr. Kinnaird when he arrives; and remember that I prefer the most disagreeable certainties to hints and innuendos. The devil take every body; I never can get any person to be explicit about any thing or any body, and my whole life is passed in conjectures of what people mean; you will talk with the style of Caroline Lamb’s novels.

"It is not Mr. St. John, but Mr. St. Aubyn, son of Sir John St. Aubyn. Polidoro knows him, and introduced him to me. I have not seen him, and do not yet got my parcel. The doctor will ferret him out, or ought. The parcel contains many letters, some of

LETTES.
Madame de Staël’s, and other people’s, besides MSS., &c. By the way, if I find the gentleman, and he don’t find the parcel, I will say something he won’t like to hear.

"You want a ‘civil and delicate declension’ for the medical tragedy? Take this.

"Dear Doctor, I have read your play,
Which is a good one in its way;
Furges the eyes, and moves the bowels,
And drenches Handel’s ink toivts
With tears, that, in a flood of gore,
Afford hystorical relief
To shatter’d nerves and quaken’d pulses,
Which your catastrophe convives.
I like your moral and machinery:
Your plot, too, has such scope for sometri
Your dialogue is apt and secret;
The play’s conoeftion full of art.
Your hero romes, your heroine cries.
All sth, and every body dies.
In short, it is a tragic comedy.
The very thing to alt and see:
And for a piece of publication,
If I decline on this occasion,
It is not that I am not sensible
To merit in themselves unceivable.
But—and I give it to speak its play.
Are drugs—all drugs, sir—no—no—days.
I had a heavy loss by ’Marry.
"Too lucky if I prove not natural—
And Sophy, with his ’French.
(Which, by-the-bye, the author’s last jest.)
Has lasts so very long on hand
That I despair of all demand.
I’m advaned, but see my books,
Or only wish my shipman’s looks—
Still Iren, Ina, and Such lumber.
My bank-shot plus, my shelves unknown.

"There’s Byron, too, who once did better,
Has sent me, fossil in a letter,
A sort of—so no more a drones
Then Darnity, Iren, or Keleome;
So after since last year his pen is,
I think he’s lost his wits at Venice.

In short, sir, what with one and t’other,
I dare not venture on another.
I write in haste, excurse such blunder;
The clothes through the street so thunder!
My room’s so full—we’ve Gifford here
Brading NB., with Hookham Piers
Pressouyeing on the noose and parties
Of some of our forthcoming Articles.

"The Quarterly—Ah, sir, if you
Had but the genius to review it—
A smart critique upon Sir R. H. Helena,
Or you only would be told in a
Short compend what—not to receive:
As I was saying, sir, the room—
The room’s so full of wits and heads,
Cottons, Campielle, Crokers, Proces, and 100
And others, nothing but wits—
My humble temerity admits
All persons in the dress of gents,
From Mr. Hannover to Duke Des.

"A party dines with me to day,
All clever men, who make their way;
They’re at this moment in discussion
On poor De Rain’s late dissipation.
Her book, they say, was in advance
Pray leave, she tell the truth of France


"This run out time and tongue away—
But, to return, sir, to your play,
Berry, sir, but I cannot deal,
Unless twain are act by O’Neill.
My hands so full, my head so busy,
I’m almost dead, and always dizzy;
And so, with endless truth and Berry,
Dear Doctor, I am yours,

"JOHN MURRAY.

"P. S. I’ve done the fourth and last canto, which amounts to one hundred and thirty-three stanzas desire you to name. He you afford, the price; if you don’t, I will: so I advise you in time.

"Yours, &c

"There will be a good many notes."
LETTER CCCLII.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Your letter of the 15th has conveyed with its contents the impression of a seal, to which the 'Saracen's Head' is a seraph, and the 'Bull and Mouth' a delicate device. I knew that calumny had assailed me for many years, but not that it had given me the features as well as complexion of a negro. Poor August is not less, but rather more, shocked than myself, and says 'people seem to have recollection strangely,' whether they engraved such a 'black Moor.' Pray don't tease (at least to me) with such a caricature of the human muskull altogether; and if you don't break the seal-cutter's head, at least crack his libel (or likeness, if it should be a likeness) of mine.

"Mr. Kinnaird is not yet arrived, but expected. He has lost by the way all the tooth-powder, as a letter from Spa informs me.

"By Mr. Rose I received safely, though tardily, magnesia and tooth-powder, and * * * * * * Why do you send me such trash—worse than trash, the Sublime of Mediocrity? Thanks for Lalli, however, which is good, and thanks for the Edinburgh and Quarterly, both very amusing and well-written. Paris in 1816, &c.—good. 'Modern Greece'—good for nothing; written by some one who has never been there, and not being able to manage the Spenser stanza, has invented a thing of its own, consisting of two elegiac stanzas, a heroic line, and an Alexandrine, twisted on a string. Besides, why modern? You may say modern Greeks, but surely Greece itself is rather more ancient than ever it was—Now for business.

"You offer fifteen hundred guineas for the new canto: I won't take it. I ask two thousand five hundred guineas for it, which you will either give or not, as you think proper. It concludes the poem, and consists of one hundred and forty-four stanzas. The notes are numerous, and chiefly written by Mr. Houbourne, whose researches have been indefatigable, and who, I will venture to say, has more real knowledge of Rome and its environs than any Englishman who has been there since Gibbon. By-the-way, to prevent any mistakes, I think it necessary to state the fact that he, Mr. Houbourne, has not interest whatever in the price or profit to be derived from the copyright of either poem or notes directly or indirectly; so you are not to suppose that it is by, for, or through him, that I require more for this than the price of the poem. No: but if Mr. Eustace was to have had two thousand for a poem on Education; if Mr. Moore is to have three thousand for Lalli, &c.; if Mr. Campbell is to have three thousand for his prose on poetry—I don't mean to disparage these gentlemen in their labors—but I ask the aforesaid price for mine. You will tell me that their productions are considerably longer: very true, and when they shorten them, I will lengthen mine, and ask less. You shall submit the MS. to Mr. Gifford, and any other two gentlemen to be named by you, (Mr. Frere, or Mr. Croker, or whoever you please except such fellows as your * * * and * * * * *) and if they pronounce this canto to be inferior as a whole to the preceding, I will not appeal from their award, but burn the manuscript, and leave things as they are.

"You are very true."

"P. S. In answer to a former letter, I sent you a short statement of what I thought the state of our present copyright account, viz., six hundred pounds still (or lately) due on Childe Harold, and six hundred pounds on the Morte, making a total of twelve hundred and thirty pounds. If we agree about the new poem, I shall take the liberty to reserve the choice of the manner in which it should be published, viz., a quarto, certes." * * *

* By Mrs. Hanway.

LETTER CCCLIII.
TO MR. HOFFNER.

"I set out yesterday morning with the intention of paying my respects, and availing myself of your permission to walk over the premises. On arriving at Padua, I found that the march of the Austrian troops had engaged so many horses, that those I could procure were hardly able to crawl: and their weakness, together with the prospect of finding none at all at the post-house of Morello, and consequently either not arriving that day at Este, or so late as to be unable to return home the same evening, induced me to turn aside in a second visit to Arqua, instead of proceeding onwards; and even thus I hardly got back in time.

"Next week I shall be obliged to be in Venice to meet Lord Kinnaird and his brother, who are expected in a few days. And this interruption, together with that occasioned by the continued march of the Austrians for the next few days, will not allow me to fix any precise period for availing myself of your kindness, though I should wish to take the earliest opportunity. Perhaps, if absent, you will have the goodness to permit one of your servants to show me the grounds and house, or as much of either as may be convenient; at any rate, I shall take the first occasion possible to go over, and regret very much that I was on yesterday prevented.

"I have the honor to be your obliged, &c"

LETTER CCCLIV.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"I enclose a sheet for correction, if ever you get to another edition. You will observe that the blunder in printing makes it appear as if the Chateau was over St. Gingko, instead of being on the opposite shore of the Lake, over Clares. So, separate the paragraphs, otherwise my topography will seem as inaccurate as your typography on this occasion.

"The other day I wrote to convey my proposition with regard to the fourth and concluding canto. I have gone over and extended it to one hundred and fifty stanzas, which is almost as long as the first two were originally, and longer by itself than any of the smaller poems except the 'Corsair.' Mr. Houbourne has made some very valuable and accurate notes, of considerable length, and you may be sure that I will do for the text all that I can to finish with decency. I look upon Childe Harold as my best; and as I began, I think of concluding with it. But I make no resolutions on that head, as I broke my former intention with regard to the 'Corsair.' However, I fear that I shall never be better; and yet, not being thirty years of age, for some moons to come, one ought to be progressive, as far as intellect goes, for many a good year. But I have had a devilish deal of tear and wear of mind and body in my time, besides having published too often and much already. God grant me some judgment to do what may be most fitting in that and every thing else, for I doubt my own exceedingly.

"I have seen Mr. Cobbett, I think it was, a few days ago. A very very diligent attention yet, for I ride about, and lounge, and ponder, and—two or three other things; so that my reading is very desultory, and not so attentive as it used to be. I am very glad to hear of its popularity, for Moore is a very noble fellow in all

"A country-house on the English hills, near East, which Mr. Hoffner was then the English consul-general at Venice, had for some time occupied, and which Lord Byron afterward rented. I am sure never read"
respects, and will enjoy it without any of the bad feelings which success—good or evil—sometimes engenders in the men of rhyme. Of the poem itself, I will tell you my opinion when I have mastered it; I say of the poem, for I don't like the prose at all, at all: and in the meantime, the Fire-Worshippers is the best, and the Veiled Prophet the worst, of the volume.

With regard to poetry in general, I am convinced the more I think of it, that he and all of us love the Italian. I, — are all in the wrong, one as much as another; that we are upon a wrong revolutionary poetical system, or systems, not to say a damn in itself, and from which none but Rogers and Crabbe are free; and that the present and next generations will finally be of this opinion. I am the more confirmed in this by having lately gone over some of our classics, particularly Pope, whom I tried in this way: — I took Moore's poems and my own and some others, and went over them side by side with Pope's, and I was really astonished (I ought not to have been so) and mortified at the ineffable distance in point of sense, learning, effect, and even imagination, passion, and invention, between the little Queen Anne's man, and us of the lower empire. Depend upon it, it is all Horace then, and Claudian now among us; and if I do not mould myself accordingly. Crabbe's the man, but he has got a coarse and impracticable subject, and Rogers is retaken upon half-pay, and has done enough, unless he were to do as he did formerly.

LETTER CCCLV.

TO MR. MURRAY. Sept. 17, 1817.

"Mr. Hobhouse purposes being in England in November; he will bring the fourth canto with him, notes and all; the text contains one hundred and fifty stanzas, which is long for that measure.

"With regard to the Ariost of the North," surely their themes, chivalry, war, and love, were as like as can be; and as to the compliment, if you knew what the Italian thinks of Ariosto, you would not hesitate about that. But as to their measures, you forget that Ariosto's is an octave stanza, and Scott's anything but a stanza. If you think Scott will dislike it, say so, and I will expunge. I do not call him the Scotch Ariosto, which would be said provincial eulogy, but the Ariosto of the North, meaning of all countries that are not the South.

"As I have recently troubled you rather frequently, I will conclude, repeating that I am yours ever, &c."

LETTER CCCLVI.

TO MR. MURRAY. Oct. 12, 1817.

"Mr. Kinnaird and his brother, Lord Kinnaird, have been here, and are now gone again. All your missives came, except the tooth-powder, of which I require five boxes; the supplies, at all convenient opportunities; as also of magnesia and soda-powders, both great luxuries here, and neither to be had good, or indeed hardly at all, of the natives."

"In Coleridge's Life, I perceive an attack upon the then committee of D. L. Theatre for acting Bertram, and an attack upon Maturin's Bertram for being acted. Considering all things, this is not very grateful; so, in general, I think the autobiographer; and I would answer, if I had not obliged him: Putting my own pains to forward the views of Coleridge out of the question, I know that there was every disposition, on the part of the sub-committee, to bring forward any production of his if it was feasible. The play he offered, though poetical, did not appear at all practicable, and Bertram did; — and hence this long tirade, which is the last chapter of his vagabond life.

"As for Bertram, Maturin may defend his own, begotten, if he likes it well enough; I leave the Irish clergyman and the new orator Henley to battle it out between them, satisfied to have done the best I could for both. I may say this to you, as I know it.

"Mr. Coleridge may console himself with the fervor,—the almost religious fervor of his and Wordsworth's disciples, as he calls it. If he means that they are not in any proof, they will think it their own; and the fervor in behalf of Richard Brothers and Joanna Southcote as ever gathered over his pages or round his fireside.

"I my answer to your proposition about the fourth canto you will have received, and I await yours: — perhaps we may not agree. I have since written a poem* (of eighty-four octave stanzas), humorous, in or after the excellent manner of Mr. Whistlecraft (whom I take to be Freere), on a Venetian anecdote which amused me: — but till I have your answer, I can say nothing more about it.

"Mr. Hobhouse does not return to England in November, as he intended, but will winter here; and as he is not going the poetry the winter, there may perhaps be more than the two mentioned (which, by-the-way, I shall not perhaps include in the same publication or agreement) — I shall not be able to publish so soon as expected; but I suppose there is no harm in the delay.

"I have signed and sent your former copyrights by Mr. Kinnaird, but not the receipt, because the money is not yet paid. Mr. Kinnaird has a power of attorney to sign for me, and will, when necessary.

"Many thanks for the Edinburgh Review, which is very kind about Manfred, and defends its originality, which I did not know that any body had attacked. I am sure, and do not ever saw the Faustus of Marlowe, and had, and have, no dramatic works by me in English, except the recent things you sent me; but I heard Mr. Lewis translate verbally some scenes of Goethe's Faust (which were, some good and some bad) last summer—which is all I know of the history of that magical personage; and as to the germ of Manfred, they may be found in the Journal which I sent to Mrs. Leigh (part of which you saw) when I went over first the Dent de Jaman, and then the Wengen or Wengelberg Alp and Scheideck, and made the giro of the Jungfrau, Shreckhorn, &c., &c., shortly before I left Switzerland. I have the whole scene of Manfred before me, as if it was written on sand, and could point it out, spot by spot, torrent and all.

"Of the Prometheus of Eschylus I was passionately fond as a boy (it was one of the Greek plays we read thrice a year at Hall's); indeed that the 'Prometheus' and the 'Medea' were the only ones, except the Seven before Thebes, which ever much pleased me. As to the Faustus of Marlowe, I never read, never saw, nor heard of it,—at least, thought of it, except that I think Mr. Goldsmith mentioned it, in a note of his which you sent me, something about the catastrophe; but not as having anything to do with mine, which may or may not resemble it, for anything I know.

"The Prometheus, if not exactly in my plan, has"
always been so much in my head, that I can easily conceive its influence over all or any thing that I have written;—but I deny Marlow and his progeny, and beg that you will do the same, whose country-house at Este I have taken for two years. If you comes out next summer, let me know in time. Love to Gifford.

"Yours ever truly.

Crabbe, Malcolm, Hamilton, and Chaucer,
Are all partakers of my penny.

These two lines are omitted in your letter to the doctor, after—

"All dear men who make their way."

LETTER CCCLVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

*Venice, Oct. 29, 1817.*

"Your two letters are before me, and our bargain is so firm coo-ched. How sorry I am to hear that Gifford is unwell! Pray tell me he is better; I hope it is nothing but cold. As you say his illness originates in cold, I trust it will get no farther.

"Mr. Whistler has been in the country, but till the 15th of March here at evening, he lived with the greater admiring than myself: I have written a story in eighty-nine stanzas, in imitation of him, called Beppo (the short name for Giuseppe, that is, the Joe of the Italian Joseph), which I shall throw you into the balance of the fourth canto, to help you round to your money; but you perhaps had better publish it anonymously: but this we will see to by-and-by.

"In the notes to canto fourth, Mr. Hobhouse has pointed out several errors of mine, which you may depend upon H.'s research and accuracy. You may print it in what shape you please.

"With regard to a future large edition, you may print all, or any thing, except 'English Bard,' to the republication of which at no time will I consent. I would not reprint them on any consideration. I don't think them good for much, even in point of poetry; and as to the other things, you are to recollect that I gave up the publication on account of the Hollands, and I do not think that any time or circumstances can neutralize the suppression. Add to which, that, after being on terms with almost all the bards and critics of the day, it would be savage at any time, but worst of all now, to revive this foolish lampoon.

"The review of Manfred came very safely, and I am much pleased with it. It is odd that they should say (that is, somebody in a magazine whom I do not find, I mean the Edinburgh Review) that it was taken from Marlow's Faust, which I never read nor saw. An American, who came the other day from Germany, told Mr. Hobhouse that Manfred was taken from Goethe's Faust. The devil may take both the Faustuses, German and English—I have taken neither.

"Will you send to Hanson, and say that he has not written since 9th September?—at least I have not heard since, to my great surprise.

"Will you desire Messrs. Morland to send out whatever additional sums he or may be paid in credit immediately, always, to their Venice correspondents? I am to have the five hundred pounds which they sent me out an additional credit for one thousand pounds. I was very glad of it, but I don't know how the devil it came; for I can only make out five hundred of Hanson's payment, and I had thought the other five hundred came from you; but it did not, it seems, as by yours of the 7th instant, you have only just paid the 1230l. balance.

"Mr. Kinnaird is on his way home with the assignments. I hear of the six days' arrival of canto fourth, which depends on the journey of Mr. Hobhouse home; and I do not think that this will be immediate.

"Yours, in great haste, and very truly,

B.

"P. S. Morlands have not yet written to my bankers, apprising the payment of your balances: pray desire them to do so.

"Ask them about the previous thousand—of which I know five hundred came from Hanson's—and make out the other five hundred—that is, whence it came."

LETTER CCCLVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

*Venice, Nov. 15, 1817.*

"Mr. Kinnaird has probably returned to England by this time, and will have conveyed to you any tidings you may wish to have of us and ours. I have come back, for the winter, Mr. Hobhouse will probably set off in December, but what day or week, I know not. He is my opposite neighbor at present.

"I wrote yesterday in some perplexity, and no very good humor to Mr. Kinnaird, to inform me about Newstead and the Hansons, of which and whom I hear nothing since his departure from this place, except in a few unintelligible words from an unintelligible woman.

"I am as sorry to hear of Dr. Polidori's accident as one can be for a person for whom one has a dislike, and something of contempt. When he gets well, tell me, and how he gets on in the sick line. Poor fellow! how came he to fix there?"

"I fear the doctor's still at Norwich. Will hardly suit the doctor's pursuits.

Methought he was going to the Brazils, to give the Portuguese physick (of which they are fond to desperation), with the Danish counsel.

"Your new canto has expanded to one hundred and sixty-seven stanzas. It will be long, you see; and as for the notes by Hobhouse, I suspect they will be of the heroic size. You must keep Mr. H. in good humor, for he is devilish touchy yet about your Review and all which it inherits, including the editor, the Admiralty, and its bookseller. I used to think that I was a good deal of an author in amour propre and nait me tangere; but these poor fellows are worst, after all, about their little comforts.

"Do you remember my mentioning, some months ago, the Marquis Moxeada—a Spaniard of distinction and warsconversaries, my summer neighbor at La Mira? Well, about six weeks ago, he fell in love with a Venetian girl of family, and no fortune or character: took her into his mansion! quarrelled with all his former friends for giving him advice (except me who gave him none), and installed her present concubine and future wife and mistress of himself and furniture. At the end of a month, in which she demeaned herself as ill as possible, he found out a correspondence between her and some former keeper, and after nearly strangling, turned..."
...out of the house, to the great scandal of the keeping part of the town, and with a prodigious eclat, which has occupied all the canals and coffee-houses in Venice. He said she wanted to poison him; and she says—God know what—but between them they have made a great deal of noise. I know a little of both the parties: Moncada seemed a very sensible old man, a character which he has not quite kept up on this occasion; and the woman is rather shame than pretty. For the licence of religion, she was bred in a convent, and for the credit of Great Britain, taught by an Englishwoman.

"Yours, &c."

 LETTER CCCLX.
 TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Dec. 8, 1837.

"A Venetian lady, learned and somewhat stricken in years, having, in her intervals of love and devotion, taken upon her to transcribe the letters, and write the life of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu,—to which undertaking there are two obstacles, firstly, ignorance of English, and, secondly, a total dearth of information on the subject of her project—has applied to me for facts, or falsities upon this promising project. Lady Montagu lived the last twenty or more years of her life in or near Venice, I believe; but here they know nothing, and remember nothing, for the story of to-day is succeeded by the scandal of to-morrow; and the wit, and beauty, and gallantry, which might render your countrywoman notorious in her own country, must have been here no great distinction—because the first is in no request, and the two latter are common to all women, or at least the last of them. If you can therefore tell me any thing, or get any thing told, of Lady Wortley Montagu, I shall take it as a favor, and will transfer and translate it to the 'Dama' in question. And I pray you besides to send me, by some quick and safe voyager, the edition of her letters, and the stupid life, by Dr. Dallaway, published by her proud and foolish family.

"The death of the Princess Charlotte has been a shock even here, and must have been an earthquake at home.* The Courier's list of some three hundred and the crown (including the house of Wirtemberg, with that * * * P— of, of disputable memory, whom I remember seeing at various balls during the visit of the Muscovites, &c., &c., 1814), must be very consolatory to all true lovers, as well as foreigners, except Signor Travis, a rich Jew merchant of this city, who complains grievously of the length of British mourning, which has countermanded all the silks which he was on the point of transmitting for a year to come. The death of this poor girl is melancholy in every respect, dying at twenty or so, in childbed—of a boy, too, a present princess and future queen, and just as she began to happy, and to enjoy herself and the hopes which she inspired. * * * * * * "I think, as far as I can recollect, she is the first royal defunct in childbed upon record in our history. I feel sorry in every respect—for the loss of a female reign, and a woman hitherto harmless; and all the lost rejoicings, and addresses, and drunkenness, and disbursements of John Bull on the occasion.

"The Prince will marry again, after divorcing his wife, and Mr. Southey will write an elegy now, and an ode then; the Quarterly will have an article against the press, and the Edinburgh an article 'half and half', about reform and right of divorce; * * * the British will give you Dr. Chalmers's sermon much commended, with a place in the stars for deceased royalty; and the Morning Post will have already yelled forth its 'sly, ladies, &c.'

"We, we, Neilliey I—the young Neilliey!"

"It is some time since I have heard from you, are you in bad humor? I suppose so. I have been so myself, and it is your turn now, and by-and-by mine will come round again. * * * Yours truly, B."

"P. S. Countess Albrizzi, come back from Paris, has brought me a medal of herself, a present from Denon to look like a likeness of Mr. Rogers (belonging to her), by Denon also."

 LETTER CCCLXI.
 TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Jan. 8, 1819.

"My dear Mr. Murray,

"You're in a damned hurry
To set up this ultimate article;
But if they don't read it,
You'll see me Hobhouse
Will bring it safe in his portmanteau.

For the Journal you blot of,
As ready to print off,
No doubt you do right to command it;
But as yet I have writ off
The devil a bit of
Our 'Frape'—when copied, I'll send it.

"Then you're * * * 'a Tour,—
No great things, to be sure,—
You could hardly begin with a less work
For the pompous rascal
Who don't speak Italian
Nor French, must have scribbled by gross work,
* * * * * * "You can make any loss up
With 'Bespone' and his gospal,
A work which must surely succeed;
Then Queen Mary's Epistle-craft,
Then the new 'Fyne' of 'Vigo's Discards',
Must make people purchase and read.

"Then you're General Gordon,
Who girded his sword on,
To serve with a Muscovite mane,
And help him to polish
A notion so foolish,
They thought sharing their bread a Shamrock.
LETTER CCLXII.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Jan. 18, 1818.

"I send you the story in three other separate parts. It won't do for your Journal, being full of political allusions. Print alone, without name; after nothing; get a scholar to see that the Italian phrases are correctly published (your printing, by the way, always makes me ill with its eternal blunders, which are incessant), and God speed you. Hobhouse left Venice a fortnight ago, saving two days. I have heard nothing of or from him. "Yours, &c.

"He has the whole of the MSS.; so put up prayers in your back shop, or in the printer's chapel."

LETTER CCLXIII.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Jan. 27, 1818.

"My father—that is, my Armenian father, Padre Pasquali—in the name of all the others of our convent, sends you the enclosed, greeting:

"Inasmuch as it has pleased the translators of the long-lost and lately-found portions of the text of Eusebius to put forth the enclosed prospectus of which I send six copies, you are hereby implored to obtain subscribers in the two universities, and among the learned, and the unlearned, who would unlearn their ignorance. This they (the convent request, I request, and do you request.

"I sent you Beppo some weeks ago. You must publish it alone; it has politics and ferocity, and won't do for your isthmus of a Journal.

"Mr. Hobhouse, if the Alps have not broken his neck, is, or ought to be, swimming with my commentaries and his own coat of mail in his teeth and right hand, in a cork jacket, between Calais and Dover.

"It is the height of the Carnival, and I am in the extreme and agonies of a new intrigue with I don't exactly know whom or what, except that she is insatiable of love, and won't take money, and has light hair and blue eyes, which are not common here, and that I met her at the masque, and that when her mask is off, I am as wise as ever. I shall make what I can of the remainder of my youth."

LETTER CCLXIV.
TO MR. MOORE.

"Venice, Feb. 2, 1818.

"Your letter of Dec. 8, arrived but this day, by some delay, common, but inexplicable. Your domestic calamities are very grievous, and I feel with you as much as I dare feel at all. Throughout life, your loss must be my loss, and your gain my gain;

"'Tis your letter,"

† Beppo.

and, though my heart may ebb, there will always be a drop for you among the dregs.

"I know how to feel with you, because (selfish ness being always the substratum of our darkness) I am quite estranged in my own children. Besides my little legitimate, I have made unto myself an illegitimate (to say nothing of one before); and I look forward to one of these as the pillar of my old age, supposing that I ever reach—which I hope I never shall—that desolating period. I have a great love for my little Ada, though perhaps she may torture me, like—"

"Your offered address will be as acceptable as you can wish. I don't much care what the wrinkles of the world think of me—all that's past. But I care a good deal what you think of me, and so, what you like. You know that I am not sullen; and, as to being savage, such things depend on circumstances. However, as to being in good humor in your society, there is no great merit in that, because it would be an effort, or an insanity, to be otherwise.

"I don't know what Murray may have been saying or quoting. I called Crabbe and Sam the fathers of present poetry; and said, that I thought—except them—"all of 'us youths' were on a wrong tack. But I never said that we did not sell well. Our fame will be hurt by admiration and imitation. When I say our, I mean all (lakers included), except the postscript of the Augustans. The next generation (from the quantity and facility of imitation) will tumble and break their necks off our Pegasus, who runs away with us; but we keep the audacie, because we broke the nacelle, and can ride. But though easy to mount, he is the devil to guide; and the next fellows must go back to the riding-school and the manage, and learn to ride the great horse.

"Talking of horses, by-the-way, I have transported my own, four in number, to the Lido, (beach, in English,) a strip of some ten miles along the Adriatic, a mile or two from the city; so that I not only get a row in my gondola, but a spanking gallop of some miles daily along a firm and solitary beach, from the fortress to Malamocco, which contributes considerably to my health and spirits.

"I have hardly had a wink of sleep this week past. We are in the agonies of the Carnival's last days, and I must be up all night again, as well as to-morrow. I have had some curious masking adventures this Carnival, but, as they are not yet over, I shall not say on. I will work the mine of my youth to the last veins of the ore, and then—good night. I have lived, and am content.

"Hobhouse went away before the Carnival began, so that he had little or no fun. Besides, it requires some time to be thorough-going with the Venetians; but of all this anon, in some other letter.

"I must dress for the evening. There is an opera, ridotta, and I know not what, besides balls; and so, ever and ever yours,

"P. S. I send this without revising, so excuse errors. I delight in the fortunate and tame of Lalla, and again congratulate you on your well-merited success."

LETTER CCLXV.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Feb. 20, 1818.

"I have to thank Mr. Croker for the arrival, and you for the contents, of the parcel which came last week, much quicker than any before, owing to Mr. Croker's kind attention and the official exterior of

* To Mr. Moore, p. 572.
† See Poems.
thef thebag; and all safe except much friction among
magnesia; of which only two bottles came entire: but it is all very well, and I am exceedingly obliged
to you.

"The books I have read, or rather am reading. Prov. 1:19. The Saxage fort, of whose goddess
is very amusing! Many of his sketches I recognize,
particularly Gifford, Mackintos., Drummond, Dut-
tens, H. Walpole, Mrs. Inchbald, Obie, &c., with the
Scotts, Loughborough, and most of the divines and
lawyers, and save one or two a few a few short hints of authorship, and a few lines about a certain 'noble author,' char-
acterized as malignant and sceptical, according to
the old story, 'as it was in the beginning, is now, and
will be for evermore.' Do you know such a person, Master Murray? eh?—And pray, of the
booksellers, which be you? the dry, the dirty, the
honest, the opulent, the finical, the splendid, or the
coxcomb booksellers? Strop my vitals, but the au-
thor grows scurrilous in his grand climactic.

"I remember to have seen Porson at Cambridge,
in the hall of our college, and in private parties, but
not frequently; and I never can recollect him except as
a poet; and generally I mean an evening, for in the hall, he dined at the Dean's
table, and I at the Vicemaster's, so that I was not
near him; and he then and there appeared sober in
his demeanour, nor did I ever hear of excess or ou-
trage on his part. In public,—in the college, or
chapel; but I have seen him in a private party of
undergraduates, many of them freshmen and strangers, take up a poker to one of them, and
heard him use language as blackguard as his action.
I have seen Sheridan drunk, too, with all the
world; but his intoxication was that of Bacchus, and
Porson's that of Silenus. Of all the disgusting
brutes, sulky, abusive, and intolerable, Porson was
the most hateful, and so far as the few Kings that I saw
him went, which were only at William Bankes's
(the Nubian discoverer's) rooms. I saw him once
so away in a rage, because nobody knew the name of
the 'Cobbler of Messina,' insulting their igno-
rance with the most vulgar terms of reprobaion.
He was tolerated in this state among the young
men for his talents, as the Turks think a madman
inspired, and bear with him. He used to recite or
rather vomit pages of all languages, and could
speak Greek like a Helot; and certainly Sparta never
shook her children with a grosser exhibition than
this man's intoxication.

"Perceive, in the book you sent me, a long ac-
count of him, which is very savage. I cannot
judge, as I never saw him sober, except in hall or
combination-room; and then I was never near
equal to, and hardly to see him. Of his
drunken deportment, I can be sure, because I
saw it.

"With the Reviews, I have been much enter-
tained. It requires to be as far from England as I
am to relish a periodical paper properly: it is like
soda-water in an Italian summer. But what cruel
work you make with Lady Morgan! You should
recollect that she is a woman; though, to be sure,
they are now and then very fine and still as an-
cessories they can do no great harm; and I think
it is a pity so much good invective should have
been laid out upon her, when there is such a fine
field of us, Jacobin gentlemen, for you to work
upon. This being, as it was, a very serious and
injured person, that it is as good for her as a dose of
karthison.'

"I heard from Moore lately, and was sorry to be
made aware of his domestic loss. Thus it is—
medio de fonte leporum—short in the case of his fame
and happiness comes a drawback as usual.

"Mr. Hoppner, whom I saw this morning, has
been made the father of a very fine boy. —Mother
and child doing very well indeed. By this time
Hobhouse should be with you, and also certain pack-
ets, letters, &c., of mine, sent since his departure
I am not at all well in health within this last eight
days. My remembrances to Gifford and all friends.

"Yours, &c.,

"B.

"P. S. In the course of a month or two, Hanson
will have probably to send off a clerk with convey-
ances to show the thing, by some Italian, who had sent it to you
last for ninety-four thousand five hundred pounds,
in which case I suplicate supplies of articles as usual, for which, desire Mr. Kinnaird to settle from
funds in their bank, and deduct from my account with
him.

"P. S. To-morrow night I am going to see
'Othello,' an opera from our 'Othello,' and one of
Rossini's best, it is said. It will be curious to see
in Venice the Venetian story itself represented,
besides to discover what they will make of Shakes-
peare in music.

LETTER CCCLXVI.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

"MY DEAR SIR,

"Our friend, il Conte M., threw me into a cold
sweat last night, by telling me of a menaced
version of Manfred (in Venetian I hope, to complete
the thing), by some Italian, who had sent it to you
for correction, which is the reason why I take the
liberty of troubling you on the subject. If you
have any means of communication with the man,
should you permit me to convey to him the offer of
any price he may obtain, or think to obtain, for his
project, provided he will throw his translation into
the fire, and promise not to undertake any other of
that or any other of my things: I will send him
his money immediately on this condition.

"As I did not write to the Italians, nor for
the Italians, nor of the Italians, (except in a poem not
yet published, where I have said all the good I know
or do know of them and none of the harm,) I confess I wish that they would let me alone, and not
drag me into their arena as one of the gladiators, in
a silly contest which I neither understand nor have
ever interfered with, having kept the peace of all
their literary parties, both here and at Milan, and
elsewhere,—I came into Italy to feel the climate and
be quiet if possible. Mossi's translation I would
have prevented if I had known it, or could have
done so; and I trust that I shall yet be in time to stop
this new gentleman, of whom I heard yesterday for
the first time. He will only hurt himself, and do
no good to his party, for in party the whole thing
originate. Our modes of thinking and writing are
so materially different, that I can conceive no greater
ambition than attempting to make any approach between the English and Italian poetry of the pre-
cent day. I like the people very much, and their
literature very much, but I am not the least ambis-
tious of being the subject of their discussions litera-
ry and personal, (which appear to be pretty much

1 On the birth of this child, who was christened John William Rossi,
Lorden Rossini wrote the following lines, which are in no other respect
remarkable than that they were thought worthy of being translated into
so much less different languages: namely, Greek, Latin, Italian
(also in the Venetian dialect), German, French, Spanish, Italian, Hebrew
Armenian, and Samaritan:

"His father's name, his mother's grace
In him, I hope, will always be so:
With (still to keep him in good case)
The health and happiness of Rossini."

2 The original lines, with the different versions above mentioned, were
published in a small volume, in the Seminary of Pisa. —Mrs. W.
BYRON'S WORKS.

"I have not, as you say, 'taken to wife the Adriatic.' I heard of Moore's loss of himself in a letter which was delayed upon the road three months; and was sincerely sorry for it, but in such cases what are words? The villa you speak of is one at Este, which Mr. Hopper (consul-general here), has transferred to me. I have taken it for two years as a place of villeggiatura. The situation is very beautiful indeed, among the Euganean hills, and the house very fair. The vines are luxuriant to a great degree, and all the fruits of the earth abundant. It is close to the old castle of the Este, or Guephus, and within a few miles of Arqua, which I have visited twice, and hope to visit often.

'Last summer (except an excursion to Rome), I passed upon the Brenta. In Venice I winter, transporting my horses with the Lido, bordering the Adriatic, (where the fort is,) so that I get a gallop of some miles daily along the strip of beach which reaches to Malamocco, when in health; but within these few weeks I have been unwell. At present I am getting better. The Carnival was short but a good one. I don't go out much, except during the time of masks; but there are one or two conversations, where I go regularly, just to keep up the system, as I had letters to their givers; and they are particular on such points; and now and then, though very rarely, to the Governor's.

'It is a very good place for women. I like the dialect and their manner very much. There is a sontevel about them which is very winning, and the romance of the place is a mighty adjunct; the bel sapphire is not, however, now among the dame or higher orders; but all under il fazzuoli, or kerciefs, (a white kind of veil which the lower orders wear upon their heads)—the resta zendaole, or old national female costume, is no more. The city, however, is decaying daily, and does not gain in population. However, I prefer it to any other in Italy, and here have I pitched my staff, and here do I purpose to reside for the remainder of my life, unless events, connected with business not to be transacted out of England compel me to return for that purpose; otherwise I have few regrets, and no desires to visit it again for its own sake. I shall probably be obliged to do so, to sign papers for my affairs and a proxy for the Whigs, and to see Mr. Waite, for I can't find a good dentist here, and every two or three years one ought to consult one.—About seeing my children, I must take my chance. One I shall have sent here; and I shall be very happy to see the legitimate son when God pleases, which he perhaps will some day or other. As for my mathematical wife, I am as well without her.

'Your account of your visit to Fonthill is very striking. Could you beg of him for me a copy in MS. of the remaining Tales? I think you deserve them, as a strenuous and public admirer of the first one. I will return it when read, and make no ill use of the copy, if granted. Murray would send me out any thing safely. If ever I return to England, I should like very much to see the author, with his permission. In the mean time, you could not oblige me more than by obtaining me the personal I request, in French or English, only one for that, though I prefer Italian to either. I have a French copy of Vathey, which I bought at Lausanne. I can read French with great pleasure and facility, though I neither speak nor write it. Now Italian I can speak with some fluency, and write sufficiently for my purposes, but I don't like their modern prose at all; it is very heavy, and so different from Machiavelli."

"They say Francis is Junius;—I think it looks like it. I remember meeting him at Earl Grey's at dinner. Has not he lately married a young woman; and was not he Madame Talleyrand's cavalier ser- enede in India years ago?"

'Ve read my death in the papers, which was not true. I see they are marrying the remaining singleness of the royal family. They have brought out Fario with great and deserved success at Covent Garden; that's a good sign. I tried, during the directory, to have it put at Drury Lane, but was overruled. If you think of coming into this country, you will let me know beforehand. I suppose Moore will not move. But if he does, I saw him the other night at Madame Albrizzi's; he talked of returning in May. My love to the Hollands."

"My Dear Tom,

'Since my last, which hope that you have received, I have had a letter from our friend Samuel. He talks of Italy this summer—won't you come with him? I don't know whether you would like our Italian way of life or not.

'Ve read a tale to the other day. The day I was telling a girl, 'you must not come to-morrow, because Margaret is going at such a time;'—they were both about five feet ten inches high, with great black eyes and fine features—fit to breed gladiators from—and had some difficulty to prevent a battle upon a rencontre once before)—unless you promise to be friends, and.—the answer was an interruption by a declaration of war against the other, which she said would be a 'Guerra di Canda.' Is it not odd, that the lower order of Venetians should still allude provocably to such a contest, so glorious and so fatal to the Republic?

'They have singular expressions, like all the Italians. For example, 'Visere'—as we would say, 'my love,' or 'my heart,' as an expression of tenderness. Also, 'I would go for you in the midst of a hundred knives.'—'Mazza ben,' excessive at tachment,—literally, 'I wish you well even to kill you.' Then they say, (except in our way,) 'I think I would do you so much harm?')—'do you think I would assassinate you in such a manner?'

'Tempo perfide,' bad weather; 'Strade perfide,' and road, with a thousand other allusions and metaphors, taken from the state of society and habits in the middle ages.

'Among I am not so sure about mazzos, whether it don't
LETTERS.

mean masses, i.e. a great deal, a mass, instead of the interpretation I have given it. But of the other phrases I am sure.

"Three o'clock—I must to bed, to bed, to bed," as another Siddons (that tragical friend of the mathematical wife) says, *

* * * * * * *

"Have you ever seen—I forget what or whom—no matter. They tell me Lady Melbourne is very unwell. I shall be so sorry. She was my greatest friend, of the feminine gender:—when I say 'friend,' I mean not mistress, for that's the antipodes. Tell me all about you and every body—how Sam is—how you like your neighbors, the Marquis and Marchesa, &c., &c."

"Ever, &c."

LETTER CCCLXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, March 25, 1819.

I have your letter, with the account of 'Beppo,' for which I sent you four new stanzas a fortnight ago, in case you print or reprint.* * * *

"Croker's is a good guess; but the style is not English—it is Italian—Berni is the original of all. Whistlercraft was my immediate model; Rose's 'Animal!' I never saw till a few days ago,—they are excellent. But (as I said above), Berni is the father of that kind of writing, which I think suits our language, too, very well;—we shall see by the experiment. If it does, I shall send you a volume in a year or two, for I know the Italian way of life well, and in time may know it yet better; and as for the verse and the passions, I have them still in tolerable vigor.

"If you think that it will do you and the work, or works, any good, you may put my name to it; but first consult the knowing ones. It will, at any rate, show them that I can write cheerfully, and repel the charge of monopoly and mannerism.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCCLXX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, April 11, 1819.

Will you send me by letter, packet, or parcel, half a dozen of the colored prints from Holmes's miniature, (the latter done shortly before I left your country, and the prints about a year ago;) I shall be obliged to you, as some people here have asked me for the like. It is a picture of my upright self, done for Scrope B. Davies, Esq.* * * *

"Why have you not sent me an answer, and lists of subscribers to the translation of the Armenian Eusebius? of which I sent you printed copies of the prospectus (in French) two moons ago. Have you had the letter?—I shall send you another:—you must not neglect my Armenians. Tooth-powder, harz, &c., tincture of myrrh, tooth-brushes, diaphy- lon plaster, Peruvian bark, are my personal de- marces.*

4 Strahan, Tonnson, List of the times, Patron and publisher of rhymes, Of the best list up Vulgate clima, My Murray.

4 To thee, whis hope and terror doomed, The unlisted Milk, auther of thee; Thou princest all—salve, salve nomine! My Murray.

4 Upon thy tablet's bale so green The last new Quarterly is sent But where a new Magazine, My Murray?"

* Along thy sprouted book-shelves shine The works then dearest most divine— The ' Art of Cookery,' and mine.

"Yours truly, Essays, too, I wau. And resonates to the still being great; And then thou hast the 'Navy List,' My Murray.

"And always fond I should conclude Without the *Board of Longitude,* Although this narrow paper would, My Murray!"

LETTER CCCLXXI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, April 12, 1819.

"This letter will be delivered by Signor Gioe Bata. Missilaglia, proprietor of the Apollo library and the principal publisher and bookseller now in Venice. He sets out for London with a view to business and correspondence with the English booksellers: and it is in the hope that it may be for your mutual advantage that I furnish him with this letter of introduction to you. If you can be of use to him, either by recommendation to others, or by any personal attention on your own part, you will oblige him, and gratify me. You may also perhaps both be enabled, or derive advantage, or establish some mode of literary communication, pleasing to the public, and beneficial to one another.

"At any rate, be civil to him for my sake, as well as for the honor and glory of publishers and authors above all and to your own; and: I am sure, to the letters of Lord Hervey, Lady M. W. Montague, (hers are but few—some billets-doux in French to Algarotti, and one letter in English, Italian, and all sorts of jargon, to the same,) Gray the poet, (one letter,) Mason, (two or three,) Garrick, Lord Chatham, David Hume, and many of less note,—all addressed to Count Algarotti. Out of these, I think, with discretion, an amusing miscellaneous volume of letters might be extracted, provided some good editor were disposed to undertake the selection, and preface, and a few notes, &c.

"The propietor of these is a friend of mine, Dr. Aymetti,—a great name in Italy, and if you are disposed to publish it will be for his benefit, and it is to and for him that you will name a price, and if you take upon you the work. I would edit it myself, but am too far off, and too lazy to undertake it; but I wish that it could be done. The letters of Lord Hervey, in Mr. Rose's opinion and mine, are good; and the short French love-letters certainly are Lady M. W. Montague's,—the French not good, but the sentiments beautiful. This took good, and Mason's tolerable. The whole correspondence must be well needed; but this being done, a small and pretty popular volume might be made of it. There are many ministers' letters—Gray the ambassador at Naples, Horace Mann, and others of the same kind of animal.

"I thought of a preface, defending Lord Hervey against Pope's attack, but Pope—good Pope, the poet—against the world, in the unjustifiable attempts begun by Warton, and carried on at this day by the new school of critics and scrubbars, who think themselves poets because they do not write like Pope. I have no patience with such cursed humbug and bad taste; and our whole generation are not worth a canto of the Rape of the Lock, or the Essay on Man, or the Dunciad, or... any thing that is his. But it is three in the matin, and I must go to bed:

"Yours always, &c."
LETTER CCLXXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, April 17, 1818.

"A few days ago, I wrote to you a letter requesting you to desire Hanson to desire his messenger to come on from Geneva to Venice, because I go not from Venice to Geneva; and if this is not done, the messenger may be damned, with him who mis-sent him to my request.

"With the proofs returned, I sent two additional stanzas for canto fourth: did they arrive?

"Your monthly reviewer has made a mistake. "Cavalieri done is well enough; "Cavalier servente" has always the same in conversation, and omitted in writing; so that it is not for the sake of metric, and pray let Griffith know this, with my compliments. I humbly conjecture that I know as much of Italian society and language as any of his people; but to make assurance doubly sure, I asked, at the Countess Benzoa's, last night, the question of more than one person in the office; and of these "cavalier servente" (in the plural, which calld not to my request), I found that they all acceded in pronouncing for "cavalier servente" in the singular number. I wish Mr. ***(or whoever Griffith's scribbler may be) would not talk of what he don't understand, which follows, and not fit to be intrusted with Italian, even in a quotation."

"Did you receive two additional stanzas, to be inserted towards the close of canto fourth? Respond, that (if not) they may be sent.

"Tell Mr. ** and Mr. Hanson, that they may as well expect Geneva to come to me, as that I should go to Geneva. The messenger may go or return, as he pleases; I won't stir: and I look upon it as a piece of singular absurdity in those who know me, imagining that I should—not to say malice, in attempting unnecessary torture. If, on the occasion, my interests should suffer, it is their neglect that is to blame; and they may all be d—d together.

"It is ten o'clock, and time to dress.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCLXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"April 23, 1818.

"The time is past in which I could feel for the dead—or I should feel for the death of Lady Melbourne, the best, and kindest, and ablest female I ever knew, old or young. But I have supped full of horrors, and events of this kind have only a kind of numbness worse than pain, like a violent blow on the elbow or the head. There is one link between England and myself—my poetry.

"Now to business. I presented you with Beppo, as part of the contract for canto fourth, considering the price you are to pay for the same, and intending to see you out in case of public caprice or my own poetical failure. If you choose to suppress it entirely, at Mr. ***(or) suggestion, you may do as you please. But recollect it is not to be published in a garbled or mutilated state. I reserve to my friends and myself the right of correcting the press: if the publication continues, it is to continue in its present form.

"As Mr. ** says that he did not write this letter, &c., I am ready to believe him; but for the firmness of my former persuasion, I refer to Mr. ** I can inform you now fully on this point. He has also the note—or, at least, bad it, for I gave it to him with my verbal comments thereupon. As to 'Beppo,' I will not alter or suppress a syllable for any man's pleasure but my own.

"You may tell them this; and add, that nothing but force or necessity shall stir me one step towards the places to which they would wring me.

"If your literary matters prosper, let me know

If 'Beppo' is published, you shall have more in a year or two in the same mood. And so, 'Good morrow to you, good Master Lieutenant.'

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCLXXIV.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Palermo, Messina, Cora Grande. "Venice, June 1, 1818.

"Your letter is almost the only news, as yet, of canto fourth, and it has by no means settled its fate,—at least, does not tell me how the 'poesie' has been received by the public. But I suspect, no great things,—firstly, from Murray's 'horrid stillness;' secondly: from what you say about the stanzas running into each other, which calls not to my request, but a notion you have binned with among the Blues. The fact is, that the terza rima of the Italians, which always runs on and in, may have led me into experiments, and carelessness is to cause me no concern—unnecessary—in either of which events failure will be probable, and my fair-woman, 'superne,' end in a fish; so that Childe Harold will be like the mermaid, my family crest, with the fourth canto to a tall tale thereunto. We won't quarrel with the public, however, for the 'Bulgars' are generally right; and if I miss now, I may hit another time: and so 'the gods give us joy.'

"You like Beppo; that's right.

"I have not had the Fudges yet, but live in hopes. I need not say that your successes are mine. By-the-way, Lydia White is here, and has just borrowed my copy of 'Lalla Rookh.'

"'Hunt's letter is probably the exact piece of vulgar coxcombry you might expect from his situation. He is a good man, with some poetical elements in his character, but spoiled by the Christian Church Hospital and a Sunday newspaper,—to say nothing of the Sury jail, which conceived him into a martyr. But he is a good man. When I read 'Rimini' in MSS., I thought that I deemed it good poetry at bottom, disfigured only by a strange style. His answer was, that his style was a system, or upon system, or some such cant; and, when a man talks of system, his case is hopeless, so I said no more to him, and very little to any one else.

"He believes his trash of vulgar phrases tortured into compound barbarisms to be old English; and we may say of it as Aimwell says of Captain Hþbit's regiment, when the captain calls it an 'old corps,'—the oldest in Europe, if I may judge by your uniform. He sent out his 'Pollage' by Percy Shelley, and, of all the inefable cantards that were (or are) ever forgotten, the man at night-smere, I think this monstrous sagittary the most prodigious. He (Leigh H.) is an honest charlatan, who has persuaded himself into a belief of his own impostures, and talks Funch in pure simplicity of heart, taking himself (as Mr. Fitzgerald said of himself in the Morning Post) for Vates in both senses, or non-senses, of the word. Did you look at the translations at his own which he prefers to Pope and Dryden, and says so?—Did you read his skilable skambol about ** being at the head of his own profession in the eyes of those who follow it? I thought that poetry was an art, or an attribute, and not a profession—but be it one, to that ** **

*Mr. Moore had said, in his letter to him, that this passage of carrying one stanza into another, was 'something like taking an engine another stag without horse.'"
LETTERS.

at the head of your profession in your eyes? I’ll be cursed if he is of mine, or ever shall be. He is the only one of us (but of us he is not) whose corona-
tion I would oppose. Let them take Scott, Cam-
bell, Crabbe, or you or me, or any of the liv-
ing, and they shall have my voice; but not his few Jacob
Behmen, this—

"But Leigh Hunt is a good man, and a good
father—see his odes to all the Masters Hunt; a
good husband—see his sonnet to Mrs. Hunt—a
good friend—see his epistles to different peo-
ple, and a great coxcomb, and a very person in
everything about him. But that’s not his fault,
but of circumstances."

"I do not know any good model for a life of
Sheridan but that of Savage. Recollect, however,
that the life of such a man may be made far more
amusing than if he had been a Wilberforce,—
this without offending the living or insulting the
dead. The Whigs abuse him; however, he never
left them, and such blunderers deserve neither
credit nor compassion. As for his creditors,—re-
member, Sheridan never had a shilling, and was
thrown, with great powers and passions, into
the thick of the world, and placed upon the pinnacle
of success, with no other external means to
support him in his elevation. Did Fox — pay his debts—or did Sheridan take a subscription? Was
the oake of Norfolk’s drunkenness more excusable
than his? Were his intrigues more notorious than
those of all his contemporaries? and is his memory
to be blusted, and their respected? Don’t let
yourself be led away by clamor, but compare him
with the coattail Fox, and the pensioner Burke,
as a mad of principle, and with ten hundred thou-
sand in personal views, and with none in talent
for he beat them all out and out. Without means,
without connexion, without character (which might
be false at first, and made him mad afterward from
desperation), he beat them all, in all he ever at-
tempered. But alas, poor human nature! Good
night—or, rather, morning. It is four, and the
dawn gleams over the Grand Canal, and unshadows
the Rialto. I must bed; up all night—but, as
George Philpot says, ‘it’s life, though, damme, it’s
life!’ “Ever yours,

"Excuse errors—no time for revision. The post
goes out at noon, and I shan’t be up then. I will
write again soon about your plans for a publication."
BYRON'S WORKS.

or the door if they chose; it. She went before the commissary, but was obliged to return with that. "becco etico," as she called the possible, who had a few days a ran away again.

After a precious piece of work, she fixed herself in my house, really and truly without my consent; but, owing to my indifference, and not being able to keep her silence—after if I began in a rage, she always finished by making me laugh with some Venetian pantalooney or another; and the gipsy knew this well enough, as well as her other powers of delusion. In this the usual tangle and success of all she-things—high and low, they are all alike for that.

"Madame Benzonzi also took her under her protection, and then her head turned one was taken by a

in extremes, either crying or laughing, and so fierce when angered, that she was the terror of men, women, and children—for she had the strength of an Amazon, with the temper of Medea. She was a fine animal, but quite untameable. I was the only person that could at all keep her in any order, and when she saw me really angry (which they tell me is a savage sight), she subsided. But she had a thousand petty ways. In her turn on the dress of the lower orders, she looked beautiful; but, also! she longed for a hat and feathers; and all I could do or do (and I said much) could not prevent this travesty. I put the first into the fire; but I got tired of this operation. She was in the habit of bringing them to me, so that she made herself a figure—for they did not at all become her.

"Then she would have her gown and a tail—like a lady, for both; nothing would serve her but "l’abità colla coua," or cua (that is the Venetian for "la cola," the tail or train), and as her cursed pronunciation of the word made me laugh, there was an end of all controversy, and she dragged this dignity after her every where.

"In the mean time, she beat the women and stepped my letters. I found her one day pondering over one. She used to try to find out by their shape whether they were feminine or no; and she used to lament her ignorance, and actually studied her alphabet, on purpose (as she declared) to open all letters addressed to me, and read their contents.

"I must not omit to do justice to her housekeeping qualities. After she came into my house as donna di governo," the expenses were reduced to less than half, and every body did their duty better—the apartments were kept in order, and every thing and every one, and else, expensive.

"That she had a sufficient regard for me in her wild way, I had many reasons to believe. I will mention one. In the autumn, one day going to the Lido with my gondoliers, we were overtaken by a heavy squall, and the gondola put in peril—hats blown away, boat filling, oar lost, tumbling sea, thunder, rain in torrents, night coming, and wind increasing. On our return, after a tight struggle, I found her on the open steps of the Mocenigo palace, on the Grand Canal, with her great black eyes flashing through her tears, and the long dark hair, which was streaming, drenched with rain, over her bare breasts. She was alighting from a carriage, or the sibyl of the tempest that was rolling around her, the only living thing within half at that moment except ourselves. On seeing me, she "saw me," as the gipsies say, as might have been expected, but calling out me—"And

can della Madonna, xe esto il tempo por andar' al Lido?" (Ah! dog of the Virgin, is this a time to go to Lido?) ran into the house, and solaced herself with saying the boatmen for not foreseeing the 'temporal.' I am told by the servants that she had only been prevented from coming in a boat to look after me by the refusal of all the gondoliers

of the canal to put out into the harbor in such a moment; and that then she sat down on the steps in all the austerity of her indolence, and would not be removed nor comforted. Her joy at seeing me again was moderately mixed with ferocity, and gave me the idea of a tigress over her recovered cubs.

"But ."er reign drew near a close. She became quite unguerurable some months after, and a concurrence of complaints, some true, and many false—"a favorite has no friends"—determined me to part with her. I told her quietly that she must return home, that she had acquired a sufficient provision for herself and mother, &c., in my service,) and she refused to quit the house. I was firm, and she went threatening knives and revenge. I told her I knew she was always five and that if she chose to begin, there was a knife and fork also, at her service on the table, and that intimidation would not do. The next day, while I was at dinner, she walked in, (having broken open a glass door that lead from the hall below to the staircase, by way of prologue,) and advancing straight up to the table, snatched the knife from my hand, cutting me slightly in the thumb in the passage,) and the furious woman, without style or manner, said to herself and me, I know not—probably against neither—but Fletcher seized her by the arms, and disarmed her. I then called my boatmen, and desired them to get the gondola ready, and conduct her to her own house, seeing carefully that she did herself no mischief by the way. She seemed quite quiet, and walked down stairs. I resumed my dinner.

"We heard a great noise, and went out, and met them on the staircase, carrying her up stairs. She had thrown herself into the canal. That she in tended to destroy herself, I do not believe: but when we consider the fear women and men who can’t avoid either a deep or even of shallow water, (and the Venetians in particular, though they live on the waves,) and that it was also night, and dark, and very cold, it shows that she had a devilish spirit of some sort within her. They had got her out without much difficulty or damage, excepting the salt water she had swallowed, and the wetting she had undergone.

"I formed her intention to relieve herself, and sent for a surgeon, inquiring how many hours it would require to restore her from her agitation; and he named the time. I ther said, 'I give you that time, and more if you require it; but at the expiration of the period, if she does not leave the house, I will.'

"All my people were consternated. They had always been frightened at her, and were now paralyzed: they wanted she to appear to the house, to guard myself, &c., &c., like a pack of anivelling servile bobby's, as they were. I did nothing of the kind, thinking that I might as well end that way as another; besides, I had been used to savage women, and knew their ways.

"I had her sent home quietly after her recovery, and never saw her since, except twice at the opera, at a distance among the audience. She made many attempts to return, but no more violent ones. And this is the story of Margarita Cogni, as far as it relates to me.

"I forgot to mention that she was very devout, and would cross herself if she heard the prayer time strike. 

"She was quick in reply; as, for instance—One day when she had made me very angry with beating somebody or other, she called a coup (a concurrence in Italian, is a sad affront.) I called her 'Vecca.' She turned round, curtissed, and answered, 'Vecca tua, oelenza,' (i. e. eccellenza.) 'Your cow, please your Excellency.' The next time she was there, she wore, a very fine animal, of considerable beauty and energy, with many good and several amusing qualities, but wild as a witch and fierce as a demon. She
used to boast publicly of her ascendancy over me, contrasting it with that of other women, and assigning for it sundry reasons, * * *. True it was, that they all tried to get her away, and no one succeeded till her own absurdity helped them.

“I omitted to tell you her answer, when I reproached her for snatching Madame Contarini's mask at the Cavalcina. I represented to her that she was a lady of high birth, "una Dama," &c. She answered, 'Se elle è dama mi (io) son Venezian;"—'if she is a lady, I am a Venetian.' This would have been fine a hundred years ago: the pride of the nation rising up against the pride of aristocracy: * * * but alas! Venice, and her people, and her nobles, are alike returning fast to the ocean; and where there is no independence, there can be no real self-respect. I believe that I mistook or mistated one of her phrases in my letter; it should have been—'Can' della Madonna, cosa vu's tu? esto non è tempo per andar' a Lido.'

LETTER CCCLXXVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

* Venice, June 19, 1818.

"Business, and the utter and inexplicable silence of all my correspondents, renders me impatient and troublesome. I wrote to Mr. Hanson for a balance which (or ought to be) in his hands:—no answer. I expected the messenger with the Newstead papers two months ago, and instead of him, I received a requisition to proceed to Geneva, which (from * * * who knows my wishes and opinions about approaching England) could only be irony or insult.

"I must, therefore, trouble you to pay into my bankers immediately whatever sum or sums you can make it convenient to do on our agreement; otherwise, I shall be put to the severest and most immediate inconvenience; and this at a time when, by every rational prospect and calculation, I ought to be in the receipt of considerable sums. Pray do not neglect this; you have no idea to what inconvenience you will otherwise put me. * * * had some ardent notion about the disposal of this money in annuity, (or some other) venture, which what, and I merely listened to when he was here to avoid squabbles and sermons; but I have occasion for the principal, and had never any serious idea of approbating it otherwise: I should therefore, answer my personal expenses. Hobhouse's wish is, if possible, to forward my return to England: he will not succeed; and if he did, I would not stay. I hate the country, and like this; and all foolish opposition, of course, merely adds to the feeling. Your silence makes me doubt the success of canto fourth. If it has failed, I will make such deduction as you think proper and fair from the original agreement; but I could wish whatever is to be paid was remitted to me, without delay, through the usual channel, by course of post. When I tell you that I have not heard a word from England since very early in May, I have made the eulogium of my friends, or the persons who call themselves so, since I have written so often and in the greatest anxiety. Thank God, the longer I am absent, the less cause I see for regretting the country or its living contents.

"I am yours, &c.

P. S. Tell Mr. * * * that * * * * and that I never will forgive him, (or any body,) the atrocious magnitude of their late silence at a time when I wished particularly to hear, for every reason, from my friends."

* Childe Harold, canto iv, stanza xii,—"Shakspeare a sworded into stones she saw."

LETTER CCCLXXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

* Venice, July 10, 1818.

"I have received your letter and the credit-from Morlands, &c., for whom I have also drawn upon you at sixty days' sight for the remainder, according to your last letter."

"I am still waiting in Venice, in expectancy of the arrival of Hanson's clerk. What can detain him, I do not know: but I trust that Mr. Hobhouse and Mr. Kinnaird, when the political fit is abated, will take the trouble to inquire and expedite him, as I have nearly a hundred thousand pounds depending upon the completion of the sale and the signature of the papers."

"The draft on you is drawn up by Siri and Wilhalm. I hope that the form is correct. I signed it two or three days ago, desiring them to forward it to Messrs. Morland and Ransom. Your projected editions for November had better be postponed, as I have some things in project, or preparation, that may be of use to you, though not very important in themselves. I have completed an ode on Venice,* and have two stories, one serious and one ludicrous, (a la Beppo,) not yet finished, and in no hurry to be so.

"You talk of the letter to Hobhouse being much admired, and speak of prose. * I think of writing (for your full edition) some memoirs of my life, to precede to them, upon the same model (though far enough, I fear, from reaching it), of Gifford, Hume, &c.; and this without any intention of making disclosures, or remarks upon living people, which would be unpleasant to them: but I think it might be done, and well done. However, this is to be considered. I have materials in plenty, but the greater part of them could not be used by me, nor for these hundred years to come. However, there is enough of these, and merely as a literary man, to make a preface for such an edition as you meditate. But this is by-the-way: I have not made up my mind.

"I enclose you a note on the subject of 'Persini,' which Hobhouse can dress for you. It is an extract of particulars from a history of Ferrara.

"I trust you have been attentive to Missiaglia, for the English have the character of neglecting the Italians at present, which I hope you will redeem."

"Yours in haste,"

B."

LETTER CCCLXXVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

* Venice, July 17, 1818.

"I suppose that Aglietti will take whatever you offer, but till his return from Vienna I can make him no proposal; nor, indeed, have you authorized me to do so. The three French notes are by Lady Mary; also another half-English-French-Italian. They are very pretty and passionate; it is a pity that a piece of one of them is lost. Algarotti seems to have treated her ill; but she was much his senior, and all women are used ill—or say so, whether they are or not.

* * * * * * * *

"I shall be glad of your books and powders. I am still in waiting for Hanson's clerk; I have written repeatedly not at Genoa, but at Venice; all my good friends wrote to me to hasten thence to meet him, but not one had the good sense, or the good nature, to write afterward to tell me that it would be time and a journey..."

* See page 509. The two stories were Masnapo and Don Juan.
† Dedication to the fourth canto of Childe Harold.
‡ See Persius, note.
thrown away, as he could not see off for some
m with all the period appointed. If I had
taken the journey on the general suggestion, I
never would have spoken again to one of you as long as I
existed. I have written to request Mr. Kinnaird,
who the foam of his politics is wiped away, to ex-
tract a positive answer from you. I am well
and need to keep me in a state of suspense upon the subject.
I hope that Kinnaird, who has my power of attor-
ney, keeps a look-out upon the gentleman, which is
the more necessary, as I have a great dislike to the
idea of coming over to look after him myself.

"I have several things begun, verse and prose,
but none in much forwardness. I have written
or me six or seven sheets of a life, which I mean to
continue, and send you when finished. It may per-
haps serve for your projected editions. If you
would tell me exactly (for I know nothing and have
no correspondents, except on business) the state of
the reception of our late publications, and the feel-
ing upon them, without consulting any delicacies, (I
am too seasoned to require them,) I should know
how and in what manner to proceed. I should not
like to give them too much, which may probably
have been the case already; but, as I tell you, I
know nothing.

"I once wrote from the fulness of my mind and
the love of fame, (not as an end, but as a means,
to obtain no influence whatever towards the
power in itself and in its consequences,) and now
from habit and from avarice; so that the effect may
probably be as different as the inspiration. I have
the same facility, and indeed necessity, of composi-
tion, to avoid idleness, (though idleness in a hot
country is a pleasure,) but a much greater indiffer-
ence to what is to become of it, after it has served
my immediate purpose. However, I should on no
account like to trouble you, but I won't go on, like the
archbishop of Granada, as I am very sure that you
dread the fate of Gil Blas, and with good reason.

"Yours, &c.

"P.S. I have written some very savage letters to
Mr. Hobhouse, Kinnaird, to you, and to Hanson,
because the silence of so long a time made me tear
off my remaining rags of patience. I have seen one
cr two late English publications which are no great
things, except Rob Roy. I shall be glad of Whis-
tlecraft."

LETTER CCLXXXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"You may go on with your edition, without cal-
culating on the memoir, which I shall not publish
at present. It is nearly finished, but will be too
long; and there are so many things, which, out of
regard to the living, cannot be mentioned, that I
have written with too much detail of that which in-
teresed me least; so that my autobiographical
essay would resemble the tragedy of Hamlet at the
country theatre, recited 'with the part of Hamlet
left out by particular desire.' I shall keep it among
my papers; it will be a kind of guide-post in case
of death, and prevent some of the lies which would
there be told and destroy some which have seen
to already.

"The tales also are in an unfinished state, and I
can fix no time for their completion; they are also
not in the best manner. You must not, therefore,
calculate upon any time in thing for this edition.
The memoir is already above forty sheets of very
large, long paper, and will be about fifty or sixty;
out I wish to go on leisurely; and when finished,
although it may not do you a good deal for you at the
time, I am not sure that it would serve any good
purpose in the end either, as it is full of many pas-
sions and prejudices, of which it has been impos-
sible for me to keep clear.—I have not the pa-
tience.

"Enclosed is a list of books which Dr. Aglietti
would be glad to receive by way of price for his MS
letters, if you are disposed to purchase at the rate
of fifty pounds sterling. These he will be glad to
have as part, and the rest I will give him in money
and you may carry it to the account of books, &c.
which is in balance against me, deducting it accord-
ingly. So that the letters are yours, if you like
them, at any rate; and he and I are going to
hunt for more Lady-Montagne letters, which he
thinks of finding. I write in haste. Thanks for
the article, and believe me,

"Yours, &c.

VENICE, Aug. 31, 1818.

LETTER CCLXXXI.

TO CAPT. BASIL HALL.

"DEAR SIR,

"Dr. Aglietti is the best physician, not only in
Venice, but in Italy; his residence is on the Grand
Canal, and easily found; I forget the number, but
I am probably the only person in Venice who don't
know it. Bat I am also acquainted with many other
of the other medical people here. I regret very
much to hear of your indisposition, and shall do
myself the honor of waiting upon you the moment
I am up. I write this in bed, and have only just
received the letter and note. I beg you to believe
that nothing but the extreme lateness of my hours
could have prevented me from replying immediately,
or coming in person. I have been kept a minute.
The honor to be, very truly,

"Your most obedient servant,

BYRON

VENICE, Sept. 19, 1818.

"An English newspaper here would be a prodigy,
or an opposition one a monster; and, except some
extracts from extracts in the vile, garbled Paris
gazettes, nothing of the kind reaches the Venetian,
Lombard public, who are perhaps the most
pressed in Europe. My correspondences with
England are mostly on business, and chiefly with
my solicitor, Mr. Hanson, who has no very exact
notion, or extensive conception, of an author's
attributes; for he once took up an Edinburgh Re-
view, and, looking at it a minute, said to me, 'So I
see you have got into the magazine,' which is the
only sentence I ever heard him utter upon literary
matters, or the men thereof.

"My first news of your Irish apothecary has, con-
sequently, been from yourself. But, as it will not
be forgotten in a hurry, either by your friends or
your enemies, I hope to have it more in detail from
some of the former, and, in the mean time, I wish
you joy with all my heart. Such a moment must
have been a good deal better than Westminster
Abbey,—besides being an assurance of that one
day (many years hence, I trust) into the bargain.

"I am sorry to perceive, however, by the close of
your letter, that even you have not escaped the
surgery"..." and that your damned deputy has been gathering such a 'dew from the still vest
Bermothes'—or rather "..."-

Frays, give me
some items of the affair, as you say it is a serious
one; and, if it grows worse, you should make a
trip over here for a few months, to see how things
turn out. I suppose you are a violent admirer of
England by your staying so long in it. For my own
part, I have passed between the age of one and twenty, and thirty, half the intervenient years out of that not regretting any thing, except that I ever returned to it all, and the gloomy prospect before me of business and parentage obliging me, one day, to return again,—at least, for the transaction of affairs, the signing of papers, and inspecting of children.

I have here my natural daughter, by name Algraga,—a pretty little girl enough, and reckoned like papa. Her mamma is English,—but it is a long story,—and there an end. She is about twenty months old. * * * * *

I have finished the first canto, (a long one, of about one hundred and eighty octaves,) of a poem in the style and manner of 'Beppo!' encouraged by the good success of the same. It is called 'Don Juan,' and is meant to be a little quietly facetious upon every thing. But I doubt whether it is not—at least, as far as it has yet gone—too free for these very modest days. However, I shall try the experiment, anonymously and if it don't take, it will be discontinued. It is dedicated to Southery in good simple, savage verse, upon the * * * * *'s politics, and the way he got them. But the horror of copying it out is intolerable; and if I had an amanuensis he would be of no use, as my writing is so difficult to decipher.

"My poem's Ripe, and is meant to be
Divided in twelve books, each book containing
With love and war, a heavy gale of war—
A list of ships, and captains, and kings reigning—

New characters, &c., &c.

The above are two stanzas, which I send you as a piece of my Babel, and by which you can judge of the texture of the structure.

In writing the life of Sheridan, never mind the angry lies of the humbug Whigs. Recollect that he was an Irishman and a clever fellow, and that we have had some very pleasant days with him. Don't forget that he was at school at Harrow, where, in my time, we used to show his name—R. B. Sheridan, 1765—as an honor to the walls. Remember * * * * *

Depend upon it that there were worse folks going, of that gang, than ever Sheridan was.

"What did Parr mean by 'haughtiness and coldness?' I listened to him with admiring ignorance, and respectful silence. What more could a talker for fame have?—they don't like to be answered. It was at Payne Knight's I met him, where he gave me more Greek than I could carry away. But I certainly meant to (and did) treat him with the most respectful deference.

I wish you a good night with a Venetian benediction. "E la terra che ti fara!—May you be blessed, and the earth which you will make—"Is it not pretty? You would think it still prettier if you had heard it, as I did two hours ago, from the lips of a Venetian girl, with large black eyes, a face like Faustina's, and the figure of a Juno—tall and energetic as a Pythoness, with eyes flashing, and her dark hair streaming in the moonlight. I must say these women who may be made anything— I am sure if I put a poniard into the hand of this one, she would plunge it where I told her,—and into me, if I offended her. I like this kind of animal, and am sure that I should have preferred Medea to any woman that ever breathed. You may, perhaps, wonder that I don't in that case * * * * *

I could have forgiven the dagger or the bowl, any thing, but the deliberate desolation piled upon me when I stood alone upon my hearth, with my household gods shivered around me. * * * * Do you suppose I have forgotten or forgiven it? It aas comparatively swallowed up in me every other feeling, and I am only a spectator upon earth, till a tenfold opportunity offers. It may come yet. There are others more to be blamed than * * and it is on these that my eyes are fixed unceasingly."

LETTER CCLXXXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Sept. 26, 1818.

"In the one hundred and thirty-second stanza of canto fourth, the stanza runs in the manuscript

"And then, who never yet of human wrong

[Left:] the unbalanced scale, great Necessity!

and not 'lost', which is nonsense, as what losing a scale means, I know not; but leaving an unbalanced scale, or a scale unbalanced, is intelligible. * Correct this, I pray,—not for the public, or the poetry, but I do not choose to have blunders made in addressing any of the deities so seriously as this is addressed.

"Yours, &c.

"P. S. In the translation from the Spanish, alter

"In increasing squadron flow,

To—

"To a mighty squadron grow.

"What does 'thy waters wanted them' in the canto?) That is not me.† Consult the MS. always.

"I have written the first canto (one hundred and eighty octave stanzas) of a poem in the style of Beppo, and have Mazeppa to finish besides.

"In referring to the mistake in stanza one hundred and thirty-two, I take the opportunity to desire that in future, in all parts of my writings referring to religion, you will be more careful, and not forget that it is possible that in addressing the Deity a blunder may become a blasphemy; and I do not choose to suffer such infamous perversions of my words or of my intentions.

"I saw the canto by accident."

LETTER CCLXXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Jan. 20, 1818.

"The opinions which I have asked of Mr. Holhouse and others were with regard to the poetical merit, and not as to what they may think due to the end of the day, which still reads the Bath Guide, Little's Poems, Prior, and Chaucer, to say nothing of Fielding and Smollett. If published, publish entirely, with the above-mentioned exceptions; or you may publish anonymously, or not at all. In the latter event, print fifty on my account, for private distribution.

"Yours, &c.

"I have written to Messrs. Kinnaird and Hobhouse, to desire that they will not erase more than I have requested."

"The second canto of Don Juan is finished in two hundred and six stanzas."

LETTER CCLXXXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, Jan. 27, 1818.

"You will do me the favor to print privately (for private distribution) fifty copies of Don Juan.

* Corrected in this edition.
† This passage remains uncorrected.
* See Don Juan, canto IV., stanza 121.
Byron’s Works.

The list of the men to whom I wish it to be presented, I will send hereafter. The other two poems had best be added to the collective edition: I do not approve of their being published separately. Print Don Juan entire, omitting, of course, the lines on Castlereagh, as I am not on the spot to meet him. I have a second canto ready, which will be sent by-and-by. By this post, I have written to Mr. Hobbhouse, addressed to your care.

"Yours, &c."

P.S. I have acquiesced in the request and representation; and having done so, it’s idle to detail my arguments in favor of my own self-love and Poesie; but I protest. If the poem has poetry, it would stand; if not, fall; the rest is ‘leather and grunels,’ and has never yet affected any human production ‘pro or con.’ Dulness is the only annihilator in such cases. As to the cant of the day, I despise it, as I have ever done all its other finical fashions, which become you as paint became the ancient Britons. If you admit this prudery, you must omit half Arisio, La Fontaine, Shakespeare, Beaumont, Fletcher, Massinger, Ford, all the Charles Second writers;* in short, something of most who have written before Pope and are worth reading, and much of Pope himself. Read him, my dear! don’t do—do—and I will forgive you; though the inevitable consequence would be that you would burn all I have ever written, and all your other wretched Claudians except the day (except Swift and Crabbe), into the bargain. I wrong Claudian, who was a poet, by naming him with such fellows; but he was the ‘ultimus Romanorum,’ the tail of the comet, and these persons are the tail of an old gown cut into a waistcoat for lackey; but being both tails, I have compared one with the other, though very unlike, like all similes.† I write in a passion and a sirocco, and I was up till six this morning at the Carnival; but I protest, as I did in my former letter.”

Letter Cccxxxv.

To Mr. Murray.

Venice, Feb. 1, 1819

"After one of the concluding stanzas of the first canto of Don Juan, which ends with (I forget the number)—"

"To have, when the original is dust, A copy, a d—d bad picture, and worse book,‡ insert the following stanza:—"

"What are the hopes of man, &c."

"I have written to you several letters, some with additions, and some upon the subject of the poem itself, which my cursed puritanical committee have protested against publishing. But we will circumvent them on that point. I have not yet begun to copy out the second canto, which is finished, from natural laziness, and the discouragement of the milk and water they have thrown upon the first. I say all this to them as to you, that is, for you to say to them, for I will have nothing underhand. If they had told me the poetry was bad, I would have acquiesced; but they say the contrary, and then talk to me about morality. I shall have to talk to them the same time I heard the word from any body who was not a rascal that used it for a purpose. I maintain that it is the most moral of poems; but if people won’t discover the moral, that is their fault, not mine. I have already written to beg that in any case you will print fifty for private distribution. I will send you the list of persons to whom it is to be sent afterward."

* See Don Juan, can. i., stanzas 481.
† See Letters to Beawie and Blackwood.
‡ I have the printed version: "a wretched picture."

"Within this last fortnight I have been rather indisposed with a rebellion of stomach, which would retain nothing, (liver, I suppose,) and an inability, or fantasy, not to be able to eat of any thing with relish but a kind of Adriatic fish called ‘scampi,’ which happens to be the most indigestible of marine viands. However, within these last two days, I am better, and very truly yours."

Letter Cccxxxvi.

To Mr. Murray.

Venice, April 5, 1819.

"The second canto of Don Juan was sent, on Saturday last, by post, in four packets, two of four, and two of three sheets each, containing in all two hundred and seventeen stanzas, octave measure. But I will permit no curtailments, except those mentioned above about Castlereagh and..."

* * * * * You shan’t make canticles of my cantos. The poem will please, if it is lively; if it is stupid, it will fail: but I will have none of your damned cutting and putting it by. If you please more anonymously: it will, perhaps, be better; but I will battle my way against them all, like a porcupine.

"So you and Mr. Foscolo, &c., want me to undertake what is a ‘great work’ in poetry. I suppose, or some such pyramid. I’ll try no such thing: I hate tasks. And then ‘seven or eight years!’ God send us all well this day three months, let alone years. If one’s years can’t be better employed than in swearing poesy, a man had better be a ditcher. And works, too!—a Child Harold nothing! You have so many ‘divine’ poems, is it nothing to have written a human one? without any of your worn-out machinery. Why, man, I could have spun the thoughts of the four cantos of that poem into twenty, had I wanted to book-make, and its passion into as many modern tragedies. Since you want length, you shall have enough of Juan, for I’ll make fifty cantos."

"And Foscolo, too! Why does he not do something more than the Letters of Otis, and a tragedy and pamphlets? He has got fifteen years of his command that he has: what has he done all that time?—proved his genius, doubtless, but not fixed its fame, nor done his utmost.

"Besides, I mean to write my best work in English, and it will take me nine years more thoroughly to master the language; and then if my fancy exists, and I exist too, I will try what I can do really. As to the estimation of the English, which you talk of, let them calculate what it is worth, before they insult me with their insolent condescension.

"I have not written for their pleasure. If they are pleased, it is that they chose to be so; I have never flattered their opinions, nor their pride; nor will I. Neither will I make ‘advice’ books, ‘al dilettar le femine e la plebe,’‡ I have written from the fulness of my mind, from passion, from impulse, from many motives, but not for their sweet voices.

"I know the precious worth of popular applause; for few scribblers have had more of it; and if I chose to swerve into their paths, I could retain it, or resume it. But I neither love ye, nor fear ye; and though I buy with ye, and sell with ye, I will neither eat with ye, nor drink with ye, nor pray with ye. They made me, without my search, a species of popular idol; they, without reason or judgment, beyond the caprice of their good pleasure, threw down the image from its pedestal: it was not broken with the fall, and they would, it seems, again replace it,—but they shall not.

"You ask about my health: about the beginning of the year I was in a state of great exhaustion, but..."
attended by such debility of stomach that nothing remained upon it; and I was obliged to reform my way of life, which was conducting me from the yellow leaf to the ground, with all deliberate speed. I am better in health and morals, and very much more, &c.

"P. S. I have read Hodgson's 'Friends.'

"He is right in defending Pope against the bastard pelicans of the poetical winter day, who add insult to their parrycide by suckling the blood of the parent of English real poetry—poetry without fault—and then spurning the bosom which fed them."

LETTER CCLXXXVII.

TO THE EDITOR OF GALIONIAN'S MESSENGER.

"Sir, 

"In various numbers of your journal, I have seen a mentioned a work entitled 'the Vampire,' with the addition of my name as that of the author. I am not the author, and never heard of the work in question until now. In a more recent paper I perceive a formal announcement of 'the Vampire,' with the addition of an account of my 'residence on the Island of Mitylene,' an island which I have occasionally sailed by in the course of travelling some years ago through the Levant—and where I should have no objection to reside, but where I have never yet resided. Neither of these performances are mine, and I presume that it is neither unjust nor ignoerasious to request that you will favor me by contradicting the advertisement to which I allude. If the book is clever, it would be base to deprive the real writer, whoever he may be, of his honours; and if stupid, I desire the responsibility of nobody's dulness but my own. You will excuse the trouble I give you; the imputation is of no great importance, and as long as it was confined to surmises and reports, I should have received it, as I received many others, in silence. But the formality of a public advertisement of a book I never wrote, and a residence where I never resided, is a little too much; particularly as I have no notion of the contents of the one, nor the incidents of the other. I have besides, a personal dislike to 'Vampires,' and the little acquittance I have with them would by no means induce me to divulge their secrets. You did me much less injury by your paragraphs about 'my devotion' and 'abandonment of society for the sake of religion,' which appeared in your Messenger during last Lent, all of which are not founded on fact, but you see I do not contradict them, because they are merely personal, whereas the others in some degree concern the reader. You will oblige me by complying with my request of contradiction—I assure you that I know nothing of the work or works in question, and have the honor to be (as the correspondents to Magazines say) 'your constant reader,' and very "Obst. humble serv't,

"BYRON."

LETTER CCLXXXVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Sir, 

"I have got your extract, and the 'Vampire.' I need not say it is not mine. There is a rule to go by: you are my publisher, (till we quarrel,) and what is not published by you is not written by me.

"By Doctor Prout.

"Next week I set out for Romagna—at least in all probability. You had better go on with the publications, without waiting to hear farther. For I have other things in my head. 'Mazepa' and the 'Ode separata'—what think you? Joan anonymus, 'without designation;' for I am a shabby, and attack Southey under cloud of night.

"Yours &c.""

In another letter on the subject of the Vampire are the following particulars.

LETTER CCLXXXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"'The story of Shelley's agitation is true.' I can't tell what seized him, for he don't want courage. He was once with me in a gale of wind, in a small boat, right under the rocks between Messlerie and St. Gingo. We five in the boat, two boatmen, and ourselves. The sail was mismanaged, and the boat was filling fast. He can't swim. I stripped off my coat, made him strip off his, and take hold of an ear, and thought (being myself an expert swimmer) I could save him, if he would not struggle when I took hold of him—unless we got smashed against the rocks, which were high and sharp, with an awkward surf on them at that minute. We were then about a hundred yards from the shore, and the boat in peril. He answered me, with the greatest coolness, 'that he had no notion of being saved, and that I would have enough to do to save myself, and begged not to trouble me.' Luckily, the boat righted, and, bailing, we got round a point into St. Gingo, where the inhabitants came down and embraced the boatmen on their escape, the wind having been high enough to tear up some huge trees from the Alps above us, as we saw next day.

"And yet the same Shelley, who was as cool as it was possible to be in such circumstances, (of which I am no judge myself, as the chance of swimming naturally gives self-possession when near shore,) certainly had the fit of fantasy which Polidori describes, though not exactly as he describes it.

"The story of the agreement to write the ghost books is true, but the ladies are not sisters.

"Mary Godwin (now Mrs. Shelley) wrote Frankenstein, which you have reviewed, thinking it Shelley's. Mr. Godwin is a wonderful book for a girl of nineteen, not nineteen, indeed, at that time. I en close you the beginning of mine, by which you will see how far it resembles Mr. Colburn's publication. If you choose to publish it, you may, statating why, and with such explanatory proem as you please. I never went on with it, as you will perceive by the date. I began it in an old account-book of Miss Milbanke's, which I kept, because it contained the word 'Housew' written in her twice as the inside blank page of the covers, being the only two scraped I have in the world in her writing, except her name to the deed of separation. Her letters I sent back, except those of the quarrelling, correspondenc, and those, being documents, are placed in the

* This story, as given in the Preface to the 'Vampire,' is as follows:—It appears that one evening Lord B. Mr. P. B. Shelley, two indies, and the gentleman before alluded to, after having perused a German work entitled Phantasmagoria, began relating ghost stories, when his hostipal having received the beginning of Christabel, then unpublished, the whole took an as mon of Mr. Shelley's mind, that he suddenly started up, and ran out of the room. The physician and Lord Byron followed, and discovered him leaning against a mantel-piece, with cold drops of perspiration trickling down his face. The gentleman given him something to refresh him, upon inquiring into the cause of his alarm, they found that his wild imagination had pictured to him the bosom of one of the ladies with eyes, (which was reported of a lady in the neighbourhood where he lived,) he was obliged to leave the room in order to destroy the illusion.

† See Fragment.
hands of a third person, with copies of several of my own; that I have no kind of memorial whatever of her, but these two words,—her actions, I have torn the leaves containing the part of the tale out of the book, and enclose them with this sheet.

What do you mean? First, you seem hurt by my letter, and then, is your next, you talk of its 'power,' and so forth. 'This is a d—d blind story, Jack; but never mind, go on.' You may be sure I will put me 'in a frenzy, I will never call you Jack again.' I remember nothing of the epistle at present.

What do you mean by Polidori's Diary? Why, I defy him to say anything about me, but he is welcome. I have nothing to reproach me with on this score, and I am much mistaken if that is not his own opinion. But why publish the name of two girls? and, in such a manner?—what a blundering piece of exhibition.' He asked Pictet, &c., to dinner, and of course was left to entertain himself. I went into society solely to present him, (as I told him,) that he might return into good company if he chose; it was the best thing for his youth and circumstances: for myself, I had done with society, and, having presented him, withdrew to my own 'way of life.' It is true that I returned without satisfaction, but I looked to have a terrier, a hare, because I saw it full. It is true that Mrs. Hervey (she writes novels) fainted at my entrance into Copet, and then came back again. On her fainting, the Duchesse de Broglie exclaimed, 'This is too much at sixty-five years of age!' I never gave the 'English' an opportunity of avoiding me, but I trust that if ever I do, they will seize it. With regard to Maseppa and the Ode, you may join or separate them, as you please, from the two cantos.

'Don't suppose I want to put you out of humor. I have a great respect for your good and gentlemanly qualities, and return your personal friendship towards me; and although I think you a little spoiled by 'villainous company,'—writes, persons of humor about town, authors, and fashionables, together with your 'I am just going to call at Carlton House, are you walking that way? '—I say, notwithstanding 'pictures, taste, Shakspere, and the musical glasses,' you deserve and possess the esteem of those whose esteem is worth having, and of none more (however useless it may be) than yours very sincerely, &c.,

P. S. Make my respects to Mr. Gifford. I am perfectly aware that 'Don Juan' must set us all by the ears, but that is my concern, and my beginning. There will be the 'Edinburgh' and all too, against it, so that, like 'Rob Roy,' I shall have my hands full.

LETTER CCCC.
TO MR. MURRAY.

* Venice, May 26, 1818.

I have received no proofs by the last post, and shall probably have quitted Venice before the arrival of the next. There wanted a few stanzas to the termination of canto first in the last proof: the next will, I presume, contain them, and the whole a perusal of canto second; but I am able to write for farther answers from me, as I have directed that my letters wait for my return, (perhaps in a month, and probably so;) therefore do not wait for farther answers from Venice. You may, perhaps, by the wind and weather— for it will at least convey your accents a little farther than they would otherwise have gone; whereas I shall neither echo nor acquiesce in your exquisite reasons. You may omit the note of reference to Hobhouse's travels, in canto second and you will put as motto to the whole—'

—Difficult on purely commonsense views.'—Horace.

'A few days ago I sent you all I know of Polidori's Vampire. He may do, or say what he pleases, but I wish he would not attribute to me his own compositions. If he has any thing of mine in his possession, the manuscript will put it beyond controversy; but I scarcely think that any one who knows me would believe the thing in the Magazines to be mine, even if they saw it in my own handwriting.

'I write to you in the agencies of a nurse, which annihilates me; and I have been for the last four days not only to do four things since dinner, which are as well emitted in very hot weather, firstly, * * *; secondly, to play at billiards from ten to twelve, under the influence of lighted lamps, that doubled the heat thirdly, to go afterward into a red-hot conversation of the Countess Benzonii's; and fourthly, to begin this letter at three in the morning: but being begun it must be finished.

'Ever very truly and affectionately yours, B.'

P. S. I petition for tooth-brushes, powder, magnesia, Macassar oil, (or Russian,) the sashes, and Sir NI. Wraxall's Memoirs of his Own Times. I want, besides, a few English and foreign dogs; and I want (is it Buck?) a life of Richard Third, advertised by Longman, long, long, long ago; I asked for it at least three years since. See Long man's advertisement.'

LETTER CCCCXI.
TO MR. HOPPER.

'A journey in an Italian June is a consolation and if I was not the most constant of men, I should now be swimming from the Lido, instead of smoking in the dust of Padua. Should there be letters from England, let them wait my return. And do look at my house and (not lands, but) waters, and esco; and deal out the money to Edgecombe with an air of reluctance and a shake of the head—and put queer questions to him—and turn up your nose when he answers.

'Take my respects to the Consuls—and to the Chevalier—and to Sestin—and to all the counts and countesses of our acquaintance.

And believe me ever
"Your disconsolate and affectionate, &c."'

LETTER CCCCXII.
TO MR. HOPPER.

* Venice, June 6, 1819.

'I am at length arrived to Bologna, where I am settled like a savage, and shall be bribed like one, if this weather continues. Will you thank Mangel on my part for the Ferrara acquaintance, which was a very agreeable one. I stayed two days at Ferrara, and was much subjected to the Count Mosti, and the little shortness of the time permitted me to see of his family. I went to his conversations, which is very far superior to any thing of the kind at Venice—the women almost all young—several pretty—and the men courteous and cleanly. The lady of the mansion, who is young, lately mar-
ed, and with child, appeared very pretty by candlelight, (I did not see her by day,) pleasing in her manners, and very lady-like, or thorough-bred, as we call it in England,—a kind of thing which reminds one of a fairer, and an admired Italian ground. She seems very fond of her husband, who is amiable and accomplished; he has been in England two or three times, and is young. The sister, a Countess somebody—I forget what—they read both Milton by birth, and Veronese of course—is a lady of more display; she sings and plays divinely; but I thought she was too—indeed long about it. Her likeness to Madame Flahaut (Miss M——,) I have never seen anything extraordinary quite equal to, and I was one day suddenly surprised by her in the Cardinal Legate’s red stockings.

I had but a bird’s-eye view of these people, and shall not probably see them again; but I am very much obliged to Mengaldo for letting me see them at all. Whenever I meet with any thing agreeable in this world, it surprises me so much, and pleases me so much, (when my passions are not interested one way or the other,) that I go on wondering for a week to come. I feel, too, in great admiration of the Cardinal Legate’s red stockings.

I found, too, such a pretty epitaph in the Certosa cemetery, or rather two: one was—

> "Martial Lugi
> Impiose pace!"

and the other,

> "Laurolo Pielz
> Impiose eerno quilet."

That was all: but it appears to me that these two and three words comprise and compress all that can be said on the subject,—and then, in Italian, they are absolute music. They contain doubt, hope, and humility; nothing can be more pathetic than the ‘implores’ and the modesty of the request:—they have had enough of life—they want nothing but rest—they implore it, and ‘eterna quilet.’ It is like a Greek inscription in some good old heathen ‘city of the dead.’ Pray, if I am shovelled into the Lido churchyard in your time, let me have the ‘implores pace,’ and nothing else, for my epitaph. I never met with any, ancient or modern, that pleased me a tenth part so much.

"In about a day or two after you receive this letter, I will thank you to desire Edgecombe to prepare for my return. I shall go back to Venice before I leave Venice. I shall stay but a few days in Bologna. I am just going out to see sights, and shall not present my introductory letters for a day or two, till I have run over again the place and pictures; nor perhaps at all, if I find that I have books and sights enough to do without the inhabitants. After that, I shall return to Venice, where you may expect me about the eleventh, or perhaps sooner. Pray make my thanks acceptable to Mengaldo; my respects to the Consul, and to Mr. Scott.

"I hope my daughter is well." Ever yours, and truly, P.S. I went over the Aristeo MS., &c, &c. again at Ferrara, with the castle, and cell, and house, &c, &c.

One of the Ferrarese asked me if I knew Lord Byron, an acquaintance of his name at Naples. I told him ‘No!’ which was true both ways; for I knew not an impostor, and, in the other, no one knew himself. He stared ‘till told that I was ‘the real Simon Pure.’ Another asked me if I had not translated ‘Tasso.’ You see what fame is! how accurate! how boundless! I was not surprised at that; but after other feel, and I always feel the lighter and the better looked on when I have got rid of mine; it sits on me like armor on the Lord Mayor’s champion; and I got rid of all the husk of literature, and the attendant babble, by a very curious thing, that I have not translated ‘Tasso,’ but a namesake had; and by the blessing of Heaven, I looked so little like a poet, that everybody believed me.”
"Before I left Venice, I had returned to you your late, and Mr. Hobhouse’s, sheafs of Juan. Don’t wait for farther answers from me, but address yours to Venice, as usual. I know nothing of my own movements; I may return there in a few days, or not for some time. All this depends on circumstances. I left Mr. Hoppner very well. My daughter Allegra was sitting there in evening pretty; her hair is growing darker, and her eyes are blue. Her temper and her ways, Mr. Hoppner says, are like mine, as well as her features: she will make, in that case, a manageable young lady.

"I have never heard anything of Ada, the little Electra of my Mycenae. * * * But there will come a day of reckoning, even if I should not live to see it. I have at least seen Romilly’s shivered, who was one of my assassins. When that man was doing his worst to uproot my whole family, tree, branch, and blossoms—when, after taking my retainer, he went over to them—when, he was bringing desolations on my children, I destroy heart on my household gods?—did he think that, in less than three years, a natural event—a severe, domestic, but an expected and common calamity—would lay his career in a cross road, or stamp his name in a Verdict of Lunacy! Did he (who in his sexença * * *) reflect or consider what my feelings must have been, when wife, and child, and sister, and name, and fame, and country, were to be my sacrifice on his legal altar—and this at a moment when my health was declining, my fortune embarrassed, and my mind had been shaken by many kinds of disappointment—while I was yet young, and might have reformed what might be wrong in my conduct, and retrieved what was perplexing in my affairs! But he is in his grave, and * * * * * * * * What a long letter I have scribbled!"

"Yours, &c.

"P. S. Here, as in Greece, they strew flowers on the tombs. I saw a quantity of rose-leaves, and entire roses, scattered over the graves at Ferrara. It has the most pleasing effect you can imagine."

LETTER CCCCXCVI.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

* * * * * * *

"I wrote to you from Padua, and from Bologna, and since from Ravenna. I find my situation very agreeable, but want my horses very much, there being good riding in the environs. I can fix no time for my return to Venice—it may be soon or late—or not at all—it all depends on the Donna;† whom I found very seriously in bed with a cough and spitting blood, &c., all of which has subsided. * * * *

I found all the people here firmly persuaded that she would never recover;—they were mistaken, however.

"My letters were useful as far as I employed them, and I like both the place and people, though I don’t trouble the latter more than I can help.

She manages very well— * * * *

but if I come away with a stiletto in my gizzard some fine afternoon, I shall not be astonished. I can’t make him out at all—he visits me frequently, and takes me out (like Whittington, the Lord Mayor) or in a coach and six horses. The fact appears to be, that he is completely governed by—for the matter, or what the people here don’t know what to make of us, as he has the character of jealousy with all his wives—this is the third. He is the richest of the Ravennese, by their own account, but is not popular among them.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * Now do, pray, send off Augustine, and carriage and cattle, to Bologna, without fail or delay, or I shall lose my patient. The letter he wrote not of this. My coming, going, and every thing depend upon him entirely, just as Mrs. Hoppner (to whom I remit my reverences) said in the true spirit of female propriety.

"You are but a shabby fellow not to have written before. And I am truly yours, &c."

LETTER CCCCXCV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

* Ravenna, June 29, 1819.

"The letters have been forwarded from Venice, but I trust that you will not have waited for further alterations—I will make none. You ask me to spare Romilly—ask the worms. His dust can suffer nothing from the truth being spoken—and if it could, how did he behave to me? You may talk to the wind, which will carry the sound—and to the caves, which will echo you—but not to me, on the subject of a * * * * a wronged me—whether dead or alive.

"I have no time to return you the proofs—publish without them. I am glad you think the poesy good; and as to ‘thinking of the effect,’ think you of the sale, and leave me to pluck the porcupines who may point their quills at you.

"I have been here (at Ravenna) these four weeks, having left Venice a month ago:—I came to see my ‘Amica,’ the Countess-Guiccioli, who has been, and still continues, very unwell. * * * *

She is only twenty years old, but not a strong constitution. * * * *

She has a perpetual cough, and an intermittent fever, but is up most gallantly in every sense of the word. Her husband (this is his third wife) is the richest noble of Ravenna, and almost of Romagna; he is also not the youngest, being upwards of threescore, but in good preservation. All this will appear strange to you, who do not understand the meridian morality, nor our way of life in such respects, and I cannot at present expound the difference—but you would find it much the same in these parts. At Faenza there is Lord * * * * with an opera girl; and at the inn in the same town is a Neapolitan Prince, who serves the wife of the Gonfoliere of that city. I am on duty here—so you see ‘God fan tuts e tritte.’

"I have my horses here, saddle as well as carriage, and ride or drive every day in the forest the Pineta, the scene of Boccaccio’s novel, and Dryden’s fable of Honorius, &c., &c.; and I see my Dama every day * * * *; but I feel seriously uneasy about her health, which seems very precarious. In losing her, I should lose a being who has run great risks on my account, and whom I have every reason to love—but I must not think this possible. I do not know what I should do if she died, but I ought to blow my brains out—and I hope that I should. Her husband is a very polite personage, but I wish she would not carry me in his coach and six like Whittington and his cat.

"You ask me if I mean to continue Don Juan, &c. How should I know? What encouragement
LETTERS.

LETTER CCCXCVI.

TO MR. HOPPER.

"Ravenna, July 2, 1819.

"Thank you for your letter and for Madame's. I will answer it directly. Will you recollect whether I did not consign to you one or two receipts of Madame Moccingo's for house-rent—(I am not sure of this, but think I did—if not, they will be in my drawers)—and will you desire Mr. Dorville* to have the goodness to see if EDGEcombe has receipts to his payments hitherto made by him on my account, and that there are no debts at Venice? On your answer, I shall send order of farther remittance to carry on my household expenses, as my present return to Venice is very problematical; and it may happen—but I can say nothing positive—every thing with me being indecisive and undecided, except the disgust which Venice excites when fairly compared with any other city in this part of Italy. When I say Venice, I mean the Venetians—the city itself is superb as its history—but the people are what I never thought them till they taught me to think so.

"The best way will be to leave Allegra with Antonio's spouse till I can decide something about her and myself—but I thought you would have had an answer from Mrs. V—-.

"You have had bore enough with me and mine already.

"Ligrely fear that the Guiccioli is going into a consumption, to which her constitution tends. Thus it is with every thing and every body for whom I feel any thing like a real attachment.—War, death, or discord, doth lay seige to them. I never even could keep alive a dog that I liked or that liked me. Her symptoms are obstinate cough of the lungs, and occasional fevers, &c., &c., and there are latent causes of an eruption in the skin, which she foolishly repulsed into the system two years ago; but I have made them send her case to Aglietti; and have begged him to come—if only for a day or two—to consult upon her state.

"If it would not bore Mr. Dorville, I wish he would keep an eye on Edgecombe and on my other rags-muffins. I might have more to say, but I am absorbed about La Gui, and her illness. I cannot tell you the effect it has upon me.

"The horses came, &c., &c., and I have been galloping through the pine forest daily.

"Believe me, &c.

"P. S. My benediction on Mrs. Hopper, a pleasant journey among the Bernese tyrants, and safe return. You ought to bring back a platiotic Bernese for my reformation. If any thing happens to my present Amica, I have done with the passion for ever—it is my last love. As to libertinism, I have sickened myself of that, as was natural in the way I went on, and I have at least derived that advantage from vice, to lose in the better sense of the word. This will be my last adventure;—I can hope to more to inspire attachment, and I trust never again to feel it."

* The vicar-counsel of Mr. Hopper.
† An English lady, who proposed taking charge of Allegra.
‡ See his lines, p. 578.

LETTER CCCXCVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, August 1, 1819.

"[Address your answer to Venice, however.]

"Don't be alarmed. You will see me defend my self gaily—that is, if I happen to be in spirits and by spirits, I don't mean your meaning of the word, but the spirit of a bull-dog when pinched, or a bull when pined; it is then that they make best sport: and my sensations under an attack are probably a happy compound of the united energies of these amiable animals, you may perhaps see what Marrall calls 'rare sport,' and some good tossing and going-on the course of the controversy. But I must be in the right cue first, and I doubt I am almost too far off to be in a sufficient fury for the purpose. And then I have effeminated and ener-getized myself with love and the summer in these last two months.

"I wrote to Mr. Hobhouse the other day, and foretold that Juan would either fall entirely or succeed completely; there will be no medium. Appearances are not favorable; but as you write this day after publication, it can hardly be decided what opinion will predominate. You seem in a fright, and doubtless with cause. Come what may, I never thought of the million's cantatrice, and as the circumstances are such that they may not have placed me at times in a situation to lead the public opinion, but the public opinion never less, nor even shall lead me. I will not set on a degraded throne, so pray keep Messrs. * * * or * * * or Tom Moore, or * * * upon it; they will all of them be transported with their coronation.

"P. S. The Countess Guiccioli is much better than she was. I sent you, before leaving Venice, the real original sketch which gave rise to the 'Vampire,' &c. Did you get it?"

LETTER CCCXCVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, August 9, 1819.

"Talking of blunders reminds me of Ireland—Irland of Moore. What is this I see in Galignani about 'Bermuda,—agent,—deputy,—appeal,—attachment,' &c. What is the matter? Is it any thing in which his friends can be of use to him? Pray inform me.

"Of Don Juan I hear nothing farther from you; * * * but the papers don't seem so fierce as the letter you sent me seemed to anticipate, by their extracts at least in Galignani's Messenger. I never saw such a set of fellows as you are! And then the pains taken to exculpate the modest publisher—he represented, forsooth! I will write a preface that shall exculpate you and * * * * * &c., * * * completely on that point; but, at the same time, I will cut you up like gourds. You have no more soul than the Count de Caylus (who assured his friends, on his death-bed, that he had none, and that he must know better than they whether he had one or no), and no more blood than a water-melon! And I see there hath been asterisks, and what Perry used to call 'domed cutting and slashing—but, never mind.

"I write in haste. To-morrow I set off for Bograna. I write to you with thunder, lightning, &c, and all the winds of heaven whispering through my hair, and the remembrance of preparation to boot. 'My mis-ress dear, who hath fed my heart upon smiles

* See Letter. cont. xxxii.
and wine" for the last two months, set off with her husband for Bologna this morning, and it seems that I follow him at three to-morrow morning. I cannot tell how our romance will end, but it hath gone on hitherto most erotically. Such perils and scenes of danger, such as love is wont to play in comparison.

The fools think that all my poesy is always allusive to my own adventures; I have had at one time or another better and more extraordinary events than those, two-thirds of the world, if I tell them, but that must never be.

"I hope Mrs. M. has accosted.

"Yours ever.""

**LETTER CCCXIX.**

**TO MR. MURRAY.**

"Bologna, August 19, 1819.

"I do not know how far I may be able to reply to your letter, for I am not very well to-day. Last night we went to the representation of Alfredo, of Mirra, the last two acts of which threw me into convulsions. I do not mean by that word a lady's hysterics, but the agony of reluctant tears, and the choking shudder, which I do not often undergo for fiction. This is but the second time in my life I have felt the effect of any thing under the reality; the first was on seeing Kean's Sir Giles Overreach. The worst was, that the 'Dana,' in whose box I was, went off in the same way, I really believe more from fright than any other sympathy—which at least with the players: but she had been ill and I have been ill, and we are all languid and pathetic this morning, with great expenditure of salt volatile.

But, to return to your letter of the 2d of July.

"You are right, Gifford is right, Crabbe is right, Hobhouse is right—you are all right, and I am all wrong; but do, pray, let me have that pleasure. Cut me up root and branch; quarter me in the Quarterly; send round my 'disjecta membra poetae,' like those of the Levite's concubine; make me if you will a spectacle to men and angels; but don't ask me to alter, for I won't—I am obstinate and lazy—and there's the truth.

"But, nevertheless, I will answer your friend Perry, who objects to the quick succession of fun and gravity, as if in that case the gravity did not (at least) heighten the fun. His metaphor is, that 'we are never clear of one drencher and drencher at the same time.' Blessings on his experience! Ask him these questions 'bout 'searching and drenching.' Did he never play at cricket, or walk a mile in hot weather? Did he never spill a dish of tea over himself in handing the cup to his charmer, to the great shame of his nankeen breeches? Did he never swim in the sea at noonday with the sun in his eyes and on his head, which all the foam of ocean could not cool? Did he never draw his foot out of too hot water, d—ning his eyes and his valet's?—

"Was he ever in a Turkish bath—that marvellous paradise of sherbet and * * *? Was he ever in a cauldron of boiling oil, like St. John? or in the sulphurous waves of h—l? (where he ought to be for his 'searching and drenching at the same time.') Did he never tumble in a river or lake, and sit in his wet clothes in the boat, or on the bank afterward, 'searched and drenched,' like a true sportsman?—Oh for breath to utter!—but make him my compatriot, and he'll be a clever fellow for all that—a very clever fellow.

"You ask me for the plan of Donny Johnny: I have no plan; I had no plan; but I had or have materials; that is but like Tom Lumpsquirt, 'I am to be snubbed so when I am in spirits,' the poet will be nought, and the poet turn serious again. If it don't take, I will leave it off where it is, with all due respect to the public; but if continued, it must be in my own way. You might as well made Hamlet (or Diggory) 'act mad' in a straight waistcoat as trammel my buffoonery, if I am to be a buffoon; their gestures and my thoughts would only be pitiable—do—silly absurdities: compare me, the soul of such writing is its license; at least the liberty of that license, if one likes—not that one should abuse it. It is like trial by jury and peepers and the system of the very absurdity. A man, in the revolution; because no one wishes to be tried for the mere pleasure of proving his possession of the privilege.

"But a truce with these reflections. You are too earnest and eager about a work never intended to be serious. Do you suppose that I could have any intention but to giggle and make giggles—a playful satire, with as little poetry as could be helped, was what I meant. And as to the indecency, do pray, read in Boswell what Johnson, the sullen moralist, says of Prior and Paul Fungote.

"Will you get a favor done for me? You can, by your government friends, Croker, Canzign; or my old schoolfellow, Jefferey! Will you ask them to appoint (without salary or emolument) a noble Italian (whom I will name afterward) consul or vice-consul for Ravenna? He is a man of a noble family, of large property, and a man who has wished to have a British protection in case of changes. Ravenna is near the sea. He wants no emolument whatever. That his office would be useful, I know; as I lately sent off from Ravennatico Trestie a poor devil of an English sailor, who had remained there sick, sorry, and penniless (having been set ashore in 1814), from the want of any accredited agent able or willing to help him homewards. Would it not be well if I do, I will then send his name and condition, subject of course to rejection, if not approved when known.

"I know that in the Levant you make consuls and vice-consuls, perpetually, of foreigners. This man is a patrician, and has twelve thousand a year. His motive is a British protection in case of invasion. Do you think Croker would do it for us? To be sure, my interest is rare! but perhaps a brother in the Tory line might do a good turn at the request of so harmless and long absent a whig, particularly as there is no salary or burthen of any sort to be annexed to the office.

I can write no more this day. How I should pay upon it as a great obligation; but, alas! that very circumstance may, very probably, operate to the contrary—in deed, it ought; but I have, at least, been an honest and an emolument.)

Your friend,

Byron."

* Don Juan, canto xiv., stanza 41.  
* See Fosse, page 572.
won't have such as that in a hurry from Mr. Fitzgerald. You may publish it with my name, en' ye wool. He deserves all praise, bad and good; it was a very noble piece of principalcy. Would you like an epigram—a translation?

"If for silver, or for gold,
You could meet ten thousand pinnacles
Into half a dozen diamles,
Then your face we might behold,
Looking delectably enough,
Yet er's she 'ould be d—— ugly.

"This was written on some Frenchwoman, by Élihué. I believe. "Yours."

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LETTER CCCCI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Bologna, August 23, 1819.

"I send you a letter to Roberts, signed 'Wortley Clutterbuck,' which you may publish in what form you please, in answer to his article. I have had many proofs of men's absurdity, but he beats all in folly. Why, the wolf in sheep's clothing has tumbled into the very trap! We'll strip him. The letter is written 'in great haste, and amid a thousand vexations. All my letter only came yesterday, so that there is no time to polish: the post goes out to-morrow. The date is 'Little Piddington.' Let * * * correct the press: he knows and can read the handwriting. Continue to keep the anonymous about 'Juan': it helps us to fight against overwhelming numbers. I have a thousand distractions at present; so excuse haste, and wonder I can act or write at all. Answer by post, as usual. "Yours."

"P.S. If I had had time, and been quieter and nearer, I would have cut him to hash; but as it is, you can judge for yourselves.

LETTER CCCCII.

TO THE COUNTESS GIUCCIOLA.

(Written in the last page of her copy of Madame De Stael's "Corinna.")

"My dearest Teresa,—I have read this book in your garden;—my love, you were absent, or else I could not have read it. It is a favorite book of yours, and the writer was a friend of mine. You will not understand these English words, and others will not understand them,—which is the reason I have not scrawled them in Italian. But you will recognise the handwriting of him who passionately loved you, and you will divine that, over a book which was yours, he could only think of love. In that word, beautiful in all languages, but most so in yours—Amor meo—is comprised my existence here and hereafter. I feel I exist here, and fear that I shall exist hereafter,—to what purpose you will decide; my destiny rests with you, and you are a woman, eighteen years of age, and two out of a convent. I wish that you had stayed there, with all my heart,—or, at least, that I had never met you in your married state.

"But all this is too late. I love you, and you love me,—at least, you say so, and act as if you did so, which last is a great consolation in all events. But I more than love you, and cannot cease to love you.

"Think of me, sometimes, when the Alps and the ocean divide us,—but they never will, unless you wish it. "BYRON."

"Bologna, August 23, 1819."

* See page 339.

LETTER CCCCIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Bologna, August 29, 1819.

"I wrote to you by last post enclosing a buffoon ing letter for publication, addressed to the buffoon Roberts, who has thought proper to tie a camisole to his own tail. If it was written counterfeit, and in the midst of circumstances not very favorable to factiousness, so that there may, perhaps, be more bitterness than enough for that sort of small acid punch:—now, I trust, tell me.

"Keep the anonymous, in any case: it helps what fun there may be. But if the matter grows serious about Don Juan, and you feel yourself in a scrap, or me either, even that I am the author. I will never shrink; but if you do, I can always answer you in the question of Guatimozin to his minister,—each bring on his own coals."

"I wish that I had been in better spirits; but I am out of sorts, out of nerves, and now and then (I begin to fear) out of my senses. All this Italy has done for me, and not England. I defy all you, and your climate to boot, to make me mad. But if ever I do really become a bedlamite, and wear a strait waistcoat, let me be brought back among you; your people will then be proper company.

"I assure you what I here say and feel has nothing to do with England, either in a literary or personal point of view. All my present pleasures or plagues are as Italian as the opera. And after all, they are but trifles; for all this arises from n'y Dama's being in the country for three days. (At Capo-Fiume.) But as I could never live but for one human being at a time, and, I assure you, that one has never been myself, as you may know by the consequences, for the selfish are successful in life,) I feel alone and unhappy.

"I have sent for my daughter from Venice, and I ride daily, and walk in a garden, under a purple canopy of grapes, and sit by a fountain, and talk with the gardener of his tools, which seem greater than Adam's, and with his wife, and with his son's wife, who is the youngest of the party, and I think, talks best of the three. Then I revisited the Camp O Santa, and my old friend, the sexton, has two—but one the prettiest daughter imaginable; and I amuse myself with contrasting her beautiful and innocent face of fifteen, with the skulls with which he has peopled several cells, and particularly with that of one skull dated 1766, which was once covered (the tradition goes) by the most lovely features of Bologna—noble and rich. When I look at these, and at this girl,—when I think of what they were, and what she must be,—why, then, my dear Murray, I won't shuck you by saying what I think. It is little men who become of us 'boarded men,' but I don't like the notion of a beautiful woman's last living less than a beautiful tree—than her own picture—her own shadow, which won't change so to the sun as her face to the mirror. I must kerve off for my head aches consumedly. I have never been quite well since the night of the representation of Allieri's Missa, a fortnight ago.

"Yours ever."
chase of men. I bought it. The next day, on shoeing the horse, we discovered the thrush,—the assassin being warranted to be in the contract and the money. The lieutenant desired to speak with me in person. I consented. He came. It was his own particular request. He began a story and asked him if I should return the money. He said no—but he would exchange. He asked an exorbitant price for his other horses. I told him that he was a thief. He said he was an officer and a man of honor, and pulled out a Parma ribbon by design. I answered, that as he was an officer, I would treat him as such: and that as to being a gentieman, he might prove it by returning the money; as for his Parma passport, I thought it more valuable if more it had been a Parmesan cheese. I answered in high terms, and said that if it were in the morning (it was about eight o'clock in the evening), he would have satisfaction. I then lost my temper.

"As for that," I replied, "you shall have it directly,—it will be mutual satisfaction, I can assure you. You are a thief, and, as you say, an officer: my pistols are in the next room, loaded; take one of them, and make your choice of weapons." He replied that pistols were English weapons; he always fought with the sword. I told him that I was able to accommodate him, having three regimental swords in a drawer near us; and he might take the longest, and put himself on guard.

"All this passed in presence of a third person. He then said, "No, but to-morrow morning he would give me the meeting at any time or place. I answered that it was not usual to appoint meetings in the presence of witnesses, and that we had best speak man to man, and appoint time and instrument. In the meantime, leaving the room, the Lieutenant**, before he could shut the door after him, ran out, roaring 'help and murder most lustily, and fell into a sort of hysteria in the arms of about fifty people, who all saw that I had no weapon of any sort or kind about me, and followed him, asking him what the devil was the matter with him. Nothing would do: he ran away without his hat, and went to bed, ill of the fright. He then tried his complaint at the police, which dismissed it as frivolous. He is, I believe, gone away, or going.

"The horse was warranted, but, I believe, so were the wheels. I am not obliged to refund, according to law. He endeavored to raise up an indictment of assault and battery, but as it was in a public inn, in a frequented street, there were too many witnesses to the contrary; and, as a military man, he has not cut a martial figure, even in the opinion of the priests. He ran off in such a hurry that he left his hat, and never missed it till he got to his hostel or inn. The facts are as I tell you, I can assure you. He began by 'coming Captain Grand over me,' or I should never have thought of trying his 'cunning in fence.' But what could I do? He talked of 'honor, and satisfaction, and his commission; he produced a military passport

There are severe punishments for regular duels on the continent, and trifling ones for roncours, so that it is best to fight it out directly; he had robbed his brother; he asked me: what could I do? My patience was gone, and the weapons at hand, fair and equal. Besides, it was just after dinner, when my digestion was bad, and I didn't like to quarrel. His friends are at Porti; we shall meet on my way back to Ravenna. The Hau- verian seems the greater rogue of the two; and if my valor does not ozone away Acres'—* Odd's flints and triggers! If it should be a rainy morn- ing and I am in disorder, there may be something for the obituary.

Now, pray, 'Sir Lucius, do not you look upon me as a very ill-used gentleman? I send my lieutenants to match Mr Hobhouse's Major Cartwright and so 'good morrow to you, good master lieutenant.' With regard to other things, I will write soon, but I have been quarrelling and fooling till I can scribble no more.'

LETTER CCCCV
TO MR. HOPPER.

"Oct. 29, 1819.

"I am glad to hear of your return, but I do not know how to congratulate you—unless you think differently of Venice from what I think now, and you thought always. I am, besides, about to renew your troubles by requesting you to be judge between Mr. Edgecombe and myself in a small matter of imputed peculation and irregular accounts on the part of that phœnx of secretaries. As I knew that you had not parted friends, at the same time that I refused for my own part any judgment but yours. I offered by his choice of any person, the least scoundrel native to be found in Venice, as his own umpire; but he expressed himself so convinced of your impartiality, that I decided him. This in a few words. The papers within will explain to you the default in his accounts. You will hear his explanation, and decide, if it so please you. I shall not appeal from the decision.

"As he complained that his salary was insufficient, I determined to have his accounts examined, and the enclosed was the result. It is all in black and white with documents, and I have despatched Fletcher to explain (or rather to perple) the matter. * I have had much civility and kindness from Mr. Pavville during your journey, and I thank him accordingly.

"Your letter reached me at your departure, and displeased me very much—not that it might not be true in its statement and kind in its intention, but you have lived long enough to know how useless all such representations ever are and must be in cases where the passions are concerned. To reason with men in such a situation is like reasoning with a drunkard in his cups—the only answer you will get from him is that he is sober, and you are drunk.

"Upon that subject we will (if you like) be silent. You might only say what would distress me without answering any purpose whatever; and I have too many obligations to you to answer in the same style. I would you should not suspect that I have also that advantage over me. I hope to see you soon.

"I suppose you know that they said at Venice, that I was arrested at Bologna as a carbonari, story about, as true as their usual conversation. Moore has been here—I lodged him in my house at Venice, and went to see him daily; but I could not at that time quit La Mira entirely. You and I were not very far from meeting in Switzerland. With my best respects to Mrs. Hopper, believe me ever and truly, &c.

"P. S. Allegra is here in good health and spirits—I shall keep her with me till I go to England, which will perhaps be in a month or so. I am afraid I am not in the best of health myself; but I do not care. His friend is at Porti; we shall meet on my way back to Ravenna. The Hau- verian seems the greater rogue of the two; and if my valor does not ozone away Acres'—* Odd's flints and triggers! If it should be a rainy morn- ing and I am in disorder, there may be something for the obituary.

* Mr. Hopper, before his departure from Venice for Switzerland, had written a letter to Lord Byron, accusing him 'to have Ravenna, while I was there a whole ship's company to have injured him out to risk this enormous sum so absurdly attached to as well as his own— for the genius of a mammary passion, which could only be a source of regret to both parties.' In a second letter Mr. Hopper informed him of some report he had heard lately of Venice, which, though possibly, he said, unfounded, had much increased his anxiety respecting the consequences of the connection formed by him—Moore.
source. I do not wish to find him a rascal, if it can be avoided, and would rather think him guilty of carelessness than cheating. The case is this—can I, or shall, give him a character for honesty? It is not my intention to continue him in my service."

LETTER CCCCV.

TO MR. HOPPER.

"October 25, 1819.

You need not have made any excuses about the letter; I never said but that you might, could, should, or would have reason. I merely described my own state of inaptitude to listen to it at that time, in those circumstances. Besides, you did not speak from your own authority—but from what you said you had heard. Now my blood boils to hear an Italian speaking ill of another Italian, because, though they lie in particular, they speak truth in general by speaking ill at all—and although they know that they are trying and wishing to lie, they do not succeed, merely because they can say nothing so bad of each other, that it may not, and must not be true from the atrocity of their long-diskbased national character.

With regard to Edgecombe, you will perceive a most irregular, extravagant account, without proper documents to support it. He demanded an increase of salary, which made me suspect him; he supported an outrageous extravagance of expenditure, and did not like the dismissal of the cock; he never complained of him—as in duty bound—at the time of his robberies. I can only say, that the house expense is now under one-half of what it then was, as he himself admits. He charged for a comb eighteen francs,—the real price was eight. He charged a passage from Fusina for a person named Isamelli, who paid it herself, as she will prove, if necessary. He fancies, or asserts himself, the victim of a domestic complot against him; accounts are accounts—prices are prices—let him make out a fair detail. I am not prejudiced against him—on the contrary, I supported him against the complaints of his wife, and of his former master, at time when I could have crushed him like an enwig, and if he is a scoundrel, he is the greatest of scoundrels, an ungrateful one. The truth is, probably, that he thought I was leaving Venice, and determined to make the most of it. At present he keeps bringing in accounts after account, though he had always money in hand—as I believe you know my system was never to allow longer than a week's bills to run. Pray read him this letter—I desire nothing to be concealed against whom he may defend himself.

"Pray how is your little boy? and how are you—I shall be up in Venice very soon, and we will be bilious together. I hate the place and all that it entails.

"Yours, &c"

LETTER CCCCVI.

TO MR. HOPPER.

"October 25, 1819.

I have to thank you for your letter, and your compliment to Don Juan. I said nothing to you about it, understanding that it is a sore subject with the moral reader, and has been the cause of a great row; but I am glad you like it. I will say nothing about the shipwreck, except that I hope you think it is as nautical and technical as verse could admit in the octave measure.

The poem has not sold well, so Murray says—but the booksellers, &c., say 'yes,' so says thy worthy man. I have never seen it in print. The third canto is in advance about one hundred stanzas, but the failure of the first two has weakened my estro, and it will neither be so good as the former two, nor can we all be prejudiced. I get a little more riscato in its behalf. I understand the outcry was beyond every thing—Pretty cant for people who read Tom Jones, and Roderick Random, and the Bath Guide, and Ariosto, and Dryden, and Pope—to say nothing of Little's Poems. Of course I refer to the morality of these works, and not to any pretension of mine to compete with them in any thing but decency. I hope yours is the Paris edition, and I wish you paid the old editionprice. I have seen neither, except in the newspapers.

"Pray make my respects to Mrs. H., and take care of your little boy. All my household have the fever and ague, except Fletcher, Allogra, and myself, (as we used to say in Nottinghamshire,) and the horses, and Mutz, and Moretto. In the beginning of November, perhaps sooner, I expect to have the pleasure of seeing you. To-day I got drenched by a thunder-storm, and my horse and groom too, and his horse all bemired up to the middle in a cross-road. It was summer, at noon, and at five we were bewildered; but the lightning was sent, perhaps, to let us know that the summer was not yet over. It is queer weather for the 27th of October.

"Yours, &c"

LETTER CCCCVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, October 29, 1819.

"Yours of the 15th came yesterday. I am sorry that you do not mention a large letter addressed to your care for Lady Byron, from me, at Bologna, two months ago. Pray tell me was this letter received and forwarded?

"You say nothing of the vice-consulate for the Ravennatici patron, from which is to be inferred that the thing will not be done.

"I had written about a hundred stanzas of a third canto to Don Juan, but the reception of the first two is no encouragement to you nor me to proceed.

"I had also written about six hundred lines of a poem, the Vision (or Prophecy) of Dante, the subject a view of Italy in the ages down to the present—supposing Dante to speak in his own person, previous to his death and embracing all topics in the way of prophecy, like Lycephon's Cassandra; but this and the other are both at a stand-still for the present.

"I gave Moore, who is gone to Rome, my life in MS. in seventy-eight folio sheets, brought down to 1816. But this I put into his hands for his care, as he has some other MSS. of mine—a journal kept in 1814, &c. Neither are for publication during my life, but when I am cold, you may do what you please. In the mean time, if you like to read them you may, and show them to any body you like—I care not.

"The life is memoranda and not confessions. I have left out all my loves, (except in a general way,) and many other of the most important things, (because I must not compromise other people,) so that it is like the play of Hamlet—"The part of Hamlet omitted by particular desire." But you will find many opinions, and some fun, with a detailed account of my marriage and its consequences, as true as a party concerned can make such account, for I suppose we are all prejudiced.

"I have never read over this life since it was written, so that I know not exactly what it may repeat or contain. Moore and I passed some merry days together."

"S. Lowg. Cooley."
"I probably must return to business, or in my way to America. Pray, did you get a letter for Hobhouse, who will have told you the contents? I understand that the American consuls had orders to treat with emigrants; now I want to go there. I should not make a bad South American planter, and I should take my natural daughter, Alenor, with me, and settle. I wrote, at length, to Hobhouse, to get information from Perry, who, I suppose, is the best topographer and trumpeter of the new republicans. Pray write.

"Yours, ever.

"P. S. Moore and I did nothing but laugh. He will tell you of my wherestouts, and all my proceedings at this present; they are as usual. You should not let those fellows publish false "Don Juan;" but do not put my name, because I mean to cut Roberts up like a gourd in the presence, if I continue the poem."

LETTER CCCVII.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

"October 29, 1819.

"The Ferrara story is of a piece with all the rest of the Venetian manufacture,"—you may judge: I only changed horses there since I wrote to you, after my visit in June last. "Concert," and "carry off," quotheal 'and 'girl!' I should like to know who has been carried off, except poor dear me. I have been more ravished myself than any body since the Trojan war; but as to the arrest, and its causes, one is as true as the other, and I can account for the invention of neither. I suppose it is some confusion of the tale of the Ferraretta and of Mrs. Guiccioli, and half a dozen more; but it is useless to unravel the web, when one has only to brush it away. I shall settle with Master E., who looks very blue at your in-decision, and swears that he is the best arithmetician in Europe; and so I think also, for he makes out two and two to be five.

"You may see me next week. I have a horse or two more, (five in all,) and I shall repossess myself of Lido and I will rise earlier, and we will go and shake our livers over the beach, as heretofore, if you like—and we will make the Adriatic roar again with our hatred of that now empty oyster-shell, without its pearl, the city of Venice.

"Murray sent me a letter yesterday: the imposers have published two new third cantos of Don Juan; I take the impudence of some bookguard bookseller or other therefor! Perhaps I did not make myself understood; he told me the sale had been great, twelve hundred out of fifteen hundred quarto, I believe, (which is nothing, after selling thirteen thousand of the Corsair in one day;) but that the 'best judges,' &c., had said it was very fine, and clever, and particularly good English, and poetry, and all those consolatory things, which are not, however, worth a single copy to a bookseller: and as to the author, of course I am in a d—ned passion at the bad taste of the times, and swear there is nothing like posterity, who, of course, must know more of the matter than their grandfathers. There has been an eleventh commandment to the women not to read it, and what is still more extraordinary, they seem not to have broken it. But that can be of little import to them, poor things, for the reading or non-reading a book will never

"Count G. comes to Venice next week, and I am requested to consign his wife to him, which shall be done. What say of the long evenings at the Mira, or Venice, reminds me of what Curran said to Moore:—So I hear you have married a pretty woman, and a very good creature, too,—an excellent creature Pray—um!—how do you pass your evenings?" It is a devil of a question that, and perhaps as easy to answer with a wife as with emigrants. I mean to go to England in the spring, and put Mrs. Hoppner at Berne with her relations for a few months. I wish you had been here (at Venice, I mean, not the Mira) when Moore was here—were we very merry and tipsy. He hated Venice by-the-way and swore it was a sad place.

"So Madame Albizzi's death is in danger—poor woman! * * * * * * * * * Moore told me that at Geneva they had made a devil of a story of the Ferraretta;—Young lady seduced!—subsequent abandonment!—leap into the Grand Canal,—and her being in the 'hospital of fous in consequence!' I should like to know who was nearest being made 'fou,' and be d—d to them! Don't you think me in the interesting character of a very ill-used gentleman? I hope your little boy is well. Allegro is flourishing like a pomegranate blossom. "Yours, &c.

LETTER CCCIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Venice, November 8, 1819.

"Mr. Hoppner has lent me a copy of Don Juan," Paris edition, which he tells me is read in Switzerland by clergymen and ladies, with considerable approbation. In the second canto, you must alter the forty-nine stanzas to

"'Twas twilight, and the windless day went down Over the lake of waters, like a veil Which if withheld would but disclose the form Of one whose heart was made'd not to be told
Those to their hopeless eyes the gates was shown, And gringly drank o'er their worn sole And the dim deadeate deep; twelve days had Pear Been their smaller, and now Death was born.'

"I have been ill these eight days with a tertian fever caught in the country on the way back in a thunder-storm. Yesterday I had the fourth attack: the two last were very smart, the first day as well as the last being preceded by vomiting. It is the fever of the place and the season. I feel weakened, but not unwell, in the intervals, except headach and lassitude.

"Count Guiccioli has arrived in Venice, and has presented his spouse (who had preceded him two months for her health and the presciptions of Dr. Aglietti) with a paper of conditions, regulations of hours, and conduct, and morals, &c., &c., which he insist on her accepting, and she persists in refusing. I am expressly, it should seem, excluded by this treaty, as an indispensable preliminary; so that they are in high disension, and what the result may be, I know not, particularly as they are consulting friends.

"To-night, on Countess Guiccioli observed me poring over 'Don Juan,' she stumbled by mere chance on the one hundred and thirty-seven stanza of the first canto, and asked me what it meant. I told her, 'Nothing—but your husband is coming in, this moment.' As I said this in Italian with some emphasis, she started up in a fright, and said, 'Oh, my God, is he coming?' thinking it was her own, who either was or ought to have been at the theatre. You may suppose I laughed when she found out the mistake. You will be amused, as I was; it happened not three hours ago.

"I wrote to you last week, but have added no
LETTERS.

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Mr. Murray had commenced a suit against a London bookseller, for an infringement of his copyright, in publishing a pirated edition of his work. *

LETTER CCCCXI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

VOSeo, Dec. 4, 1819.

"You may do as you please, but you are about a hopeless experiment." Eldon will decide against you, were it only that my name is in the record. You will also recollect that if the publication is pronounced against, on the grounds of obscenity, indecent and blasphemous, that I lose all right in my daughter's guardianship and education, in short, all paternal authority, and every thing concerning her, except her person.

It was so decided in Shelley's case, because he had written Queen Mab, &c., &c. However, you can ask the lawyers, and do as you like: I do not inhibit you trying the question; I merely state one of the consequences to me. With regard to the copyright, it is hard that you should pay for a non-entity: I will, therefore, refund it, which I can very well do, not having spent it, nor begun upon it; and so we will be quits on that score. It lies at my banker's.

"Of the Chancellor's law I am no judge; but take up Tom Jones, and read his Mrs. Waters and Molly Seagrim; or Prior's Hans Carvel and Paolo Pugnazz; Smollett's Roderick Random; or Fielding's Damon, or Stert of Lord Stratwell, and many others; Peregrine Pickle, the scene of the Beggar Girl; Johnson's London, for coarse expressions; for instance, the words * * *;" and * * *; Ameney's Bath Guide, the 'Heardst Lady Betty, beareen; ' - take up, in short, Pope, Prior, Congreve, Dryden, Fielding, Smollett, and let the council select passages, and what becomes of their copyright, if his Wat Tyler decision is to pass into a precedent? * I have nothing more to say: you must judge for yourselves.

"I wrote to you some time ago. I have had a tertian ague; my daughter Allegra has been ill also, and I have been almost obliged to run away with my newly-wed wife; but with some difficulty, and many internal struggles, I reconciled the lady with her lord, and cured the fever of the child with bark, and my own with cold water. I think of setting out for England by the Tyrol in a few days, so that I could wish you to direct your next letter to Calais. Excuse my writing in great haste and late in the morning, or night, whichever you please to call it. The third canto of Don Juan is committed, in about two hundred stanzas; very decent, I believe, but do not know, and it is useless to discuss until it be ascertained, if it may or may not be a property.

* My present determination to quit Italy was un-
looked for; but I have explained the reasons in letters to my sister and Douglas Kinnaird, a week or two ago. My progress will depend upon the snows of the Tyrol, and the health of my child, who is at present quite recovered,—but I hope to get on well, and am "Yours ever and truly.

"P. S. Many thanks for your letters, to which you are not to consider this as an answer, but as an acknowledgement."

LETTER CCCXII.

TO THE COUNTESS GUICCIOLI.

"You are, and ever will be, my first thought, but at this moment, I am in a state most dreadful, not knowing which way to decide;—on the one hand, fearing that I should compromise you for ever, by my return to Ravenna, and the consequences of such a step, and, on the other, dreading that I shall lose both you and myself, and all that I have ever known or tasted of happiness, by never seeing your face, I implore you to be comforted, and to believe that I cannot cease to love you but with my life.

"I go to save you, and leave a country insupportable to me without you. Your letters to F. and myself do wrong to my motives—but you will yet see your injustice. It is not enough that I must leave you—from motives of which ere long you will be convinced—it is not enough that I must fly from Italy, with a heart deeply wounded, after having passed all my days in solitude since your departure, sick both in body and mind—but I must also have your end to your reproaches without answering and without knowing them. Farewell,—in that one word is comprised the death of my happiness."

LETTER CCCXIII.

TO THE COUNTESS GUICCIOLI.

"F. will already have told you, with her accustomed subtility, that Love has gained the victory. I could not summon up resolution enough to leave the country where you are, without, at least, once more seeing you. On yourself, perhaps, it will depend, whether I ever again shall leave you. Of the rest we shall speak when we meet. You ought, by this time, to know which is most conducing to your welfare, my presence or my absence.—For myself, I am a citizen of the world—all countries are alike to me. You have ever been, since our first acquaintance, the sole object of my thoughts. My opinion was, that the best course I could adopt, both for your peace and that of all your family, would have been to depart and go far, far away from you;—since to have been near and not approach you would have been, for me, impossible. You have however decided that I am to return to Ravenna. I shall accordingly return—and shall do—and be all that you wish. I cannot say more."

LETTER CCCXIV.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

"My Dear Hoppner,

"Partings are but bitter work at best, so that I shall not venture on a second with you. Pray make my respects to Mrs. Hoppner, and assure her of my unalterable reverence for the singular goodness of her disposition, which is not without its reward even in this world—for those who are no great believers in human virtues would discover enough in her to give them a better idea of Wilson's characters, and—what is still more difficult—of themselves, as being of the same species, however inferior in approaching its noble models. Make, too, what excuses you can for my omission of the ceremony ofleaves-taking. If we all meet again, I will make my humblest apology: if not, recollect that I wished you all well: and, if you can, forget that I have given you a great deal of trouble.

"Yours, &c., &c."

LETTER CCCXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Since I last wrote, I have changed my mind, and shall not come to England. The more I contemplate the more I dislike the place and the prospect. You may therefore address me as usual here, though you may not hear from me. I have finished the third canto of Don Juan, but the things I have read and heard discourage all farther publication—at least for the present. You may try the copy question, but you'll lose it: they try it up, and can't as usual. I should have no objection to return the price of the copyright, and have written to Mr Kinnaird by this post on the subject. Talk with him.

"I have not the patience, nor do I feel interest enough in the question, to contend with the fellows in their own slang; but I perceive Mr Blackwood's Magazine and one or two others of your missives have been hyperbolical in their praise of the work of their able printer, and like and admire Wilson, and he should not have indulged himself in such orature.

"It is overdone and defeats itself.—What would he say to the grossness without passion and the misanthropy without feeling of GilIVER'S Travels?—When he talks of lady Byron's business, he talks of what he knows nothing about and you may tell him that no one can more desire a public investigation of that affair than I do.

"I see John Moore (for Moore only who has my journal also) my memoir written up to 1816, and I gave him leave to show it to whom he pleased, but not to publish, on any account. You may read it, and you may guess what you like—not for his public opinion, but his private;—for I like the man, and care very little about his magazine. And I could wish Lady B. herself to read it, that she may have it in her power to mark any thing mistaken or mistated; as it may probably appear after my extinction, and it would be but fair she should see it,—that is to say, herself willing.

"Perhaps I may take a journey to you in the spring; but I have been ill and am indolent and indecisive, because few things interest me. These fellows first abused me for being gloomy, and now they are wrath that I am, or attempted to be, factional. I have got such a cold and headache that I can hardly see what I scribble;—the winters here are as sharp as needles. Some time ago I wrote to you rather fully about my Italian affairs; at present I can say no more except that you shall hear farther by-and-by.

"Your Blackwood accuses me of treating women harshly: it may be so, but I have been their mar-

* This is one of the many mistakes into which his distance from the scene of literary operations led him. The gentleman to whom the hostile article in the magazine is here attributed, has never, either then or since, written upon the subject of the noble poet's character or genius, without giving vent to a feeling of admiration as enthusiastic as is always eloquently and powerfully expressed.—Moore.
tyr; my whole life has been sacrificed to them and by them. I mean to leave Venice in a few days, but you will address your letters here as usual. When I return elsewhere, you shall know.

LETTER CCCCXVI.
TO M. HOFFNER.

"Ravenna, Dec. 31, 1819.

I have been here this week, and was obliged to put on my armor and go the night after my arrival to the Marquis Cavalli’s, where there were between two and three hundred of the best company I have seen in Italy,—more beauty, more youth, and more diamonds among the women than have been seen these fifty years in the Sea-Sodom. — I never saw such a difference between two places of the same latitude, (or plateau,)—music, dancing, and playing, all in the same salle. The G.‘s object appeared to be to parade her foreign lover as much as possible, and, if she seemed to glory in the scandal, it was not for me to be ashamed of it. Nobody seemed surprised,—all the women, on the contrary, were, as it were, delight with the excellent example. The vice-legate, and all the other vices, were as polite as could be;—and I, who had acted on the side, was not fairly obliged,—all the MS. memoir made me feel under my arm, and look as much like a civilian as I could on so short a notice,—to say nothing of the embarrassment of a cocked hat and sword, much more formidable to me than ever it will be to the enemy.

I write in great haste—do you answer as hastily. I can understand nothing of all this; but it seems as if the G. had been presumed to be planted, and was determined to show that she was not,—plantation, in this hemisphere, being the greatest moral misfortune. But this is mere conjecture, for I know nothing about it,—except that every body are very kind to her, and not discourteous to me. Fathers, and all relations, quite agreeable.

Yours ever,
"

P. S. Best respects to Mrs. H.

I would send the compliments of the season; but the season itself is so little complimentary with snow and rain that I wait for sunshine."

LETTER CCCCXVII.
TO MR. MOORE.

"January 2, 1820.

My dear Moore,

"Today it is my wedding-day,

And all the folk would see,

If wife should dine at Edmonton,

And I should dine at Ware."

Or thus—

"Here’s a happy new year I but with reason,

I beg you’ll permit me to say—

When so many returns of the season

But as fast as you please of the year."

My this present writing is to direct you that, if she chooses, she may see the MS. memoir in your possession. I wish her to have fair play in all cases, even though it will not be published till after my decease. For this purpose, it were but just that Lady B. should know what is there said of her and hers, that she may have full power to remark on or respond to any part or parts, as may seem fitting to herself. This is fair dealing, I presume, in all events.

Because of the waters I saw Sea-Sodom I"

Marino Piferro.

LETTERS.

"To change the subject, are you in England? I send you an epitaph for Castlereagh.

Another for Pitt—

"With death doesn’t grapple

Erect this obelisk, sir,

Who lied in the Chapel.

Now lies in the Abbey.

The gods seem to have made me poetically this day:—

In digging up your bones, Tom Paine,

Will Cobett has done well:

You risk him on such again,

He’ll fail you to fail.

You come to him on ear again,

He’ll go with you to hell.

Pray let not these versiculi go forth with my name, except among the initiated, because my friend Hobhouse has foamed into a reformer, and I greatly fear, will subside into Newgate; since the Honorable House, according to Galigiani’s Remarks on Parliamentary Debates, are menacing a prosecution to a pamphlet of his. I shall be very sorry to hear any thing but good for him, particularly in these miserable squabbles; but these are the natural effects of taking a part in them.

For my own part, I had a sad scene since you went. Count Gu. came for his wife, and none of those consequences which Scott prophesied ensued. There was no damages, as in England, and so Scott lost his wager. But there was a great scene, for she would not, at first, go back with him—at least, she did go back with him; but he insisted, reasonably enough, that all communication should be broken off between her and me. So, finding Italy very dull, and having a fever tertiain, I packed up my valise and prepared to cross the Alps; but my daughter fell ill, and detained me."

"After her arrival at Ravenna, the Guiccioli fell ill again; and, at last her father (who had, all along, opposed the liaison most violently till now) wrote to me to say that she was in such a state that he begged me to come and see her.—and that her husband had acquiesced, in consequence of her relapse, and that he (her father) would guarantee all this, and that there would be no farther scenes in consequence between them, and that it should not be compromised in any way. I set out soon after, and have been here ever since. I found her a good deal altered, but getting better:—all this comes of reading Corinne.

The Carnival is about to begin, and I saw about two or three hundred people at the Marquis Cavalli’s the other evening, with as much youth, beauty, and diamonds among the women, as ever averaged in the like number. My appearance in waiting on the Guiccioli was considered as a thing of course. The Marquis is her uncle, and naturally considered me as her relation.

The paper is out, and so is the letter. Pray write. Address to Venice, whence the letters will be forwarded.

Yours, &c.,
B"

LETTER CCCCXVIII.
TO MR. HOFFNER.

"Ravenna, January 20, 1820.

I have not decided any thing about remaining at Ravenna. I may stay a day, a week, a year, all my life; but all this depends upon what I can neither see nor foresee. I came because I was called, and will go the moment that I perceive what may render my departure proper. My attachment has neither the blindness of the beginning, nor the microscopic accuracy of the close to such liaisons; but time and the hour must decide upon what I do. I can as yet say nothing, because I hardly know anything beyond what I have told you
BYRON'S WORKS.

"I wrote to you last post for my movables, as there is no getting a lodging with a chair or table here ready; and as I have already some things of the sort at Bologna which I had last summer there for my daughter, I have directed them to be moved; and wish the like to be done with those of Venice, that I may at least get out of the 'Albergo Imperiale,' which is imperial in all true sense of the epithet. Buonani may be paid for his poison. I forgot to say that Mr. and Mrs. Hoppner for a whole treasure of toys for Allegrely have to bear the charge; it was very kind, and we are very grateful.

"Your account of the wedding of the Governor's party is very entertaining. If you do not understand the cusomlar exceptions, I do; and it is right that a man of honor, and a woman of probity, should find it so, particularly in a place where there are not 'ten righteous.' As to nobility—in England none are strictly noble but peers, not even peers' sons, though titled by courtesy; nor knights of the garter, unless of the peerage, so that Castle-regagh himself would hardly pass through a foreign herald's ordeal till the death of his father.

"The same is a foot deep here. There is a theatre, and opera,—the Barber of Seville. Balls begin on Monday next. Pay the porter for never looking after the gate, and ship my chattels, and let me know, or let Castelli let me know how best to go on—but fee him only in proportion to his success. Perhaps we may meet in the spring yet, if you are for England. I see Hobhouse has got into a scrape, which does not please me; he should not have gone so deep among those men, without calculating the consequences. I used to think myself the most imprudent of all among my friends and acquaintances, and almost begin to doubt it.

"Yours, &c.

LETTER CCCXC.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

"Ravenna, January 31, 1829.

"You would hardly have been troubled with the removal of my furniture, but there is none to be had nearer than Bologna, and I have been fain to have that of the rooms which I fitted up for my daughter there in the summer removed here. The expense will be at least as great of the land carriage, so that you are in my position, and none have gone on—but fee him only in proportion to his success. Perhaps we may meet in the spring yet, if you are for England. I see Hobhouse has got into a scrape, which does not please me; he should not have gone so deep among those men, without calculating the consequences. I used to think myself the most imprudent of all among my friends and acquaintances, and almost begin to doubt it.

"I am translating the first canto of Pulci's Morgante Maggiore, and have half done it; but these last days of the Carnival confuse and interrupt every thing.

"I have not yet sent off the cantos, and have some doubt whether they ought to be published, for they have not the spirit of the first. The outery has not frightened but it has hurt me, and I have not written you about this. It is very decent, however, and it is still at this last the best I can do for a churchman, on the score of religion; and so tell those buffoons who accuse me of attacking the Liturgy.

"I write in the greatest haste, as being the hour of the corso, and I must go and buffoon with the rest. My daughter Allegra is just gone with the Countess G., in Count G.'s coach and six, to join the cavalcade, and I must follow with all the rest of the Ravenna world. Our old cardinal is daco, and the new one not appointed yet; but the masking goes on the same, the nice-leg to be a good governor. We have had hideous frost and show, but all is mild again.

"Yours, &c.

LETTER CCCCXI.

TO MR. BANKES.

"Ravenna, February 10, 1829.

"I have room for you in the house here, as I have in Venice, if you think fit to make use of it; but do not expect to find the same gorgeous suite of tapestried halls. Neither dangerous nor tropical.

"The weather here has been dreadful—snow several feet—a fiende broke down a bridge, and flooded heaven knows how many camps; then rain came; and the earth seemed as if my little horses have a sincere till the roads become more practicable. Why did Lega give away the goat? a blockhead—I must have him again.

"Will you miss Miss Mistletoe? the Buffo Buffi of the Gran Bretagna? I heard from Moore, who is at Paris; I had previously written to him in London, but he has not yet got my letter, apparently.

"Believe me, &c.

The word here being under the seal is Inopea.

LETTER CCCCX.
neats have ever prevented your penetrating wherever
you had a mind to it, and why should the snow
now?—Italian snow—tie on it!—so pray come.
Titta's heart yearns for you, and mayhap for your
silver broad pieces: and your playfellow, the
monkey, is alone and inconsolable.

"I forget whether you admire or tolerate red
hair, so that I rather dread showing you all that
I have about me, and around me in this city.
Come, nevertheless,—you can pay Dante a morning visit,
and I will undertake that Theodore and Honorina
will be most happy to see you in the forest hard by.
We Goths, also, of Ravenna hope you will not
despair of our arch-Goth, Theodoric. I have
nothing to these worthies to entertain you all the fore part
of the day, seeing that I have none at all myself—
the lark, that rouses me from my slumbers, being
an afternoon bird. But, then, all your evenings,
and as much as you can give me of your nights, will
be mine. Ay! and you will find me eating flesh, too,
like yourself or any other cannibal, except it be
upon Fridays. Then, there are more cantos (and
bedazzled with) of what the courteous reader, Mr.
Saunders, calls Grub street, in my drawer, which
I have a little scheme to commit to your charge for
England; only I must first cut up (or cut down)
two aforesaid cantos into three, because I am grown
boring by now, and I proceed to let you
my Mecenas, Murray, get too much for his money.
I am busy, also, with Pulci—translating—servilely
translating, stanza for stanza, and line for line—
two octaves every night,—the same allowance as at
Venice.

"Would you call at your banker's at Bologna,
and ask him for some letters lying there for me,
and burn them?—or I will—do not burn them,
but bring them,—and believe me ever and very
affectionately

"Yours,

BYRON.

"P. S. I have a particular wish to hear from
yourself something about Cyprus, so pray recollect
all that you can. Good night.

LETTER CCCXXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

Ravenna, February 11, 1829.

"The bull-dogs will be very agreeable. I have
only those of this country, who, though good, have
not been kindled, and so I shall have no occurrence
of my canine fellow-citizens: thus pray send them
by the readiest conveyance—perhaps best by sea.
Mr. Kineaird will discharge them, and deduct
from the amount on your application or that of
Captain Tyler.

"I see the good King is gone to his place.
One can't help being sorry, though blindness, and
age, and infirmity are supposed to be drawbacks on
broad ability; but I am not at all sure that the
latter at least do not render him happier than
any of his subjects.

"I have no thoughts of coming to the coronation,
though I should like to see it, and though I
have a right to be a puppet in it; but my division
with Lady Byron, which has drawn an equinoctial
line between me and mine in all other things, will
operate in this also to prevent my being in the same
procession.

"By Saturday's post I sent you four packets,
containing cantos third and fourth. Recollect that
these two cantos reckon only as one with you and
me, being in fact the third canto cut into two,
because I found it too long. Remember this, and
don't imagine that there could be any other motive.
The whole is about two hundred and twenty-five
stanzas, more or less, and a lyric of ninety-six
lines so that they are no longer than the first single

 cantos: but the truth is, that I made the first too
long, and should have cut those down also had I
thought better. Instead of saying in future for so
many cantos, say so many stanzas or pages: it was
Jacob Tonson's way, and certainly the best; it
prevents mistakes. I might have sent you a dozen
cantos of forty stanzas each,—those of 'The Minstrel'
(Beatie's) are no longer, and ruined you at first,
if you don't take care to collect that you are not
pinned down to any thing you will say in
letter, and that, calculating even these two cantos
as one only (which they were and are to be
reckoned), you are not bound by your offer.
Act as may seem to you best, and they play at it.

"I have finished my translation of the first canto
of the 'Morgante Maggiore' of Pulci, which
I will transcribe and send. It is the parent, not only
of Whistlercraft, but of all jocose Italian poetry.
You must put it side by side with the original
Italian, because I wish the reader to judge of the
fidelity: it is stanza for stanza, and often line for
line, if not word for word.

"You ask me for a volume of manners, &c., on
Italy. Perhaps I am in the case to know more of
them than most Englishmen, because I have lived
among the natives, and in parts of the country
where Englishmen never resided (I speak of
Pomagnia and its peculiarly). I cannot say that
there are many reasons why I do not choose to treat in
print on such a subject. I have lived in their
houses and in the heart of their families, sometimes
merely as 'satyr,' and sometimes in courtly
'aparti di cuore' of the Dama, and in neither case do I
feel myself authorized in making a book of them.
Their moral is not your moral: their life is not
your life: you would not understand it; it is not
English, nor French, nor German, which you would
all understand. The conventual education, the
cavalier servitude, the habits of thought and living are
so entirely different, and the difference becomes so
much more striking the more you live intimately
with them, that I know not how to make you compre-
prehend a people who are at once temperate and
profligate, serious in their characters and buffoons
in their amusements, capable of impressions and
passions, which are at once sudden and durable
(what you find in no other nation), and who actually
have no society (what we would call so), as you
may see by their comedies; they have no real
comedy, not even Goldoni, and that is because
they have no society to draw it from.

"Their conversations are not society at all. They
go to the theatre to talk, and into company to hold
their tongues. The women sit in a circle, and the
men gather by groups, or play at faro, or 'lotto reale,'
for small sums. Their acade-
ic are concerts like our own, with better music
and more form. Their best things are the carnival
balls, and masquerades, when every body seems mad
for six weeks. After their dinners and suppers
they make extemporary verses and buffoon one
another; but it is in a humor which you would
not enter into, ye of the north.

"In their manners it is better. I should, kne
something of the matter, having had a pretty gene-
ral experience among their women, from the fisher-
man's wife up to the Nobil Dama, whom I serve.
Their system has its rules, and its fidelities, and
to be reduced to a kind of discipline or
game at hearts, which admits few deviations,
unless you wish to lose it. They are extremely
tenacious, and jealous as furies, not permitting
their lovers to marry if they think keeping them always close to them in public as
private, whenever they can. In short, they trans-
fer marriage to adultery, and strike the out.
of that common way, that common way of
whelming their intentions is to marry for their parents, and love for themselves
They exact fidelity from a lover as a debt of honor
while they pay the husband as a tradesman, that is
not at all. You hear a person's character, male or
female canvassed, not as depending on their conduct to their husbands or wives, but to their mistresses or lover. If I wrote a quart, I don't know that I could do more than amplify what I have here noted. It is to be observed that while they do all this, the greatest outward respect is to be paid to the husbands, not only by the ladies, but by their Serventiti—particularly if the husband serves no one himself (which is not often the case, however); so that you would often suppose them relations—the Serventi making the figure of one adopted into the family. Sometimes the ladies runu a little restive and elope, or divide, or make a scene; but this is at starting, generally, when they know no better, or when they fall in love with a forager, or some such anomaly—and jas always reckoned unnecessary and extravagant.

"You inquire after Dante's Prophecy: I have not done more than six hundred lines, but will vatici- nal at leisure.

"Of the bust I know nothing. No cameos or seals are to be cut here or elsewhere that I know of, in any good style. Hobhouse should write him- self to Thorwaldsen: the bust was made and paid for three years ago.

"Pray tell Mrs. Leigh to request Lady Byron to urge forward the transfer from the funds. I wrote to Lady Byron on business this post, addressed to the 'sure of Mr. D. Kinnaird.'

LETTER CCCXXXII.

TO MR. BANKES.

"Ravenna, February 26, 1820.

"Pulci and I are waiting for you with impatience, but I suppose we must give way to the attraction of the Bolognese galleries for a time. I know nothing of pictures myself, and care almost as little; but to me there are none like the Venetian—above all, Giorgiicci. I remember well his judgment of Sol- omon in the Mariscalchi in Bologna. The real mother is beautiful, exquisitely beautiful. Buy her, by all means, if you can, and take her home with you; put her in safety—for be assured there are troublous times brewing for Italy; and as I never could keep out of a row in my life, it will be my fate, I dare say, to be over head and ears in it; but no matter, these are the stronger reasons for coming to see me.

"I have more of Scott's novels (for surely they are Scott's) since we met, and am more and more delighted. I think that I even prefer them to his poetry, which (by-the-way) I read for the first time in my life in your rooms in Trinity college.

"There are some curious commentaries on Dante preserved here, which you should see. Believe me ever faithfully and most affectionately,

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCCXXXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, March 1, 1820.

"I sent you by last post the translation of the first canto of the Morgante Maggiore, and wish you to ask Rose about the word 'shergo,' i.e., 'nabgero,' which I have translated cuirass. I suspect that it means helmet also. Now, if so, which of the senses is best accordant with the text? I have adopted cuirass, but will be amiable to reasons. Of the natives, say one say, and some t'other; but they are no great Tuscan in Romagna. However, I will ask Sgricci (the famous improvisatore) to-morrow, who is a native of Arezzo. The Countess Guiccioli who is reckoned a very cultivated young lady, and the dictionary, say cuirass. I have written cuirass but helmet runs in my head nevertheless—and will run in verse very well, whil is the principal point. I will ask the Sposa Spina Spinelli, to the florid time bride of Count Gabriel Rusponi, just imported from Florence, and get the sense out of some- body.

"I have just been visiting the new cardinal, who arrived the day before yesterday in legation. He seems a good old gentleman, pious and simple, and not quite like his predecessor, who was a bon vivant, in the worldly sense of the words.

"Enclosed is a letter which I received some time ago from Dallas. It will explain itself. I have not answered it. This comes of doing people good. At one time or another (including copyrights) this person has had about fourteen hundred pounds or my money, and he writes what he calls a posthume- nous work about me, and a scrubby letter accusing me of treating him ill, when I never did any such thing. It is true that I left off letter-writing, as I have done with almost every body else; but I can't see how they can accuse me.

"I look upon his epistle as the consequence of my not sending him another hundred pounds, which he wrote to me for about two years ago, and which I cannot, properly to write, having had his share, me thought, of what I could dispone upon others.

"In your last you ask me after my articles of domestic wants: I believe they are as usual; the bull-dogs, magnesia, soda-powders, tooth-powders, brushes, and every thing of the kind which are here unattainable. You still ask me to return to Eng- land: alas! to what purpose? You do not know what you are asking. I am sure you would not do better if you lectured on the Farnese, the great house, for some day or other (if I live), sooner or later; but it will not be for pleasure, nor can it end in good. You inquire after my health and spirits in large letters: my health can't be very bad, for I cured myself of a sharp tertian ague, in three weeks, with cold water, which had held my stoutest gend- dolier for months, notwithstanding all the bark of the apothecary,—a circumstance which surprised Dr. Aglietti, who said it was a proof of great stami- na, particularly in so epidemic a season. I did it out of dislike to the taste of bark (which I can't bear), and succeeded, contrary to the prophecies of every body by simply taking nothing at all. As to spirals, the man who used to keep a shop is now pretty well, low, like other people's, I suppose, and depending upon cir- cumstances.

"Pray send me W. Scott's new novels. What are their names and characters? I read some of his former ones, at least once a day, for an hour or so. The last are too hurried: he forgets Rav- ven's wood's name, and calls him Edgar and then Nor- man; and Girdle, the cooper, is styled how Gilbert, and now John, and he don't make enough of Mon- trose; but Dalgetty is excellent, and so is Lucy Ashton, and the b—h her mother. What is Iean- hoe? and what do you call his other? are there two? Pray make him write at least two a year: I like no reading so well.

"The editor of the Bologna Telegraph has sent me a paper-with extracts from Mr. Mulock's (his name always make me of Muley Moloch of Mor-occo) 'Atheism answered,' in which there is a long eulogium of my poetry, and a great 'compati- mento' for my misery. I never could understand what they mean by accusing me of irreligion. However, there is a gentleman seems to be my great admirer, so I take what he says in good part, as he evidently intends kindness, to which I can't accuse myself of being invincible.

"Yours, &c."
LETTER CCCXXV

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, March 5, 1820.

"In case, in your country, you should not readily lay hands on the Morgante Maggiore, I send you the original text of the first canto, to correspond with the translation which I sent you a few days ago. It is from the Naples edition in quarto of 1782,—dated Florence, however, by a trick of the trade, which you, as one of the allied sovereigns of the profession, will perfectly understand without any further spiegazione.

"It is strange that here nobody understands the real scientific meaning of 'spergo,' or 'sperbergo,'* an old Tuscan word, which I have rendered curiass, (but am not sure it is not helmet.) I have asked at least twenty people, learned and ignorant, male and female, including poets, and officers civil and military. The dictionary says curiass, but gives no authority; and a female friend of mine says positively curiass, which makes me doubt the fact still more than before. Gignemune says, 'bonnet de fer' (which, by an indirect, beneficial decision of a Frenchman, so that I can't believe him: and what between the dictionary, the Italian woman, and the Frenchman, there's no trusting to a word they say. The context too, which should decide, admits equally of either meaning, as you will perceive. Ask Ross. Hobhouse, Merivale, and Foscolo, and vote with the majority. Is Frere a good Tuscan? if he be, bother him too. I have tried, you see, to be as accurate as I well could. This is my third or fourth letter, or packet, within the last twenty days."

LETTER CCCXXXVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, March 14, 1820.

"Enclosed is Dante's Prophecy—Vision—or what not. Where I have left more than one reading, (which I have done often,) you may adopt that which Gifford, Frere, Rose, and Hobhouse, and others of your Utian Senate think the best. The preface will explain all that is explicable. These are but the first four cantos: if approved, I will go on.

"Pray mind in printing: and let some good Italian scholar, or the Italian quotations.

"Four days ago I was overturned in an open carriage, between the river and a steep bank,—wheels dashed to pieces, slight bruises, narrow escape, and all that: but no harm done, though coachman, footman, horses, and vehicle were all mixed together like macaroni. It was owing to bad driving, as I say; but the coachman swears to a start on the part of the horses. We went against a post on the verge of a steep bank, and capsized. I usually go out of the town in a carriage, and meet the saddle horses at the bridge; it was in going there that we bogged; but I got my ride, as usual, after the accident. They say here it was all owing to St. Antonio of Padua (serious, I assure you,) who does thirteen miracles a day,—that worse did not come of it. I have no objection to this being his fourteen to the four-and-twenty hours. He presides over overthrown coaches and escapes therefore, it seems; and they dedicate, pictures, &c., to him, as the sailors once did to Neptune, after 'the high Roman fashion.'

"Yours, in Love."

* See Note, p. 277.

LETTER CCCXXXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, March 9, 1820.

"Last post I sent you, 'The Vision of Dante,'—first four cantos. Enclosed you will find line for line, in third rhyme (terza rima,*) of which your British blackguard reader as yet understands no thing, Fanny of Rimini. You know that she was born here, and married, and slain, from Cary, Boyd and such people. I have done it into croupy English, line for line, and rhyme for rhyme, to try the possibility. You had best append it to the poems already sent by last three posts. I shall not allow you to play the tricks you did last year, with the prose you post-scribed to Malephra, which I sent to you not to be published, if not in a periodical paper,—and there you tacked it, without a word of explanation. If this is published, publish it with the original, and together with the Pulci translation, or the Dante imitation. I suppose you have both by now, and the Juan long before.

LETTER CCCXXXVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, March 19, 1820.

"I have received your letter of the 7th. Besides the four packet you have already received, I have sent the Pulci a few days after, and since (a few days ago) the first four cantos of Dante's Prophecy, (the best thing I ever wrote, if it be not unintelligible,) and by last post a literal translation, word for word (versed like the original) of the episode of Francesca of Rimini. I want you to think of the new Juans, and the translations, and the Vision. They are all things that are, or ought to be, very different from one another.

"If you choose to make a print from the Venetian, you may: but she don't correspond at all to the character you mean her to represent. On the contrary, the Contessa G. does (except that she is fair), and is much prettier than the Fornariata; but I have no picture of her except a miniature, which is very ill done; and, besides, it would not be proper, on any account whatever, to make such a use of it, even if you had a copy.

"Recollect that the two new cantos only count with us for one. You may put the Pulci and Dante together: perhaps that were best. So you have put your name to Juan after all your panic. You are a rare fellow,—but I now put myself in a passion to continue my prose.

"I have caused H. to write to Thorwaldsen. Pray be careful in sending my daughter's picture—I mean, that it be not hurt in the carriage, for it is a journey rather long and jolting."

LETTER CCCXXXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, March 29, 1820.

"Enclosed is a 'Screech of Doctrine' for you, of which I will trouble you to acknowledge the receipt by next post. Mr. Hobhouse must have the correction of it for the press. You may show it first to whom you please.

"I wish to know what became of my two epistles from St. Paul, (translated from the Armenian three
years ago and more,) and of the letter to Roberts of last autumn, which you never attended to? There are two packets with this.

"P. S. I have some thoughts of publishing the Hints from Horace,' written ten years ago—if Hobhouse can rummage out of my papers left at his father's,—with some omissions and alterations previously to be made when I see the proofs."

LETTER CCCCCXX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, March 29, 1820.

"Hereewith you will receive a note (enclosed) on Pope, which you will find tally with a part of the text of last post. I have at last lost all patience with the atrocious cand and nonsense about Pope, with which our present * * * are overflowing, and am determined to make such head against it as an individual can, by prose or verse; and I will at least do it with good will. There is no bearing it any longer: and if it goes on, it will destroy what little good writing or taste remains among us. I hope there are still a few men of taste to second me; but if not, I will battle alone, convinced that it is in the best cause of English literature.

"I have sent you so many packets, verse and prose, lately, that you will be tired of the postalage, if not of the perusal. I want to answer some parts of your last letter, but I have not time, for I must 'boast and saddle,' as my Captain Craighnicht (an officer of the old Napoleon Italian army) is in waiting, and my groom and stall to boot.

"You have given me a screech of metaphor and what not about Pulci, and mannerisms, 'going without clothes,' like our Saxon ancestors.' Now, the Saxons did not go without clothes; and, in the next place, they are not my ancestors, nor yours either; for mine were Norman, and yours, I take it by your name, were Guel. And, in the next, I differ from you about the 'refinement' which has banished the comedies of Congreve. Are not the comedies of Sheridan nated to the thinnest houses? I know (as ex-commintes) that 'The School for Scandal' was the worst stock-piece upon record. I also know that Congreve gave up writing because Mrs. Centlivre's balderdash drove his comedies off. So it is not decency, but stupidity, that does all this; for Sheridan is as decdant a writer as need be, and Congreve no worse than Mrs. Centlivre, of whom Wilkes (the actor) said, 'not only her play would be damned, but she too.' He alluded to 'A Bold Stroke for a Wife.' But last, and most to the purpose, Pulci is not an indecent writer—at least in his first canto, as you will have perceived by this time.

"You talk of refinement—are you all more moral? are you so moral? No such thing. I know what the world is in England, by my own proper experience of the best of it—at least of the loviest; and I have described it everywhere as it is to be found in all places.

"But to return. I should like to see the proofs of mine answer, because there will be something to omit or to alter. But pray let it be carefully printed. When convenient let me have an answer.

"Yours,"

LETTER CCCCCXXI.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

"Ravenna, March 31, 1820.

"Ravenna continues much the same as I described t Conversazioni all Lent, and much better

ones than any at Venice. There are small games of hazard, that is, faro, where nobody can point more than a shilling or two;—other card-tables, and as much talk and coffee as you please. Every body does and says what they please; and I do not recollect any disagreeable events, except being three times falsely accused of friction, and once being robbed of six sixpences by a nobleman of the city, & Count. I did not suspect the illustrious de Luquen; but the Countess V. & the Marquis I. * * * told me of it directly, and also that I was a way he had, of fleching money when he saw it before him; but I did not az him fas the cash, but contended myself with telling him that if he did it again, I should anticipate the aw.

"There is to be a theatre in April and is fair, and an opera, and another opera in June, besides the fine weather of nature's giving, and the rides in the Forest of Pine. With my respect to Mrs. H oppner, believe me ever, & Byron.

"P. S. Could you give me an item of what book's remain at Venice? I don't want them, but want to know whether the few that are not here are there, and were not lost by the way. I hope and trust you got all your wares safe, and that it is drinkable. Allegra is pleasant, I think but as abstain as a mule, and as ravenous as a vulture; health good, to judge of the complexion—temper tolerable but for vanity and pertinacity. She thinks herself hand some and will do as she pleases."

LETTER CCCCCXXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, April 9, 1820.

"In the name of all the devils in the printing office, why don't you write to acknowledge the receipt of the second, third, and fourth packets, viz., the Pulci translation and original, the Danteies, the Observations on, &c.? You forgot that you keep me in hot water till I know whether they are arrived, or if I must have the box of recopying.

"Have you got the cream of translations, Francesca of Rimini, from the Inferno? Why, I have sent you a warehouse of trash within the last month, and you have no sort of feeling about you: a pastry-cook would have had twice the gratitude, and thanked me least. C for the quantity, even of the Lutheran creed, must go and be civil. And there will be a circle, and a faro-table, (for shillings, that is; they don't allow high play,) and all the beauty, nobility, and sanctity of Ravenna present. The cardinal himself is a very good-natured little fellow bishop of Muda, and legate here,—a decent believer in all the doctrines of the church. He has kept his housekeeper these forty years. * * *, but is reckoned a pious man, and a moral liver.

"I am not quite sure that I won't be among you this autumn, for I find that business don't go on—what with trustees and lawyers—as it should do 'with all deliberate speed.' They differ about in vestments in Ireland.

"Between the devil and deep sea, Between the lawyer and trustor,

I am puzzled; and so much time is lost by my not being upon the spot, what with answers, demurs rejoinders, that it may be I must come and look to it; for one says do, and other don't, so that I know not which way to turn: but perhaps they can manage without me.

"Yours, &
LETTERS.

P. S. I have begun a tragedy on the subject of Marino Faliero, the Doge of Venice; but you shan't see it these six years, if you don't acknowledge my packets with more quickness and precision. Always write, if but a line, by return of post, when anything arrives, which is not a mere letter. Address direct to Ravenna; it saves a week's time, and much postage.

LETTER CCCXXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, April 18, 1809.

Post after post arrives without bringing any acknowledgment from you of the different packets (excepting the first) which I have sent within the last two months, all of which ought to be arrived long ere now; and as they were announced in other letters, you ought at least to say whether they are come or not. You are not expected to write frequent or long letters, as your time is much occupied; but when parcels that have cost some pains in being collected, prepared, and carried to the post-office, are sent to you, I should at least be put out of suspense, by the immediate acknowledgment, per return of post, addressed directly to Ravenna. I am naturally—knowing what continental posts are—anxious to hear that they are arrived: especially as I loath the task of copying so much, that if there was a human being that could copy my blotted MSS., he should have all they can ever bring for his trouble. All I desire is two lines, to say, such a day I received such a packet. There are at least six unacknowledged. This is neither kind nor courteous.

I have, besides, another reason for desiring you to be speedy, which is, that there is that brewing in Italy, which will speedily cut off all security of communication, and set all your Anglo-travellers flying in every direction, with their usual fortitude in foreign tumults. The Spanish and French affairs have set the Italians in a ferment; and no wonder: they have been too long trampled on. This will make a sad scene for your exquisite traveler, but not for the resident, who naturally wishes a people to redress itself. I shall, if permitted by the natives, remain to see what will come of it, and perhaps to take a turn with them, like Dugald Dalgety and his horse, in case of business; for I shall think it by far the most interesting spectacle and moment in existence, to see the Italians send the barbarians of all nations back to their own dens. I have lived long enough among them to feel more for them as a nation than for any other people in existence. But they want union, and they want principle; and I doubt their success. However, they will try, probably, and if they do, it will be a good cause. No Italian can hate an Austrian more than I do: unless it be the English, the Austrians are second to me the most obnoxious race under the sky.

But I doubt if anything be done, it won't be so quietly as in Spain. To be sure, revolutions are not to be made with rose water, where there are foreigners as masters.

Write while you can; for it is but the toss up of a pail that there will not be a row that will somewhat retard the mail by-and-by.

Yours, &c."

LETTER CCCXXXIV.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

"Ravenna, April 18, 1809.

"I have caused you to write to Siri and Wilhelm to send with Vinerza, in a boat, the camp-beds and words left in thar care when I quitted Venice. There are also several pounds of Mantow's best pow-der in a Japan case; but unless I felt sure of getting it away from V. without seizure, I won't have it ventured. I can get it here, by means of an acquaintance in the Austrians, who has offered to get it ashore for me; but should like to be certificated of its safety in leaving Venice. I would not lose it for its weight in gold; there is none such in Italy, as I take it to be.

"I wrote you a week or so ago, and hope you are in good plight and spirits. Sir Humphrey Davy is here, and was last night at the cardinal's. As I had been there last Sunday, and yesterday was warm, I did not go, which I should have done, if I had thought of meeting the man of chemistry. He called this morning, and I shall go in search of him at Corso time. I believe to-day, being Monday, there is no great conversations, and only the family one at the Marchese Cavalli's, where I go as a relation sometimes, so that, unless he stays a day or two, we should hardly meet in public.

"The theatre is to open in May for the fair, if there is not another. And all Italy by that time, the Spanish business has set them all a constituting, and what will be the end no one knows—it is also necessary thereunto to have a beginning.

"Yours, &c."

"P. S. My benediction to Mrs. Hoppner. How is your little boy? Allegro is growing, and has in creased in good looks and obstinacy."

LETTER CCCXXXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, April 28, 1809.

"The proofs don't contain the lost stanzas of canto second, but end abruptly with the one hundred and fifth stanza.

"I told you, a month ago, that the new cantos were not good, and I also told you a reason. Recollect, I do not oblige you to publish them; you may suppress them, if you like, but I can alter nothing. I have erased the six stanzas about those two impostors, * * * (which I suppose, will give you the great pleasure,) but I can do no more. I can neither recast, nor replace; but I give you leave to put it all into the fire, if you like, or not to publish, and I think that's sufficient.

"I told you that I wrote on with no good-will that I had been, not frightened, but hurt by the outcry, and, besides, that when I wrote last November, I was ill in body, and in very great distress of mind about some private things of my own; but you would have it: so I sent it to you, and to make it lighter, cut it in two—but I can't piece it together again. I can't cobble: I must either make a spoon or spoil a horn,—and there's an end; for there's no remold; but I leave you free will to suppress the whole, if you like it.

"About the Margante Maggiore, I won't have a line omitted. It may circulate, or it may not; but all the criticism on earth shan't touch a line, unless it be because it is badly translated. Now you say, and I say, and others say, that the translation is a good one; and so it shall go to press as it is. Pulci must answer for his own irreligion: I answer for the translation on.

"Pray let Mr. Hobhouse look to the Italian next time in the proof's; this time, while I am scribbling to you, they are corrected by one who passes for the prettiest woman in Romagna, and even the Marche's, as far as Ancona, be the other who she may.

"I am glad you like my answer to your inquiries.

* * * * *

* Of Don Juan.
BYRON'S WORKS.

LETTER CCCCCXVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"From your not having written again, an intention which your letter of the 7th ultimo indicated, I have to presume that the 'Prophecy of Dante' has not been found more worthy than its predecessors in the eyes of your illustrious synod. In that case, I should not have been in such perplexity as to repeat to you, that you are not to consider yourself as bound or pledged to publish any thing because it is mine, but always to act according to your own views, or opinions, or those of your friends; and to be sure that you in no degree offend me by 'declining the article,' to use a technical phrase. The prose observations on John Wilson's attack, I do not intend for publication at this time; and I send a copy of verses to Mr. Kinnard, (they were written last year on crossing the río,) which must not be published either. I mention this, because it is probable he may give you a copy. Pray recollect this, as they are mere verses of society, and written upon private things and persons. Moreover, I cannot consent to any mutilations or omissions of Pulci: the original has been ever free from such in Italy, the capital of Christianity, and the translation must be so in England, too; and I do think it strange that they should have allowed such freedom for many centuries to the Morante, while the other day they confiscated the whole translation of the fourth canto of Childe Harold, and have persecuted Leoni, the translator—so he writes me, and so I could have told him, had he consulted me before its publication. This shows how much more politics interest men in these parts than religion.

Half a dozen invectives against tyrannic confrat Childe Harold in a month; and eight and twenty cantos of quizzing monks and knights, and church government, are let loose for centuries. I copy Leoni's account.

"Nin suoccrerà forse che la mia versione del 4° canto del Childe Harold fu confiscata in ogni parte: ed io stesso ho dovuto soffrire vessazioni altrettanto ridicole quanto illiberali, ad arte che alcuni versi fossero esclusi dalla censura. Ma siccome il divieto non fa d'ordine che accresca la curiosità così quel carme sull'Italia è ricercato più che mai, e penso di farlo ristampare in Inghilterra senza nulla escludere. Seiaggurata condizione di questa mia patria! se non si può chiamarla non terra così avvilita dalla fortuna, dagli uomini, da se medesima.

"Rose will translate this to you. Has he had his letter? I enclose it to you monthly ago.

"This intended piece of publication I shall disuse him from, or he may chance to see the inside of St. Angelo's. The last sentence of his letter is the common and pathetic sentiment of all his coun-

"Sir Humphrey Davy was here last fortnight, and I was in his company in the house of a very pretty Italian lady of rank, who, by displaying her learning in a manner of the greatest gaiety, and more, describing his fourteenth ascension of Mount Vesuvius, asked 'if there was not a similar volcano in Ireland.' My only notion of an Irish volcano consisted of the lake of Killarney, which I naturally conceived her to mean; but on second thoughts I divined that she alluded to Iseland and to Hecla—and so it proved, though she sustained her volcanic topography for some time with all the amiable pertinacity of the feminine kind.' She soon after turned to me, and asked me various questions about Sir Humphrey's philosophy, and I explained as well at an oracle his skill in gasen safety lamps, and ungluing the Pompeian MSS. But what do you call

*See Letter to the editor of Blackwood's Magazine.
† See Poems, p. 572.


LETTERS.

Mum? said she. 'A great chemist, quoth I. 'What can he do?' repeated the lady. 'Almost any thing,' said I. 'Oh, then, mio caro, do pray beg him to give me something to dye my eyebrows black. I have tried a thousand things, and the colors all come off; and besides, they don't grow; can't he invent something to make them grow? All this with the greatest earnestness; and what you will be surprised at, she is neither ignorant nor a fool, but really well educated and clever. But they speak like children, when first out of their convents; and, after all, this is better than an English blue-stocking.

'I did not tell Sir Humphrey of this last piece of philosophy, not knowing how he might take it—Davy was much taken with Ravena, and the primitive Italianism of the people, who are unused to foreigners: but he only staid a day.

'Send me Scott's novels and some news.

'P. S. I have begun and advanced into the second act of a tragedy on the subject of the Doge's conspiracy, (i.e. the story of Marino Faliero;) but my present feeling is so little encouraging on such matters that I begin to think I have mined my talent out, and proceed in no great phantasy of finding a new vein.

'P. S. I sometimes think (if the Italians don't rise) of coming over to England in the autumn after the coronation, (at which I would not appear on account of my family schism,) but as yet I can decide nothing. The place must be a great deal changed since I left it, now more than four years ago.'

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LETTER CCCXXXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

'Ravena, May 20, 1829.

Murray, my dear, make my respects to Thomas Campbell,* and tell him from me, with faith and friendship, three things that he must right in his poems: Firstly, he says Anstey's Bath Guide characters are taken from Smollett. 'Tis impossible:—the Guide was published in 1766, and Humphrey Clinker in 1771—duhumble, 'tis Smollett who has taken from Anstey. Secondly, he does not know to whom Cowper alludes when he says that there was one who 'built a church to God, and then blasphemed his name;' it was 'Deo erexit Voltaire,' to whom that maniac visited priest and cobbled alludes—Thirdly, he misquotes and spoils a passage from Shakespeare, 'to gild refined gold, to paint the lily,' &c.; for lily he puts rose, and bedevils in more words than one the whole quotation.

'Now, Tom is a fine fellow; but he should be correct: for the first is an injustice, (to Anstey), the second an ignorance, and the third a blunder. Tell him all this, and let him take it in good part; for I might have rambled it into a review and rowed him—instead of which, I act like a Christian.

'Yours, &c.'

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LETTER CCCXXXVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

'Ravena, May 20, 1829.

'First and foremost, you must forward my letter to Moore dated 2d January, which I said you might or sn, but desired you to forward. Now, you should really not forget these little things, because they do mischief among friends. You are an excellent man, a great man, and live among great men, but do pray recollect your absent friends and authors.

'In the first place, your pockets; then a letter from Kinnaird, on the most urgent business, an other from Moore, about a communication to Lady Byron of importance; a fourth from the mother of Algeiro; and Sir John, at Ravenna, the Contessa G is on the eve of being divorced.—But the Italian public are on our side, particularly the women,—and the men also, because they say that he had no business to take the business up now after a year of toleration. All her relations (who are numerous, high in rank and powerful) are furious against him for his conduct. I am warned to be on my guard, as he is very capable of employing sicarii—this is Latin as well as Italian, so you can understand it; but I have arms, and don't mind them, thinking that I could pepper his ragamuffins, if they don't come unawares, and that if they do, one may as well end that way as another; and it would besides serve you as an advertisement.

'May may escape from row or gun, &c.,

But he who takes women, cassa, woman, &c.'

'Yours.'

'P. S. I have looked over the press, but heaven knows how. Think what I have on hand, and the post going out to-morrow. Do you remember the epitaph on Voltaire?

'Oh! loft the spoliator

Of the world which is spoliator.'

The original is in Grimm and Diderot, &c., &c.

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LETTER CCCXXXIX.

TO MR. Mook.

'Ravena, May 24, 1829.

'I wrote to you a few days ago. There is also a letter of January last for you at Murray's which will explain to you why I am here. Murray ought to have forwarded it; I conclude you have an epistle from a countrywoman of yours at Paris, which has moved my entrails. You will have the goodness, perhaps, to inquire into the truth of her story, and I will help her as far as I can,—though not in the useless way she proposes. Her letter is evidently unstudied, and so natural, that he orthography is also in a state of nature.

'Here is a poor creature, ill and solituary, who thinks, as a last resource, of translating you or me into French! Was there ever such a notion? It seems to me the consummation of despair. Pray inquire, and let me know, and, if you could draw a bill on me here for a few hundred francs, at your banker's I will duly honor it,—that is, if she is not an impostor. If not, let me know, that I may get something remitted by my banker Longhi, of Bologna, for I have no correspondence, myself, at Paris; but tell her not to translate—If she does, it will be the height of ingratitude.

'I had a letter (not of the same kind, but in French and flattery) from Madame Sophie Gail, of Paris, whom I take to be the spouse of a Galo-Greek of that name. Who is she? and how came she to take an interest in my poetrie or its author? If you know her, tell her, with my compliments, that, as I only read French, I have not answered her letter; but would have done so in Italian, if I had not thought it would look like an affectation. I have just been scolding my monkey for tearing the seal of her letter, and spoiling a mock book, in which I put rose leaves; I had a civet-cat the other day, too; but it run away.
after watching my monkey's cheek, and I am in search of it still. It was the fiercest beast I ever saw, and like * * * in the face and manner.

"I have a world of things to say: but as they are not come to a d'ouvement, I don't care to begin their history till it is wound up. After you went you had a fever, but got well again without bark. Sir Humphrey Davy was here the other day, and liked Ravenna very much. He will tell you any thing you may wish to know about the place and your humble servitor.

"Your apprehensions (arising from Scott's) were unfounded. There are no damages in this country, but there will probably be a separation between them, as her family, in the true sense, is a principal, by its connection, and very much against him, for the whole of his conduct;—and he is old and obstinate, and she is young and a woman, determined to sacrifice every thing to her affections. I have given her the best advice, viz., to stay with him,—pointing out the state of a separated woman, (for the priests won't let lovers live openly together, unless the husband sanctions it,) and making the most exquisite moral reflection on all but to no avail. She says, "I will not live with him, if he will let you remain with me. It is hard that I should be the only woman in Rome who is not to have Amico; but, if not, I will not live with him; and as for the consequences, love, &c., &c., &c.—you know how females reason on such occasions.

"He says he has let it go on, till he can do no longer. But he wants her to stay and dismiss me; for he doesn't like to pay her dowry and to make an alimony. Her relations are rather for the separation, as they detest him—indeed, so does every body. The populace and the women are, as usual, all for those who are in the wrong, viz., the lad and her lover. I should have respected, but honor and an erysipelas which has attacked her, prevent me,—to say nothing of love, for I love her most entirely, though not enough to persuade her to sacrifice every thing to a frenzy. I 'see how it will end; she will be the sixteenth Mrs. Shullerton.'

"My paper is finished, and so must this letter.

"Yours ever,

B.

P.S. I regret that you have not completed the Italian Fudges. Pray, how come you to be still in Paris? Murray has four or five things of mine in hand—the new Don Juan, which his back-shop synd don't admire;—a translation of the first canto of P us, Maronge Maggiore, excellent;—a short litto from Dante, not so much approved;—the Prophecy of Dante, very grand and worthy, &c., &c., &c.—a furious prose answer to Blackwood's Observations on Don Juan, with a savage Defence of Pope—likely to make a row. The opinions above I quote from Murray and his Utican senate;—you will form your own, when you see the things.

"You will have no great chance of seeing me for I begin to think I must finish in Italy. But, if you come my way, you shall have a tureen of macaroni. Pray tell me about yourself and your intents.

"My trustees are going to lend Earl Blessington sixty thousand pounds (at six per cent.) on a Dublin mortgage. Only think of my becoming an Irish absentee.

LETTER CCCCXL.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

"Ravenna, May 26, 1829.

"A German named Ruppseins has sent me, heaven knows why, several Deutsche Gazettes, of all which I understand neither word nor letter. I have sent you the enclosed to beg you to translate to me some remarks, which appear to be Goethe's upon Manfred!—and if I may judge by two notes of admiration (generally put after something ridiculous by us), and the word 'hypocriten,' are any thing but favorable. I shall regret this, for I should have been one of Goethe's sieve-proof; but I don't alter my opinion of him, even though he should be savage.

"Will you excuse this trouble, and do me this favor?—neat-minded, written nothing, of no literary proof—having had good and evil said in most modern languages.

"Believe me, &c.

[LETTER CCCCXL]

TO MR. MOORE.

"Ravenna, June 3, 1829.

"I have received a Parisian letter from W. W., which I prefer answering through you, if that worthy be still at Paris, and, as he says, an occasional visitor of yours. In November last he wrote to me a well-reasoned letter, signed with the names of his own, his belief that a reunion might be effected between Lady B. and myself. To this I answered as usual; and he sent me a second letter, repeating his notions, which letter I have never answered, and am, to this day, a thousand miles from the thought of. He now writes as if he believed that he had offended me, by touching on the topic; and I wish you to assure him that I am not at all so,—but on the contrary, obliged by his good-nature.

"At the same time acquaint him the thing is impossible. You know this, as well as I,—and there let it end.

"I believe that I showed you his epistle in autumn last. He asks me if I have heard of my 'laureate' at Paris,—somebody who has written a most sangunary Epitre against me; but whether in French, or Dutch, or on what score, I know not, and he don't say, except that (for my satisfaction) he says it is the best thing in the fellow's volume. If there is any thing of the kind that I ought to know, you will doubtless tell me. I suppose it to be something of the usual sort:—he says, he don't remember the author's name.

"I wrote to you some ten days ago, and expect an answer at your leisure.

"The separation business still continues, and all the world are implicated, including priests and cardinals. The public opinion is furious against him, because he ought to have cut the matter short at first, and not waited twelve months to begin. He has been trying at evidence, but can get none sufficient; for what would make fifty divorces in England won't do here—there must be the most decided proofs.

"It is the first cause of the kind attempted in Ravenna for these two hundred years; for, though they often separate, they assign a different motive. You know that the continental incontinent are more delicate than the English, and don't like proclaiming their doting in a court, even when no body doubts it.

"All her relations are furious against him. The father has challenged him—a superbulous valor, for he don't fight, though suspected of two assassina-
tions—one of the famous Monzoni of Forli. Warn-
ing was given me not to take such long rides in the Pine Forest without being on my guard; so I take my stiletto and a pair of pistols in my pocket during my daily drives.

"I won't stir from this place till the matter is settled one way or the other. She is as femininely firm as possible; and the opinion is so much against him, that the advocates decline to undertake his cause, because they say that he is either a fool or a

* Mr. Lauranso.
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902 I will am B * * * * witness in Ot Bend much tus, Steinbach naturally translated but such original, critique of H to their bed with opportunity, got he spend he logao- and d "P." * * religion. "P." * * er. Enclosed I Matthew their literally, works, nothing that security don't bad and bored of— Polonius, 'say he made a g-od end—for a melodrame. The principal security is, that he has not the courage to spend twenty scudi—the average price of a clean-handed brave—otherwise there is no want of opportunity, for I ride about the woods every evening, with one servant, and sometimes an acquaintance, who latterly looks a little queer in solitary bits of bushes. "Good-by.—Write to yours ever, &c."

LETTER CCCXLII.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Bavenna, June 7, 1829.

'Enclosed is something which will interest you, to wit, the opinion of the greatest man of Germany perhaps of Europe—upon one of the great men of your advertisements (all 'famous hands,' as Jacob Tomson used to say of his ragamuffins)—in short, a critique of Goethe's upon Manfred. There is the original, an English translation, and an Italian one; keep them all in your archives, for the opinions of such as Goethe, whether favorable or not, are always interesting—and this is more so, as favorable. His Faust I never read, for I don't know German; but Matthew Monk Lewis in 1816, at Coligny, translated most of it to me rise voce, and I was naturally much struck with it; but it was the Steinbach and the Jungfrau, and something else, much more than Faustus, that made me write Manfred. The first scene, however, and that of Faustus, are very similar. Acknowledge this letter. "Yours ever,

"P. S. I have received Ivanhoe—good. Pray send me some tooth-powder and tincture of myrrh, by Waite, &c., Ricciardetto should have been translated literally, or not at all. As to puffing Whistlecraft, it won't do. I'll tell you why some day or other. Cornwall's a poet, but spoilt by the detestable schools of the day. Mrs. Hemans is a poet also, but too stilified and apostrophic,—and quite wrong. Men died calmly before the Christian era, and since, without Christianity,—witness the Romans, and lately, Thistlewood, Sandt, and Love—men who ought to have been weighed down with their crimes, even had they believed. A deathbed is a matter of nerves and constitution, and not of religion. Voltaire was frightened, Frederick of Prussia not: Christians the same, according to their strength rather than their creed. What does it * * II * * mean by his stanza? which is octave, got drunk, or gone mad.—He ought to have his ears boxed with Thor's hammer for rhyming so fantastically.'

LETTER CCCXLIII.
TO MR. MOORE.

"Bavenna, June 9, 1829.

'Galighani has just sent me the Paris edition of your works, (which I wrote to order,) and I am glad to see my old friends with a French face. I have been skimming and dipping, in and over them, like a swallow, and as pleased as one. It is the first time that I had seen the poet without music, and I don't know how, but I can't read in a music-book—the crotchetts confound the words in my head, though I recollect them perfectly when sung.'

Music assists my memory through the ear, not through the eye; I mean, that her quavers perplex me on paper, but they are a help when heard. And thus I am not unlike to see the days of Guido di Polenta's family, in these parts.

'If the man has been taken off, like Polonius, 'say he made a good end—for a melodrame. The principal security is, that he has not the courage to spend twenty scudi—the average price of a clean-handed brave—otherwise there is no want of opportunity, for I ride about the woods every evening, with one servant, and sometimes an acquaintance, who latterly looks a little queer in solitary bits of bushes. "Good-by.—Write to yours ever, &c."

LETTER CCCXLIV.
TO MR. MOORE.

"Bavenna, July 13, 1829.

'To remove or increase your Irish anxiety about my being 'in a whisper,' I answer your letter forthwith: premising that as I am a 'Will of the wisp,' I may chance to lose one of it in the Memorial. I have no objection, nay, I would rather that one correct copy was taken and depos

* An Irish phrase for being in a scrape.
There is a revolution at Naples. If so, it will probably leave a card at Ravenna in its way to Lombardy.

Your publishers seem to have used you like mine. Murray has shuffled, and almost insinuated that my last productions are dull. Dull, sir—bless me! I don't believe he is right. He begins for the completion of my tragedy on Marino Faliero, none of which has yet gone to England. The fifth act is nearly completed, but it is dreadfully long—forty sheets of large paper, four pages each—for about one hundred and fifty when printed; but so full of pastime and prodigality that I think it will do.

Pray send and publish your poem upon me; and don't be afraid of praising me too highly. I shall pocket my blushes.

Not actionable!—Chantre d'enfer 14 by—

that's a speech, and I won't put up with it a pretty title to give a man for doubting if their be any such place!

So my Gall is gone—and Miss Mahony won't take money. I am very glad of it—I like to be generous free of expense. But beg her not to translate me.

Oh, pray tell Galignani that I shall send him a screech of doctrine if he don't be more punctual. Somebody regularly detains two, and sometimes four, of his messengers by the way. Do, pray, get me there in the proper rate of time; and with money in this remote kingdom of the Ostrogoths.

Pray, reply. I should like much to share some of your champagne and La Fitte, but I am too Italian for Paris in general. Make Murray send my letter to you if it is full of epigrams.

Yours, &c.

LETTER CCCXLV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

Ravenna, July 17th, 1830.

I have received some books, and Quarterlies, and Edinburghs, for which I am grateful; they contain all I know of England, except by Galignani's newspaper.

The tragedy \( ^{1} \) is completed, but now comes the task of copy and correction. It is very long, (forty-two sheets of long paper, of four pages each,) and I believe must make more than one hundred and forty or one hundred and fifty pages. It contains many historical extracts as notes, which I mean to append. History is closely followed. Dr. Moore's account is in some respects false, and in all foolish and flip- pant. None of the chronicles (and I have consulted Sanuto, Sandi, Navagero, and an anonymous Siege of Zara, besides the histories of Laugier, Dura, Simondi, &c,) state, or even hint, that he begged his life; they merely say that he did not deny the conspiracy. He was one of their great men, commander at the siege of Zara,—beat eighty thousand Hungarians, killing eight thousand, and at the same time kept the town he was besieging in order,—took Cape d'Istria; was ambassador at Genoa, Rome, and finally Doge, where he fell for treason, in attempting to alter the government, by what Sanuto calls a judgment on him for, many years before, (when podesta and captain of *l' Evissa,* having knocked down a bishop, who was sluggish in carrying the host at a procession. He 'saddles him,' as Thwackum did Square, 'with a judgment,' but he does not mention, whether he had been punished, or whether he was tried; the time for what would appear very strange, even now, and must have been still more so in an age of papal power and glory. Sanuto says, that Heaven took away his senses for this buffert, and

* The title given by M. Lamartine, in one of his poems.† Marino Faliero.
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induced him to compare. 'Però fu permesso che il Faliero perdette l'intelletto,' &c.

'If I do not know what your parlor-boarders will think of the drama I have founded upon this extraordinary event. The only similar one in history is that of the Fall of Jerusalem,' accuse me of Manicheism? A compliment to which the sweetener of 'one of the mightiest spirits' by no means reconciles me. The poem they review is very noble; but could they not do justice to the writer without converting him into my religious antidote? I am not a Manichean, nor an Any-
echan.' I should like to know what harm my 'preaches' have done? I can't tell what people mean by making me a hogoblin.*

LETTER CCCXLVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

'Revoves, August 31, 1829.

'I have 'put my soul' into the tragedy, (as you If it) but you know that there are as many souls as we tragédies. Recollect that it is not a political play, though it may look like it: it is strictly historical. Read the history and judge.'

'Ada's picture is her mother's. I am glad of it —the mother made a good daughter. Send me Gifford's opinion, and never mind the Archbishop. I can neither send you away, nor give you a hundred pistols, nor a better taste; I send you a tragedy, and you asked for facetious epistles: little like your predecessor, who advised Dr. Prideaux to 'put some more humor into his Life of Mahomet.'

'Bankes is a wonderful fellow. There is hardly one of my school or college contemporaries that has not turned out more or less celebrated. Peel, Palmerston, Bankes, Hobhouse, Tavistock, Bob Milis, Douglas Keirnaird, &c., &c., have all talked as been talked about.'

'We are here going to fight a little next month, if the Huns don't cross the Po, and probably if they do. I can't say more now. If anything happens, you have matter for a posthumous work in MS.; so, pray be civil. Depend upon it, there will be savage work, if once they begin here. The French courage proceeds from vanity, the German from phlegm, the Turkish from fanaticism and opium, the Spanish from pride, the English from coolness, the Dutch from obstinacy, the Russian from insensibility, but the Italian from anger; so you see that they will spare nothing.'

* I had congratulated him upon arriving at what Dante calls the "mezzo cammin": 'You should say the prime of life,' a much more consolatory phrase. Besides, it is not correct. I was born in 1788, and consequently am but thirty-two. You are mistaken on another point. The 'Sequin Box' never came into requisition, nor is it likely to do so. It were better that it had, for then a man is not bound, you know. As to reform, I did reform—what we old fogies have? 'Rebellion lay in his way, and he found it, I verily believe that nor you, nor any man of poetical temperament, can avoid a strong passion of some kind. It is the poetry of life. What should I have known or written, had I been a quiet, mercantile politician, or a lord in waiting? A man must travel and turmoil, or there is no existence. Besides, I only meant to be a cavalier serve, and had no idea it would turn out a romance, in the Anglo fashion.'

'However, I suspect I know a thing or two of Italy—more than Lady Morgan has picked up in her posting. What do Englishmen know of Italians beyond their museums and saloons—and some hack * * * en passant? Now, I have lived in the heart of their houses, in parts of Italy freshest and least influenced by strangers, have seen and become (pars magna sui) a portion of their hopes and fears, and passions, and am almost inoculated into a family. This is to see men and things as they are.'

'You say that I called you 'quiet'—I don't recollect any thing of the sort. On the contrary you are always in scarpas.'

'What think you of the Queen? I hear Mr Hoby says, 'that it makes him weep to see her, she reminds him so much of Jane Shore.'

'Mr. Hoby, the bookmaker's heart is quite sore,' For seeing the Queen makes him think of Jane Shore; And, in fact, * * * * * * * * * Pray, excuse this ribaldry. What is your poem about? Write and tell me all about it and you.'

'Yours, &c.'

'P.S. Did you write the lively quiz on Peter Bell? It has hit enough to be yours, and almost too much to be any body else's now going. It was in Galgani the other day or week.'

LETTER CCCXLVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

'Revoves September 7, 1829.

'In correcting the proofs you must refer to the manuscript, because there are in it various readings. Pray attend to this, and choose what Gifford thinks best. Let me hear what he thinks of the whole.'

'You speak of Lady * *'s illness; she is not of those who die—the amiable only do; and those whose death would do good live. Whenever she is pleased to return, it may be presumed she will take her 'divining rod' along with her: it may be of use to her at home, as well as to the 'rich man' of the Evangelists.'

'Pray, do not let the papers paragraph me back to England. They may say what they please, any loathsome abuse but that. Contradict it.'

'My last letters will have taught you to expect an explosion here: it was primed and loaded, but they hesitated to fire the train. One of the cities shirked from the league. I cannot write more at large for a thousand reasons. Our 'puir hill folk' deferred to strike, and raise the first banner, but Bo- logna paused; and now 'tis autumn, and the season half over. 'O Jerusalem! Jerusalem!' The Huns are on the Po; but if once they pass it on their way to Naples, all Italy will be behind them. The dogs— the wolves—may they perish like the host of Sennacherib! If you want to publish the Prophecy of Dante, you never will have a better time.'

* I had mistaken the concluding words of his letter of the 9th of June—Moore.
LETTER CCCXLIX.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Havens, Sept. 11, 1820.

"Here is another historical note for you. I want to be as near truth as the drama can be.

"Last post I sent you a note fierce as Faliero himself;* in answer to a trashy tourist, who pretends that he could have been introduced to me. Let me have a proof of it, that I may cut its lava into some shape.

"What Gifford says is very consolatory, (of the first act,) English, sterling genuine English, is a desideratum among you, and I am glad that I have got so much left; though Heaven knows how I retain it; I hear none bad from my valet, and his is Nottinghamshire; and I see none but in your new publications, and their's is no language at all, but jargon. Even your * * * * is terribly stilted and affected, with 'very, very' so soft and paunchy.

"Oh! if ever I do come among you again, I will give you such a 'Baviad and Mavilad!' not as good as the old, but even better merited. There never was such a set as your ragsamuffins, (I meant not yours only, but every body's.) What with the Cockney's, and the Lakes, and the Roundhead, Scott, and Moore, and Byron, you are in the very uttermost decline and degradation of literature. I can't think of it without all the remorse of a murderer. I wish that Johnson were alive again to crush them!"

LETTER CCCCL.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Havens, Sept. 14, 1820.

"What! not a line? Well, have it in your own way.

"I wish you would inform Perry that his stupid paragraph is the cause of all my newspapers being stopped in Paris.† The fools believe me in your infernal country, and have not sent on their gazettes, so that I know nothing of your beastly trial of the Queen.

"I cannot avail myself of Mr. Gifford's remarks, because I have received none, except on the first act.

"P. S. So, pray, beg the editors of papers to say anything blackguard they please; but not to put me among their arrivals. They do me more mischief by such nonsense than all their abuse can do."

LETTER CCCCLI.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Havens, Sept. 21, 1820.

"If you are at your old tricks again. This is the second packet I have received unaccompanied by a single line of good, bad, or indifferent. It is strange that you have never forwarded any farther observations of Gifford's. How am I alter or unend, if I hear no farther? or does this shew mean that it is well enough as it is, or too bad to be repaired? if the last, why do you not say so at once, instead of playing pretty, while you know that soon or late you must out with the truth.

"P. S. My sister tells me, that you sent her to inquire where I was, believing in my arrival 'driuing a curriule,' &c., &c., into Palace-yard. Do you think me a coxcomb or a madman, to be capable of such an exhibition? I wish you knew me better, and told you, that could not be me. You might as well have thought me entering on 'a pale horse,' like Death in the Revelations."

LETTER CCCCLII.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Havens, Sept. 26, 1820.

"Get from Mr. Hobhouse, and send me a proof (with the Latin) of my Hints from Italy; it has now the nomas premature in annum complete for its production, being written at Athens in 1811. I have a notion that, with some omissions of names and passages, it will do; and could put my late observations for Pope among the notes, with the date of 1820, and so on. As far as versification goes, it is good; and on looking back to what I wrote about that period, I am astonished to see how little I have been. I am now; I wrote the last, and no; but that comes of my having fallen into the atrocious but taste of the times. If I can trim it for present publication, what with the other things you have on mine, you will have a volume of verse at variety at least, for there will be all measures, styles, and topics, whether good or no. I am anxious to hear what Gifford thinks of the tragedy; pray let me know. I really do not know what to think myself.

"If the Germans pass the Po, they will be treated to a mass out of the Cardinal de Retz's Breviary. * It's a fool, and could not understand this. There will. It is as pretty a conceit as you would wish to see on a summer's day.

"Nobby here believes a word of the evidence against the Queen. The very mob cry shame against their countrymen, and say that for half the money spent upon the trial, any testimony whatever may be brought out of Italy. This you may rely upon as fact. I told you as much before. As to what travellers report, what are travellers? Now I have lived among the Italians—not Florence, and Hipped, and gathered, and conversationed it a few months, and then home again; but been of their families, and friendships, and feuds, and loves, and councils, and correspondence, in a part of Italy least known to foreigners—and have been among them of all classes, from the Conte to the Contadine; and you may be sure of what I say to you.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCCCLIII.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Havens, Sept. 28, 1820.

"I thought that I had told you long ago, that it never was intended nor written with any view to the stage. I have said so in the preface too. It is too long and too regular for your stage, the persons few, and the unity too much observed. It is more like a play of the great than your stage. (I say this humbly in speaking of that great man;) but there is poetry, and it is equal to Manfred, though I know not what esteem is held of Manfred.

"I have now been nearly as long out of England as I was there during the time I saw you frequently. I came home July 14th, 1811, and left again April 25th, 1816: so that Sept. 28th, 1820, brings me within a very few months of the same duration of

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* See notes to Marino Faliero.
* It had been reported that he had arrived in London to attend the opera's trial.
time of my stay and my absence. In course, I can know nothing of the public taste and feelings, but from the letters. 

Said to be as bad as possible.

"I thought Austrians excellent: did I not say so? Mathematics Diary most excellent; it, and Forsyth, and parts of Hobhouse are all we have of truth or sense from Italy. The highest style in all the styles of the day, which are all bourgeois (I don't except my own—no one has done more through negligence to corrupt the language); but it is neither English nor poetry. Time will show.

"I am sorry Gifford has made no further remarks beyond the first act: does he think all the English equally stupid as he thought the first? You did right to send the proofs; I was a fool; but I do not regret the signs of proofs: it is an absurdity; but comes from laziness.

"You can steal the two Juanis into the world quietly tagged to the others. The play as you will—the Dante too; but the Puls I am proud of: it surpasses all the trashy nonsense one such troupe can produce. It is the best thing I ever did in my life. I wrote the play from beginning to end, and not a single scene without interruption, and being obliged to break off in the course of a single line and put my head, too; just so: it can be no great shakes—I mean the play; and the head too, if you like.

"P. S. Politics here still savage and uncertain. However, we are all in our "bandittes" to join the Highlanders if they cross the Forth, i.e., to crush the Austrians if they cross the Po. The rascals—and that dog Liverpool, to say their subjects are happy! If ever I come back, I'll work some of these ministers.

"Sept. 29."

"I open my letter to say that on reading more of the four volumes on Italy, where the author says 'declined an introduction,' I perceive (horresco referens) it is written by a WOMAN!!! In that case I must suppress my note and answer, and all I have said about the book and the writer. I never dreamed of it until now, in my extreme wrath at that precious note. I can only say that I am accurate, I refuse, if it is the same—who said? What I would have said to one of the other sex you know already. Her book too (as a she book) is not a bad one; but she evidently don't know the Italians, or rather don't like them, and forgets the classics. Matthew and Forsyth are your men for the truth and tact, and has gone over Italy in company—always a bad plan: you must be alone with people to know them well. Ask her, who was the 'desendant of Lady M. W. Montague,' and by whom? by Algarotti?

"I suspect that in Marino Faliero, you and yours won't like the politics which are perilous to you in these times; but recollect that it is not a political play, and that I was obliged to put into the mouths of the characters the sentiments upon which they acted. I hate all things written like Pizarro, to represent France, England, and so forth. All I have done is meant to be purely Venetian, even to the very prophecy of its present state.

"Your Angles in general know little of the Italians, who detest them for their numbers and their Cosa da treachery. Besides, the English travellers have not been composed of the best company. How could they?—out of one hundred thousand, how many gentlemen were there, or honest men?

"P. S. Aristophanes is excellent. Send me the rest of it.

"These fools will force me to write a book about Italy myself, to give them the 'lugubrious.' They suppose about assassination; what is it but the origin of dueling—and a wild justice, as Lord Bacon calls it? I have the fount of my honor in what the laws can't or won't reach. Every man is liable to it more or less, according to circumstances or place. For instance, I am living here exposed to it daily, for I have happened to make a powerful and unprincipled man my enemy—and I never sleep the worse for it, or ride in less solitary places, because precaution is useless, and one thinks of it as of a disease which may or may not strike. It is true, that there are those who, if he did, would 'ive to think on'; but that would not awake my bones: I should be sorry if it would, were they once at rest."

LETTER CCCCLIV

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Havrevo, Sept. 29, 1850.

"You will have now received all the acts, corrected, of the Marino Faliero. What you say of the 'boot of one hundred guineas,' made by some one who says that he saw me last week, reminds me of what had happened in 1810; you can easily ascertain the fact, and what I meant.

"In the latter end of 1811, I met one evening at the Alfred my old school and form-fellow, (for we were within two of each other, he the higher, though both very near the top of our remove.) Peel, the Irish Secretary. He told me that, in 1810, he met me, as he thought, in St. James' street, but we passed without speaking. He mentioned this, and it was denied as impossible; I being then in Turin. A day or two afterwards, he pointed out to his brother a person on the opposite side of the way:—'There,' said he, 'is the man whom I took for Byron.' His brother instantly answered, 'Why it is Byron, and no one else.' But this is not all—I was seen by some body to write down my name among the inquirers after the king's health, then attacked by insanity. Now, at this very period, as nearly as I could make out, I was ill of a strong fever at Patras, caught in the marshes near Olympia, from the malaria. If I had died there, it would have been a new ghost story for you. You can easily make out the accuracy of this from Peel himself, who told it in detail. I suppose you will be able to put the opinion of Lucretius (who abhors the mortality of the soul, but) asserts that from the flying off of the surfaces of bodies, these surfaces or cases, like the coats of an onion, are sometimes seen entire when they are separated from it, so that the shapes and shadows of both the dead and living are frequently beheld.

"But if they are, are their coats and waistcoats also seen? I do not disbelieve that we may be two by some unconscious process, to a certain sign, but which of these two I happen at present to be, I leave you to decide. I only hope that other me behaves like a garrulous.

"I wish you would get Peel asked how far I am accurate in my recollection of what he told me, for I don't like to say such things without authority.

"I am not sure that I was not spoken with, but this also you can ascertain. I have written to you such letters that I stop.

"Yours, &c.

"P. S. Last year (in June, 1819) I met at Count Monti's, at Ferrara, an Italian, who asked me if I knew Lord Byron. It is told him no. (you know, yourself, you know.) 'Then,' says he, 'I do; I met him at Naples the other day.' I pulled out my card and asked him if that was the way he spelt his name: he answered, yes. I suspect that it was a blackguard navy surgeon, who attended a young
travelling madman about, and passed himself for a lord at the posh houses. He was a vulgar dog—quick to do a split order—and a precious representative I must have had of him, if it was even so; but I don’t know. He passed himself off as a gentleman, and quivered about a Countess — (of this place) then at Venice, an ugly battered woman, of bad morals even for Italy.

LETTER CCCCLV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

*Barcelona, Dec 80, 1828.*

“Foscolo’s letter is exactly the thing wanted; firstly, because he is a man of genius; and, next, because he is an Italian, and therefore the best judge of Italians. Besides,

‘He’s more an antique Roman than a Dane’

that is, he is more of the ancient Greek than of the modern Italian. ... Thus, and somewhat, as Douglas Dalgerty says, ‘too wild and savage, (like ‘Ronald of the Mist’), ‘tis a wonderful man, and my friends Hobhouse and Rose both swear by him; and they are good judges of men and of Italian humanity.

‘Here are in all two worthy voices gauda’d’

Gifford says it is good ‘sterling, genuine English,’ and Foscolo says that the characters are right Venetian. Shakespeare and Otway had a million of advantages over me besides the incalculable one of being dead from one to two centuries, and having been both born, blackguards, (which are such attractions to the gentle living reader;) let me then preserve the only one which I could possibly have—that of having been at Venice, and entered more into the local spirit of it. I claim no more.

I know what Foscolo means about Calendario’s spitting at Bertram; that’s national—the objection, I mean. The Italians and French, with those ‘flags of abomination,’ their pocket-handkerchiefs, spit there, and here, and everywhere else—in your face, almost, and therefore object to it on the stage as too familiar. But who spit nowhere—but in a man’s face when we grow savage—are not likely to feel this. Remember Massinger, and Kean’s ‘Sir Giles Overreach’.

Lord! I saw I spit at thee and not thy counsel!”

Besides, Calendario does not spit in Bertram’s face; he spits at him, as I have seen the Mussulmans do upon the ground when they are in a rage. Again, he does not in fast despeire Bertram, though he affects it,—as we all do, when angry with one we think our inferior. He is angry at not being allowed to die in his own way, (although not afraid of death;) and recollect that he suspected and hated Bertram from the first. Israel Burtceco, on the other hand, is a cooler and more concentrated fellow: he acts upon principle and Impulse; Calendario upon impulse and example.

“So there’s argument for you.

The Doge repeats,—true, but it is from engrossing passion, and because he sees different persons, and is always obliged to recur to the cause uppermost in his mind. His speeches are long—true; but I wrote for the closet, and on the French and Italian model rather than yours, which I think not very highly of, for all your old dramatists who are long enough, too, God knows.—look into any of them.

1: ‘turn you Foscolo’s letter, because it alludes also to his private affairs. I am sorry to see such a man in straits, because I know what they are, or what they were. I never met but three men who would have held out a finger to me: one was your self, the other William Banke’s, and the other a nobleman long ago;”

But of these then the first was the only one who offered it while I really wanted it; the second from good-will—but I was not in need of Banke’s aid, and would not have accepted it if I had, (though I love and esteem him;) and the third—*}

“So you see that I have seen some strange things in my time. As for your own offer, it was in 1815 when I was in actual uncertainty of five pounds. I rejected it; but I have not forgotten it, although you probably have.

“P. S. Foscolo’s Riccardo was lent, with the leaves uncut, to some Italians, now in villeggiatura, so that I have had no opportunity of hearing their decision, or of reading it. They seized on it as Foscolo’s, on account of the beauty of the paper and printing, directly. If I find it takes, I will reprint it here. The Italians think as highly of Foscolo as they can of any man, divided and miserable as they are, and with neither leisure at present to read, nor head nor heart to judge of any thing but extracts from French newspapers and the Luguano Gazette.

“We are all looking at one another, like wolves on their prey in pursuit, only waiting for the first falling on to do unutterable things. They are a great world in chaos or angels in hell, which you please; but out of chaos came paradise, and out of hell—I don’t know what; but the devil wages it there, and he was a fine fellow once, you know.

“You need never favor me with any periodical publication, except the Edinburgh, Quarterly, and an occasional Blackwood; or now and then a Monthly Review: for the rest I do not feel curiosity enough to look beyond their covers.

“To be sure I took in the editor of the British Almanac. He fell precisely into the glistening trap laid for him. It was inconceivable how he could be so absurd as to imagine us serious with him.

“Recollect, that if you put my name to ‘Don Juan’ in these coming days, any lawyer might oppose my guardian right of my daughter in chancery, on the plea of its containing the parody,—such are the perils of a foolish jest. I was not aware of this at the time, but you will find it correct, I believe; and you may be sure that the Noahs would not let it slip. Now I prefer my child to a poem at any time, and so should you, as having half a dozen.

“Let me know your notions.

“If you turn over the earlier pages of the Huntington manuscript, you will see how common a name Ada was in the early Plantagenet days. I found it in my own pedigree in the reign of John and Henry, and gave it to my daughter. It was also the name of Charlemagne’s sister. It is in an early chapter of Genesis, as the name of the wife of Launcet; and I suppose Ada is the feminine of Adam. It is short, ancient, vocalic, and had been in my family, for which reason I gave it to my daughter.”
LETTERS

Letter CCCCLVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Eavonna, 1854, 1830.

"The Abbot has just arrived; many thanks; as also for the Monastery—when you send it!!

"The Abbot will have a more than ordinary interest for me, for an ancestor of mine by the mother's side, Sir J. Gordon of Gight, the handsomest of his day, died on a seacoast at Aberdeen for his loyalty to Mary, of whom he was an importunate purveyor as well as her relation. His fate was much commented on in the Chronicles of the Times. If I am mistaken, I beg you to make sure with her escape from Loch Leven, or with her captivity there. But this you will know better than I.

"I recollect Loch Leven as it were but yesterday, I saw it in my way to England, in 1788, being then ten years of age. My mother who was as 'angry as Lucifer with her descent from the Stuarts, and her right line from the old Gordons, not the Seyton Gordons, as she disdainfully termed the ducal branch, told me the story, always making me how superior her Gordons were to the southern Byrons,—notwithstanding our Norman, and always masculine descent, which has never lapsed into a female, as my mother's Gordons had done in her own person.

"I have written to you so often lately that the brevity of this will be welcome.

"Yours, &c."

Letter CCCCLVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Eavonna, 1854, 1830.

"Enclosed is the Dedication of Marino Falerio to Goethe. Query,—is his title Baron or not? I think yes. Let me know your opinion, and so forth.

"P. S. Let me know what Mr. Hobhouse and you have decided about the two prose letters and their publication.

"I enclose you an Italian abstract of the German translator of Manfred's Appendix, in which you will perceive quoted what Goethe says of the whole body of English poetry, (and not of me in particular.) On this the Dedication is founded, as you will perceive, though I had thought of it before, for I look upon him as a great man."

"Dedication to Baron Goethe, &c., &c., &c.

"Sir,

"In the Appendix to an English work lately translated into German and published at Leipsic, a judgment of yours upon English poetry is quoted as follows: "That in English poetry, great genius, universal power, a feeling of profundity, with sufficient tenderness and force, are to be found; but that altogether these do not constitute poets," &c., &c.

"I regret to see a great man falling into a great mistake. This opinion of yours only proves that the "Dictionary of ten thousand living English authors" has not been translated into German. You will have read, in your friend Schlegel's version, the dialogue in Macbeth—

"There are ten thousand!"

"Macbeth. Good, Wedder."

"Answer. Author's sit!"

Now, of these ten thousand authors, there are actually nineteen hundred and eighty-seven poets, all alive at this moment, with their two hundred thousand men, that they dare not let such a volume as his circulate"

give a bailioci to see;—bating the rest of the same author, and an occasional Edinburgh and Quarterly, as brief chroniclers of the times. Instead of this, here are Johnny Keats's poetry, and three novels, by God knows whom, except that there is Popery * * * to one of them, with a matter within which I thought we had sent back to her spinning. Crayon is very good; Hogg's Tales rough but racy, and welcome.

Books of travel are expensive, and I don't want them now, having travelled already; besides, they incite me not to the author of 'The Profligate' for his (or her) present. Pray send me no more poetry but what is rare and decidedly good. There is such a taste like to be attached to such trivies that I am ashamed to look at them. I say nothing against your person's, your Smith's, and your Croly's—it is all very fine—but pray dispense me from the pleasure. Instead of poetry if you will favor me with a few soda powders, I shall be delighted; but all prose (bating travels and novels not by Scott) is welcome, especially Scott's Tales of My Landlord, and so on.

In the notes to Marino Falerio, it may be as well to say that 'Benvenuto' was not written in the Pen, but merely Grand Chancellor, a separate office, (although important;) it was an arbitrary alteration of mine. The Doges too were all buried in St. Mark's before Falerio. I am singular that when his predecessor, Andrea Dandolo died, the Ten made a law that all the future Doges should be buried with their families, in their own churches,—one would think by a kind of presentiment. So all that is said of his ancestral Doges, as buried at St. John's and Paul's, is altered from the fact, they being in St. Mark's. Make a note of this, and put Editor as the subscription to it.

"As I make such pretensions to accuracy, I should only like to be trusted even on this score. Of the play they may say what they please, but not so of my costume and dram. pers. they having been real existences.

"I omitted Poscol in my list of living Venetian notaries in the notes, considering him as an Italian in general, and not a mere provincial like the rest; and as an Italian I have spoken of him in the preface to canto fourth of Childe Harold.

"The French translation of us! ! ! omé! omé! and the German; but I don't understand the latter, and his long dissertation at the end about the Fausts. Excuse haste. Of politics it is not safe to speak, but nothing is decided as yet.

"I am in a very fierce humor at not having Scott's Monastery.—You are too liberal in quantity, and somewhat careless of the quality, of your missives. All the Quarterly (four in number) I had had before from you, and two of the Edinburgh; but no matter, we shall have new ones by-and-by. No more Keats, I entreat—day him alike; if some of you don't, I must skin him myself. There is no bearing the drizzling idiom of the manikin.

"I don't feel inclined to care farther about 'Don Juan.' What do you think a very pretty Italian lady said to me the other day? I hope you read it in the French, and paid me some compliments, with due drawbacks, upon it. I answered that what she said was true, but that I suspected it would live longer than Childe Harold.—'Ah, but' (said she), 'I believe more than two years, and was sure that 'Don Juan' is immortal. The truth is that it is too true, and the women hate many things which strip off the tinsel of senti- ment, and that it would rob them of their weapons. I never knew a woman who did not hate De Grammont's Memoirs for the same reason: even Lady * * used to abuse them.

"Rose's work I never received. It was seized at Verona by the officers, and sent to Huna, with all their two hundred thousand men, that they dare not let such a volume as his circulate"
tion than mine, although considerably less than yours. It is owing to this neglect on the part of your German translators that you are not aware of the works of * * * * * * *

"There is also another, named * * * * * * * * * * * * *

"I mention these poets by way of sample to enlighten you. They form but two bricks of our Babel, (Windsor bricks, by-the-way,) but may serve for a specimen of the building.

"It is, moreover, asserted that "the predominating character of the whole body of the present English poetry is a disgust and contempt for life." But I rather suspect that, by one single work of prose, you yourself have excited a greater contempt for life than all the English volumes of poetry that ever were written. Madame de Staël says, that "Werther has occasioned more suicides than the most beautiful woman;" and I really believe that he has put more individuals out of this world than Napoleon himself,—except in the way of his profession. Perhaps, illustrous sir, the acrimonious judgment passed by a celebrated northern journal upon you, in particular, and the Germans in general, has rather disposed you towards English poetry as well as criticism. But you must not regard our critics, who are at bottom good-natured fellows, considering their two professions; taking up the law in count, and laying it down out of it. No one can more lament their hasty and unfair judgment, in your particular, than I do; and I so expressed myself to your friend Schlegel, in 1816, at Cöpet.

"In behalf of my "ten thousand" living brethren, and of myself, I have thus far taken notion of an opinion expressed with regard to "English poetry" in general, and which merited notice, because it is yours.

"My principal object in addressing you was to testify my sincere respect and admiration of a man, who, for half a century, has led the literature of a great nation, and will go down to posterity as the first literary character of his age.

"You have been fortunate, sir, not only in the writings which have illustrated your name, but in the name itself, as being sufficiently musical for the articulation of posterity. In this you have the advantage of some of your co-nationals, whose names would perhaps be immortal also—if any body could pronounce them.

"It may, perhaps, be supposed, by this apparent tone of levity, that I am wanting in intentional respect towards you; but this will be a mistake: I am always flippant in prose. Considering you, as I really and warmly do, in common with all your own, and with most of our nation, to be the first literary character which has existed in Europe since the death of Voltaire, I felt, and felt, desirous to inscribe to you the following work,—not as being either a tragedy or a poem, (for I cannot pronounce upon its pretensions to be either one or the other, or both, or neither,) but as a mark of esteem and admiration from a foreigner to the man who has been hailed in Germany "THE GREAT POET." "

"I have, with the truest respect,

"Your most obedient

"And very humble servant,

"BYRON.""

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P.S. I perceive that in Germany, as well as in Italy, there is the same struggle about what they call "Classical," and "Romantic,"—terms which were not subjects of classification in England, at least when I left it four or five years ago. Some of the English scholars, it is true, abused "classical" and "romantic," but the reason was that they themselves did not know how to write either prose or verse; but nobody thought them worth making a sect of. Perhaps there may be something of the kind sprung up lately, but I have not heard much about it, and it would be such bad taste that I shall be very sorry to believe it."

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LETTER CCCCLX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Reyvena, October 17, 1826.

"You owe me two letters—pay them. I want to know what you are about. The summer is over and you will be back to Paris. Apropos of Paris it was not Sophia Gall, but Sophia Gay—the English word Gay—who was my correspondent. Can you tell who she is, as you did of the defunct * * * ?

"Have you gone on with your poem? I have received the French manuscript. Of course it has been translated into a foreign language in such an abominable travesty! It is useless to rail, but one can’t help it.

"Have you got my memoir copied? I have begun a continuation. Shall I send it you as far as it is gone?

"I can’t say any thing to you about Italy, for the government here look upon me with a suspicious eye, as I am well informed. Pretty fellows if I, a solitary stranger, could do any mischief. It is because I am fond of rifle and pistol shooting, I believe; for they took the alarm at the quantity of cartridges I got gone,—the Laker *

"The queen has made a pretty theme for the journals. Was there ever such evidence published? Why it is worse than 'Little's Poems' or 'Don Juan.' If you don't write soon, I will 'make you a speech.'

"Yours. &c."

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LETTER CCCCLXI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Reyvena, Sept. 23, 1826.

"Pray forward the enclosed to Lady Byron. It is on business.

"In thanking you for the Abbot, I made four grand mistakes. Sir John Gordon was not of Gight, but of Bognaght, and a son of Hunter's. He suffered not for his loyalty, but in an insurrection. He had nothing to do with Loch Leven, having been dead some time at the period of the Queen's confinement: and, forthwith, I am not sure that he was the Queen's paramour or no, for Robertson does not allude to this, though Walter Scott does, in the list he gives of her admirers (as unfortunate) at the close of 'the Abbot.'

"I must have made all these mistakes in recollecting my mother's account of the matter, although she was more accurate than I, being precise upon points of genealogy, like all the aristocratical Scotch. She had a long list of ancestors, like Sir Lucas O'Trigger's, most of whom are to be found in the old Scotch Chronicles, &c., in arms and doing mischief. I remember well passing Loch Leven, as well as the Queen's Ferry: we were out of the way to England in 1788. Yours.

"You had better not publish 'Blackwood and the Robert's prose, except what regards Pope:—you have let the time slip by.'"
LETTER CCCLXI.
TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravena, June 4, 1830.

'I have received from Mr. Galignani the enclosed letters, duplicates, and receipts, which explain the whole. As the poems are your property, by purchase, right, and justice, all matters of publication, &c., &c., are for you to decide upon. I know not how far my compliance with Mr. Galignani's request might be legal, and I doubt that it would not be honest. In case you choose to arrange with him, I enclose the permits to you, and in so doing I wash my hands of the business altogether. I sign them merely to enable you to exert the power you justly possess more properly. I will have nothing to do with it further, except, in my answer to Mr. Galignani, to state that the letters, &c., &c., are sent to you, and the causes thereof.

'If you can check these foreign pirates, do, if not, put the permissive papers in the fire. I can have no view nor object whatever, but to secure to you your property.

'Yours, &c.'

P. S. I have read part of the Quarterly just arrived; Mr. Bowles, at least, is convinced; he is not quite correct in his statement about English Bards and Scotch Reviewers. They support Pope, I see, in the Quarterly; let them continue to do so; it is a sin, and a shame, and a damnation to think that Pope! should range against it—but Does! These miserable mountebanks of the day, the poets, disgrace themselves and deny God in running down Pope, the most faultless of poets, and almost of men.'

LETTER CCCLXII.
TO MR. MOORE.

"Ravenna, Nov. 5, 1830.

'Thanks for your letter, which has come somewhat coldly—but better late than never. Of it anon. Mr. Galignani, of the press, hath, it seems, been sub-planted and sub-pirated by another Parisian publisher, who has audaciously printed an edition of 1d. at the ultra-liberal price of five francs, and (as Galignani piteously observes) sells five francs only for booksellers! hooroo referencis; Think of a man's whole works producing so little! Galignani sends me, post haste, a permission for him to send to me, to publish, &c., &c., which permits I have signed and sent to Mr. Murray, of Albemarle street. Will you explain to G. that I have no right to dispose of Murray's works without his leave, and therefore I must refer him to M. to get the permit out of his clutches—no easy matter I suspect. I have written to G. to say as much; but a word of mouth from a great brother author would convince him that I could not honestly have complied with his wish, though I might legally. What I could do I have done, viz., signed the warrant and sent it to Murray. Let the dogs divide the carcass, if it is killed to their liking.

'I am glad of your epigram. It is odd that we should both let our wits run away with our sentiments; for I am sure that we are both Queen's men at bottom. But there is no resisting a clinch—it is so clever! A topic or thought of that—we have a 'dipthong' also in this part of the world—not a Greek, but a Spanish one—do you understand me?—which is about to blow up the whole alphabet. It was first pronounced at Naples, and is spreading; but we are nearer the barbarians; who are in great 'oree or the Po, and will pass it, with the first legitimat

'P. S. There will be the devil to pay, and there is no saying who will or who will not be set down in his bill. If 'honor should come unlooked for to any of your acquaintance, make a melody of it, that his ghost, like poor Yorick's, may have the satisfaction of being platinously pitied—or still more nobly commemorated, like 'Oh breathe not his name.' In case you should not think him worth it, here is a chant for you instead—

'When a man hath no freedom to fight for at once,
Let him combat for that of his neighbor.
Let him think of the g-g-g-g-races of Greece and Rome
And get knock'd on, he heard for his labor.'

'To do good to mankind is the chiral plan,
And is always an nobly required;
Then battle for freedom wherever you can
And, if not elected thereof, you're knighted.'

'So you have gotten the letter of 'Epigrams' I am glad of it. You will not be so, for I shall send you more. Here is one I wrote for the endorsement of 'the Deed of Separation' in 1816; but the lawyers objected to it, as superfluous. It was written as we were getting up the signing and sealing. * * has the original.'

'Endorsement of the Deed of Separation, in the April of 1815.

'In a year ago, you swore, said the
'To love, to honor,' and so forth:
Such was the vow you pledged to me,
And here's exactly what 'twas worth.'

'For the anniversary of January 2, 1821, I have a small grateful anticipation, which, in case of accident, I add—

'To Penelope, January 2, 1821.

'This day, of all our days, has done
The word for me and you—
'Tis just six years since we were one,
And few done we were two.'

'Pray, excuse all this nonsense; for I must talk nonsense just now for fear of wandering to more serious topics, which, in the present state of things, is not safe by a foreign post.'

'I told you in my last, that I had been going on with the 'Memoirs,' and have got as far as twelve more sheets. But I suspect they will be interrupted. In that case I will send them on by post, though I feel remorse at making a friend pay so much for postage, for we can't frank here beyond the frontier.'

'I shall be glad to hear of the event of the Queen's concern. As to the ultimate effect, the most inevitable one to you and me (if they and we live so long) will be that the Miss Moores and Miss Byrons will present us with a great variety of grandchilden by different fathers.

'Pray, where did you get hold of Goethe's Florentine husband-killing story? upon such matters, in general, I may say, with Beau Clanchey, in reply to Errand's wife—

'Oh the villain, he hath murdered my poor Timothy.'

'Clinker. Damn your Timothy!—I tell you, woman, your husband has murdered me—he has carried away my fine jubilee clothes.'

'So Bowles has been telling a story, too, (tis in the Quarterly,) about the woods of 'Madera,' and so forth. I shall be at Bowles again, if he is no quiet. He misstates, or mistakes, in a point or two. The paper is finished and so is the letter.'

'Yours, &c.'

* Mr. Galignani had applied to Lord Byron with the view of procuring from him such legal right over those works of his of which he had hitherto seen the sole publisher in France would enable him to send out copies, but we are from wanting the same in England.
LETTER CCCLXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, Sep. 2, 1819.

"The talent you approve of is an amiable one, and might prove a national service; but unfortunately I must be angry with a man before I draw his real portrait; and I can't deal in 'generals,' so that I trust some honest hand has provoked enough to make a gallery. If 'the parson' had not by many little dirty sneaking traits provoked it, I should have been silent, though I had observed him. Here follows an alteration: put—

"Devil, with such delight in damning,
That is to say, if these two new lines do not too much lengthen out and weaken the amiability of the original thought and expression. You have a discretionary power about showing. I should think that Croker would not discern a sight of these light little humorous things, and may be indulged now and then.

"Why, I do like one or two vices, to be sure; but I can back a horse and fire a pistol 'without thinking or blinking' like Major Sturgeon; I have fed at times for two months together on sheers biscuit and water, (without metaphor;) I can get over seventy or eighty miles a day riding post, and swim free at a stretch, as at Venice, in 1818, or at least I could do, and have done it once.

"I know Henry Matthews; he is the image, to the very voice, of his brother Charles, only darker—his cough his in particular. The first time I ever met him was in Scrope Davies's room after his brother's death, and I nearly dropped, thinking that it was his ghost. I have also dined with him in his rooms at King's College. Hobhouse once purported a similar memoir; but I am afraid the letters of Charles's correspondence with me (which are at Whiton with my other papers) would hardly do for the public; for our lives were not over strict, and our letters somewhat lax upon most subjects.

"Last week I sent you a correspondence with Galigani, and some documents on your property. You have now, I think, an opportunity of checking, or at least limiting, those French republications. You may let all your authors publish what they please against me and mine. A publisher is not, and cannot be responsible for all the works that issue from his printer's.

"The White Lady of Arvenel,' is not quite so good as a real well authenticated ('Dona Blanca') White Lady of Caloto, or spectre in the Marcia Trivigna, who has been repeatedly seen. There is a man (a huntsman) now alive who saw her also. Hoppner could tell you all about her, and so can Rose, perhaps. I myself have no doubt of the fact, historical and spectral. She always appeared on particular occasions, before the deaths of the family; &c., &c. I heard Madame Benzonzi say, that she knew a gentleman who had seen her cross his room at Caloto Castle. Hoppner saw and spoke with the huntsman, who met her at the chase, and never hunted afterward. She was a girl attendant, who, one day dressing the hair of a Countess Colato, was seen by her mistress to smile upon her husband in the glass. The Countess had her shut up in the wall of the castle, like Constance de Beverley. Ever after, she haunted them and all the Colatos. She is described a celebrated hair-dresser.

LETTER CCCLXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, Sep. 17, 1819.

"The death of Waite is a shock to the teeth, as well as to the feelings of all who knew him. Good God, he and Blake both gone! I left them both in the most robust health, and little thought of the national loss in so short a time as five years. They were both as much superior to Wellington is rational greatness, as he who preserves the hair and the teeth is preferable to 'bloody blustering varier' who gives them name by breaking heads and knocking out grinders. Who succeeds him? Where is tooth-powder, mild, and yet efficacious—where is tincture—where are clearing-roots and brushes now to be obtained? Pray obtain what in formation you can upon these 'Tuscanian questions.' My jaws ache to think on't. Poor fellows! I anticipated seeing both again; and yet they are gone to that place where both teeth and hair last longer than on this earth. A thousand graves opened, and always perceived, that whatever was gone, the teeth and hair remain with those who had died with them. Is not this odd? They go the very first things in youth, and yet last the longest in the dust, if people will but die to preserve them! It is a queer life, and a queer death, that of mortals.

"I knew that Waite had married, but little thought that the other measure was so soon to overtake him. Then he was such a delight, such a coxcomb, such a jewel of a man! There is a tailor at Bologna so like him! and also at the top of his profession. Do not neglect this commission or what can replace him? What says the public?

"I remand you the preface. Don't forget that the Italian extract from the Chronicle must be translated. With regard to what you say of touching the Juans and the Haps, it is all very well; but I can't dismiss. I am like the tiger, (in poesy,) if I miss the first spring I go growling back to my jungle. There is no second: I can't correct; I can't, and I won't. Nobody ever succeeds in it; great or small. Tasso remade the whole of his Jerusalem: but who ever reads that version? all the world goes to the first. Pope added to 'The Rape of the Lock,' but did not reduce it. You must take my things as they happen to be. If they are not likely to suit, reduce their estimate accordingly. I would rather give them away than hack and hew them. I don't say that you are not right; I merely repeat that I cannot better them, or either make a spoof or spoil a horn; and there's an end.

"Yours.

"P. S. Of the praises of that little • • • Keats, I shall observe, as Johnson did when Sheridan the actor got a pension. 'What! has he got a pension? Then it is time that I should give up mine!' Nobody could be prinder of the praise of the Edinburgh than I was, or more alive to their censure, as I showed in my critical bars and Scotch Reviewers. At present, all those they have ever praised are degraded by that insane article. Why don't they review and praise 'Solomon's Guide to Health?' it is better sense and as much poetry as Johnny Keats.

"Bowls must be boweled down. 'Tis a sad match at cricket if he can get any notches at Pope's expense. If he once get into 'Lord's ground,' (to bountine because it is folio,) I think I could beat him in one innings. You did not know, perhaps, that I was once (not metaphorically, but really) a good cricketer, particularly in batting, and I played in the Harrow match against Eton in 1816, gaining a half-dozen notches (some of our chosen eleven) than any, except Lord Ipswich and Brook man, on our side."

* His death.

• A celebrated hair-dresser.
LETTER CCLXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.


- What you said of the late Charles Skimmer Matthews has set me to my recollections; but I have not been able to turn up any thing which would do for the purposed memoir of his brother, even if he had previously done enough during his life to sanction the inclusion of anecdotes merely personal.

He was, however, a very extraordinary man, and would have been a great one. No one ever succeeded in a more surpassing degree than he did, as far as his sphere of usefulness is concerned; for whenever he stripped, he overthrew all antagonists. His conquests will be found registered at Cambridge, particularly his Downing one, which was hotly and highly contested, and yet easily won. Hobhouse was his most intimate friend, and can tell you more of him than any man. William Bankes also a great deal. I myself recollect more of his oddities than of his academical qualities, for we lived most together at a very idle period of his life. We went up to Trinity in 1830, at the age of seventeen and a half, I was miserable and untoward to a degree. I was wretched at leaving Harrow, to which I had become attached during the last two years of my stay there; wrapt up in the life and scene of Oxford (there were no rooms vacant at Christchurch,) wretched from some private domestic circumstances of different kinds, and consequently about as unsocial as a wolf taken from the wild. So that, although I knew Matthews, and met him often then at Bankes's, (who was my collegiate pastor, and master, and patron,) and at Rhodes's, Milnes's, Price's, Dick's, Macnamara's, Farrell's, Galley Knight's, and other houses, (with whom I used to pass the day in riding and swimming,) and William Bankes, who was good-naturedly tolerant of my ferocities.

- It was not till 1807, after I had been upwards of a year away from Cambridge, to which I had returned again to reside for my degree, that I became one of Matthews's favorites, to whom he was affectionate, who, after hating me for two years, because I 'wore a white hat and a gray coat, and rode a gray horse,' (as he says himself,) took me into his good graces because I had worn a white silk that I had always lived a good deal, and got drunk occasionally, in their company; but now we became really friends in a morning. Matthews, however, was not at this period resident in college. I met him chiefly in London, and at uncertain periods at Cambridge. Hobhouse, in the mean time, did great things: he founded the Cambridge 'Whig Club,' (which he seems to have forgotten,) and the 'Amiable Society,' which was dissolved in consequence of the members constantly quarrelling, and made himself very popular with 'us youth,' and no less formidable to all tutors, professors, and heads of colleges. William Bankes was gone; while he stayed he ruled the roast, or rather the roasting, and was father of all mischiefs.

Matthews and I, meeting in London, and elsewhere, became great cronies. He was not good-tempered—not amiable—but with his term per was manageable, and I thought him so superior a man, that I was willing to sacrifice something to his humors, which were often, at the same time, amusing and provoking. What became of his pet, however, (and he cherished it till the time of his death,) was never known. I mention this by the way, fearing to skip it over, and as he wrote remarkably well, both in Latin and English. We went down to Cambridge a sort of adventurers, or, if you had a fancy, we were a famous cellar, and monkey dresses from a masquerade warehouse. We were a company of seven or eight, with an occasional neighbor or so for visitors, and used to sit up late in our friars' dresses, drinking Burgundy, claret, champagne, and what not, out of the skull-cup, and all sorts of glasses, and buffooning all round the house, in our conventional garments. Matthews always denominated me the 'Abbott,' and I was called by him my 'Abbott,' good humor, to the day of his death. The harmony of these our symposia was somewhat interrupted, a few days after our assembling, by Matthews's throwing a pillow at me. (as he was called, from winning a foot-match, and I from a match, the first from Ipswich to London, and the second from Brightmealstone,) by threatening to throw 'bold Webster out of a window, in consequence of his being a 'bold rabbit' and ending in this epigram. Webster came to me and said, that his respect and regard for me as host would not permit him to call out any of my guests, and that he should go to town next morning. He did. It was in vain that I represented to him that the window was not high, and that the turf under it was particularly soft. Away he went.

Matthews and myself had travelled down from London together, in a Gipsy fashion, in our garments, and he was the chief of the hut, and a very able writer, as is evident from the following passage, which is not here quoted, as it does not come under the single topic on which we were now engaged, and the humor of which I verily believe, that I owed to a portion of his good graces.

When at Newstead, somebody had an accident rub bed against him, and he got his stocking stuck in it, and would not let them go before dinner; of course the gentleman apologized.

'Sir,' answered Matthews, 'it may be all very well for you, who have a great many silk stockings, to dirty other people's; but to me, who have only this one pair, which I have put on in honor of the 'Abbott' here, no apology can compensate for such carelessness; besides the expense of washing.' He had the same sort of droll sardonic way about everything. A wild Irishman named F*** one evening beginning to say something at a large supper at Cambridge, Matthews roared out 'Silence!' and then, pointing to F***, cried out, in the words of the oracle, 'Orson is endowed with reason.' You may easily imagine that Orson looked a little pale, and that his audience had acquired, on hearing this compliment. When Hobhouse published his volume of poems, the Miss Cellany, (which Matthews would call the Miss-cellany,) I all that could be drawn from him; yet the preface was 'extremely like Walsh.' Hobhouse thought this at first a compliment; but we never could make out what it was, for all we know of Walsh is his ode to King William, and Pope's epitaph of 'known Walsh.' When the party broke up for London, Hobhouse and Matthews, who were the greatest friends possible, agreed, for a whim, to walk together to town. They started on foot on the first day of their journey, the latter half of their journey, occasionally passing and repassing, without speaking. When Matthews had got to Highgate, he had spent all his money but
BYRON'S WORKS.

threepence halfpenny, and determined to spend that also in a pint of beer, which I believe he was drinking before a public house, as Scrope passed him (still without speaking), for the last time on their route. They were recorcelled in London again.

'One of Matthew's passions was 'the Fancy;' and he spoke unconsciously of it always, though he would have been drowned if ever he came to a difficult pass in the water. He was so; but surely Scrope and myself would have been most heartily glad that

'"The Dean had died,' And our prediction proved a lie.'

'His head was uncommonly handsome, very like what Pope's was in his youth.

'His voice, and laugh, and features are strongly resembled by his brother Henry's, if Henry be he King's College. His passion for business was so great, that he actually wanted me to match him with Dogherty, (whom I had backed and made the match for against Tom Belcher,) and I saw them spar to get the better of me, when, with his station in Pop's Alley. During the interval between the opera and the ballet, an acquaintance took his station by him, and saluted him; 'Come round,' said Matthews, 'come round,' 'Why should I come round?' said the other; 'you have only to turn your head—I am close by you.' That is exactly what I cannot do," answered Matthews: 'don't you see the state I am in?' pointing to his buckram shirt-collar, and inflexible cravat; and there he stood with his head always in the same perpendicular position during the whole spectacle.

'One evening, after dining together, as we were going to the opera, I happened to have a spare opera ticket, (I subscribed to a box,) and presented it to Matthews. 'Now sir,' said he to Hobhouse, afterward, 'this I call courtesy in the Abbe—another man would never have thought that I might do better with half a guinea to throw it to a door-keeper; but here is a man not only asks me to dinner, but gives me a ticket for the theatre.' These were only his oddities, for no man was more liberal, or more honorable in all his doings and dealings than Matthews. He gave Hobhouse and me, before we set out for Constantinople, a most splendid entertainment, to which we did ample justice. One of his fancies was dining at all sorts of out-of-the-way places. Sometimes people popped upon him, in I know not what coffee-house in the Strand—and what do you think was the attraction? Why, that he paid a shilling (I think) to dine with his hat on. This he called his 'hat-house,' and used to boast of the comfort of being covered at meal-times.

'When Sir Henry Smith was expelled from Cambridge for a row with a tradesman named Hiron,' said Matthews, "he solicited him to sit out under Hiron's windows every evening.

'Ah me! what pretty do's serious.
The men who meddle with hat Hiron.'

'He was also on of that band of profane scoffers, who, under the services of Mr. Scot, roused Mansel (late bishop of Bristol) from his slumbers in the lodge of Trinity, and when he appeared at the window foaming with wrath, and crying so, I know you, gentlemen, I know you; 'were went to reply, 'We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord—good Lord deliver us!' (Lort was his Christian name.) As he was very free in his speculations upon all kinds of subjects, although by no means either dissolute or intemperate in his conduct, and as I was no less independent, our conversation and correspondence used to alarm our friend Hobhouse to a considerable degree.

'You must be almost tired of my packets, which will have cost a mint of postage.

'Salute Gifford and all my friends,

'The Hints,' Hobhouse says, will require a good deal of slushing to suit the times, which will be a work of time, for I don't feel at all laborious just now. Whatever effect he are to have perhaps be greater in a separate form, and they also must have my name to them. Now, if you publish them in the same volume with Don Juan, they identify Don Juan as mine, which I don't think worth a chancy suit about my daughter's guardship, as in your present code a facetious poem is sufficient to take away a man's right over his family.

'Of the state of things here it would be difficult and not very prudent to speak at large, the Huns opening all letters. I wonder if they can read them when they have opened them; if so, they may see, in my most libidinous hand, that I think them damned scoundrels and barbarians, and their emperor a fool, and themselves more fools than he; all which they may send to Vienna for any thing that I care. They have got themselves masters of the Papal police, and are bullying away; but some day or other they will pay for all: it may not be very soon, because these unhappy Italians have no consistency among themselves; but I suppose that Providence will get tired of them at last.

'Yours, etc."

LETTER CCCCXLVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Baroona, May 19, 1823.

"The 'Hints,' Hobhouse says, will require a good deal of slushing to suit the times, which will be a work of time, for I don't feel at all laborious just now. Whatever effect he are to have perhaps be greater in a separate form, and they also must have my name to them. Now, if you publish them in the same volume with Don Juan, they identify Don Juan as mine, which I don't think worth a chancy suit about my daughter's guardship, as in your present code a facetious poem is sufficient to take away a man's right over his family.

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"Yours, etc."

LETTER CCCCXLVII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Baroona, Dec. 9, 1823.

"Besides this letter, you will receive three packets, containing, in all, eighteen more sheets of Memoranda, which, I fear, will cost you more in postage than they will ever produce by being printed in the next century. Instead of writing a long letter, if you could not make anything of them, now the way of recession, (that is, after my death,) I should be very glad,—as, with all due regard to your progeny, I prefer you to your grandchildren. Wicks and Longman pretend tourry advance prayers, read them now, pleading themselfes not to have them published till after my decease, think you? and what say you?

"Over these latter sheets I would leave you a discretion power; because they contain, perhaps, a thing or two which is too sincere for the public. If I consent to your disposing of the reversion now, where would be the harm?" tastes may change. I would, in your case, make my essay to dispose of them, not publish, now; and if you (as is most likely) survive me, add what you please from your
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DWEL. knowledge, and, above all, contradicted any thing, if I have mis-stated; for my first object is the truth, even at my own expense: I shall do anything but permit the cardinal to carry up stairs into my own quarter. But it was too late, he was gone—not at all disfigured—bled inwardly—not above an out or two, and had the command to carry up stairs into my own quarter. The cardinals were all Tighe and examined him. He had been shot by cut balls, or slugs. I left one of the slugs, which had gone through him, all the skin. Every body conjectures why he was killed, but no one knows how. The gun was found close by him—an old gun, half filed down.

I have only said, O Dio! and Gesu! two or three times, and appeared to have suffered little. Poor fellow! he was a brave officer, but had made himself much disliked by the people. I knew him personally, and had met him often at conversations and elsewhere. My house is full of soldiers, dragoons, lieu tenants, priests, and all kinds of persons, though I have now cleared it, and clapped sentinels at the doors. To-morrow the body is to be moved. The town is in the greatest confusion, as you may suppose.

You are to know that, if I had not had the body moved, they would have left him there till morning in the street, for fear of consequences. I would not choose to let even a dog die in such a manner, without some medical man, for consoling me, I care for none in a duty.

Yours, &c.

P. S. The lieutenant on duty by the body is smoking his pipe with great composure. A queer people this.

LETTER CCCCLXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

Renaissa, Dec. 25, 1838.

You will or ought to have received the packet and letters which I remitted to you just past a fortnight ago, (or it may be more days,) and I shall be glad of an answer, as, in these times and places packets per post are in some risk of not reaching their destination.

I have been thinking of a project for you and me, in case we both get to London again, which (if a Neapolitan war don't suscitante) may be calculated as possible for one of us about the spring of 1821. We are all of us, with the exception of the young girl, too, will be on our own premises, and without doubt, and, as for companions, I care for none in a duty.

Yours, &c.

P. S. The lieutenant on duty by the body is smoking his pipe with great composure. A queer people this.

I have been thinking of a project for you and me, in case we both get to London again, which (if a Neapolitan war don't suscitante) may be calculated as possible for one of us about the spring of 1821. We are all of us, with the exception of the young girl, too, will be on our own premises, and without doubt, and, as for companions, I care for none in a duty.

Yours, &c.

P. S. The lieutenant on duty by the body is smoking his pipe with great composure. A queer people this.
nal baked meats* which have coldly set forth the breakfast table of all Great Britain for so many years.

Now, my dear Mr. Moore, what do you think of this plan? I have made a draft, and recollect that, if we take to such an enterprise, we must do so in good earnest. Here is a hint,—do you make it a plan. We will modify it into a literary and classical a concern as you please, only let us make it a dingy one, and it will most likely succeed. But you must live in London, and I also, to bring it to bear, and we must keep it a secret.

For the living in London, I would make that not difficult to you, (if you would allow me,) until we could see whether one means or other (the success of this plan, for instance) would not make it quite easy for you, as well as for your family; and, in any case, we should have some fun, composing, correcting, supposing, inspecting, and supposing altogether over our lucubrations. If you think this worth a thought, let me know, and I will begin to lay in a small literary capital of composition for the occasion.

"Yours ever, affectionately,

B.

"P. S. If you thought of a middle plan between a Spectator and a newspaper, why not,—only not on a Sunday. Nor that Sunny would not be an excellent day, but is engaged already. We will call it the 'Tenda Rossa,' the name Tassoni gave an answer of his in a controversy, in allusion to the delirious hint of Timour the Lame, to his enemies, by his voice, before he gave battle. Or, we will call it 'GI,' or 'I Carbonari,' if it so please you—or any other name full of 'pastime and prodigality,' which you may prefer."

Let me have an answer. I conclude poetically, with the bellman, 'A merry Christmas to you!'"

ADDRESS
TO THE NEAPOLITAN GOVERNMENT.

[Translation from the original Italian.]

"An Englishman, a friend to liberty, having understood that the Neapolitans permit even foreigners to contribute to the good cause, is desirous that they should do him the honor of accepting a thou-

sand guineas under his name, by way of offering. Having already, not long since, been an ocular witness of the despotism of the barbarians in the States occupied by them in Italy, he sees, with the enthusiasm natural to a cultivated man, the generous determination of the Neapolitans to assert their well-worn independence. As a member of the English House of Peers, he would be a traitor to the principles which placed the reigning family of England on the throne, if he were not grateful for the noble lesson so lately given both to people and to kings. The offer which he desires to make is small in itself, as must always be that presented from an individual to a nation; but he trusts that it will not be the last they will receive from their countrymen. His distance from the frontier, and the feeling of his personal incapacity to contribute efficaciously to the service of the nation, prevents him from proposing himself as worthy of the lowest commission, for which experience and talent might be requisite. But if, as a mere volunteer, his presence were not a burden to whomsoever he might serve, he thinks it much about them to whatever place the Neapolitan government might point out, there to obey the orders and participate in the dangers of his commanding officer, without any other motive than that of showing the destiny of a brave nation, defending itself against the self-called Holy Alliance, which but combines the vice of hypocrisy with despotism"

LETTER CCCCXX
TO MR. MOORE.

"Yours entering into my project for the Memoir is pleasant to me. But I doubt (contrary to my dear Madame de Stael's opinion) of its being always shall—not only because I really did feel attached to her personally, but because she and about a dozen others of that sex were all who stood by me in the grand undertaking; and, indeed, I had rather it did not, for a man always looks dead after his Life has appeared, and I should certify not survive the appearance of mine. The first part I cannot consent to alter, even although Madame de Stael's opinion of Benjamin Constant, and my remarks upon Lady Caroline's beauty, (which is surely great, and I suppose that I have said so—at least I ought,) should go down to our grandchildren in unsophisticated nakedness.

"As to Madame de Stael, I am by no means bound to be her beadman—she was always more civil to me in person than during my absence. Our dear defunct friend, Matthew Lewis, who was too great a bore ever to lie, assured me, upon his tire-

some word of honor, that, at Florence, the said Madame de Stael was open-mouthed against me; and, when, as an instance of her, I changed her opinion, replied, with laid-back sincerity, that I had named her in a sonnet with Voltaire, Rousseau, &c., &c., and that she could not help it, through decency. Now, I have forgotten this, but I have been generous,—as mine acquaintance, the late Captain Whitby of the navy, used to say to his seamen (when 'married to the gunner's daughter')—two dozen, and let you off easy. The two dozen were with the 'nine-tails;' 'let off easy' was rather his own opinion than that of the patient.

"My acquaintance with these terms and practices arises from my having been much conversant with ships of war and naval heroes in the years of my voyages in the Mediterranean. Whitby was in the gallant action off Lissa in 1811. He was brave, but a disciplinarian. When he left his frigate, he left a parrot, which was taught by the crew the following sounds—(It must be remarked that Captain Whitby was the image of Fawsett the actor in voice, face, and figure, and that he squalled.)"

"'Whitby! Whitby! funny eye! funny eye! two dozen, and let you off easy. Oh you — !'

"Now, if Madame de B. has a parrot, it had better be taught a French parody of the same sounds—'I wish exactly as you do about our 'art,' but it comes over me in a kind of rage every now and then, like — an — and, then, if I don't write to empty my mind, I go mad. As to that word 'regular,' which is taught by the writer, which you describe in your friend, I do not understand it. I feel it as a torture, which I must get rid of, but never as a pleasure. On the contrary, I think composition a great pain."

"I wish you would think seriously of the journal scheme—for I am as serious as one can be, in this world, about any thing. As to matters here, they are high and mighty—but not for paper. It is not that I think so much about them, but whatever place the Neapolitan government might point out, there to obey the orders and participate in the dangers of his commanding officer, without any other motive than that of showing the destiny of a brave nation, defending itself against the self-called Holy Alliance, which but combines the vice of hypocrisy with despotism"
Europe. There is nothing like habit in these things. "I shall remain here till May or June, and, unless 'honor comes unlooked for,' we may perhaps meet, in France or England, within the year." Yours, &c.

"Of course, I cannot explain to you existing circumstances, as they open all letters. "Will you set me right about your cursed 'Champs Elysées'-are they 'es' or 'ées' for the adjective? I know nothing of French, being all Italian. Though I can read it, I cannot understand French, I never attempt to speak it; for I hate it. From the second part of the Memoirs cut out what you please.

**LETTER CCCCLXXI.**

TO MR. MURRAY.

"London, January 4, 1821.

I just see, by the papers of Galighini, that there is a new tragedy of great extent, adapted to the taste of Barry Cornwall. Of what I have read of his works I liked the Dramatic Sketches, but thought his Sicilian story and Marcin Colonna, in rhyme, quite spoiled, by I know not what addition. I think Mr. Wordsworth, and Moore, and myself, am all mixed up into a kind of chaos. I think him very likely to produce a good tragedy, if he keep to a natural style, and not play tricks to form harlequinades for an audience. As he (Barry Cornwall) is not his true name, was a schoolfellow of mine, I take more than common interest in his success, and shall be glad to hear of it speedily. If I had been aware that he was in that line, I should have spoken of him in the preface to Marino Faliero. He will do a world's wonder if he produce a great tragedy. I am, however, persuaded, that this is not to be done by following the old dramatists,—who are all full of gross faults, pardoned only for the beauty of their language,—but by writing naturally and regularly, and producing regular tragedies, like the Greeks; but not in imitation,—merely the outline of their conduct, adapted to our own times and circumstances, and of course no chorus.

"You will laugh, and say, 'Why don't you do so?' I have, you see, tried a sketch in Marino Faliero; but many people think my talent 'essential.' They don't say it, but I am not able to see that they are not right. If Marino Faliero don't fall—In the perusal—I shall, perhaps, try again, (but not for the stage); and as I think that love is not the principal passion for tragedy, (and yet most of ours, turn upon it,) you will not find me a popular writer. Unless it is love, furious, criminal, and hopeless, it ought not to make a tragic subject. When it is melting and mandlin, it does, but it ought not to do it then for the gallery and second-price boxes.

"If you want to have a notion of what I am trying, take up a translation of any of the Greek tragedians. If I said the original, it would be an impudent presumption of mine; but the translations are so inferior to the originals that I think I may risk it. Then judge of the 'simplicity of plot,' &c., and do not judge me by your old mad dramatists, which is like drinking usquebaugh and then proving a fountain. Yet, after all, I suppose that you do not mean that spirits is a nobler element than a clear spring bubbling in the sun, and this I take to be the difference between the Greeks and those turbid mountebanks—always excepting Ben Johnson, who was a scholar and a classic. Or, take up a translation of Alfieri, and try the interest, &c., of these my new attempts in the old line, by him in English; and then tell me fairly your opinion. But don't measure me by your own old or new tailors' yards. Nothing so easy as intricate confusion of plot and rant. Mrs. Centlivre, in comedy, has ten times the bustle of Congreve; but are they to be compared? and yet she drove Congreve from the theatre."

**LETTER CCCCLXXII.**

TO MR. MURRAY.

"London, January 19, 1821.

"Yours of the 29th ultimo hath arrived. I must really and seriously request that you will beg of Messrs. Harris or Elliston to let the Doge alone: it is not an acting play; it will not serve their purpose; it will destroy yours, (the sale); and it will distress me. It is not courteous, it is hardly even gentlemanly, to persist in this appropriation of a man's writings to their mountebanks.

"I have already sent you by last post a short protest to the Duke, (against the publication?) in case that they persist, which I trust that they will not, you must then publish it in the newspapers. I shall not let them off with that only, if they go on; but make a prolix speech on that subject of Wordsworth, and Moore, and myself; and I think the injustice of their mode of behavior. It is hard that I should have all the buffoons in Britain to deal with—pirates who will publish, and players who will act—when there are thousands of worthy men who neither get bookseller nor manager for love nor money.

"You never answered me a word about Galighini. If you mean to use the two document, do; if not, burn them. I do not choose to leave them in any one's possession; suppose some one found them without the letters, what would they think? why, that I had been doing the opposite of what I have done, to wit, referred the whole thing to you—an act of civility, at least, which required saying, 'I have received your letter.' I thought that you might have some hold upon those publications by this means; to me it can be no interest one way or the other.

"The third canto of Don Juan is 'dull,' but you must really put up with it: if the first two and the two following are tolerable, what do you expect particularly as I neither dispute with you on it as a matter of criticism or as a matter of business.

"Besides, what am I to understand? you, and Douglas Kinnaird, and others, write to me, that the first two published cantos are among the best that I ever wrote, and are reckoned so; Augusta writes that they are thought 'executionable' (bitter word that for an author—eh, Murray?) as a composition even, and that she had heard so much against them that she would never read them and never has. Be that as it may, I can't alter it: this is not my forte. If you publish the three canto ones without ostentation, they may perhaps succeed.

"Pray publish the Dante and the Puleis. (The Prophecy of Luna, I mean.) I look upon the Puleis as my grand performance. The remainder of the Hints, where be they? Now, bring them all out about the same time, otherwise 'the variety' you want of will be lost.

"I am in bad humor:—some obstructions in business with those plague trustees, who object to an advantageous loan which I was to furnish to a nobleman on mortgage because his property is in Ireland, have shown me how a man is treated in his absence. Oh, if I do come back, I will make those who little dream of it spin,—or they cr shall go down."

"Yours, &c.

*See Don Juan, canto X, stanza 15.*
LETTER CCCCLXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"January 30, 1821.

"I did not think to have troubled you with the plague and postage of a double letter this time, but I have just read in an Italian paper, 'That Lord Byron has a tragedy coming out,' &c., &c., and that the Courier and Morning Chronicle, &c., &c., are pulling one another to pieces about him.

"Now I do reiterate and desire, that every thing may be done to prevent it from coming out on any theatre, for which it never was designed, and on which (in the present state of the stage of London) it could never succeed. I have sent you my appeal last post, which you must publish in case of need; and I require you even in your own name (if my honor is dear to you) to declare that such representation would be contrary to my wish and to my judgment. If you do not wish to drive me mad altogether, you will hit upon some way to prevent this.

"P. S. I cannot conceive how Harris or Elliston should be so insane as to think of acting Marine Falerio; they might as well act the Prometheus of Æschylus. I speak of course humbly, and with the greatest sense of the distance of time and merit between the two performances; but merely to show the absurdity of the attempt.

"The Italian paper speaks of a 'party against it;' to be sure there would be a party. Can you imagine, that after having never flattered man, nor beast, nor opinion, nor politics, there would not be a party against a man, who is also a popular writer—at least a successful? Why, all parties would be a party against.'

LETTER CCCCLXXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Revueux, January 30, 1821.

"If Harris or Elliston persist, after the remonstrance which I desired you and Mr. Kinnaird to make on my behalf, and which I hope will be sufficient—but if I say, they do persist, then I wish you to present in person the enclosed letter to the Lord Chamberlain: I have said in person, because otherwise I shall have neither answer nor knowledge that it has reached its address, owing to the 'insolence of office.'

"I wish you would speak to Lord Holland, and to all my friends and yours, to interest themselves in preventing this cursed attempt at representation. 'God help me at this distance, I am treated like a corpse or a fool by the few people that I thought I could rely upon; and I was a fool to think any better of them than of the rest of mankind.'

"Pray write. Yours, &c.

"P. S. I have nothing more at heart (that is, in literature) than to prevent this drama from going upon the stage in short, rather than permit it, it must be suppressed altogether, and only forty copies struck off for presents to my friends. What cursed fools those speculating buoions must be to not to see that it is unfit for their fair—or their both.'

LETTER CCCCLXXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Revueux, January 27, 1821.

"I differ from you about the Dante, which I think should be published with the tragedy. But do as you please: you must be the best judge of your own craft. I agree with you about the title. The play may be good or bad, but I flatter myself that it is original as a picture of that kind of passion, which to my mind is so natural, that I am convinced that I should have done precisely what the Doge did on those provocations.

"I am glad of Poscollo's approbation.

"Excuse haste. I believe I mentioned to you that—I forgot what it was, but no matter.

"Thanks for your compliments of the year. I hope that it will be pleasant. The whole to speak with reference to England only, as far as regards myself, where I had every kind of disappointment—lost an important lawsuit—and the trustees of Lady Byron refusing to allow of an advantageous loan to be made from their property to Lord Blessington, &c., &c., by way of closing the four seasons. These, and a hundred other such things, made a year of bitter business for me in England. Luckily, things were a little pleasant for me here, else I should have taken the liberty of Hannibal's ring.
LETTER CCCCLXXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, February 2, 1821.

"Your letter of excuses has arrived. I receive the letter, but do not admit the excuses, except in courtesy, as when a man treads on your toes and bogs your pardon the pardon is granted, but the joint aches, especially if there be a corn upon it. However, I shall scold you presently.

"In the last speech of the Doge, there occurs (I think from memory) the phrase—

"And who makes and unmakes wars!"

change this to—

"And who makes and unmakes wars!"

that is to say, if the verse runs equally well, and Mr. Gifford thinks expression improved. Pray have the bounty to attend to this. You are grown quite a minister of state. Mind if some of these days you are not thrown out. ** will not be always a Tory, though Johnson says the first Whig was the devil.

"You have learned one secret from Mr. Galignani's (somewhat tardily acknowledged) correspondence: this is, that an English author may dispose of his exclusive copyright in France,—a fact of some consequence (in time of peace) in the case of a popular writer. Now I will tell you what you shall do, and take no advantage of you, though you were carry enough never to acknowledge my letter for three months. Offer Galignani the refusal of the copyright in France; if he refuses, appoint any bookseller in France you please, and I will sign any assignment you please, and it shall never cost you a sou on my account.

"Recollect that I have nothing to do with it, except as far as it may secure the copyright to yourself. I will have no bargain but with the English booksellers, and I desire no interest out of that country.

"Now, that's fair and open, and a little hand-somer than your dogging silence, to see what would come of it. You are an excellent fellow, mio caro Murray, but there is still a little leaven of Fleet street about you now and then—a crumb of the old loaf. You have no right to act suspiciously with me, for I have given you no reason. I shall always be frank with you; as, for instance, whenever you talk with the votaries of Apollo aritmetically, in guineas, not pounds—to poets, as well as physicians, and bidders at auctions.

"I shall say no more at present, save that I am yours, &c."

"P.S. If you venture, as you say, to Ravenna this year, I will exercise the rites of hospitality while you live, and bury you handsomely, (though not in holy ground,) if you get 'shot or slashed in a creagh or spilore,' which are frequent hereof last among the native parties. But perhaps your visit may be anticipated; I may probably come to your country; in which case write to her ladyship the duplicate of the epistle the king of France wrote to Prince John."
Naples, and if they lose a single battle, all Italy will be up. It will be like the Spanish row, if they have any bottom.

"What are they up to?"—to be sure they are; and that's the reason why I always put in my opinion of the German Austrian scoundrels. There is no Italian who loathes them more than I do; and whatever I could do to ruin Italy and the earth of their infamous oppression would be done con amore.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER CCCCLXXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, Feb. 21, 1821."

"In the forty-fourth page, volume first, of Turner's Travels, (which you lately sent me,) it is stated that 'Lord Byron, when he expressed such confidence of its practicability, seems to have forgotten (as, indeed, may be seen in the Italian edition) that the tide is not driven by the force of the current, but by the wind. Mr. Ekenhead and myself were on our way to the West End, and the other in an hour and twenty minutes. The tide was not in our favor; on the contrary, the great difficulty was to bear up against the current, which, so far from helping us, was working against us, and we were driven towards the Archipelago. Neither Mr. Ekenhead, myself, nor I, would venture to add, any person on board the frigate, from Captain Bathurst downwards, had any notion of the difference of the current on the Asiatic side, of which Mr. Turner speaks. I never heard of it till this moment, or I would have taken the other course. Lieutenant Ekenhead's sole motive, and mine also, for setting out from the European side, was that the little cape above Seatos was a more prominent starting-place, and the frigate, which lay below, close under the Asiatic castle, formed a better point of view for us to swim towards; and, in fact, we landed immediately below it."

"Mr. Turner says, 'Whatever is thrown into the stream on this part of the European bank, must arrive at the Asiatic shore.' This is so far from being the case that if you get out of the Archipelago, if left to the current, although a strong wind in the Asiatic direction might have such an effect occasionally."

"Mr. Turner attempted the passage from the Asiatic side, and failed. 'After two and twenty minutes, in which he did not advance a hundred yards, he gave it up from complete exhaustion.' This is very possible, and might have occurred to him in the case of the valley on the European side; he should have set out a couple of miles higher, and could then have come out below the European castle. I particularly stated, and Mr. Hobhouse has done so also, that we were obliged to make the real passage of one mile extend to between three and four, owing to the force of the stream. I can assure Mr. Turner, that his success would have given me great pleasure, as it would have added some more instances to the proofs of the probability. It is not quite fair in him to infer, that he failed, Leander could not succeed. There are still four instances on record: a Neapolitan, a young Jew, Mr. Ekenhead, and myself: the last done in the presence of hundreds of English witnesses."

"With regard to the difference of the current, I perceived none; it is favorable to the swimmer on the Asiatic side, however, and his stomach would have brought him into the sea, a considerable way above the opposite point of the coast which the swimmer wishes to make, but still bearing up against it; it is strong, but if you could swim well, you might reach and."
starting,' is only good for indifferent swimmers; a man of any practice or skill will always consider the distance less than the strength of the stream. If Ekenhead and myself had thought of crossing at the narrowest point, instead of going up to the Cape above it, we should have been swept down to Tenedos. The strait, however, is not so extremely wide even where it broadens above and below the forts. As the frigate was stationed some time in the Danubian waters waiting for the firman, I bathed often in the strait subsequent to the project, and generally on the Asiatic side, without perceiving the greater strength of the opposite stream by which the diplomatic traveller palliates his own failure. Our amusement in the small bay which opens immediately below the Asiatic fort was to dive for the land tortoises, which we flung in on purpose, as they amphibiously crawled along the bottom. This does not argue any greater violence of current than on the European shore. With regard to the modest inscription that we chose the European side as 'easier,' I appeal to Mr. Hobhouse and Captain Bathurst if it be true or not, (poor Ekenhead, being since exiled!) Had we been aware of any such difference of current as is asserted, we would at least have proved it, and were not likely to have given it up in the twenty-five minutes of Mr. Turner's own experiment. The secret of this is, that Mr. Turner failed, and that we succeeded; and he is consequently disappointed, and seems not unwilling to overshadow whatever little merit there might be in our success. Why did he not try the European side? If he had succeeded there, after failing on the Asiatic, his plea would have been more graceful and gracious. Mr. Turner may find what fault he pleases with my poetry, or my politics; but I recommend him to leave aquaduct reflections till he is able to swim five-and-twenty minutes 'without being exhausted,' though I believe he is the first modern Tory who ever swam against the stream for half the time."

LETTER CCCLXXX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Ravenna, Feb. 2d, 1821.

"As I wish the soul of the late Antoine Gallignani to rest in peace, (you will have read his death published by himself, in his own newspaper,) you are requested particularly to inform his children and heirs, that of their 'Literary Gazette,' to which I subscribed more than two months ago, I have only received one number, notwithstanding I have written to them repeatedly. If they have no regard for me, a subscriber, they ought to have some for their deceased parent, who is undoubtedly no better off in his present residence for his total want of attention.

"If not, let me have my frances. They were paid by Missaglia, the Venetian bookseller. You may also hint to them that when a gentleman writes a letter, it is usual to send an answer. If not, I shall make them 'a speech,' which will comprise an apology on the deceased.

"We are here full of war, and within two days of the seat of it, expecting intelligence momentarily. We shall now see if our Italian friends are good for any thing but 'shooting round a corner,' like the 'Prize's' gun. Excuse haste, I write with my spurs putting on. My horses are at the door, and an Italian Count waiting to accompany me in my ride."

"Yours, &c.

"P. S. Pray, among my letters, did you get one detailing the death of the commandant here? He was killed near my door, and died in my house."
Dearest Moray,

In my packet of the 12th instant, in the last sheet, omit the sentence which (defining, or attempting to define, what and who are gentlemen) begins 'I should say that at least in life that most military men have it, and few women' to the end of the paragraph. I have several men of rank have it, a few lawyers,' &c., &c. I say, omit the whole of the sentence, because, like the 'cosmogony, or creation of the world,' in the ' Vicar of Wakefield,' it is not much to the purpose.

In the sentence above, too, almost at the top of the same page, after the words 'that there ever was, or can be, an aristocracy of poets,' add and insert these words—'I do not mean that they should write in the style of the song by a person of quality, or parle euphuism but there is a nobility of thought and expression to be found no less in Shakespeare, Pope, and Burns, than in Dante, Alfieri, &c., &c., and so on. Or, if you please, perhaps you had better omit the whole of the latter digression on the vulgar poets, and insert only as far as the end of the sentence on Pope's Homer, where I prefer it to Cowper's and quote Dr. Clarke in favor of its accuracy.

Upon all these points, take an opinion; take the sense (or nonsense) of your learned visitants, and act thereby. I am very tractable in this. Whether I have made out the case for Pope, I know not; but I am very sure that I have been zealous in the attempt. If it comes to the proofs, we shall beat the blackguards. I will show more imagery in twenty lines of Pope than in any equal length of words in English poetry, and in places where they least expect it. For instance, in his line on Sposis, now, do just read them over—the subject is of no consequence (whether it be satire or epic)—we are talking of poetry and imagery from nature and art. Now mark the images separately and arithmetically:

1. The thing of silk.
2. Curd of ass's milk.
3. The butterfly.
4. The wheel.
5. Bug with gilded wings.
7. Whose buzz.
8. Well-lived spaniels.
10. Flerid impotence.
11. Prompter, Puppet squeaks.
12. The ear of Eve.
13. Familiar tynd.
15. Pop at the toilet.
16. Flatterer at the board.
17. Amphibious thing.
18. Nor Gavin a lady.
20. A cherub's face.
21. A reptile all the rest.
22. The Rivals.
23. Pride that ticks the dust—

Deny that this stokes you, poets that some will trust, Wit that can creep, and pride that ticks the dust.'

Now, is there a line of all the passage without the most forcible imagery, (for his purpose?) Look at the variety—at the poetry of the passage—at the imagination; there is hardly a line from which a poet could make one that would be nothing in comparison with his higher passages in the Essay on Man, and many of his other poems, serious and comic. There never was such an unjust 

outcry in this world as that which these fellows are trying against Pope.

Ask Mr. Gilford, if in the fifth act of 'The Doge,' when the curtain is down (where the sentence of the Veil is passed) to insert the following lines in Marino Faliero's answer?

But let it be so. It will be in vain:
The veil which blackness o'er this blighted name,
A shroud, or screen to hide, these horrid points,
Shall draw more guars than the thousand portraits
Which painter could it in their painted trappings,
Your desertedClose—the people's crys.

Yours truly, &c.

P. S. Upon public matters here I say little; you will all hear soon enough of a general row throughout Italy. There never was a more foolish step than the expedition to Naples by these fellows.

I wish to propose to Holmes, the miniature painter, to come out to me this spring. I will pay him his expenses, and any sum in reason. I wish him to take my daughter's picture, (who is in a convent), and the Countess G.'s, and the head of a peasant girl, which latter would make a study for Raphael. It is a complete peasant face, but an Italian peasant's and quite in the Raphael Farnesina style. Her figure is tall, but rather large, and not at all comparable with her face, which is really superb. She is not seventeen, and I am anxious to have her face while it lasts. Madame G. is also very handsome, but 'tis quite in a different style—completely blonde and fair—very uncommon in Italy; yet not an English fairness, but more likely a Sveele or a Norwegian. Her figure, too, particularly the bust, is uncommonly good. It must be Holmes: I like him because he takes such inveterate likenesses. There is a war here, but a solitary traveller, with but little baggage, and nothing to do with politics, has nothing to fear. Pack him up in the diligence. Don't forget.'

Letter CcccLXXXIV

TO MR. HOPPNER.

Thanks for the translation. I have sent you some books, which I do not know whether you have read or no—you need not return them, if any case. I enclose you also a letter from Pisa. I have neither spared trouble nor expense in the care of the child; and as she was now four years old complete, and quite above the control of the servants—and as a man living without any woman at the head of his house cannot much attend to a nursery—I had no resource but to place her for a time (at a high pension too) in the convent of Bagna-Cavalli, (twelve miles off), where the air is good, and where she will, at least, have her learning advanced, and her morals and religion inculcated. I had also another reason—things were and are in such a state here, that I had no reason to look upon my own personal safety as particularly ensurable; and I thought the infant best out of harm's way for the present.

It is also fit that I should add that I by no means intended, or intend, to give a natural child an English education, because with the disadvantages of her birth, her after-settlement would be doubly difficult. Abroad, with a fair foreign education and a portion of five or six thousand pounds, she might and may marry very respectably. In England she could not be the same; she would be nobody, while elsewhere it is a fortune. It is, besides, my wish that she should be a Roman Catholic, which I look upon as the best religion, as it is assuredly the old
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"You know my opinion of that second-hand school of poetry. You also know my high opinion of your own poetry,—because it is of no school. I read Cenci—but, besides that I think the subject essentially undramatic, I am not an admirer of our old dramatists, as models. I deny that the English have hitherto had a drama at all. Your Cenci, however, was a work of power and poetry. As to my drama, pray revenge yourself upon it, I being as free as I have been with yours.

"I have just got your Prometheans, which I long to see. I have heard nothing of mine, and do not know that it is yet published. I have published a pamphlet on the Pope controversy, which you will not like. Had I known that Keats was dead—or that he was alive and so sensitive—I should have omitted some remarks upon his poetry, to which I was provoked by his attack upon Pope, and my disapprobation of his own style of writing.

"You want me to undertake a great poem,—I have not the inclination nor the power. As I grow older, the indifference—not to life, for we love it by instinct—but to the stimuli of life, increases. Besides, this late failure of the Italians has lately disappointed me for many reasons,—some public, some personal. My respects to Mrs. S.

"Yours ever.

"P. S. Could not you and I contrive to meet this summer? Could not you take a run here above?"

LETTER CCCCLXXXV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, April 21, 1821.

I enclose you another letter on Bowles. But I premise that it is not like the former, and that I am not at all sure how much, if any, of it should be published. Upon this point you can consult with Mr. Gifford, and think twice before you publish it at all.

"Yours truly.

"B.

"P. S. You may make my subscription for Mr. Scott's widow, &c., thirty instead of the proposed ten pounds; but do not put down my name, put down N. N. only. The reason is, that, as I have mentioned him in the enclosed pamphlet, it would look indecent. I would give more, but my disapprobation last year about Rochdale and the transfer of the funds render me more economical for the present."

LETTER CCCCLXXXVI.

TO MR. SHELEY.

"Ravenna, April 26, 1821.

The child continues doing well, and the accounts are regular and favorable. It is gratifying to me that you and Mrs. Shelley do not disapprove of the step which I have taken, which is merely temporary.

"I am very sorry to hear what you say of Keats—is it actually true? I did not think criticism had been so killing. Though I differ from you essentially in your estimate of his performances, I so much abhor all unnecessary pain, that I would rather he had been seated on the highest peak of Parnassus than have perished in such a manner. Poor fellow! though with such inordinate self-love he would probably have not been very happy. I read the review of 'Endymion' in the Quarterly. It was severe,—but surely not so severe as my reviews in that and other journals upon others.

"I recollect the effect on me of the Edinburgh on my first poem; it was rage, and resistance, and redress—but not despondency nor despair. I grant that those are not amiable feelings; but, in this world of bustle and broil, and especially in the career of writing, a man should calculate upon his powers of resistance before he goes into the arena.

"You know my opinion of that second-hand school of poetry. You also know my high opinion of your own poetry,—because it is of no school. I read Cenci—but, besides that I think the subject essentially undramatic, I am not an admirer of our old dramatists, as models. I deny that the English have hitherto had a drama at all. Your Cenci, however, was a work of power and poetry. As to my drama, pray revenge yourself upon it, I being as free as I have been with yours.

"I have just got your Prometheans, which I long to see. I have heard nothing of mine, and do not know that it is yet published. I have published a pamphlet on the Pope controversy, which you will not like. Had I known that Keats was dead—or that he was alive and so sensitive—I should have omitted some remarks upon his poetry, to which I was provoked by his attack upon Pope, and my disapprobation of his own style of writing.

"You want me to undertake a great poem,—I have not the inclination nor the power. As I grow older, the indifference—not to life, for we love it by instinct—but to the stimuli of life, increases. Besides, this late failure of the Italians has lately disappointed me for many reasons,—some public, some personal. My respects to Mrs. S.

"Yours ever.

"P. S. Could not you and I contrive to meet this summer? Could not you take a run here above?"

LETTER CCCCLXXXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, April 28, 1821.

I sent you by last postis a large packet, which will not do for publication, (I suspect,) being, as the apprentices say, 'dammed low.' I put off also for a week or two sending the Italian scrap which will form a note to it. The reason is, that letters being opened, I wish to 'hide a weast.'

"Well, have you published the tragedy? and does the letter take?

"Is it true what Shelley writes me, that poor John Keats is at Rome on one of the Quarterly Review? I am very sorry for it, though I think he took the wrong line as a poet, and was spoiled by Cockney fying, and suborning, and versifying Tooke's Pantheon and Lemppriere's Dictionary. I know, by experience, that a savage review is hemlock to a sucking author; and the one on me (which produced the English Barbs, &c.) knocked me down—but I got up again. Instead of bursting a blood vessel, I drank three bottles of claret, and began an answer, finding that there was nothing in the article for which I could lawfully knock Jeffrey on the head, in an honorable way. However, I would not be the person who wrote the homicidal article for all the honor and glory in the world, though I had no means approve of that school of scribbling which it treats upon.

"You see the Italians have made a sad business of it—all owing to treachery and disunion among themselves. It has given me great vexation. The executions heaped upon the Neapolitans by the other Italians are quite in unison with those of the rest of Europe.

"P. S. Your latest packet of books is on its way here, but not arrived. Kenilworth excellent. Thanks for the pocket-books, of which I have made presents to those ladies who like cuts, and land scapes, and all that. I have got an Itilian book of two which I should like to send you if I had an opportunity.
I am not at present in the very highest health, Spring, probably; so I have lowered my diet and taken to Epson salts.

"As you say my prose is good, why don't you treat with Moore for the reversion of the Memoirs? conditionally, recollect; not to be published before decease. He has the permission to dispose of them, and I advised him to do so."

LETTER CCCCLXXXVIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Ravens, April 26, 1821."

"You cannot have been more disappointed than myself, nor so much deceived. I have been so at some personal risk also, which is not yet done away with.

"Hme more circumstances shall alter my tone nor my feelings of indignation against tyranny triumphant. The present business has been as much a work of treachery as of cowardice, though both may have done their part. If ever you and I meet again, I will have a talk with you upon the subject. At present, for obvious reasons, I can write but little, as all letters are opened. In mine they shall always find my sentiments, but nothing that can lead to the oppression of others.

"You will please to recollect that the Neapolitans are nowhere now more executed than in Italy, and not blame a whole people for the vices of a province. That would be like condemning Great Britain because they plunder wrecks in Cornwall.

"And now let us be literary; - a sad falling off, but it is always a consolation. If 'Othello's occupation' be gone, let us take to the next best; and if we cannot contribute to make mankind more free and wise, we may amuse ourselves and those who like it. What are you writing? I have been scribbling at intervals, and Murray will be publishing about now.

"Lady Noel has, as you say, been dangerously ill; but it may console you to learn that she is dangerously well again.

"I have written a sheet or two more of Memo-randa for you; and I kept a little journal for about a month or two, till I had filled the paper-book. I then left it off, as things grew busy, and, afterward, too gloomy to set down without a painful feeling. This I should be glad to send you, if I had an opportunity; but a volume, however small, don't go well by such posts as exist in this inquisition of a country.

"I have no news. As a very pretty woman said to me a few nights ago, with the tears in her eyes, as she sat at the harpsichord, 'Alas! the Italians must now return to making opera.' I fear that and macaroni are their forte, and 'molly their only wear.' However, there are some high spirits among them still. Pray write, "And believe me, &c."

LETTER CCCCLXXXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Ravens, May 3, 1821."

"Though I wrote to you on the 28th ultimo, I must acknowledge yours of this day, with the lines. They are sublime, as well as beautiful, and in your very best mood and manner. They are also but too true. However, do not confound the coudrels at the heel of the boot with their letters at the top of it. I assure you that there are some loftier spirits.

"Nothing, however, can better than your poem or more deserve by the lazzaroni. They are now abhorred and disclaimed nowhere more than here. We will talk over these things (if we meet) some day, and I will recount my own adventures, some of which have been a little hazardous, perhaps.

"So you have got the letter on Bowles? I do not recollect to have said any thing of you that could offend,—certainly, nothing intentionally. As for *, I meant him a compliment. I wrote the whole off-hand, without copy or correction, and expecting then every day to be called into the field. What have I said of you? I am sure I forget. It must be something of regret for your approbation of Bowles. And did you not approve, as he says? Would I had known that before! I would have given him some more gruel. My intention was to make fun of all these fellows; but how I succeeded, I don't know.

"As to Pope, I have always regarded him as the greatest name in our poetry. Depend upon it, the rest are barbarians. He is a Greek Temple, with a Gothic Cathedral on one hand, and a Turkish Mosque and all sorts of fantastic pagodas and conventicles about him. You may call Shakspeare and Milton pyramids, if you please, but I prefer the Temple of Theseus or the Parthenon to a mountain of burnt brick-work.

"The Murray has written to me but once, the day of its publication, when it seemed prosperous. But I have heard of late from England but rarely. Of Murray's other publications (of mine) I know nothing, nor whether he has published. He was to have done so a month ago. I wish you would do something, or that we were together.

"Ever yours and affectionately, "B"

LETTER CCCXC.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravens, May 10, 1821."

"I have just got your packet. I am obliged to Mr. Bowles, and Mr. Bowles is obliged to me, for having restored him to good humor. He is to write, and you to publish, what you please,—motto and subject. I desire nothing but fair play for all parties. Of course, after the new tone of Mr. Bowles you will not publish my defence of Gilchrist: it would be brutal to do so after his urbanity, for it is rather too rough, like his own attack upon Gilchrist. You may tell him what I say there of his Missionary (it is praised, as it deserves.) However, and if there are any passages not personal to Bowles, and yet bearing upon the question, you may add them to the reprint (if it is reprinted) of my first letter to you. Upon this consult Gilford; and, above all, don't let any thing be added which can personally affect Mr. Bowles.

"In the enclosed notes, of course, what I say of the democracy of poetry cannot apply to Mr. Bowles, but to the Cockney and water washing-tub schools.

"I hope and trust that Elliston won't be permitted to act the drams! Surely he might have the grace to wait for Kean's return before he attempted it; though Murray then, I should be as much against the attempt as ever.

"I have got a small packet of books, but neither Waldegrave, Oxford, nor Scott's novels am among them. Where didn't you republish Hudgiton's Childe Harold's Monitor and Latino-mastix? they are excellent. Think of this,—they are all for Pope. "Yours, &c."
LETTER COLCXC.

TO MR. HOPPER.

"Raynham, May 11, 1821.

If I had but known your notion about Switzer,... before I should have adopted it at once. As it is, I shall let the child remain in her convent, where she seems healthy and happy, for the present; but I shall feel much obliged if you will inquire, when you are in the cantons, about the usual and best form of education suitable for females, and let me know the result of your opinions. It is some consolation that both Mr. and Mrs. Shelley have written to approve entirely my placing the child with the nuns for the present. I can refer to my whole conduct, as having neither spared care, kindness, nor expense, since the child was sent to me. The people may say what they please, I must content myself with not deserving (in this instance) that they should speak ill.

"The place is a country town, in a good air, where there is a large establishment for education, and many children, some of considerable rank, placed in it. As a country town, it is less liable to objections of every kind. It has always appeared to me, that the moral defect in Italy does not proceed from a conventional education,—because, to my certain knowledge, they came out of their convents innocent even to ignorance of moral evil,—but to the state of society into which they are directly plunged on coming out of it. It is like educating an infant on a mountain-top, and then taking him to the sea and throwing him into it and desiring him to swim. The evil, however, though still greater, is partly wearing away, as the women are more permitted to marry from attachment; this is, I believe, the case also in France. And, after all, what is the higher society of England? According to my own experience, and to all that I have seen and heard, and (have I lived there in the very highest and what is called the best) no way of life can be more corrupt. In Italy, however, it is, or rather seems, more systematized, but now, they themselves are ashamed of regular servitude. In England, the only homage which they pay to virtue is hypocrisy. I speak of courses, of the tone of high life,—the middle ranks may be very virtuous.

"I have not seen any copy (judging by what I have read) on the letter on Bowles; of course I should be delighted to send it to you. How is Mrs. H.? well again, I hope. Let me know when you set out. I regret that I cannot meet you in the Bathshea Alps this summer, as I once hoped and intended. With my best respects to madam, "I am ever, &.

"P. S. I enclose Mr. Bowles's letters; thank him in my name to his candor and kindness,—Also a letter for Hodgson, which pray forward. The Milan paper states that I brought forward the play!!! This is a pleasant surly. But don't let yourself be worried about it; and if (as is likely) the folly of Elliston checks the sale, I am ready to make any deduction, or the entire cancel of your agreement.

"You will of course not publish my defence of Gilchrist, as after Bowles's good humor upon the subject, it would be too savagely.

"Let me hear from you the particulars; for, as yet, I have only the simple fact.

"If you knew what I have had to go through here, on account of the fulness of the contents, Neapolitans, you would be amused: but it is now apparently over. They seemed disposed to throw the whole project and plans of these parts upon me chiefly."

LETTER CCCXCIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"May 14, 1821.

"If any part of the letter to Bowles has (unintentionally, as far as I remember the contents) vexed you, you are fully avenged; for I see an Italian paper, that, notwithstanding all my remonstrances through all my friends, (and yourself among the rest,) the managers persisted in attempting the tragedy, and that it has been 'unanimously hissed!!' This is the consolatory phrase of the Milan paper, (which detests me cordially, and abuses me, on all occasions, as a Liberal,) with the addition, that 'I brought the play out' of my own good-will.

"All this is vexatious enough, and seems a sort of dramatic Calvinism—predestined damnation, without a single hope that it will ever be a blessing, poor mortal could to prevent this inevitable catastrophe—partly by appeals of all kinds up to the Lord Chamberlain, and partly to the fellows themselves. But, as remonstrance was vain, complaint is useless; I do not understand it—for Murray's letter of the 24th, and all his preceding ones, gave me the strongest hopes that there would be no real presentation. As yet, I know nothing but the fact which I have come to be true, as the date is February the 30th. They must have been in a hell of a hurry for this damnation, since I did not even know that it was published; and, without its being first published, the hissions could not have got hold of it. Any one might have seen, at a glance, that it was utterly impracticable for the stage; and this little accident will by no means enhance its merit in the closet.

"Well, patience is a virtue, and, I suppose, practice will make it perfect. Since last year, (spring that is,) I have lost a lawsuit, of great importance, on Rochdale colleries—have occasioned a divorce—have had my poesy disparaged by Murray and the critics—they will not take my other friends to the place in an advantageous settlement (in Ireland) by the trustees —my life threatened last month—(they put about a paper here to excite an attempt at my assassination, on account of politics, and a notion which the priests disseminated that I was in a league against the Ger.
men)—and, finally, my mother-in-law recovered last fortnight, and I have only last week learned that she is well and, I hope, for ever cured. These are like the eight-and-twenty misfortunes of Harlequin.' But they must be borne. If I give in, it shall be after keeping up a spirit at least. I should not have cared so much about it, if our southern neighbors had not bungled us all out of freedom for these five hundred years to come.

"Did you know John Keats? They say that he was killed by a review of him in the Quarterly—if I remember, it is really done to know.+ I do not understand that of yielding sensitiveness. What I feel (as at this present) is an immense rage for right-and-forty hours, and then, as usual—unless this time it should last longer. I must get on horseback to quiet me.

"Francis I wrote, after the battle of Pavia, 'All is lost except our honor.' A hissed author may reverse it—'Nothing is lost except our honor.' But the horses are waiting, and the paper full. I wrote last week to you."

LETTER CCCXCV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

[Letter to John Murray, May 13, 1823.]

"By the papers of Thursday, and two letters of Mr. Kinnaid, I perceive that the Italian Gazette had lied most Italianishly, and that the drama had not been hissed, and that my friends had interfered to prevent the representation. So it seems they continue to act on the spirit of us all: for this we must trouble them at 'size.' Let it by all means be brought to a plea: I am determined to try the right, and will meet the expenses. The reason of the Lombard lies in this, that the Austrian—who keep an inquisition throughout Italy, and a list of names of all who think or speak of anything but in favor of their despotism—have for five years past abused me in every form in the Gazette of Milan, &c. I wrote to you a week ago on the subject.

"Now, I should be glad to know what compensation Mr. Elliston would make me, not only for dragging my writings on the stage in five days, but for losing the cause that I was kept for four days (from Sunday to Thursday morning, the only post dates in the belief that the tragedy had been acted and unamissed hissed; and this with the addition that 'I had brought upon the stage,' and consequence, the names of my friends attended to my request to the contrary. Suppose that I had burst a blood-vein, like John Keats, or blown my brains out in a fit of rage, neither of which would have been unlikely a few years ago. At present I am, luckily, calmer than I used to be, and yet I would not pass these four days over again for—I know not what.

"I wrote to you to keep up your spirits, for reproach is useless always, and irritating—but my feelings were very much hurt, to be dragged like a gladiator to the fate of a gladiator by that 'retia-rum,' Mr. Elliston. As to his defence and offers of compensation, what is all this to the purpose? It is like Louis the X1V. who insisted upon buying at any price Algenor Sydney's horse, and, on his refusal, on taking it by force, Sydney shot his horse. I could not shoot my tragedy, but I would have flung it into the fire rather than have had it represented.

"I have now written nearly three acts of another, intending to complete it in five, and am more anxious than ever to be preserved from such a breach of all literary courtesy and gentlemanly consideration.

"If we succeed, well; if not, previous to any future publication we will request a 'prière not to be acted, which I would even pay for, (as money is their object,) as I will not publish it, which, however, you will probably not much regret.

"The Chancellor has behaved nobly. You have also conducted yourself in the most satisfactory manner; and I have no fault to find with anybody but the stage-players, and their proprietors. I was always so civil to Elliston, personally, that he ought to have been the last to attempt to injure me.

"There is a most rattling thunder-storm peeling away at this present writing; so I write neither by day, nor by candle, nor torch light, but by lightning light; the flashes are as brilliant as the most gaseous glow of the gas-light company. My chimney board has just been thrown down by a gust of wind: I thought it was the 'Bold Thunder' and 'Brisk Lightning' in person.—Three of us would be too many. There it goes—flash again! but as I have done by and upon Mr. Elliston.

"Why do you not write? You should at least send me a line of particulars: I know nothing yet but by Galignani and the Honorable Douglas.

"Well, and how does our Pope controversy go on? and the pamphlet? It is impossible to write any news: the Austrian scoundrels rummage all letters.

"P. S. I could have sent you a good deal of gossip and some real information, were it not that all letters pass through the barbarians inspection, and I have no wish to inform them of anything but my utter abhorrence of them and theirs. They have only conquered by treachery, however.

LETTER CCCXCVI.

TO THE COUNTESS GUICCHIOLI.

"You will see here confirmation of what I told you the other day! I am sacrificed in every way, without knowing the why or the wherefore. The tragedy in question is not (nor ever was) written for, or adapted to, the stage; nevertheless, the plan is not romantic; it is rather regular than other wise: in point of unity of time, indeed, perfectly regular, and failing but slightly in unity of place. You well know whether it was ever my intention to have it acted, since I will not publish it at a period assuredly rather more tragic to me as a man than as an author; for you were in affliction and peril. In the mean time, I learn from your Gazette that a cabal and party has been formed, while I myself have never taken the slightest step in the business. It is said that the author read it aloud!!!—here, probably, at Ravenna?—and to whom? per hasps to Fletcher!!!—that illustrious literary character, &c., &c.

LETTER CCCXCVI.

TO MR. MOORE.

[Letter to Thomas Moore, May 26, 1823.]

"Since I wrote to you last week I have received English letters and papers, by which I perceive that what I took for an Italian truth is, after all, a French lie of the Bastille, with the false Habeas, the false papers, &c. I have also learned, from falsehoods in as many lines. In the first place, Lord B. did not bring forward his play, but opposed the same; and, secondly, it was not condemned, but is continued to be acted, in despite of publisher author, Lord Chancellor, and (for aught I know to the contrary) of audience, up to the first of May, at least—the latest date of my letters.
"You will oblige me, then, by causing Mr. Gazette of France to contradict himself, which, I suppose, he is used to. I never answer a foreign criticism; but this is a mere matter of fact, and not of opinions. I presume that you have English and French interest enough to do this for me—though, to be sure, as it is nothing and the truth which we wish to state, the insertion may be more difficult. I suppose written to you even lately at some length, I won't bore you further now, than by begging you to comply with my request; and I presume the 'esprit du corps,' (is it 'du' or 'de'? for this is more than I know) will sufficiently urge you, as one of 'ours,' to set this subject in its true light. Believe me always yours ever and most affectionately,

"BYRON"

LETTER CCCXCII.

TO MR. HOPFNER.

"Ravenne, May 25, 1821.

"I am very much pleased with what you say of Switzerland, and will ponder upon it. I would rather she married there than here for that matter. For fortune, I shall make it all that I can spare, (if I live and she is correct in her conduct,) and if I die before she is settled, I have left her by will five thousand pounds, which is a fair provision out of England for a natural child. I shall increase it all I can, if circumstances permit me; but, of course (like all other human things) this is very uncertain.

"You will oblige me very much by interfering to have the paper inserted, as these scoundrels appear to be organizing a system of abuse against me because I am in their 'list.' I care nothing for their criticism, but the matter of fact. I have written four acts of another tragedy, so you see they can't bully me.

"You know, I suppose, that they actually keep a list of all individuals in Italy who dislike them—it must be numerous. Their suspicious and actual alarms, about my conduct and presumed intentions in the late row, were truly ludicrous—though, not to bore you, I touched upon them lightly. They believed, and still believe here, or affect to believe it, that the whole plan and project of rising was settled by me, and the means furnished, &c. &c. All this was more somented by the barbarian agents, who are numerous here, (one of them was stabbed yesterday, by-the-way, but not dangerously;)—and although, when the Commandant was shot here before my door in December, I took him into my house, where he had every assistance till he died on Fletcher's bed; and although not one of them dared to receive him into their house but myself, they leaving him to perish in the night in the streets, they put up a paper about three months ago, denouncing me as the Chief of the Liberals, and stirring up persons to assassinate me. But this shall never silence nor bully my opinions. All this came from the German barbarians."

LETTER CCCXCIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenne, May 25, 1821.

"Mr. Moray,

"Since I wrote the enclosed a week ago, and for some weeks before, I have not had a line from you: now, a should be glad to know upon what principle of common or uncommon feeling, you leave me without any information but what I learn from gable gazettes in England, and abusive ones in Italian, (the Germans hating me, as a calculating,) while all this kick-up has been going on about the play? You shabby fellow!! Were it not for two letters from Douglas Kinnaid, I should have been as ignorant as you are negligent.

"So, I hear Bowles has been abusing Hobhouse; if that's the case, he has broken the truce, like Morillo's successor, and I will cut him out, as Cochrane did the Esmeralda.

"Since I wrote the enclosed packet I have completed (but not copied out) four acts of a new tragedy. When I have finished the fifth I will copy it out. It is on the subject of 'Sardanapalus,' the last king of the Assyrians. The words Queen and Paphilion occur, and as an allusion to His Britannic Majesty, as you may tremulously imagine. This you will one day see, (if I finish it,) as I have made Sardanapalus brave, (though valiantous as history represents him,) and also as amiable as my poor powers could render him—so that it could neither be truth nor satire on any living monarch. I have strictly preserved all the unities hitherto, and mean to continue them in the fifth, if possible; but not for the stage. Yours, in haste and hatred, you shabby corse! endent!"

"N"

LETTER CCCXCII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenne, May 26, 1821.

"Since my last of the 26th or 25th, I have dashed off my fifth act of the tragedy called 'Sardanapalus.' But now comes the copying over, which may prove heavy work—heavy to the writer as to the reader. I have written to you at least six times answering, which proves you to be a bookkeeper. I pray you to send me a copy of Mr. Wrangham's reformation of 'Langhorne's' Plutarch. I have the Greek, which is somewhat small of print, and the Italian, which is too heavy in style, and as false as a Neapolitan proclamation. I pray you also to send me a Life, published some years ago, of the Magician Apollonius of Tyana. It is in English, and I think edited or written by what Martin Marprelate calls 'a bawling priest.' I shall trouble you no farther with this sheet than with the postage.

"Yours, &c.,

"P. S. Since I wrote this, I determined to enclose it (as a half sheet) to Mr. Kinnaid, who will have the goodness to forward it. Besides, it saves sealing-wax."

LETTER D.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenne, May 31, 1821.

"Dear Moray,

"You say you have written often: I have only received you of the eleventh, which is very short. By this post, in five packets, I send you the tragedy of Sardanapalus, which is written in a rough hand: perhaps Mrs. Leigh can help you to decipher it. You will please to acknowledge it by return of post. You will remark that the unities are all strictly observed. The scene passes in the same hall always: the time, a summer's night, about nine hours, or less, though it begins before sunset and ends before sunrise. In the third act, when Sardanapalus calls for a mirror to look at himself in his armor, recollect to quote the Latin passage from Juvenal upon Otho, (a similar character, who did the same thing,—Gifford will help you with it.) The trait is perhaps too familiar, but it is historical, (to Otho, at least,) and natural is an adjective character."

"Yours, &c.,

"Ravenne, 

"Mr. MURRAY,
LETTER I.

TO MR. HOPPNER.

[Byron, May 31, 1821.]

"I enclose you another letter, which will only confirm what I have said to you.

"About Allegro—I will take some decisive step in the course of the year; at present, she is so happy where she is, that perhaps she had better have her alphabet imparted in her convent.

"What you say of the Dante is the first I have heard of it—all seeming to be merged in the row about the tragedy. Continue it!—Alas! what could Dante, add other tragedy about Italy? You are glad you like it, however, but doubt that you will be singular in your opinion. My new tragedy is completed.

"The monsoni is right. I ought to have mentioned her humor and amiability, but I thought at her sixty, beauty would be most agreeable or least likely. However, it shall be rectified in a new edition; and if any of the parties have either looks or qualities which they wish to be noticed, let me have a minute of them. I have no private or personal dislike to Venice, rather the contrary, but I merely speak of what is the subject of all remarks and all writers upon her present state. Let me hear from you before you start. Believe me.

"Ever, &c.

"P. S. Did you receive two letters of Douglas Kinnaird's in an endorse from me? Remember me to Mengaldo, Soranzo, and all who care that I should remember them. The letter alluded to in the enclosed, 'to the Cardinal,' was in answer to some queries of the government, about a poor devil of a Neap litan, arrested in Sinagaglia on suspicion, who came to beg of me here; being without bread, I consequently got in his pockets some alms, I relieved and forwarded him to his country, and they arrested him at Pesaro on suspicion, and have since interrogated me (civilly and politely, however), about him. I sent them the poor man's petition, and such information as I had about him, which, I trust, will get him out again, that is to say, if they give him a fair hearing.

"I am content with the article. Pray did you receive the two copies of the English lines, which I enclosed to you, written at Paris?"

LETTER II.

TO MR. MOORE.

[Byron, June 4, 1821.]

"You have not written lately, as is the usual custom with literary gentlemen, to console their friends with their observations in cases of magnitude. I do not know whether I sent you any 'Elegy on the recovery of Lady Noel?'

"Behold the blessings of a lucky box—My play is done, and Lady Noel not.

"The papers (and perhaps your letters) will have put you in possession of Muster Elliston's dramatic behavior. It is to be presumed that the play was fitted for the stage by Mr. Dibdin, who is the tailor upon such occasions, and will have taken measure with his usual accuracy. I hear that it is still continued to be performed—a piece of obstinacy for which it is some consolation to think that the discountenanced histrion will be out of pocket.

"You will be surprised to hear that I have finished another tragedy in five acts, observing all the regularity. It is called 'Oriental; or the Moorish tragedy, and was sent by last post to England. It is not for the stage, any more than the other was intended for, and I shall take better care this time that they don't get hold on't.

"I have also sent, two months ago, a further letter on Bowles, &c.; but he seems to be so taken up with my 'respect' (as he calls it) towards him in the former case, that I am not sure that it will be published, being somewhat too full of "pastime and prodigality." I learn from some private letters of Bowles's, that you were 'the gentleman in astirisks.' Who would have dreamed it? you see what mischief that clergyman has done by printing notes without names. How the deuce was I to suppose that the first four astirisks meant 'Cumberland' and not 'Pope,' and that the blank signature meant Thomasina? and what comes of being familiar with parsons. His answers have not yet reached me, but I understand from Hobhouse that he (II.) is attacked in them. If that be the case, Bowles has broken the truce, (which he himself proclaimed, by-the-way,) and I must have at him again.

"Did you receive my letters with the two or three concluding sheets of Memoranda?

"There are no news here to interest much. A German spy (boasting himself such) was stabbed last week, but not mortally. The moment I heard that he went about bullying and boasting, it was easy for me, or any one else, to foretell what would occur to him, which I did, and it came to pass in two days after. He has got off, however, for a slight incision.

"A row the other night, about a lady of the place, between her various lovers, occasioned a midnight discharge of pistols, but nobody wounded. Great scandal, however—planted by her lover—to be thrashed by her husband; for inconstancy to her regular servant, who is coming home post about it, and she herself retired in confusion into the country, although it is the acme of the opera season. All the women furious against her (she herself having been censorious) for being found out. She is a pretty woman—a Countess * * * a fine old Visigoth name, or Ostrogth.

"The Greeks! what think you? They are my old acquaintances—but what to think I know not. Let us hope, housewrever. Yours,

"B."
"How do you call your new project? I have experimented with a new form, called 'Sardanapalus,' which I believe to be new and original, and it is entitled "The Tragedy of Sardanapalus." I have found that it is not too difficult, for it is written in blank verse, and the verse is in iambic tetrameters. I believe that it will appeal to the modern taste, and I think that it will be received with favor by the public."

"Bowie's answers have reached me; but I can't go on disputing for ever. No one can dispute with me, for I am the master of the situation."

"If you are in Paris, or a village, you will never resist the Anglo-invasion. You speak of the English in half a year, and when I am at home, I turn your horse's head the other way. You will see in the last note to the doge, that it was given me a good excuse for quite dropping the least connexion with travelers, a thing which you have not always done."

"I do not recollect the speech you spoke of, but suspect it is not the doge's, but one of Israel Berucchio to Calendario. I hope you think that Elliotson behaved shamefully; it is my only pity that and Bowles had not said the milennium falls contradict their Me, which they did with the grace of people used to it."

"Yours, &c., "B.""

LETTER DIV.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Ravenna, July 5, 1821.

"How could you suppose that I ever would allow anything that could be said on your account to wrench with me? I do not regret that Bowles had not said that you were the writer of that note until afterward, when out he comes with it in a private letter to Murray, which Murray sends to me. D.—the controversy!"

"D.—the Twin, D.—the bell, And—where the soul who reigns is—Well! From all such pleasures I'll quickly be delivered.

I have had a friend of your Mr. Irving's—a very pretty lad—Mr. Coolidge, of Boston—only somebody too full of poetry and 'enthusiasm.' I was very civil to him during his few hours' stay, and talked with him much of Irving, whose writings are my delight. But I suspect that he did not take quite so much to me, from his having expected to meet a misanthropical gentleman, in wolf-skin breeches, and answering in fierce monosyllables, instead of a man of this world. I can never get people to understand that poetry is the expression of excited passion, and that there is no such thing as a life of passion any more than a continuous earthquake, or an eternal fever. Besides, who would wish to keep up the illusion which is their empire?"

"I have had a curious letter to-day from a girl in England, (I never saw her,) who says she is given over of a decline, but could not go out of the world without thanking me for the delight which my poetry for several years &c., &c. It is signed simply N. N. A., and has not a word of 'cant' or

preachment in it upon any opinions. She merely says that she is dying, and that as I had contributed so highly to her existing pleasure, she thought that she might say so, begging me to turn her letter—which, by-the-way, I can not do, as I took upon such a letter, in such circumstances, as better than a diploma from Gottingen. I once had a letter from Dronthom, in Norway, (but not from a dying woman,) in verse, on the same score of gratulation. These are the things which make one at times believe one's self a poet. But if I must believe that, &c., &c., and such fellows, are poets also, it is better to be one of the corps."

"I am now in the fifth act of 'Foscari,' being the third tragedy in twelve months, besides proses; so you perceive that I am not at all idle. And are you, too, busy? I doubt that your life at Paris draws too much upon your time, which is a pity. Can't you divide your day, so as to combine both? I have had plenty of all sorts of worldly business on my hands last year,—and yet it is not so difficult to give a few hours to the Muus. This sentence is so like &c., &c., that—"

"Ever, &c.,"

"If we were together, I should publish both my plays (periodically) in our joint journal. It should be our plan to publish all our best things in that way.""

LETTER DV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, July 5, 1821.

"In agreement with a wish expressed by Mr. Hobhouse, it is my determination to omit the stanza upon the horse of Semiarmis in the fifth canto of Don Juan. I mention this, in case you are, or intend to be, the publisher of the remaining cantos."

"At the particular request of the C. S., I have promised not to continue Don Juan. You will therefore look upon these three cantos as the last of the poem. She had read the first two in the French translation, and never ceased beseeching me to write no more of it. The reason of this is not at first obvious to a superficial observer of your usual manners; but it arises from the wish of all women to exalt the sentiment of the passions, and to keep up the illusion which is their empire. Now Don Juan strips off this illusion, and laughs at that and most other things. I never knew a woman who did not protect Rousseau, nor one who did not dislike De Grammont, Gil Blas, and all the comedy of the passions, when brought out naturally. But 'kings' blood must keep word,' as Serjeant Bothwell says."

LETTER DVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"July 14, 1821.

"I trust that Sardanapalus will not be mistaken for a political play, which was so far from my intention, that I thought of nothing but Asiatic history. The Venetian play, too, is rigidly historical. My object has been to dramatize, like the Greek, (a modest phrase,) striking passages of history, as they did of history and mythology. You will find all this very unlike Shakespeare; and so much the better in one sense, for I look upon him to be the sorcer of models, though the most extraordinary of writers. It has been my object to be as simple and severe as Alfieri, and I have broken down the poetry nearly as far as was possible to common language. The hardship is, that in these times one can neither

See Memorandum. 1 Mirror's.
LETTER DVII.
TO MR. MURRAY.

[Letter to Mr. Murray discussing the printing of Gamba's work, the printer's work, the government's suppression of works, and personal matters.]

[Signatures and dates: Byron, July 29, 1821.]

LETTER DIX.
TO MR. MURRAY.

[Letter to Mr. Murray discussing the printing of Gamba's work, the printer's work, the government's suppression of works, and personal matters.]

[Signatures and dates: Byron, July 30, 1821.]

WORKS.
which is an error; it should be: Zaire, vous pleurez.'

Recollect this.

"I am so busy here about those poor proscribed exiles, who are scattered about, and with trying to get some of them recalled, that I have hardly time or patience to write a short preface, which will be proper for the two plays. However, I will make it out on receiving the next proofs.

"Yours ever, &c.

"P. S. Please to append the letter about the Helens: put as a note to your next opportunity of the verses on Leander, &c., &c., in Childe Harold. Don't forget it amid your multitudinous avocations, which I think of celebrating in a Dithyrambic Ode to Albermarle street.

"Are you aware that Shelley has written an Elegy on Keats, & accuses the Quarterly of killing him?

1. Who's kill'd Jos'ls Kears?
2. " asks the Quarterly.
3. So a rage and Tarpeian!
4. Two, one of my feasts!

"You know very well that I did not approve of Keats's poetry, or principles, or of his abuse of Pope; but, as he is dead, omit all that is said about him in MSS. of mine, or publication. His Hyperion is a fine monument, and will keep his name. I do not envy the man who wrote the article;—you Reviews people have no more right to kill than any other foot-pads. However, he who would die of an article in a Review would probably have died of something else equally trivial. The same thing nearly happened to Kirke White, who died afterward of a consumption.

LETTER DX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Ravenna, August 2, 1821.

"I had certainly answered your last letter, though but briefly, to the part to which you refer, merely saying 'a damn the controversy,' and quoting some verses of George Colman's, 'not as allusive' to you, but to the disputants. Did you receive this letter? It imports me to know that our letters are not intercepted or mislaid.

"Your Berlin drama is an honor, unknown since the days of Elkanah Settle, whose 'Emperor of Morocco' was represented by the court ladies, which was, as Johnson says, 'the last blast of inflammation' to poor Dryden, who could not bear it, and fell foul of Settle without mercy or moderation, on account of that and a frontispiece, which he dared to put before his play.

"Was not your showing the Memoranda to * * somewhat pernicious? Is there not a factious allusion or two which might as well be reserved for posterity?

"I know Schlegel—well—that is so say, I have met him occasionally, at Copie. Is he not also touched lightly in the Memoranda? In a review of Childe Harold, canto fourth, three years ago, in Blackwood's Magazine, they quote some stanzas of an elegy of Stone on Rome, from which there is said that I might have taken some ideas. I give you my honor that I never saw it except in that criticism.

* See Letter ccxxv.

* This note was omitted.

* There had been, a short time before, performed at the Court of Berlin, a spectacle founded on the poem of Lalla Rookh, in which the present Emperor of Roumania, was one of the principal actors.
LETTER DXI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Naples, August 10, 1821.

"Your conduct to Mr. Moore is certainly very handsome; and I would not say so if I could help it, for you are not at present by any means in my good graces.

"With regard to additions, &c., there is a journal which I kept in 1814, which you may ask him for; also a journal which you must get from Mrs. Leigh, of my journey in the Alps, which contains all the gernus of Manfred. I have also kept a small diary here, for a few months last winter, which I would send you, and any continuation. You would find easy access to all my papers and letters, and do not neglect this (in case of accidents), on account of the mass of confusion in which they are; for out of that chaos of papers you will find some curious ones of mine and others, if not lost or destroyed. If circumstances, however, (which is almost impossible,) made me ever consent to a publication in my lifetime, you would, I suppose, make Moore some advance, in proportion to the likelihood or non-lielihood of success. You are both sure to survive me, however.

"You must also have from Mr. Moore the correspondence between me and Lady Byron, to whom I offered the sight of all which regards herself in these papers. This is important. He has her letter, and a copy of my answer. I would rather Moore edited me than another.

"I sent you Valpy's letter to decide for yourself, and Stockdale's to amuse you. I am always loyal with you, as I was in Galignani's affair, and you won me—now and then.

"I return you Moore's letter, which is very creditable to him, and you, and me. "Yours, ever."

LETTER DXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Naples, August 16, 1821.

"I regret that Holmes can't or won't come: it is rather shabby, as I was always very civil and punctual with him. But he is but one * * * more. One meets with none elsewhere among the English.

"I wait the proofs of the MSS. with proper impatience.

"So you have published, or mean to publish, the new Juans? Aren't you afraid of the Constitutional Assassination of Bridge street? When first I saw the name of Murray I thought it had been yours; but was solaced by seeing that your synonyme is an attorney and that you are not one of that atrocious crew.

"I am in a great discomfort about the probable war, and with my trustees not getting me out of the funds. If the funds break, it is my intention to go upon the highway. All the other English professions are at present so unglemelianeby by the conduct of those who follow them, that open robbing is the only fair resource left to a man of any principles; it is even honest, in comparison, by being undisguised.

"I wrote to you by last post, to say that you had done the handsome thing by Moore and the Memo- randa. You are very good as times go, and would probably be still better but for the march of events. (Napoleon called it,) which won't permit my body to be better than they should be.

"Love to Gifford. Believe me, &c.

"P. S. I restore Smith's letter, whom thank for his good opinion. Is the bust by Thorwaldsen ar- rived?"

NOTE.

"For Oxford and for Wellesbrenge
You gave much more than me you gave
Which is not fairly to behave,
My Murray.

"Because if a Bux dog, 'tis said,
Be worth a bon fairly spoil,
A Sted lord must be worth two dead,
My Murray.

"And if, as the opinion goes,
You wish a letter note them prove
Correct, I should have more than these,
My Murray.

"But now this sheet is nearly crum'd.
So, if you will, I shan't be shan't hid,
And, if you won't, you may be don't,
My Murray.

"These matters must be arranged with Mr. Douglas Kinnaird. He is my trustee, and a man of honor. To him you can state all your mercantile reasons, which you might not like to state to me personally, such as, 'heavy season,—' flat public—' don't go off—' lordship writes too much—' won't take advice—' declining popularity—' deduction for the trade—' make very little—' generally lose by him—' pirated edition—' foreign edition—' severe criticisms,' &c., with other hints and hows for an oration, which I leave Douglas, who is an orator, to answer.

"You can also state them more freely to a third person, as between you and me they could only produce some smart postscripts, which would not adorn our mutual archives.

"I am sorry for the Queen, and that's more than you are."
LETTER DXIV

TO MR. MOORE.

"Ravenna, August 24, 1821.

"Yours of the 5th only yesterday, while I had letters of the 8th from London. Doth the post dabble into our letters? Whatever agreement you make with Murray, if satisfactory to you, must be so to me. There need be no scruple, because, though I used sometimes to buffet to myself, loving a quibble as well as the barbarian himself (Shakspeare, to wit) — that, like a Spartan, I would sell my life as dearly as possible — it never was my intention to turn it to personal, pecuniary account, but for the event of survivorship. I anticipated that period, because we happened to meet, and I urged you to make what was possible now by it, for reasons which are obvious. It has been no possible plication to me, and therefore does not require the acknowledgments you mention. So, for God's sake, don't consider it like.

"By-the-way, when you write to Lady Morgan, will you thank her for her handsome speeches in her book about my books? I do not know her address. Her work is fearless and excellent on the subject of Italy — pray tell her so — and I know the country. I wish she had fallen in with me, I could have told her a thing or two that would have confirmed her positions.

"I am glad that you are satisfied with Murray, who seems to value dead lords more than live ones. I have just sent him the following answer to a proposition of his:

"For Oxford and for Waldegrave, &c.

The argument of the above is, that he wanted to stint me of my sizings, as Lear says—that is to say, to deprive me of an extravagant price for an extravagant poem, as is becoming. Pray take his guineas by all means—I taught him that. He made me a filthy offer of pounds once, but I told him that, like physicians, poets must be dealt with in guineas, as being the only advantage poets could have in the association with them, as votaries of Apollo. I write to you in a hurry and bustle, which I will expend in my next.

"Yours, ever, &c.

"P. S. You mention something, of an attorney on his way to me on legal business. I have had no warning of such an apparition. What can the fellow want? I have some lawsuits and business, but have not heard of any thing to put me to the expense of a travelling lawyer. They do enough, in that way at home.

"Ah, poor Queen! but perhaps it is for the best, if Herodotus's anecdote is to be believed.

"Remember me to any friendly Angles of our mutual acquaintance. What are you doing? Here I have had my hands full of tyrants and their victims. There never was such oppression, even in Ireland, scarcely!"

LETTER DXV

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Ravenna, August 31, 1821.

"I have received the Juans, which are printed so carelessly, especially the fifth canto, as to be disgraceful to me, and not creditable to you. It really must be gone over again with the manuscript; the errors are so gross; -- words added — changed — so as to make cacophon and nonsense. You have been careless of this poem because some of your squad don't approve of it; but I tell you that it will be long before you see any thing half so good as poetry or writing. Upon what principle have you omitted the note on Bacon and Voltaire? as one of the conclusions? — because it ended, I suppose, with —

"And do not link two vicious souls for life
Into that moral cemetary, man and wife.

"Now, I must say, once for all, that I will not permit any human being to take such liberties with my writings because I am absent. I desire the omission to be replaced (except the stanza on Semiramis), particularly the stanza upon the Turkish marriages; and I request that the whole be carefully gone over with the MS.

"I never saw such stuff as is printed; — Gulleyays instead of Gulbeys, &c. Are you aware that Gulbeys is a real name and the other nonsense I copied the canto out carefully, so that there is no excuse, as the printer read, or at least prints, the MS. of the plays without error.

"If you have no feeling for your own reputation, pray have some little for mine. I have read over the poem carefully, and I tell you, it is poetry. Your little envious knot of parson-poets may say what they please: time will show that I am not in this instance mistaken.

"Desire my friend Hobhouse to correct the press, especially of the last canto, from the manuscript as it is. It is enough to drive one out of one's reason to see the infernal torture of words from the original. For instance, the line—

"And pair their rhymes as Venus yokes her doves—"

is printed—

"And praise their rhymes, &c.

Also 'precious' for 'precocious,' and this stanza 133,

"And this strong extreme effect to tire no longer.

Now do turn to the manuscript, and see if I ever wrote such a line; it is not verse.

"No wonder the poem should fail, (which, how ever, it won't, you will see,) with such things allowed to creep about it. Replace what is omitted, and correct what is so shamefully misprinted, and let the poem have fair play; and I fear nothing.

"I see in the last two numbers of the Quarterly a strong itching to assail me, (see the review of 'The Etionian;') let it, and see if they shan't have enough of it. I do not allude to Gifford, who has always been my friend, and whom I do not consider as responsible for the articles written by others.

"You will publish the plays when ready. I am in such a humor about this printing of Don Juan so inaccurately that I must close this.

"Yours.

"P. S. I presume that you have not lost the stanza to which I allude? It was sent afterward: look over my letters and find it."
D'YORO'S WORKS.

PHILOSOPHICAL ADVICE AND OBSERVATIONS.}

PHILOSOPHICAL ADVICE AND OBSERVATIONS.

TO MR. W. M.

By Mr. Mawman, (a paymaster in the corps, in which you and I are privates,) I yesterday expedited to your address, under cover of an autograph letter, containing the substance of this—In short, it won't do— even for the posthumous public—but extracts from it may. It is a brief and faithful chronicle of a month or so—parts of it not very discreet, but sufficiently sincere. Mr. Mawman saith that he will, in private, discourse with me, and deliver it to you in your Elginian fields.

If you have got the new Juans, recollect that there are some very gross printer's blunders, particularly in the first entry,—such as 'praise' for 'pair,' 'precarious' for 'precocious,' 'Adriatic' for 'Asiatic,' 'case' for 'chase'—besides gifts of additional words and syllables, which make but a cacophonous rhythm. Put the pen through the said, as I would mine through Murray's ears if I were along side of him. As it is, I have sent him a rattling letter, as abusive as possible. Though he is publisher to the 'Board of Longitude,' he is in no danger of discovering it.

I am packing for Pisa— but direct your letters here, till further notice.

Yours ever, 

One of the 'paper books' mentioned in this letter: as intrusted to Mr. Mawman for me, contained a portion, to the amount of nearly a hundred pages, of a prose story, relating the adventures of a young Andalusian nobleman, which had been begun by him at Venice, in 1817, of which the following is an extract.

TO MR. M.

By Saturday's post, I sent you a fierce and farbund letter upon the subject of the printer's blunders in Don Juan. I must solicit your attention to the topic, though my wrath hath subsided into mildness. I cannot but feel that it is a great pity that their books and packages even to the very chairs and tables, for I am going to Pisa in a few weeks, and have sent and am sending off my chattle. It regretted me that, my books and everything being packed, I could not send you a few things I meant for you; but they were all sealed and baggaged, so as to have made it a month's work to get at them again. I gave him an envelope, with the Italian scrap in it, alluded to in my Glichrist defence. Hohkhouse will make it out for you, and it will make you laugh, and him too, the spelling particularly. The 'Merrican,' of whom they call me the 'Cabo,' (or chief, meaning 'Americans,' which is the name given in Roman to a part of the Carbonari; that is to say, to the popular part, the troops of the Carbonari. They are originally a society of hunters in the forest, who took the name of Americans, but at present comprise some thousands, &c.; but I shan't let you further into the secret, which may be participated with the post masters. Why they thought me their chief, I know not; their chiefs are like the Legion, being many. However, it is a past of more honor than profit, for, now that they are per secded, it is fit that I should aid them; and so I have done, as far as my means would permit. They will rise again in the eyes of the government and plundering: they actually seem to know nothing, for they have arrested and banished many of their own party, and let others escape who are not their friends.

What think'st thou of Greece?

Address to me here as usual, till your hear father from me.

By Mawman I have sent a Journal to Moore; but it won't do for the public,—at least great deal of it won't:—parts may.

I read over the Juans, which are excellent.

Your squad are quite wrong; and so you will find

An anonymous letter which he had received, threatening him with starvation.
by-and-by. I regret that I do not go on with it, for I had all the plan for several cantos, and different countries and characters. You say nothing of the notes I enclosed to you, which will explain why I agreed to discontinue it, (at Madame Guiccioli's request;) but you are so grand, and sublime, and occupied, that one would think, instead of publishing for 'the Board of Longitude,' that you were trying to discover it.

"Let me hear that Gifford is better. He can't be spared either by you or me."

LETTER DXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

[Ravenna, Sept. 12, 1821.]

"By Tuesday's post, I forwarded, in three packets, the drama of Cain in three acts, of which I requested the acknowledgment when arrived. To the last speech of Eve, in the last act, (i.e. where she curses Cain,) add these three lines to the concluding ones—

May the gressa wither from thy foot the woods
Deep then the earth on which he laid the dust
A grave I the sun his light I and Heaven her God!"

"There's as pretty a piece of imprecation for you, when joined to the lines already sent, as you may wish to meet with in the course of your business. But don't forget the addition of the above three lines, which are clinchers to Eve's speech.

Let me know what Gifford and his friends, (if the play arrives in safety;) for I have a good opinion of the piece, as poetry; it is in my gay metaphysical style, and in the Manfred line.

"You must at least commend my faculty and versatility, when you consider what I have done within the last fifteen months, with my head, too, full of other and of mundane matters. But no doubt you will avoid saying any good of it, for fear I should raise the price upon you: that's right: stick to business. Let me know what your other ragamuffins are writing, for I suppose you don't like starting too many of your vagabonds at once. You may give them the start for anything I can.

"If you don't publish my Pulei—the very best thing I ever wrote—with the Italian to it? I wish I was alongside of you; nothing is ever done in a man's absence; everybody runs counter, because they can. If ever I do return to England, (which I shan't, though,) I will write a poem to which 'English Bards,' &c., shall be new milk, in comparison. Your present literary world of mountebanks stand in need of such an Avatar. But I am not yet quite bilious enough: a season or two more, and a provocation or two, will wind me up to the point, and then have at the whole set!

"I have no patience with the sort of trash you send me out of books; except Scott's novels, and three or four other things, I never saw such work, or works. Campbell is lecturing—Moura Ming—Southey; wadding—Wordsworth drizzling—Coleridge muddling—\[saddling—Bowles quibbling, squabbling, and muddling. * * * will do, if he don't cant too much, nor imitate Southey; the fellow has poesy in him; but he is envious and unhappi,

As the whole ensues. Still he is among the best; Tennyson of Barry Cornwall I did better and by, I dare say, if he don't get spoiled by green tea, and the praises of Pantonville and Paradise-row. The pity of these men is, that they never lived in a world of mead and wine; and innumerable men for the knowledge of the busy or the still world. If admitted into high life for a season, it is merely as spectators—they form no part of the mechanism thereof. Now, Moore and I, the one by circumstances, and the other by birth, happened to be free of the corporation, and to have entered into its pulses and passions, quarram partes jamina. Both of us have learned by this much which nothing else could have taught us.

"Yours.

"P. S. I saw one of your brethren, another of the allied sovereigns of Grub street, the other day, Mawman the Great, by whom I sent due homage to your Imperial P. P. To-morrow will you bring a letter from you, but you are the most ungrateful and ungracious of correspondents. But there is some excuse for you, with your perpetual retinue of politicians, paras, scribblers, and loungers. Some day I will give you a poetical catalogue of them."

LETTER DXX.

TO MR. MOORE.

[Ravenna, Sept. 17, 1821.]

"The enclosed lines, as you will directly perceive, are written by the Rev. W. L. Bowl. Of course it is for him to deny them if they are not.

Believe me yours ever and most affectionately,

"P. S. Can you forgive this? It is only a reply to your lines against my Italians. Of course I will stand by my lines against all men; but it is heart breaking to see such things in a people as the reception of that redeemed * * * * * in an oppressed country. Your apotheosis is now reduced to a level with his welcome, and their gratitude to Grattan is cancelled by their atrocious adulation of this, &c., &c., &c."

LETTER DXXI.

TO MR. MOORE.

[Ravenna, Sept. 19, 1821.]

"I am in all the sweat, dust, and blasphemy of a universal packing of all my things, furniture, &c., for Pisa, which I go for the winter. The cause has been the exile of all my fellow Carbonies, and, among them, of the whole family of Madame G. who, you know, was divorced from her husband last week, of P. P. clerk of this parish, and who is obliged to join her father and relatives now in exile there, to avoid being shut up in a monastery, because the Pope's decree of separation required her to reside in casa paterorum, or else, for decorum's sake, in a convent. As I could not say, with Hamlet, 'Get thee to a nunnery,' I am preparing to follow them.

"It is awful work, this love, and prevents all a man's projects of good or glory. I wanted to go to Greece lately (as everything seems up here) with her brother, who is a very fine, brave fellow, (I have seen him put to the proof,) and wild about liberty. But the tears of a woman who has left a husband for a man, and the weakness of one's own heart, are paramount to these projects, and I can hardly indulge them.

"We were divided in choice between Switzerland and Turkey, and I give my vote for Pisa, as near the Mediterranean, which I love for the sake of the shores which it washes and for my young recollections of 1809. Switzerland is a cursed, selfish, swinish country of brutes, placed in the most romantic region of the world. I never could bear the

* The Irish Answer. Poem, p. 372. Is this the copy, the folk song verse (taken from a letter of Cowper, in the side Left of that true Irishman by his song") prefaced as a motto to the poem?—And Ireland, I, like a hired soldier, knuckled to receive the pail's rider. —Letter of Cowper Life, vol. ii., p. 536. At the end of the verses are these words ("Signed W. L. Bowl. " * * M. A., and written with a view to a Reprint".)—Adda.
inhabitants, and still less their English visitors; for
which reason, after writing for some information
short houses, being thus brought my hearing. Was a collection
of English all over the cantons of Geneva, &c., I
immediately gave up the thought, and persuaded
the Gambards to do the same.

"By last post I sent you the 'Irish Avatar,'-
what think you? The last line—a name never
spoke but with curses or jeers—must run either
a name only uttered with curses or jeers, or 'a
wrench never named but with curses or jeers.'
Because as house, 'spoke' is not grammar except in
the House of Commons; and I doubt whether we can say
'a name spoken,' for mentioned. I have some
doubts, too, about, 'reply,' and for murder reply
with a shout and a smile.' Should it not be, and
for murder repay him with shouts and a smile,' or
'reward him with shouts and a smile.'

"So, pray put your poetical pen through the MS.
and take the least bad of the emendations. Also,
if there be no farther breaking of Priscian's head,
will you apply a plaster? I wrote in the greatest
hurry and fury, and sent it to you the day after; so,
doubtless, there will be some awful constructions,
and rants, and repetitions ofithamus.

"With respect to what Anna Seward calls 'the
liberty of transcript,'—when complaining of Miss
Matilda Muggleton, the accomplished daughter of
a choral vicar of Worcester Cathedral, who had
abused the liberty of transcript, for inserting in
the Malvern Mercury, Miss Seward's 'Elegy
on the South Pole,' as her own production, with her
own signature, two years after having taken a copy,
by permission of the authors with regard, I say, to
the 'liberty of transcript,' I by no means oppose
an occasional copy to the benevolent few, provided
it does not degenerate into such licentiousness of
verb and noun as may tend to 'disparage my parts
of speech' by the carelessness of the transcribers.

"I do not think that there is much danger of the
King's Press being abused' upon the occasion, if
the publishers of journals have any regard for their
remaining liberty of person. It is as pretty a piece
of invective as ever put publisher in the way to
'Botany.' Therefore, if they meddle with it, it is
at their peril. As for myself, I will answer any
gentleman—though I by no means recognize a
right of search into an unpublished production,
and unvoiced poem. The same applies to things
published sans consent. I hope you like, at least,
the concluding lines of the poem?

"What is doing, and where are you? in
England? Naif Murray—will him to his own
counter, till he shouls out the thirtrees. Since I wrote
to you, I have sent him another tragedy,—'Cain'
by name—making three in MS. now in his hands,
or in the printer's. It is in the Manfred, metaphys-
ical style, and full of some Titanic declamation;
Lucifer being one of the dram. pers. who takes
Cain a voyage among the stars, and, afterwards,
to 'Hades,' where he shows the phantoms of a
former world, and its inhabitants. I have gone
upon the notion of Cuvier, that the world has been
destroyed three times or four times, and was inhabited
by mammals, men, behemoths, and what not; but not by
man till this 'Rosalie' period, as, indeed, is proved by
the strata of bones found—those of all unknown
animals, and known, being dug out, but none of
mankind. I have, therefore, supposed Cain to be
shortly. Yet I think, therefore, Cain being endowed
with a higher intelligence than man, but totally
unlike him in form, and with much greater strength
of mind and person. You may suppose the small
talkable, between Cain and Lucifer upon these matters is not quite canonical.

"The consequence is, that Cain comes back and
kills Abel in a fit of dissatisfaction, partly with the
politics of Paradise, which had driven them all out
of it, and partly a cause (as is written in Genesis)
for Abel's sacrifice was the more acceptable to the
Deity. I trust that the Rhapsody has arrived—it is in
three acts, and entitled 'A Mystery,' according to
the former Christian custom, and in honor of what
it probably will remain to the reader.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER DXXII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"September 30, 1821,

"After the stanza on Grattan, concluding with
'His soul o'er the freedom implored and denied,
will it please you to cause the printer to insert the
following 'Addenda,' which I dreamed of during
to-day's siesta:

'Ever glorious Grattan! &c., &c., &c.

I will tell you what to do. Get me twenty copies
of the whole carefully and privately printed off,
as your lines wore on the Naples affair. Send me six,
and distribute the rest according to your own plea-
sure.

"I am in a fine vein, so full of pastime and prod-
igality!—So, here's to your health in a glass of
grog. Pray write, that I may know by return of
post—address me at Pisa. The gods give you joy!

"Where are you? in Paris? Let us hear. You
will take care that there be no printer's name, nor
author's, as in the Naples stanza, at least for the
present."

LETTER DXXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Rivenna, Sept. 30, 1821.

"You need not send 'the Blues,' which is a mere
buffoonery, never meant for publication.

"The papers to which I allude, in case of survi-
worship, are collections of letters, &c., since I was
sixteen years old, contained in the trunks in the
-care of Mr. Hobhouse. This collection is at least
doubled by those I have now here, all received since
my last ostracism. To these I should wish the
editor to have access, not for the purpose of abusing
confidences, nor of hurting the feelings of corre-
spondents living, nor the memories of the dead;
but there are things which would do neither, that
I have left unnoticed or unexplained, and which (like
all such things) time only can permit to be noticed
or explained, though some are to my credit. The
task will of course require delicacy; but that will
not being wanted, if Moore and Hobhouse survive me,
and, I may add, yourself; and that you may all
done so is, I assure you, my very sincere wish.
I am not sure that long life is desirable for one o
my temper and constitutional depressions of spirits,
which of course I suppose in society; but which
breaks out when alone, and in my writings, in some
of myself. It has been deepened, perhaps, by some
long-past events. (I do not allude to my marriage,
&c.—on the contrary, that raised them by the per-
secution giving a fillip to my spirits;) but I call it
constitutional, as I have reason to think it. You
know, or you do not know, that my maternal grand-
father, (a very clever man, and smiable, I am told),
was strongly suspected of suicide, (he was found
drowned in the Avon at Bath,) and that another
ever near related, also a suicide, which took poison
and was merely saved by antidotes. For the first of
these events there was no apparent cause, as he was
rich, respected, and of considerable intellectual re-
sources, hardly forty years of age, and not at all
addicted to any unwholesome vice. It was, however

* See Poems p. 529.
LETTERS.

out a strict asspicion, owing to the manner of his death and his melancholy temper. The second had
a cause, but it does not become me to touch it:
it happened when I was far too young to be
aware of it, and I never heard of it till after the
death of my maternal grandfather. Nor do I ever
think, then, that I may call this defection consti-
tutional. I had always been told that I resembled
more my maternal grandfather than any of my
father’s family—that is, in the gloomier part of his
temper, for he was what you call a good-natured
man, and I am not.

"The journal here sent to Moore the other day;
but as it is a more idle, only parts of it would ever
be for publication. The other journal of the tour
in 1810, I should think Augusts might let you have
a copy of.

"I am much mortified that Gifford don’t take to
my new dramas. To be sure, they are as opposite to
the English drama as one thing can be to an-
other; but I have a notion that, if understood, they
will in time find favor (though not on the stage)
with the reader. The simplicity of plot is inten-
tional, and the avoidance of rant also, as also the
compression of the speeches in the more severe
situations. What I seek to show in ‘the Foscaris’
is the suppressed passions, rather than the rant of
the present day. For that matter—

‘Nay, if thou’st much,
I’ll rate as well as thou’st
would not be difficult, as I think I have shown in
my younger productions,—not dramatic ones, to be
sure. But, as I said before, I am mortified that
Gifford don’t like them; but I see no remedy, our
notions on that subject being so different. How is
he?—well, I have heard. So I regret his demur
the more that he has been always my grand
patron, and I know no praise which would compen-
sate me in my own mind for his censure. I do not
mind Reviews, as I can work them at their own
weapons.

‘Yours, &c.’

‘Address me to Pisso, whither I am going.
The reason is, that all my Italian friends here have
been exiled, and are met there for the present, and
I go to join them, as agreed upon, for the winter.’

LETTER DXXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

‘Ravenna, Sept. 26, 1831.

‘I have been thinking over our late correspond-
ence, and wish to propose to you the following
articles for our future:

‘1stly. That you shall write to me of yourself,
of the health, wealth, and welfare of all friends; but
of me (ground me) little or nothing.

‘2dly. That you shall send me soda-powders,
tooth-powder, tooth-brushes, or any such anti-
dentulatic or chemical articles, as heretofore, ‘ad
Shirurn,’ upon being reimbursed for the same.

‘3dly. That you shall not send me any modern,
or (as they are called) new publications, in English
whatever, save and excepting any writing, prose or
verse, of (or reasonably presumed to be of) Walter
Scott, Wordsworth, Tennyson, or such like authors,
Joanna Baillie, Irving, (the American,) Hogg, Wil-
son, (the Isle of Palms man,) or any especial single
work of fancy which is thought to be of considera-
table merit; Fugues and Travels, provided that they
are neither in Greece, Spain, Asia Minor, Albania,
or Italy, will be welcome. Having travelled the
countries mentioned, I know that what is said of them
can convey nothing farther which I desire to
know about them. —No other English works what-
soever.

‘4thly. That you send me no periodical works.

‘whatever—no Edinburgh, Quarterly, Monthly,
or any review, magazine, or newspaper, English
or foreign, of any description.

‘5thly. That you send me no opinions whatso-
ever, either good, bad, or indifferent, of yourself, or
my friends, or of any concerning my soil, or work, or
works, of mine, past, present, or to come.

‘6thly. That all negotiations in matters of busi-
ness between you and me pass through the medium
of the Hon. James Kinmail, my friend and trust-
too, or Mr. Hobhouse, as ‘Alloa.’

‘Also, that mount to myself during my absence—or
presence.

‘Some of these propositions may at first seem
strange, but they are founded. The quantity of
trash I have received and been forced to shun
never amused nor instructed. Reviews and mag-
azines are at the best but ephemeral and superficial
reading;—who thinks of the grand article of last
year in any given Review? In the next place, if
they regard myself, they tend to increase egotism.
If favorable, I do not deny that the praise elates,
and if unfavorable, that the abuse irritates.
The latter may conduct me to inflict a species of satire,
which would do me good, and do good. My father
friends: they may smile now, and so may you; but
if I took you all in hand, it would not be difficult
to cut you up like gourds. I did as much by as pow-
erful people at nineteen years old, and I know little
as yet, in my thirtieth, which should prevent me
from making all your ribs gridiron for your
hearts, if such were my propensity: but it is not;
therefore let me hear none of your provocations.
If any thing occurs so very gross as to require my
notice, I shall hear of it from my legal friends. For
the rest, I merely request to be left in ignorance.

‘The same applies to opinions, good, bad, or in-
different, of persons in conversation or cor-
respondence. They may interrupt the current of my
mind. I am sensitive enough, but not till I am troubled;
and here I am beyond the touch of the short arms of literary
England, except the few feelers of the polyops that crawl over
the channels in the way of extract.

‘All these precautions in England would be use
less; the libellor or the flatterer would there reach me
in spite of all; but in Italy we know little of
literary England, and think less, and they never
reach us through some garbled and brief extract
in some miserable gazette. For two years (excep-
ting two or three articles cut out and sent to you
by the post), I have read a newspaper, which was
forced upon me by some accident, and know, upon
the whole, as little of England as you do of Italy,
and God knows that is little enough, with all your
travels, &c. The English travellers know
Italy as you know Guernsey: how much is that?

‘If any thing occurs so violently gross or personal
as requires notice, Mr. Douglas Kinmail will let
me know; but of praise, I desire to hear nothing.

‘You will say, ‘to what tends all this?’ I will
answer that:—to keep my mind free and unbi-
ased by all paltry and personal irritabilities of praise or
censure—to let my genius take its natural direc-
tion, while my feelings are like the dead, who
do nothing and care nothing of all or aught that
is said or done in their regard.

‘If you can observe these conditions, you will
spare yourself and others some pain; let me not be
forced to work upon you to cease: for if I do, it will not be
for a little. If you cannot observe these conditions,
shall cease to be correspondents,—but not
friends, for I shall always be yours and ever truly,

‘Yours,

‘1 D xo.

‘P. S. I have taken these resolutions, not from
any irritation against you or yours, but simply upon
reflection that all reading, either praise or censure,
of myself has done me harm. When I was
in Switzerland and Greece, I was out of the way of
hearing of others: thus I have never been out of
the way of it too; but latterly, partly
through my fault, and partly through your kindness,
in wishing to send me the newest and most periodical publications, I have had a crowd of Reviews, &c., thrust upon me, which have bored me with their jargon, of one kind or another, and taken off my attention from greater objects. You have also sent me a parcel of trash or poetry, for no reason that I can conceive, unless to provoke me to write a new 'English Bard.' Now this I wish to avoid: for if ever I do, it will be a strong production; and I desire peace as long as the fools will keep their nonsense out of my way."

**LETTER DXXV.**

To Mr. Moore.

*September 27, 1821.*

"It was not Murray's fault. I did not send the MS. to him, but I sent it now, and it may not restored;—or, at any rate, you may keep the original, and give any copies you please. I send it, as written, and as I read it to you—I have no other copy.

"By last week's two posts, in two packets, I sent to your address, at Paris, a long poem upon the late Irishism of your countrymen in their reception of the Roman Pray, have you received it? It is in the high Romantic fashion, and full of original fancy. As you could not well take up the matter with Paddy, (being of the same nest,) I have:—but I hope still that I have done justice to his great men and his good heart. As for you, you will find it laid on with a trawl. I delight in your fact historical—is it a fact?

"P. S. You have not answered me about Schlegel—why not? Address me to Pinta, whither I am going, to join the exile—a pretty numerous body, at present. Let me hear how you are, and what you mean to do. Is there no chance of your recrossing the Alps? If the G. Rax marries again, let him not want an Epithalamium—suppose a joint concern of you and me, like Sternhold and Hopkins!"

**LETTER DXXVI.**

To Mr. Murray.

*September 29, 1821.*

"I add another cover to request you to ask Moore to obtain (if possible) my letters to the late Lady Melbourne from Lady Cowper. They are very numerous, and ought to have been restored long ago, as I was ready to give back Lady Melbourne's in exchange. These latter are in Mr. Holhouse's copy by my other papers, and shall be run together restored. I did not choose before to apply to Lady Cowper, as her mother's death naturally kept me from inquiring upon her feelings at the time of its occurrence. Some years have now elapsed, and it is essential that I should have my own epistles. 'They are essential as confirming that part of the 'Memoranda' which refers to the two periods (1812 and 1814) when my marriage with her was in contemplation.' I suppose, but I am not sure. My real views and feelings were upon that subject.

"You need not be alarmed, the 17th year of \(\text{17}^{1/2}\) will hardly elapse without some reality among us:

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* The lines "Oh Wiltshire, you, a rose, so red, so fair," etc., were, probably, written by Byron in the last days of his life, and had been intended for a poem that never appeared; and the same may be said of the lines on "the true, the poet, the world." Moore.

† For a poem of ""Lady Byron,"" see Dec. 8, 1821, ante, where Moore first refers to Lady Byron, in these terms: "I hope you will make your friend Moore the subject of a poem, which I promise shall be published in his lifetime, the sum now paid for 'the poet, the world' world, being probably upon a reasonable calculation of services, amount unequally to less than $500." Moore.

[The two enclosures, mentioned in the foregoing note, were one letter intended to be sent to Lady Byron, relative to his money invested in the funds, of which the following are extracts.]
LETTERS.

Maynooth, March. 5th, 1821.

"I have received your message, through my sister's letter, about English security, &c., &c. It is considerate, (and true, even,) that such is to be found—but not that I shall find it. Mr. * * *, for his own views and purposes, will thwart all such attempts till he has accomplished his own, viz., to make me lend my fortune to some client of his choosing."

"At this distance—after this absence, and with my utter ignorance of affairs and business—with my temper and impatience, I have neither the means nor the mind to resist. * * * * * Thinking of the funds as I do, and wishing to secure a reversion to my sister and children, I should naturally select Pisa."

"What I told you is come to pass—the Napoleonic war is declared. Your funds will fall, and I shall be in consequence ruined. That's nothing—but my blood-relations will be so. You and your child are provided for. Live and prosper—I wish so much to both. Live and prosper—you have the means. I think but of my real kin and kindred, who may be the victims of this accursed bubble."

"You neither know nor dream of the consequences of this war. It is a war of men with monarchs, and will spread like a spark on the dry, rank grass of the vegetable desert. What it is with you and your English, you do not know, nor do I wish you to know, for it is in the air, and around, and within us."

"Judge of my detention of England and of all that it inherits, when I avoid returning to your country at a time when such a pecuniary interest, but it may be, even my personal security require it. I can say no more, for all letters are opened. A short time will decide upon what is to be done here, and then you will learn it without being more troubled with me or my correspondence. Whatever happens an individual is little, so that the cause is forwarded."

"I have no more to say to you on the score of affairs or any other subject." [The second enclosure in the note consisted of some verses, written by him, December 19th, 1829, on seeing the following paragraph in a newspaper.]

"Amy Byron is this year the lady patroness at the annual Charity Ball, given at the Town Hall at Hinckley, Leicestershire, and Sir G. Crewe, Bart, the principal steward." These verses are full of strong and indignant feeling,—and stanza co. cluding point with the words "Charity Ball," and the thought that predominates through the whole may be extracted from a few of the opening lines. [Moore.]"

"What matter the pangs of a husband and father, If his sorrows in exile be great or be small, So the Friendship's glories around her she gather, And the Saint-pourtrays her 'Charity Ball.'"

"What matter—ah heaven, which though faintly was feeling, Be letras to excuses which gone could appeal— That at Slieve equal suffer is only false dealing, As the Saint keeps her charity back for the Ball!' &c., &c."

LETTER DXXVIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"September—no—October 1, 1821."

"I have written to you lately, both in prose and verse, at great length, to Paris, and London. I presume that Mrs. Moore, or whoever is your Paris deputy, will forward my packets to you in London."

"I am setting off for Pisa, if a slight incipient intermittent fever do not prevent me. I fear it is too strong to give Murray much chance of realizing his thirty times again. I hardly should regret it, I think, provided you raised your price upon him—as what Lady Holderness (my sister's grandmother, a Dutch woman) used to call Augusta, her "Residue Legato"—so as to provide for us all; my bones with a splendid and larmoyante edition, and you with double what is extractable during my lifetime."

"I have a strong presentiment that (batting some out-of-the-way accident) you will survive me. The difference of eight years, or whatever it is between our ages, is nothing. I do not feel (no, indeed anxious to feel) the principles of life in me tend to longevity. My father and mother died, the one at thirty-five or six, and the other at forty-five; and Doctor Rush, or somebody else, says that nobody lives long, without having one parent, at least, an old stager."

"I should, to be sure, like to see out my eternal mother-in-law, not so much for her heritage, but from my natural antipathy. But the indulgence of this natural desire is too much to expect from the Providence who presides over old women. I bore you with all this about lives because it has been put in my way by a calculation of insurances which Murray has sent me. I remit you should have more, if I evaporate within a reasonable time."

"I wonder if my 'Cain' has got safe to England. I have written since about sixty stanzas of a poem, in octave stanzas, * (in the Pulpit style, which the fools in England think was invented by Whistcraft—it is as old as the hills in Italy,) called 'The Vision of Judgment, by Quevedo Redivivus,' with this motto—"

"* A Daniel come to just punish, you, a Daniel;"

"I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word."

"In this it is my intent to put the said George's Apotheosis in a Whig point of view, not forgetting the Poet Laureate for his preface and his other demerits."

"I am just got to the pass where Saint Peter, hearing that the royal defunct had opposed Catholic Emancipation, rises up, and, interrupting Satan's oration, declares he will change places with Cerberus sooner than let him into heaven, while he has the keys thereof."

"I must go and ride, though rather feverish and chilly. It is the ague season; but the agues do me rather good than harm. The feel after the fit is as if one had got rid of one's body for good and all."

"The gods go with you!—Address it to yours."

"Ever yours,

"P. S. Since I came back I feel better, though I stayed out too late for this malaria season, under the thin crescent of a very young moon, and got off my horse to walk in an avenue with a Signora for an hour. I thought of you and...

Where at eve those never
By the star those forest.

But it was not in a romantic mood, as I should have been once; and yet it was a new woman, (that is, new to me,) and, of course, expected to be made love to. But I merely made a few common-place speeches. I saw a very poor friend Curran said, before his death, 'a mountain of lead upon my heart,' which I believe to be constitutional, and that nothing will remove it but the same remedy."

LETTER DXXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"October 8, 1821."

"By this post I have sent my nightmare to balance the incubus of Southey's impudent anticipation of the Apotheosis of George the Third. I should

* See Don Juan, canto IV., stanza VI.
BYRON'S WORKS.

LETTER DXXI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

*October 25, 1821.*

If the errors are in the MS., write me down as: they are sent, and I am content to undergo any penalty if they be. Besides, the enclosed MS. (last but one or two,) sent afterward, was that in the MS. too?

As to 'honor,' I will trust no man's honor in affairs of this kind. I will tell you why: a bargain is Hobbes's 'state of nature—a state of war.' It is so with all men. If I come to a friend, and say, 'Friend, lend me five hundred pounds;'—he either says yes, or says that he can't or won't; but if I come to Ditto, and say, 'Ditto, I have an excellent house, or horse, or carriage, or MSS., or books, or pictures, or &c., &c., &c., honestly worth a thousand pounds, you shall have them for five hundred, what does Ditto say? why, he looks at them, he hums, he hums, &c., if he can, to get a bargain as cheaply as he can, because it is a bargain. This is in the blood and bone of mankind; and the same man who would lend you another a thousand pounds without interest, would not buy a horse of him for half its value if he could help it. It is so: there's no denying it; and therefore I will have as much as I can, and you will give as little; and there's an end. All men are intrinsically Ditto's, and I am only sorry that, not being a dog, I can't bite them.

I am filling another book for you with little anecdotes, to my own knowledge, or well authenticated, of Sheridan, Curran, &c., and such other public men as I recollect to have been acquainted with, for I knew most of them, more or less. I will do what I can to prevent your losing your obsequies.

Yours, &c.

LETTER DXXII.

TO MR. ROGERS.

*October 21, 1821.*

I shall be (the gods willing) in Bologna on Saturday next. This is a curious answer to your letter; but I have taken a house in Pisa for the winter. As which all my chattels, furniture, horse, carriages, and live stock are already removed, and I am preparing to follow.

The cause of this removal is, shortly, the exile or proscription of all my friends' relations and connections here into Tuscany, on account of our late politics; and where they go, I accompany them. I merely remained till now to settle some arrangements about my daughter, and to give time for my furniture, &c., to precede me. I have not here a seat or a bed hardly, except some jury chairs, and tables, and a mattress, for the week to come.

If you will go on with me to Pisa, I can lodge you for as long as you like, (they write that the house, the Palazzo Lanfranchi, is spacious: it is on the Arno;) and I have four carriages, and as many saddle horses, (such as they are in these parts,) with all other conveniences—your command, as also their owner. If you could do this, we may, at least, cross the Apennines together; or if you are going by another road, we shall meet at Bologna, I hope. I address this to the post-office, (as you desire,) and you will know it when you see me again in Pisa, or in Marco. If you arrive first, wait till I come up, which will be (barring accidents) on Saturday or Sunday at farthest.

I presume you are alone in your voyages. Moore lives in London incognito., according to my latest advices from those climates.

It is better than a lustre, (five years and six months, and some days, more or less;) since we met; and, like the man from Tudela in the favo...
LETTER DXXXIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Barcelona, Oct. 28, 1817.

"'Tis the middle of night by the castle clock, and in three hours more I have set out to walk on my way—sitting up all night to be sure of rising. I have just made them take off my bed-clothes—blankets inclusive—in case of temptation from the apparel of sheets to my eyelids. Samuel Rogers is—or is to be—at Bologna, as he writes from Venice.

"I thought our Magnífico would 'pound you,' it possible. He is trying to 'pound' me, too: but I'll specie the rogue—or, at least, I'll have the odd shillings out of him in keen amiable.

"Your approbation of 'Sardanapalus' is agreeable, for more reasons than one. Hobhouse is pleased to think as you do of it, and so do some others—but the 'Arimsipan,' whom, like a gryphon in the wilderness, I will 'follow for his gold,' (as I exerted you to do before,) did or do disapprove it—stinting me in my sizings.' His notible opinions on the 'Foscarì' and 'Cain' he hath not as yet forwarded; or, at least, I have not yet received them, nor the proofs thereof, though promised by last post.

"I see the way that he and his Quarterly people are tending—they want a row with me, and they shall have it. I only regret that I am not in Egypt, and for the nonce; as, here, it is hardly fair ground for me, isolated and out of the way of prompt rejoinder and information, as I am. But, though backed by all the corruption, and infamy, and panegyric of their master rogues and slave renegades, if they do once rouse me up,

"They had better call the devil, Staleybury.'

"I have that for two or three of them, which they had better not move me to put in motion; and yet, after all, what a fool I am to disquitish myself about such fellows! It was all very well ten or twelve years ago, when I was a 'curled darling,' and minded such things. At present, I rate them at their true value; but, from natural temper and bile, am not able to keep quiet.

"Let me hear from you on your return from Ireland, which ought to be shamed to see you, after Brunswick blarney. I am of Longman's opinion, that you should allow your friends to liquidate the Bermuda claim. Why should you throw away the two thousand pounds (of the non-guineas Murray) upon that cursed prize of treacherous infringement? I think you can make the matter a little too far and scrupulously. When we see patriots begging 'liberally, and know that Grattan received a fortune from his country, I really do not see why a man, in no what inferior to any or all of them, should shrink from accepting that assistance from his private friends, which every tradesman receives from his connexions upon much less occasions. For, after all, it was not your debt—it was a piece of swindling against you. As to * * *, and the 'what noble creatures,' &c., &c., it is all very fine and very well, but till you can persuade me that there is no credit and no self-applause to be obtained by being of use to a celebrated man, I must retain the same opinion of the human species, which I do of our Friend Mr. Specie.
writing them was enough; you may spare me that of a perusal. Mr. Moore has (or may have) a discretionary power to omit any repetition or expressions which do not seem good to him, who is a better judge of such matters than I.

"Enclosed is a lyrical drama, (entitled 'A Mystery,' from its subject,) which, perhaps, may arrive in time for the volume. You will find it pious enough, I trust—at least some of the chorus might have been written by Sternhold and Hopkins themselves for that, and perhaps for melody. As it is longer, and more lyrical and Grecian than I intended at first, I have not divided it into acts, but called what I have sent Part First, as there is a suspension of the action, which may perhaps be closed there without impropriety, or be continued in a way that I have in view. I wish the first part to be published before the second, because, if it don't succeed, it is better to stop there than to go on in a fruitless experiment.

"I desire you to acknowledge the arrival of this packet by return of post, if you can conveniently, with a proof of your obedience, &c.

"P.S. My wish is to have it published at the same time, and, if possible, in the same volume, with the others, because, whatever the merits or demerits of these pieces may be, it will perhaps be allowed that each is of a different kind, and in a different style; so that, including the prose, and the Don Juans, &c., I have at least sent you variety during the last year or two."

**LETTER DXXXVI.**

TO MR. MOORE.

"Fitz, Nov. 16, 1811.

"There is here Mr. Taaffe, an Irish genius, with whom we are acquainted. He hath written a really excellent commentary on Dante, full of new and true information, and much ingenuity. But his verse is such as it hath pleased God to endue him with. Nevertheless, he is so firmly persuaded of its equal excellence, that he won't divorce the commentary from the tradition, as I ventured delicately to hint, and not having the fear of Ireland before my eyes, and upon the presumption of not having shone very well in his presence (with common pistols, too, not with my Manton's) the day before.

"But he is eager to publish all, and must be gratified, though the reviewers will make him suffer more tortures than there are in his original. Indeed, the notes are well worth publication; but he insists upon the translation for company, so that they will come out together, like Lady C * * * e charpering Miss * * * I read a letter of yours to him yesterday, and he begs me to write to you about his possible.—He is a really good fellow, I suppose, and I dare say that his verse is very good Irish.

"Now, what shall we do for him? He says that he is free of part of the original publisher. He will never rest till he is published and abused— for he has a high opinion of himself—and I see nothing left but to gratify him so as to have him blessed as little as possible; for I think it would kill him. You must write, then, to Jeffrey to beg him not to review him, and I will do the same to Gifford, through Murray. Perhaps they might notice the comment without touching the text. But I doubt the book—the text is too tempting.

"I have to thank you again, as I believe I did before, for your opinion of 'Cain,' &c. You may allow—no, too selfish claim; but I do not see why you should repay him out of your legacy—at least not yet. If you feed about it, (as you are ticklish on such points,) pay him the interest now, and the principal when you are strong in cash; or pay him by instalments; or pay him as I do my creditors—that is, not till they make me.

"I address this to you at Paris, as you desire.

"Reply soon, and believe me ever, &c.

"P. S. What I wrote to you before was wrong; spirits is however, very true. At present, owing to the cli mate, &c., (I can walk down into my garden, and pluck my own oranges, and, by-the-way, have a diarism consequence of indulging in this me ridian luxury of proprietorship,) my spirits are much better. You seem to think that I could not have written the 'Vision,' &c., under the influence of low spirits—but I think there you err. A man's righteousness, or, more properly, his spirit, has no more to do with the every-day individual than the Inspiration with the Pythons when removed from her tripod."

**To Lord Byron.**

"Ferne, Somerset, Nov. 21, 1811.

"MY LORD,

"More than two years since, a lovely and beloved wife was taken from me, by lingering disease, after a very short union. She possessed unvarying gentleness and fortitude, and a piety so retiring as rarely to let me indulge in any expression of the pain as to produce uniform benevolence of conduct. In the last hour of life, after a farewell look on a lately born and only infant, for whom she had evinced unexpressible affection, her last whispers were, 'God's happiness! God's happiness!' Since the second anniversary of her decease, I have read some papers which no one had seen during her life, and which contain her most secret thoughts. I am induced to write to thee, and to pass from these papers, which, there is no doubt, refers to yourself; as I have more than once heard the writer mention your agility on the rocks at Hastings."

"Oh, my God, I take encouragement from the assurance of Thy Word, to pray to thee in behalf of one for whom I have lately been much interested. May the person to whom I allude (and who is now, we fear, as much distinguished for his neglect of thee as for the transcendent talents Thou hast bestowed on him) be awakened to a sense of his own danger, and led to seek that peace of mind, in a proper religion, which he has found this world's enjoyments unable to procure! Do Thou grant, that his future example may be productive of far more extensive benefit than his past conduct and writing have been of evil; and may the Sun of Righteousness, which we trust will, at some period, arise on him, be bright in proportion to the darkness of those clouds which guilt has raised around him, and the balm which it bestows, healing and soothing in proportion to the keenness of that agony which the punishment of his vices has inflicted on him! May the hope that the sincerity of my own efforts for the attainment of holiness, and the approach of my own love to the great Author of holiness, will render the prayer, and every other for the welfare of mankind, more efficacious. Cheer me in the path of duty;—but let me not forget, that, while we are permitted to animate ourselves to exertion by every innocent motive, these are but the lesser streams which may serve to increase the current, but which, deprived of the grand fountain of good, (a deep conviction of inborn sin, and firm belief in the atonement of Christ's death, the assurance of those who trust in him, and really wish to serve him,) would soon dry up, and leave us barren of every virtue as before."

"1811."

"Hastings."

"There is nothing, my lord, in this extract, which in a literary sense, can at all interest you; but it may, perhaps, appear to you worthy of reflection"
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how deep and expansive a concern for the happiness of others the Christian faith can awaken in the midst of youth and prosperity. Here is nothing poetical and splendid, as in the expostulatory homage of M. Delamarre; but here is the sublime, my lord; for this intervention was, on you account, to the supreme Sense of happiness. It sprang from a faith more confirmed than that of the French poet; and from a charity which, in combination with faith, showed its power unimpaired amid the last acts and purgation of declining dissolution. I will hope that a prayer, which I am sure, was deeply sincere, may not be always unavailing.

"It would add nothing, my lord, to the fame with which your genius has surrounded you, for an unknown and obscure individual to express his admiration of it. I had rather be numbered with those who wish and pray, that 'wisdom from above,' and 'peace,' and 'joy,' may enter such a mind."

"JOHN SHEPARD."

LETTER DXXXVII.

TO MR. SHEPARD.

"Pan, December 8, 1821.

"SIR,

"I have received your letter. I need not say, that the extract which it contains has affected me, because it would imply a want of all feeling to have read it with indifference. Though I am not quite sure that it was intended by the writer for me, yet the date, the place where it was written, with some other circumstances that you mention, render the allusion probable. But for whomsoever it was meant, I have read it with all the pleasure which can arise from so melancholy a topic. I say pleasure—because your brief and simple picture of the life and demeanor of the excellent person whom I trust you will again meet, cannot be contemplated without the admiration due to her virtues and her pure and unpretending piety. Her, last moments were particularly striking; and I do not know that, in the course of reading the story of mankind, and still less in my observations upon the existing portion, I ever met with any thing so unostentatiously beautiful. Indisputably, the firm believers in the gospel have a great and sincere regard for others, for this simple reason, that, if true, they will have their reward hereafter; and if there be no hereafter, they can be with the infidel in his eternal sleep, having had the assistance of an exalted hope, through life, without subsequent disappointment, since (at the worst for them) 'out of nothing, nothing can arise,' not even sorrow. But a man's creed does not depend upon himself: who can say, I will believe this, that, or the other? and, least of all, that which he least can comprehend. I have, however, observed, that those who have begun life with extreme faith, have in the end greatly narrowed it, as Chillingworth, Clarke, (who ended as an Arian,) Bayle, and Gibbon, (once a Catholic,) and others; while, on the other hand, nothing is more common than for the early skeptic to end in a firm belief, like Manulpuis and Henry Kirk White.

"But my business is to acknowledge your letter, and not to make a dissertation. I am obliged to you for your good wishes, and more than obliged by the extract from the papers of the beloved object whose qualities you have so well described in a few words. I can assure you, that all the fame which ever cheated humanity into higher notions of its own importance would never weigh in my mind against the pure and pious interest which a virtuous being may be allowed to take in my welfare. In this point of view, I would not exchange the prayer of the deceased in my behalf for the united glory of Homer, Caesar, and Napoleon, could such be accomplished upon a living head. Do me at least the justice to suppose, that 'Vide meliora prosequor,' however the 'deteriora sequor,' may have been applied to my conduct.

"I have the honor to be,

"Your obliged and obedient servant,

"BYRON.

"P. S. I do not know that I am addressing a clergyman; but I presume that you will not be affected by the mistake (if it is one) on the address of this letter. One who has so well explained, and deeply felt the doctrines of religion, will excuse the error which led me to believe him its minister."

LETTER DXXXVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Pan, December 4, 1821.

"By extracts in the English papers,—in your holy ally, Galignani's 'Messenger,'—I perceive that 'the two greatest examples of human vanity in the present age' are firstly, 'the ex-emperor Napoleon, and, secondly, his lordship, &c... the noble poet,' meaning your humble servant, 'poor guiltless.'

"Poor Napoleon! he little dreamed, to what vile comparisons the turn of the wheel would reduce him!

"I have got here into a famous old feudal palazzo, on the Arno, large enough for a garrison, with dungeons below and cells in the walls, and so full of ghosts that the learned Fletcher (my valet) has begged leave to change his room, and then refused to occupy his new room, because there were more ghosts there than in the other. It is quite true that there are most extraordinary noises, (as in all old buildings,) which have terrified the servants so as to incommodate me extremely. There is one place where people were evidently walled up, for there is but one possible passage, broken through the wall, and then meant to be closed again upon the inmate. The house belonged to the Lanfranchi family, (the same mentioned by UgoIino in his dream, as his persecutor with Sienaiti,) and has had a fierce owner or two in its time. The staircase, &c., is said to have been built by Michel Angelo. It is not yet cold enough for a fire. What a climate!

"I am, however, bothered about these spectres, (as they say the last occupants were,) for I have as yet seen nothing, nor, indeed, heard (myself); but all the other ears have been regaled by all kinds of supernatural sounds. The first night I thought I heard an odd noise, but it has not been repeated. I have now been here more than a month.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER DXXXIX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Pan, December 10, 1821.

"This day and this hour, (one, on the clock,) my daughter is six years old. I wonder when I shall see her again, or if ever I shall see her at all.

"I have remarked a curious coincidence, which almost looks like a fatality.

"My mother, my wife, my daughter, my half-sister, my sister's mother, my natural daughter, (as far at least as I am concerned,) and myself, are all only children.

"My father, by his first marriage with Lady Cowper, (an only child,) had only my sister; and by his second marriage with an only child, an only
child again. Lady Byron, as you know, was one also, and so is my daughter, &c.

"Is not this rather odd—such a complication of only children? By-the-way, send me my daughter Ada's miniature. I have only the print, which gives little or no idea of her complexion.

"Yours, &c.,

"B."

LETTER DXI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Pisa, December 13, 1821.

"What you say about Galignani's two biographies is very amusing; and, if I were not lazy, I would certainly do what you desire. But I doubt my present stock of facetiousness—that is, of good serious humor, so as not to let the cat out of the bag.* I wish you would undertake it. I will forgive and indulge you (like a pope) beforehand, for any thing ludicrous, that might keep those fools in their own dear belief that a man is a true genius.

"I suppose I told you that the Glaiour story had actually some foundation on facts; or, if I did not, you will one day find it in a letter of Lord Sligo's. We were all for the publication of the poem. I would not like to see it rest upon any account of my own, and shall say nothing about it. However, the real incident is still remote enough from the poetical one, being just such as, happening to a man of any imagination, might suggest such a composition. The worst of any real adventures is, that they involve living people—else Mrs. —'s, &c., are as 'German to the matter' as Mr. Maturin should desire for his novels.

"The consumption you mentioned for poor Taafe was near taking place yesterday. Riding pretty sharply after Mr. Medwin and myself, in the turning of the corner of a lane between Pisa and the hills, he was split,—and, besides losing some claret on the spot, bruised himself a good deal, but is in no danger. He was bled, and keeps his room. As I sat a-head of him some hundred yards, I did not see the accident; but my servant, who was behind, did, and, says the horse did not fall—the usual excuse of floored equestrians. As Taafe piques himself upon his horsemanship, and his horse is really a pretty horse enough, I long for personal gratitude,—as I never yet met the man who would fairly claim a tumble as his own property."

"Could not you send me a printed copy of the 'Irish Avatar'?—I do not know what has become of Rogers since we parted at Florence.

"Don't let the Angles keep you from writing. Sam told me that you were somewhat dissipated in Paris, which I can easily believe. Let me hear from you at your best leisure.

"Ever, and truly, &c.

"P. S. December 13.

"I enclose you some lines, written not long ago which you may do what you like with, as they are very harmless.† Only, if copied or printed, or set, I could wish it more correctly than in the usual way, in which one's 'nothing's are monstered,' as Coriolanus says.

"You must really get Taafe published—he never will rest till he is so. He is just gone with his broken head to Lucca, at my desire, to try to save a man from being burnt. The Spanish, * * *, that has her peticoats over Lucca, had actually condemned a poor devil to the stake, for stealing the wafer-box out of a church. Shelley and I, of course, were up in arms against this piece of piety, and have been disturbing every body to get the sentence changed. Taafe is gone to see what can be done.

"B."
LETTER DXLIII.

TO SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.

MY DEAR SIR WALTER,

"I need not say how grateful I am for your letter, but I must own my ingratitude in not having written to you again long ago. Since I left England, (and it is not for all the usual terms of transportation,) I have scribbled to five hundred blockheads on business, &c., without difficulty, though with no great pleasure; and yet, with the notion of addressing you a hundred times, in my head and always in my heart, I have not done what I ought to not only for your sake, but it seems to be the sacred principle of tremulous anxiety with which one sometimes makes love to a beautiful woman of our own degree, with whom one is enamored in good earnest; whereas we attack a fresh colored housemaid (I speak, of course, of earlier times) with any sentiments tal remorse or mitigation of our virtuous purpose.

"I owe to you far more than the usual obligation for the courtesy of literature and common friendship, for you went out of your way in 1817 to do me a service, when it required not merely kindness, but courage to do so; to have been recorded by you in such a manner would have been a proud memorial to me alone. I was at this time, 'all a world and my wife,' as the proverb goes, were trying to trample upon me, was something still higher to my self-esteem,—I allude to the Quarterly Review of the third canto of Childe Harold, which Murray told me was written by you,—and indeed, I should have known it without his information, as there could not be two who could and would have done this at the time. Had it been a common criticism, however eloquent or panegyrical, I should have felt pleased, undoubtedly, and grateful, but not to the extent which the extraordinary good-heartedness of the whole proceeding must induce in any mind capable of emotions. The very cordliness of this acknowledgment will, at least show that I have not forgotten the obligation; and I can assure you that my sense of it has been out at compound interest during the delay. I shall only add one word upon the subject, which is, that I think that you, and Jeffrey, and Leigh Hunt, were the only literary men, of numbers whom I know, (and some of whom I have served,) who dared venture even an anonymous word in my favor just then; and of those three, I had never seen one at all,—of the second much less than I desired,—and that the third was under no kind of obligation to me whatever; while the other two had been actually attacked by me on a former occasion; one, indeed, with some provocation, but the other wantonly enough. So you see you have been heaping 'coals of fire,' &c., in the true gospel manner, and I can assure you that I have been burning them down to my own heart.

"I am glad that you accepted the inscription. I meant to have inscribed 'the Foscarini' to you instead; but first, I heard that 'Cain' was thought the least bad of the two as a composition; and, 2dly, I have always supposed that a piece of paper, in a note to the Foscarini, and I recollected that he is a friend of yours, (though not of mine,) and that it would not be the handsome thing to dedicate to one friend what I was bored with retaining such matters about another. However, I'll work the Laureate before I have done with him, as soon as I can muster Bil-

ingsgate therefor. I like a row, and always did from a boy, in the course of which propensity, I must needs say, that I have found it the most easy of all to be gratified, personally and poetically. You disclaim 'jealousies,' but I would ask, as Boswell did of Johnson, 'of whom could you be jealous,' of none of the living, certainly, and (taking all and all into consideration) of which of the dead? I don't like to bore you about the Scotch novels, (as they call them, though two of them are wholly in English, and I regret half so,) but nothing can or could ever persuade me, since I was the first ten minutes in your company, that you are not the man. To me those novels have so much of 'Auld lang syne,' (I was bred a canny Scot till ten years old) that I never move without them; and when I removed from Ravenna to Pisa, the other day, and sent on my library before, they were the only books that I kept by me, although I already have them by heart.

"January 7, 1822.

"I delayed till now concluding, in the hope that I should have got 'the Pirate,' who is now under way for me, but has not yet hove in sight. I hear that your diligence (which I suppose by this time you are half a grandfather,—a young one, by-the-way. I have heard great things of Mrs. Lockhart's personal and mental charms, and much good of her lord: that you may live to see as many novel Scotts as are mare or less of Scotty novel's, is a very bad pun, but sincere wish of Yers ever most affectionately, &c.

"P. S. Why don't you take a turn in Italy? You would find yourself as well known and as well come as in the Highlands among the natives. As for the English you would be with them as in London; and I need not add, that I should be delighted to see you again, which is far more than I shall ever feel or say for England, or (with a few exceptions of kith, kin, and allies) any thing that it contains. But my 'heart wars to the tartan,' or to any thing of Scotland, which reminds me of Aberdeen and other parts, not so far from the Highlands as that town, about Invercauld and Braemar, where I was sent to drink goat's fey in 1795-6, in consequence of a threatened decline after the scarlet fever. But I am gosspilling; so, good night,—and the good night,—pray present my respects to Lady Scott, who may perhaps recollect having seen me in town in 1814.

"I see that one of your supporters (for, like Sir Hildebrand, I am fond of Gullin) is a mermaid; it is my crest too, and with precisely the same curl of tail. There's concatenation for you!—I am building a little cutter at Genoa, to go a cruising in the summer. I know you like the sea too."

LETTER DXLIV.

TO DOUGLAS KINNAIRD.

"Pisa, February 9, 1822.

"'Try back the deep lane,' till we first a publisher for 'the Vision;' and if none such is to be found, print fifty copies at my expense, distribute them among my acquaintance, and you will soon see that the booksellers will publish them, even if we oppose them. That they are now afraid is natural; but I do not see that I ought to give way on that account. I know nothing of Rioting's 'red monstrosity' by the eminent Churchman, but I suppose he wants a living. I once heard a preacher at Kentish Town against 'Cain.' The same outcry was raised against Priestly, Hume,

See note to "The Island."
BYRON'S WORKS.

Gib on, Voltaire, and all the men who dared to put tithes to the question.

"I have got Southey's pretended reply, to which I am surprised that you do not allude. What remains to be done is, to call him out. The question is, would he come? for, if he would not, the whole thing would appear ridiculous, if I were to take a long and expensive journey to no purpose."

"You must be my second, and, as such, I wish to consult you.

"I apply to you as one well versed in the duello, or monomachie. Of course I shall come to England as a sensible man, to avenge me (supposing that I was the survivor) in the same manner: having no other object which could bring me to that country except to settle quarrels accumulated during my absence."

"By the last post I transmitted to you a letter upon some Rochdale toll business, from which there are moneys in prospect. My agent says two thousand pounds, but supposing it to be only one, or even one hundred, still they be moneys; and I have lived long enough to have an exceeding respect for the smallest current coin of any realm, or the least sum, which, although I may not want it myself, may do something for others who may need it more than I."

"They say that 'Knowledge is Power; '-I used to think so; but I now know that they meant 'money!' and when Socrates declared, 'that all he knew was, that he knew nothing,' he merely intended to declare, that he had not a drachm in the Athenian world.

"The circulars are arrived, and circulating like the vortices (or vortexes) of Descartes. Still I have a due care of the needful, and keep a look-out ahead, as my notions upon the score of moneys coincide with yours, and with all men's who have lived to see that every guinea is a philosopher's stone, or at least his touch-stone. You will doubt me less, when I pronounce my firm belief, that Cash is Virtue."

"I cannot reproach myself with much expenditure: my only extra expense (and it is more than I have spent upon myself) being a loan of two hundred and fifty pounds to Hunt; and fifty pounds' worth of furniture which I have bought for him; and a boat which I am building for myself at Genoa, which will cost about a hundred pounds more.

"But to return. I am determined to have all the moneys I can, whether by my own funds, or succession, or lawsuit, or MSS., or any lawful means whatsoever.

"I will pay (though with the sincerest reluctance) my remaining creditors, and every man of law, by instishments from the award of the arbitrators.

"I recommend to you the notice in Mr. Hanson's letter, on the demand of moneys for the Rochdale toills.

"Above all, I recommend my interests to your honorable worship.

"Recollect, too, that I expect some moneys for the various MSS., (no matter what;) and, in short, Rem, quocunque modo, Rem!'-the noble feeling of culpity grows upon us with our years.

"Yours eye, &c."

LETTER DXLV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Pax, Feb. 9, 1822.

"Attacks upon me were to be expected, but I perceive one among you in the papers, which I confess that I did not expect. How, or in what manner, you can be considered responsible for what I publish, I am at a loss to conceive.

"If 'Cain' be blaspheous', Paradise Lost is blasphemous; and the very words of the Oxford gentleman, 'Evil, be thou my good,' are from that very poem, from the mouth of Satan; and is there any thing in the fate of Lucifer in the Mystery; Cain is nothing more than a dramatized argument. If Lucifer and Cain speak as the first murderer and the first rebel may be supposed to speak, surely all the rest of the personages talk also, according to their characters—and stronger passions have ever been percutted to the drama.

"I have even avoided introducing the Deity as in Scripture, (though Milton does, and not very wisely either,) but have rather sent to Cain instead, on purpose to avoid shocking any feelings on the subject by falling short of what all uninspired men must fall short in, viz., giving an adequate notion of the effect of the presence of Jehovah. The old Mysteries introduced him liberally enough, and all this is avoided in the new one.

"The attempt to bully you, because they think it won't succeed with me, seems to me as atrocious an attempt as ever disgraced the times. What! when Gibbon's, Hume's, Priestley's, and Drummond's publishers have been allowed to rest in peace for seventy years, are you to be singled out for a work of fiction, not of history or argument? There must be something at the bottom of this—some private enemy of your own: it is otherwise incredible.

"I can only say, 'Me, me; en adama qui fece;'—that any proceeding directed against you, I beg, may be transferred to me, who am willing, and ought, to endure them all; that if you have lost money by the publication, I will refund any or all of the copyright; that I desire you will say that both you and Mr. Gifford rennounced against the publication, as also Mr. Hobhouse; that I alone occasioned it, and I alone am the person who, either legally or otherwise, should bear the burden. If they prosecute, I will come to England—that is, may be transferred to me, who am willing, and yours. Let me know. You can't suffer for me, if I can help it. Make any use of this letter you please.

"Yours ever, &c."

"P. S. I write to you about all this row of bad passions and absurdities, with the summer moon (for here our winter is clearer than your dog-days) lighting the winding Arno, with all her buildings and bridges,—so quiet and still!—What nothings are we before the least of these stars!"

LETTER DXLVI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Pax, Feb. 19, 1822.

"I am rather surprised not to have had an answer to my letter and packets. Lady Noel is dead, and it is not impossible that I may have to go to England to settle the division of the Wentworth property, and what portion Lady B. is to have of it; all which was left undecided by the articles of separation. But I hope not, if it can be done without,—and I have written to Sir Francis Bertie to say this may be done in your name, as (as you are reporter) he knows the property.

"Continue to address here, as I shall not go if I can avoid it—at least, not on that account. But I may on another; for I wrote to Douglas Kinnaid to convey a message of invitation to come to meet me, either in England, or (as less liable to interruption) on the coast of France. This was about a fortnight ago, and I have not yet had time to have the answer. However, you shall have due notice therefore continue to address to Pisa.

"My agents and trustees have written to me to desire that I would take the name directly, so that I am yours very truly and affectionately,

"NOEL BYRON.

"P. S. I have had no news from England except...
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and merely know, from some abuse in that faithful ex and de-tractor, Galgani, that the clergy are up against 'Cain.' There is (if I am not mistaken) some good church preferment on the Wentworth estates; and I will show them what a good Christian I am by patronising and preferring the most pious of their order, should opportunity occur.

"M. and I am but little in correspondence, and I know nothing of literary matters at present. I have been writing on business only lately. What are you about? Be assured that there is no such coalition as you apprehend."

LETTER DXLV. 

TO MR. MOORE.

"Plas, Feb. 28, 1822.

"Your letter arrived since I wrote the enclosed. It is not likely, as I have appointed agents and arbitrators for the Noel estates, that I should proceed to England on that account,—though I may upon another, within stated. At any rate, continue you to address here till you hear further from me. I could wish you still to arrange for me, either with a London or Paris publisher, for the things, &c. I shall not quarrel with any arrangement you may please to make.

"I have appointed Sir Francis Burdett my arbitrator to decide on Lady Byron's allowance out of the Noel estates, which are estimated at seven thousand a year, and rents very well paid,—a rare thing at this time. It is, however, owing to their consisting chiefly in pasture lands, and therefore less affected by corn bills, &c., than properties in tillage.

"Believe me yours ever most affectionately,

"NOEL BYRON."

"Between my own property in the funds, and my wife's in land, I do not know which side to cry out on in politics.

"There is nothing against the immorality of the soul in 'Cain' that I recollect. I hold no such opinions;—but, in a drama, the first rebel and the first murderer must be made to talk according to their characters. However, the persons are all preaching at it, from Kentish Town and Oxford to Plas;—the soundings of priests, who do more harm to religion than all the infidels that ever forgot their catechism.

"I have not seen Lady Noel's death announced in Galgani. —How is that?"

LETTER DXLVIII.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Plas, Feb. 28, 1822.

I begin to think that the packet (a heavy one) of five acts of 'Werner,' &c., can hardly have reached you, for your letter of last week (which I answered) did not allude to it, and yet I insured it at the post-office here.

"I have no direct news from England, except on the Noel business, which is proceeding quietly, as I have appointed a gentleman (Sir F. Burdett) for my arbitrators. This too, or the persons are all recalling the lawyer whom they had chosen, and will name a gentleman too. This is better, as the arrangement of the estates and of Lady's B.'s allowance will thus be settled without quibbling.

My lawyers are taking out a license for the name and arms, which it seems I am to endue.

"By another, and indirect quarte., I hear that 'Cain' has been pirated, and that the Chancellor has refused to give Murray any redress. Also, that G. R. * (your friend 'Ben'), has expressed great personal indignation at the said pirating. As I am curious enough, I think,—after allowing Priestly, Hume, and Gibbon, and Bolingbrooke, and Voltaire, to be published, without depriving the booksellers of their rights. I heard from Rome a day or two ago, and, with what truth I know not what that * * * " Yours, & c"
BYRON'S WORKS.

LETTER DL.

TO MR. MOORE.

"P. M., March 4, 1822.

"Since I wrote the enclosed, I have waited another post, and now have your answer acknowledging the arrival of the packet—a troublesome one. I fear, to you in more ways than one, both from weight external and internal.

"The unpublished things in your hands, in Douglas K.'s, and Mr. John Murray's, are, 'Heaven and Earth, a lyrical kind of Drama upon the Deluge,' &c.;—'Werner,' now with you;—a translation of the first canto of the Morgante Maggiore;—ditto of an Episode in Dante;—some stanzas to the Po, June 1st, 1819;—Hints from Horace, written in 1811, but a good piece, since, to be omitted;—several prose things, which may, perhaps, as well remain unpublished;—The Vision, &c., of Quevedo Redivivus in verse.

"Here you see is 'more matter for a May morning;' but how much of this can be published is for consideration. Quevedo (one of my best in that line) that has appalled the Row already, and must take its chance at Paris, if at all. The new Mystery is less speculative than 'Cain,' and very pious; besides, it is chiefly lyrical. The Morgante is the benefit of that edition that was or will be made; and the rest are—whatever you please to think them.

"I am sorry you think Werner even approaching to any fitness for the stage, with my notions upon it, is very far from my present object. With regard to the publication, I have already explained that I have no exorbitant expectations of either fame or profit in the present instances; but wish them purely because they are written, which is the common feeling of all scribblers.

"With respect to 'Religion,' can I never convince you that I have no such opinions as the characters in that drama, which seems to have frightened every body? Yet they are nothing to the expressions in Goethe's Faust, (which are ten times harder,) and not a whit more bold than those of Milton's Satan. My ideas of a character my running away with me, like all imaginative men, I, of course, embody myself with the character while I draw it, but not a moment after the pen is from off the paper.

"I am no enemy to religion, but the contrary. As a proof, I am educating my natural daughter a strict Catholic in a convent of Romagna, for I think people can never have enough of religion, if they are to have any. I incline, myself, very much to the Catholic doctrines; but if I am to write a drama, I must make my characters speak as I conceive them likely to argue.

"As to poor Shelley, who is another bugbear to you and the world, he is, to my knowledge, the least selfish and the mildest of men—a man who has made more sacrifices of his fortune and feelings for others than any I ever heard of. With his speculative opinions I have nothing in common, nor desire to have.

"The truth is, my dear Moore, you live near the store of society, where you are unavoidably influenced by its heat and its vapors. I did so once—and too much—sufficient to give a color to my whole future existence. As my success in society was not inconsiderable, I am sure not a prejudiced judge upon the subject, unless in its favor; but I think it, as now constituted, fatal to all great objects. I understand that you give me back my own feelings, and mine, and that is to try once more if I could do any good in politics; but not in the petty politics I see crowing upon our miserable country.

"Do not let me be misunderstood, however. I speak your own opinions, they have had, and will have, the greatest weight with me. But if you merely echo the 'monde,' (and it is difficult not to do so, being in its favor and its ferment,) I can only regret that you should ever repeat any thing to which I cannot pay attention.

"But I am prosing. The gods go with you, and as much immortality of all kinds as may suit your present and all other existence.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER DLI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"P. M., March 6, 1822.

"The enclosed letter from Murray hath melted me; though I think it is against his own interest to wish that I should continue his connexion. You may, therefore, send him the packet of 'Werner,' which will be of further trouble. And pray can you forgive me for the bare and expense I have already put upon you? At least, say so—for I feel ashamed of having given you so much for such nonsense.

"The fact is, I cannot keep my resentments, though violent enough in their onset. Besides, now that all the world are at Murray on my account, I neither can nor ought to leave him; unless, as I really thought, it were better for him that I should.

"I have had no other news from England except a letter from Barry Cornwall, the bard, and my old schoolfellow. Though I have sickened you with letters lately, believe me, yours, &c.

"P. S. In your last letter you say, speaking of Shelley, that you would almost prefer the 'damming bigot' to the 'annihilating infidel.' Shelley believes in immortality, however—but this by-the-way. Do you remember Frederick the Great's answer to the remonstrance of the villagers, whose curate preached against the eternity of hell's torments? It was thus:—'If my faith subjects of Schrausenhäuser prefer being eternally damned, let them!'

"Of the two, I should think the long sleep better than the agonized vigil. But men, miserable as they are, cling so to anything like life, that they probably will prefer damnation to quiet. Besides, they think themselves so important in the creation, that nothing less can satisfy their pride—the insects!'"
squabble you had about Thorwaldsen's. Of my own
I can hardly speak, except that it is thought very
tike what I now am, which is different from what
I was, of course, since you saw me. The sculptor
is a famous one; and as it was done by his own
particular request, will be done well, probably.

"What is to be done about Taaffe and his Com-
mentary? He will die, if he is not published; he
will be damned if he is; but that he don't mind.
We must publish him.

"All the row about me has no otherwise affected
me than by the attack upon yourself, which is un-
generous in Church and State: but as all violence
must in time have its proportionate reaction, you
will do better by and by."

"Yours very truly,
"Noel Byron."

LETTER DLI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Plas, March 8, 1822.

"You will have had enough of my letters by this
time—yet one word in answer to your present mis-
give. You are quite wrong in thinking that your
advice had offended me; but I have already re-
plated (if not corrected) on that ground."

"With regard to Murray, as I really am the
meanest and mildest of men since Moses, (though
the public and mine 'excellent wife' cannot find it
out,) I had already pricked myself and subsided
back to Albemarle street, as my yesterday's jest
will have informed you. But I thought that I had
explained my causes of bile—at least to you.

"Some instances of vacillation, occasional neg-
lees, and trouble some since I resided or immig-
ated, are sufficient to put your truly great author and man
into a passion. But reflection, with some aid from
hellebore, hath already cured me 'pro tempore;'
and, if it had not, a request from you and Hollhouse
would have come upon me like two out of the 'tribus
Anticyria,'—with which, however, Horace despairs
of purging a post. I really feel ashamed of having
bored you so frequently and fully of late. But what
could I do? You are a friend—resent one, alas!
—and as I trust no one more, I trouble you in pro-
portion.

"This war of 'Church and State' has astonished
me more than it disturbs; for I really thought 'Cain'
'speculative and hardy, but still a harmless pro-
aduction. As I said before, I am really a great ad-
mire of tangible religion: and am breeding one of
my daughters a Catholic, that she may have her
hands full. It is by far the most elegant worship,
hardly excepting the Greek mythology. What with
incense, pictures, statues, altars, shrines, relics, and
the real presence, confession, absolution,—there is
something sensible to grasp at. Besides, it leaves
no possibility of doubt; for those who swallow their
Deity really and truly, in transubstantiation, can
hardly find any thing else easier than way of
digestion."

"I am afraid that this sounds fippant, but I
don't mean it to be so; only my turn of mind is so
given to taking things in the absurd point of view,
that it breaks out in spite of me every now and
then. Still, I do assure you that I am a very good
Christian. Whether you will believe me in this, I
do not know; but I trust you will take my word for
being 'very truly and affectionately yours, &c.'

"P. S. Do tell Murray that one of the conditions
of peace is, that he shall publish the next volume (as
within a publisher for) Taaffe's Commentary on Dante, against
which there appears in the trade an unaccountable
repugnance. It will make the man so exuberantly
happy, as to make him have his 'excellent English
p-day; and I have not the heart to tell him how
the bibliopolar world shrinks from his Commentary;
—and yet it is full of the most orthodox religion
and morality. In short, I make it a point that he
shall be in print. He is such a good-natured, heavy
* * Christian, that we must give him a show
through the press. He naturally thirsts to be an
author, and has been the happiest of men for (said
two months, printing, correcting, collating, dating
anticipating, and adding to his treasures of learn-
ing. Besides, he has had another fall from his
horse into a ditch the other day, while riding on
with me into the country.'

LETTER DLIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Plas, March 15, 1822.

"I am glad that you and your friends approve of
my letter of the 8th ultimo. You may give it what
publicity you think proper in the circumstances. I
have since written to you twice or thrice.

"As to 'a poem in the old way,' I shall attempt
of that kind nothing further. I follow the bias of
my own mind, without considering whether men
or men are or are not to be pleased: but this is
nothing to my publisher, who must judge and act
according to popularity.

"Therefore let the things take their chance: if
they pay, you will pay me in proportion; and if
they don't, I must.

"The Noel affairs, I hope, will not take me to
England. I have no desire to revisit that country,
unless it be to keep you out of a prison, (if this can
be effected by my taking your place,) or perhaps
to get myself into one, by exacting satisfaction
from one or two persons who take advantage of my
absence to abuse me. Further than this, I have no
business nor connexion with English, nor desire to
have, out of my own family, and friends, to whom I
wish all prosperity. Indeed, I have lived upon the
whole so little in England, (about five years since
I was one-and-twenty,) that my habits are too
continental, and your climate would please me as little
as the society.

"I saw the Chancellor's Report in a French
paper. Pray, why don't you prosecute the transla-
tion of Lucretius? or the original, with its

Tannus Religio posuit audacem manus ."

"You must really get something done for Mr
Taaffe's Commentary; what can I say to him?

"Yours, &c.

LETTER DLV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Plas, April 19, 1822.

"Mr. Kinnaird writes that there has been an 'ex-
cellent defence' of 'Cain,' against 'Oxoniensis;' you
have sent me no thing but not very excellent
ear of the same poem. If there be such a
'Defender of the Faith,' you may send me his
hundred articles, as a counterbalance to some of
your late communications.

"Are you to publish, or not, what Moore and Mr.
Kinnaird have in hand, and the 'Vision of Judg-
ment'? If you publish the latter in a very cheap
collection, so as to baffle the pirates by a low price,
you will find that it will do. The 'Mystery,' I look
upon as good, and 'Werner' too, and I expect that
you will publish them speedily. You need not put
your name to Queroelo, but publish it as a foreign
edition, and let it make its way. Douglas Kinnaird
has it still, with the preface, I believe.

"I refer you to him for documents on the late
row here. I sent them a week ago.

"Yours, &c."
LETTER DLVI.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Plan, April 18, 1822.

"I have received the Defence of 'Cain.' Who is my Warburton?—for he has done for me what the Bishop did for the poet against Crouch. His reply seems to me conclusive; and if you understood your own interest, you would print it together with the poem.

"It is very odd that I do not hear from you. I have forwarded to Mr. Douglas Kinnaird the documents on a squabble here, which occurred about a month ago. The affair is still going on; but they make nothing of it hitherto. I think, what with home and abroad, there has been hot water enough for one while. Mr. Dawkins, the English minister, has behaved in the handsomest and most gentlemanly manner throughout the whole business."

"Yours ever, &c.

"P. S. I have got Lord Glengervie's book, which is very amusing and able upon the topics which he touches upon, and part of the preface pathetic. Write soon."

N. B.

LETTER DLVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Plan, April 22, 1822.

"You will regret to hear that I have received intelligence of the death of my daughter Allegra of a fever, in her eighteenth year. She was placed for the last year, to commence her education. It is a heavy blow for many reasons; but must be borne, with time.

"It is my present intention to send her remains to England for sepulture in Harrow church, (where I once hoped to have laid my own,) and this is my reason for troubling you with this notice. I wish the funeral to be very private. The body is embalmed, and in lead. It will be embarked from Leghorn. Would you have any objection to give the proper directions on its arrival?

"I am yours, &c.

N. B.

"P. S. You are aware that Protestants are not allowed holy ground in Catholic countries."

LETTER DLVIII.

TO MR. SHELLEY.

"April 23, 1822.

"The blow was stunning and unexpected; for I thought the danger over, by the long interval between her stated amelioration and the arrival of the express. But I have borne up against it as I best can, and so far successfully, that I can go about the usual business of life with the same appearance of composure, and even greater. There is nothing to prevent your coming to-morrow; but, perhaps, to-day, and yester-evening, it was better not to have met. I do not know that I have anything to reproach in my conduct, and certainly nothing in my feelings and intentions towards the dead. But it is a moment when we are apt to think that, if this or that had been done, such event might have been prevented; though every day and hour shows us that they are the most natural and inevitable. I suppose that Time will do his usual work—Death has done his.

"Yours ever.

N. B."
work My aristocracy, which is very fierce, makes him a favorite of mine. Recollect that those 'little factions' comprised Lord Chatham and Fox, the father, and that we live in gigantic and exaggerated times, which make all under Gog and Magog appear pigmean. After having seen Napoleonic begin like Tamerlane and end like Bajazet in our own time, we have not the same interest in what would otherwise have appeared important history. But I must conclude.

"Believe me ever and most truly yours,

"Noel Byron."

LETTER DLX.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Pis, May 17, 1822.

"I hear that the Edinburgh has attacked the three dramas, which is a bad business for you; and I don't wonder that it discourages you. However, that volume may be trusted to time—depend upon it. I read it over with some attention since it was published, and I think the time will come when it will be preferred to my other writings, though not immediately. I say this without irritation against the critics or criticism, whatever they may be, (for I have not seen them;) and nothing that has or may appear in Jeffrey's Review can make me forget that he stood by me for ten good years without any motive to do it but his own good-will.

"I hear Moore is in town; remember me to him, and believe me

"Yours truly,

"N. B.

"P.S. If you think it necessary, you may send me the Edinburgh. Should there be any thing that requires an answer, I will reply, but temperately and technically; that is to say, merely with respect to the principles of the criticism, and not personally or offensively as to its literary merits."

LETTER DLXI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Pis, May 17, 1822.

"I hear you are in London. You will have heard from Douglas Bignall (who tells me you have dined with him) as much as you desire to know of my affairs at home and abroad. I have lately lost my little girl Allegra by a fever, which has been a serious blow to me.

"I did not write to you lately, (except one letter to Murray's,) not knowing exactly your whereabouts. Douglas K. refused to forward my message to Mr. Southey—why, he himself can explain. You will have seen the statement of a squable, &c. &c. &c. What are you about? Let me hear from you at your leisure, and believe me ever yours,

"N. B."

LETTER DLXII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Midlothian, May 29, 1822.

"New Langthorne.

"The body is embanked, in what ship I know not, neither could I enter into the details; but the Countess G. G. has had the goodness to give the necessary orders to Mr. Dunn, who superintends the embarkation, and will write to you. I wish it to be buried in the church.

"There is a spot in the churchyard, near the foot-path, on the brow of the hill looking towards Windsor, and a tomb under a large tree, (bearing the name of Peachie, or Peachey,) where I used to sit for hours and hours when a boy. This was my favorite spot; but as I wish to erect a tablet to her memory, the body had better be deposited in the church. Near the door, on the left hand as you enter, there is a monument with a tablet containing these words:—

"When Borew weeps o'er Virtue's sacred dust,
Our sons become us, and our grief is just:
Such were the tears she shed, who grateful pays
This last and tribute of her love and praise.'"

I recollect them, (after seventeen years,) not from any thing remarkable in them, but because from my seat in the gallery I had generally my eyes turned towards that monument. As near it as I could we Allegra to be tried, and on the wall a marble tablet placed, with these words:—

"In Memory of Allegra,
Daughter of G. G. Lord Byron,
who died at Bagna Cavallo,
in Italy, April 20th, 1822,
aged five years and three months.

"I shall go to her, but she shall not return to me.

"Old Samuel, xii. 23.

"The funeral I wish to be as private as is consistent with decency; and I could hope that Henry Drury will, perhaps, read the service over her. If he should decline it, it can be done by the usual minister for the time being. I do not know that I need add more just now.

"Since I came here, I have been invited by the Americans on board their squadron, where I was received with all the kindness which I could wish, and with more ceremony than I am fond of. I found them finer ships than your own of the same class, well manned and officered. A number of American gentlemen also were on board at the time, and some ladies. As I was taking leave, an American lady asked me for a rose which I wore, for the purpose, she said, of sending to America something which I had about me, as a memorial. I need not add that I felt the compliment properly. Captain Chauncey showed an American and very pretty edition of my poems, and offered me a passage to the United States, if I would go there Commodore Jones was also not less kind and attentive. I have since received the enclosed letter, directing me to sit for my picture for some Americans. It is singular that, in the same year that Lady Noel leaves by will an interdiction for my daughter to see her father's portrait for many years, the individuals of a nation not remarkable for their liking to the English in particular, nor for flattering men in general, request me to sit for my 'poutraiture,' as Baron Braddock calls it. I am also told of considerable literary honors in Germany. Goethe, Baron Braddock calls it. I am also told of considerable literary honors in Germany. Goethe, I am told, is my professed patron and protector. At Leipsic, this year, the highest prize was proposed for a translation of two cantos of Childe Harold. I am not sure that this was at Leipsic, but Mr. Rowcroft was my authority—a good German scholar, (a young American,) and an acquaintance of Goethe's.

"Goethe and the Germans are particularly fond of Don Juan, which they judge as a work of art as I had heard something of this before, through Lutzerode. The translations have been very frequent of several of the works, and Goethe made a comparison between Faust and Manfred.

"All this is some compensation for your English
BYRON'S WORKS.

but in the proofs: look at the dates and the MSS. themselves. Whatever faults they must spring from carelessness, and not from labor. They said the same of 'Lara,' which I wrote while undressing, after coming home from balls and masquerades in the year of revelry, 1814.

"Yours.

"June 9, 1822."

"You give me no explanation of your intention as to the 'Vision of Quevedo Redivivus,' one of my best things: indeed, you are altogether so abstruse and undecided lately, that I suppose you mean me to write 'John Murray, Esq., a Mystery,'—a composition which would not displease the clergy nor the trade. I by no means wish you to do what you don't like, but merely to say what you will do. The Vision must be published by some one. As to 'clamors,' the dice is cast; and 'come one, come all we will fight it out—at least one of us.'"

LETTER DLXIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Monteone, near Leghorn, May 29, 1822.

I return you the proofs revised. Your printer has made one odd mistake:—'poor as a mouse,' instead of 'poor as a miser.' The expression may seem strange, but it is only a translation of 'semper avus eget.' You will add the Mystery, and publish as soon as you can. I care nothing for your 'season,' nor the blue approbations or disapprobations. All that is to be considered by you on the subject is as a matter of business; and if I square that to your notions, (even to the running the risk entirely myself,) you may permit me to choose my own time and mode of publication. With regard to the late volume, the present run against it or me may improve it for time, but it has the vital principle of permanency within it, as you may perhaps one day discover. I wrote to you on another subject a few days ago.

"Yours,

"N. B."

P. S. Please to send me the Dedication of Sardanapalus to Goethe. I shall prefix it to Werner, unless you prefer my putting another, stating that the former had been omitted by the publisher."

On the title-page of the present volume, put 'Published for the Author by J. M.'"

LETTER DLXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Monteone, near Leghorn, June 3, 1822.

I return you the revise of Werner, and expect the rest. With regard to the lines to the Po, perhaps you had better put them quietly in a second edition (if you reach one, that is to say) than in the first; because, though they have been reckoned fine, and I wish them to be preserved, I do not wish them to attract immediate observation, on account of the relationship of the lady to whom they are addressed with the first families in Romagna and the Marches.

The defender of 'Cain' may or may not be, as you term him, 'a tryo in literature;' however, I think both you and I are under great obligation to him. I have read the Edinburgh Review in Galigzani's Magazine, and have not yet decided whether to answer them or not; for, if I do, it will be difficult for me not 'to make sport for the Philistines,' by pulling down a house or two; since, when I once take pen in hand, I must say what comes uppermost, or fling it away. I have not the hypocrisv to pretend impartiality, nor the temper (as it is called) to keep always from saying what may not be pleasing to the hearer or reader. What do they mean by 'elaborate?' Why, you know that they were written as fast as I could put pen to paper, and printed from the original MSS., and never revised

Werner.
are those of negligence, and not of labor. I do not think this a merit, but it is a fact.

"Yours ever and truly,"

* N. B.

"P. S. You see the great advantage of my new signature: it may either stand for 'Nota Bene' or 'Noel Byron,' and, as such, will save much repetition, in writing either books or letters. Since I came here, I have been invited on board of the American squadron, and treated with all possible honor and ceremony. They have asked me to sit for my picture; and, as I was going away, an American lady took a rose from me, (which had been given to me by a very pretty Italian lady that very morning.) because she said, 'She was determined to send or take something which I had about me to America.' There is a kind of Lalla Rookh incident for you! However, all these American honors aside, perhaps, not so much from their enthusiasm for my 'poesie,' as their belief in my dislike to the English,—in which I have the satisfaction to coincide with them. I would rather, however, have a nod from an American, than a smug-box from an emperor."

LETTER DLXVI.

TO MR. ELICE.

"MY DEAR ELICE.

"It is a long time since I have written to you, but I have not forgotten your kindness, and I am now going to tax— I hope not too highly—but don't be alarmed, it is not a loan, but information which I am about to solicit. By your extensive connections, no one can have better opportunities of hearing the real state of South America—I mean Bolivar's country. I have many years had transatlantic projects of settlement, and what I could wish from you would be some information of the best course to pursue, and some letters of recommendation in case I should sail for Angostura. I am told that land is very cheap there; but though I have no great disposable funds to vest in such purchases, yet my income, such as it is, would be sufficient in any country, (except England,) for all the comforts of life, and for most of its luxuries. The war there is now over; and as I do not go there to speculate, but to settle without any views but those of independence and the enjoyment of the common civil rights, I should presume such an arrival would not be unwelcome.

"All I request of you is, not to discourage nor encourage, but to give me such a statement as you think prudent and proper. I do not address my other friends upon this subject, who would only throw obstacles in my way, and bore me to return to England; which I never will do, unless compelled by some insuperable cause. I have a quantity of furniture, books, &c., &c., which I could easily ship from Leghorn; but I wish to 'look before I leap' over the Atlantic. Is it true that for a few thousand dollars a large tract of land may be obtained? I speak of South America, recollect, I have read some publications on the subject, but they seemed violent and vulgar productions. Please to address your answer to me at this place, and believe me ever and truly yours, &c."

LETTER DLXVII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"I return you the revise. I have softened the part to which Gifford objected, and changed the name of Michael to Raphael, who was an angel of gentler sympathies. By-the-way, recollect to alter Michael to Raphael in the scene itself throughout, for I have only had time to do so in the list of the dramatica persons, and scratch out all the pencil marks, to avoid puzzling the printers. I have given the 'Vision of Queredo Rediviva' to John Hunt, which will relieve you from a dilemma. He must publish it at his own risk, as it is at his own desire. Give him the corrected copy which Mr. Kinnaird had, as it is mitigated partly, and also the preface.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER DLXVIII.

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Pis, July 6, 1825.

"Last week I returned you the packet of proofs. You had perhaps better not publish in the same volume the Po and Rimini translation.

"I have consigned a letter to Mr. John Hunt for the 'Vision of Judgment,' which you will hand over to him. Also the 'Pulei,' original and Italian, and any prose tracts of mine; for Mr. Leigh Hunt is arrived here and thinks of commencing real work, to which I shall contribute. I do not propose to you to be the publisher, because I know that you are unfriends; but all things in your care, except the volume in the press, which I could wish to be avoided in future, as they might be with a very little care, or a simple memorandum in your pocket-book.

"It is not impossible that I may have three or four cantos of Don Juan ready by autumn, or a little later, as I obtained a permission from my dictators to continue it,—provided always it was to be more guarded and decorous and sentimental in the continuation than in the commencement. Now, if all these conditions have been fulfilled may be seen, perhaps, by-and-by; but the embargo was only taken off upon these stipulations. You can answer at your leisure.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER DLXIX.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Pis, July 12, 1825.

"I have written to you lately, but not in answer to your last letter of about a fortnight ago. I wish to know (and request an answer to that point) what became of the stanzas to Wellington,* (intended to open a canto of Don Juan with,) which I sent you several months ago? If they have fallen into Murray's hands, he and the Tories will suppress them, as those lines rate here his real value. Pray be explicit on this, as I have no other copy, having sent you the original, and if you have them, let me have that again, or a copy correct."

"I subscribed at Leghorn two hundred Tuscan crowns to your Irishman committee: it is about a thousand francs, more or less. As Sir C. S., whoreceives that money and a part of his pay, could not afford more than a thousand livres out of his enormous salary, it would have appeared ostentatious in a private individual to pretend to..."

* See Don Juan, book 1, canto 1.
suppose; and therefore I have sent but the above sum, as you will see by the enclosed receipt.

"Leigh Hunt is here, after a voyage of eight months, during which he has, I presume, made the Pyramus and Thisbe, the Callaghan, and whatever much the same speed. He is setting up a Journal, to which I have promised to contribute; and in the first number the 'Vision of Judgment, by Quevedo.'

Can you give us any thing? He seems sanguine about the matter, but (entire nous) I am not. I do not, however, like to put him out of spirits by saying so; for he is hibious and unwell. Do, pray, answer this letter immediately.

"Do send Hunt any thing, in prose or verse, of yours, to start him handsomely—any lyrical, irical, or what you please.

Has not your potato committee been blundering? Your advertisement says, that Mr. L. Callaghan (a queer name for a banker) hath been disposing of money in Ireland sans authority of the commonwealth. I have sent out the committee, the chairman of which carries pistol's in his pocket, of course.

When you can spare time from duetting, coquetting with your Hibernians of both sexes, let me have a line from you. I doubt whether Paris is a good place for the composition of your new poem.'

LETTER DLXX.

TO MR. ROOGE.

"Fins, August 5, 1822.

"You will have heard by this time that Shelley and another gentleman (Captain Williams) were drowned about a month ago, (a month yesterday,) in a squall off the Gulf of Spezia. There is thus another man gone, about whom the world was ill-naturedly, and ignorantly, and brutally mistaken. It will, perhaps, do him justice now, when he can be no better for it. You were all mistaken about Shelley, who was, without exception, the best and least selfish man I ever knew.

"I have not seen the thing you mention,* and only heard of it casually, nor have I any desire. The price is, as I saw in some advertisements, fourteen shillings, which is too much for a libel on one's self. Some one said in a letter, that it was a work for Watkins, who deals in the life and libel line. It must have diminished your natural pleas-ure, as a friend, (vide Roche Foncuit,) to see yourself in it.

"With regard to the Blackwood fellows, I never published any thing against them; nor, indeed, have seen their Magazine (except in Galigiani's extracts) for these three years past. I once wrote, a good while ago, some remarks on their review of Don Juan, but saying very little about themselves,—these were not published. If you think that I ought to follow your example* (I am like to be in your company when you) in contradicting their impudence, you may shape this declaration of mine into a similar paragraph for me. It is possible that you may have seen the little I did write (and never published) at Murray's: it contained much more about Southerly than about the Blacks.

"If you think that I ought to do any thing about Watkins' book, I should not care much about publishing my memoir now, should it be necessary to counteract the fellow. But in that case, I should like to look over the press myself. Let me know what you think, or whether I had better not,—at least, not the second part, which touches on the actual confines of still existing matters.

"I have written to Mr. John Murray, of Don Juan, and am hovering on the brink of another, (the ninth.) The reason I want the stanzas again which I sent you is, that as these contain a full detail of the story in cantos, its value to the siege and assault of Ismael with much of sarcasm on these butchers in large business, your mercenary soldiery, it is a good opportunity of grasping the poem with the press. With these stanzas and these fellows, it is necessary, I suppose, for my present style of passion and life, to throw away the scabbard. I know it is against fearful odds; but the battle must be fought; and it will be eventfully for the good of mankind, whatever it may be for the individual who risks himself.

"What do you think of your Irish bishop? Do you remember Swift's line, 'Let me have a barricad—a sig for the clergy.' This seems to have been his reverend's motto.

"Yours, &c.,

LETTER DLXXI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Fins, August 7, 1822.

"It is a tiresome trouble with you, to write to each other in such small gear;* but it must be owned that I should be glad if you would inquire whether my Irish subscription ever reached the committee in Paris from Leghorn. My reasons, like Yellum's, are threefold: First, the doubt of the accuracy of all almanacs, or remittals of benevolent cash; second, I do suspect that the said committee having in part served its time to time-serving, may have kept back the acknowledgment of an handsome politician's name in their lists; and, third, I feel pretty sure that I shall one day be twitted by the government scribes for having been a professor of love for Ireland, and not coming forward with the others in her distresses.

"It is not, as you may opine, that I am ambitious of having my name in the papers, as I can have that any day in the week gratis. All I want is, to know if the Reverend Thomas Hall did or did not remit my subscription (two hundred soudi of Tuscany, or about a thousand francs, more or less) to the committee at Paris.

"The other day at Viareggio, I thought proper to swim off to my schooner (the Bolivar) to get the offering, and then to shore again—about three miles, or better, in all. As it was at midday, under a broiling sun, the consequence has been a feverish attack, and my whole skin's coming off, after going through the process of one large continuous blister, raised by the sun and sea together. I have suffered much pain; not being able to lie on my back, or even ride; for my shoulders and arms were equally St. Bartholomewed. But it is over now. I have got a new skin, and am as glossy as a snake in its new suit.

"We have been burning the bodies of Shelley and Williams on the sea-shore, to render them fit for removal and rapid interment. You can have no idea what an extraordinary effect such a funeral pile has, on a desolate shore, with mountains in the background and the sea before, and the singular appearance like the sail and franksine of the dame. All of Shelley was consumed, except his heart, which would not take the flame and is now preserved in spirits of wine.

"Your old acquaintance, Londonderry, has quietly died at North Cray! and the virtuous De Witt was torn in pieces by the populace! What a lucky

* A book which has just appeared, entitled 'Memoirs of the Right Hon. Lord Byron.'


† My name has been misspelled in a late notice of Blackwood's Magazine, that book Lord Byron and myself were being sued in writing articles against that Magazine. —*Moore.

* Alluding to Wellington. See the beginning of this letter.
LETTERS.

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** the Irishman has been in his life and end.**

In him your Irish Franklin est mort.

"Swearing articles for his new Journal; and both he and I think it somewhat shabbily in you not to contribute. Will you become one of the proprietors? "Do, and we go snack." I really cannot think twice before you respond in the negative.

"I have nearly (quite three) four new cantos** Don Juan ready. I obtained permission from the female censor morum of my morals to continue it, provided it were immaculate; so I have been as decent as need be. There is a deal of war—a siege, and all that, in the style, graphical and technical, of the shipwreck in canto second, "which, 'took,' as they say in the Rover. "Yours, &c.

"P.S. That ** Galiano has about ten lies in one paragraph. It was not a Bible that was found in Shelley's pocket, but John Keats' poems. However, it would not have been strange, for he was a great admirer of scripture as a composition. I did not send my bust to the academy of New York; but I sat for my picture to young West, an American artist, at the request of some members of that academy to him that he would take my portrait,—for the academy, I believe.

"I had, and still have, thoughts of South America, and am fluctuating between it and Greece. I should have gone, long ago, to one of them, but for my liaison with the Countess O.; for love, in those days, was little compatible with every. Nor would be delighted to go too, but I do not choose to expose her to a long voyage, and a residence in an unsettled country, where I shall probably take a part of some sort."

** LETTER DLXXII.**

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Genoa, October 9, 1822.

'I have received your letter, and as you explain it, I have no objection, on your account, to omit those passages in the new Mystery, (which were marked in the half-sheet sent the other day to Pisa,) or the passage in Cain,—but why not be open, and say so at first? You should be more straightforward on every account.

'I have been very unwell—four days confined to my bed, in 'the worst inn's worst room,' at Lerici, with a violent rheumatic and bilious attack, constipation, and the devil knows what.—no physician, except a young fellow, who, however, was kind and cautious, and that's enough.

'At last I seized Thomson's book of prescriptions, (a donation of yours,) and physicied myself with the first dose I found in it; and after undergoing the ravages of all kinds of decoctions, salilled from bed on the fifth day to cross the Gulf to Sestri. The sea revived me instantly; and I ate the saltors cold fish, and drank a gallon of country wine, and got to Genoa the same night after landing at Sestri, and have ever since been keeping well, but thinner, and with an occasional cough towards evening.

'I am afraid the Journal is a bad business, and won't do; but in it I am sacrificing myself for others —I can have no advantage in it. I believe the brothers Hunt to be honest men; I am sure that the present moment is a critical one, and you have either to come to an issue, or to see it out, and with the most caution. I am afraid the Journal is a bad business, and won't do; but in it I am sacrificing myself for others —I can have no advantage in it. I believe the brothers Hunt to be honest men; I am sure that the present moment is a critical one, and you have either to come to an issue, or to see it out, and with the most caution.

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'You have been a good fellow at bottom, and it is on this presumption that I now write to you on the subject of a poor woman of the name of Fossey, who is, or was, an author of yours, as she says, and published a book on Switzerland, in 1816, patronized by the 'Court and Colonel M'Mahon.' But it seems that neither the Court nor the Colonel could get over the portentous price of three pounds thirteen and sixpence, which alarmed the too susceptible publisher; and in his panic he called the book 'the handbook of what is worse, the poor soul's husband died too, and she writes with the man a corpse before her; but instead of addressing the bishop or Mr. Wilberforce, she has the temerity to that number, i. e. the ecclesiastical, syllogistical, philological person, myself, as they say in Notts. It is strange enough, but the rascaille English, who calumniate me in every direction and on every score, whenever they are in great distress recur to me for assistance. If I have had one example of this, I have had letters from a thousand, and as far as is in my power have tried to repay good for evil, and purchase a shilling's worth of salvation as long as my hand can hold a pen.

'Now, I am willing to do what I can for this unfortunate person; but her situation and her wishes (not unreasonable, however) require more than can be advanced by one individual like myself; for I have many claims of the same kind just at present, and also some remittances of debt to pay in England—God, he knows, the latter how reluctantly! Can the Literary Fund do nothing for her? By your interest, which is almost a name among the literary, I dare say that something might be collected. Can you get any of her books published? Suppose you took her as author in my place, now vacant among your rags—ruffians: she is a moral and pious person, and will anchor upon your shelves. But, seriously, &c.—what you can for her.'

** LETTER DLXXIII.**

TO MR. MURRAY.

"Genoa, June 23, 1823.

'I have to thank you for a parcel of books, which are very welcome, especially Sir Walter's gift of Halidon Hill. You have sent me a copy of 'Werner,' but without the preface. I have published it without, you will have plunged me into a very disagreeable dilemma, because I shall be accused of plagiarism from Miss Lee's German's Tales, whereas I have fully and freely acknowledged that the drama is entirely taken from them, I dare say that something might be collected. Can you get any of her books published? Suppose you took her as author in my place, now vacant among your rags—ruffians: she is a moral and pious person, and will anchor upon your shelves. But, seriously, &c.—what you can for her.'

'I return you the Quarterly Review, uncut and unopened, not from disrespect, or disregard, or pique, but it is a kind of reading which I have some time disposed, as I think, the periodical style of writing hurtful to the habits of the mind by presenting the superficies of too many things at once. I do not know that it contains any thing disagreeable to me—it may or it may not; nor do I return it on account that there may be an article which you hinted at in one of your late letters, but because I have left
off reading these kind of works, and should equally have returned you any other number.

I am obliged to take in one or two abroad, because solicited to do so. The Edinburgh came before me by mere chance in Galignani's picturesque sort of gazette, where he had inserted a part of it.

You will have received various letters from me lately, in a style which I used with relucence; but you left me no other choice by your absolute refusal to communicate with a man you did not like upon the mere simple matter of transfer of a few papers of little consequence, (except to their author,) and which could be of no possible advantage to yourself.

"I hope that Mr. Kinnaird is better. It is strange that you never alluded to his accident, if it be true, as stated in the papers."

"I am yours, &c., &c."

"I hope that you have a milder winter than we have had here. We have had inundations worthy of the Trent or Po, and the conductor (Franklin's) of my house was struck (or supposed to be stricken) by a thunderbolt. It was not near the window that I was dazzled, and my eyes hurt for several minutes, and every body in the house felt an electric shock at the moment. Madame Guiccioli was frightened, as you may suppose.

"I have thought since that your biggest would have 'saddled me with a judgment,' (as Thackwun did Square when he bit his tongue in talking metaphysics,) if any thing had happened of consequence. These follows always forget themselves in their Christianity, and what he said when 'the tower of Siloam fell.'"

"To-day is the 9th, and the 10th is my surviving daughter's birthday. I have ordered, as a rule, a mutton chop and a bottle of ale. She is seven years old, I believe. Did I ever tell you that the day I came of age I dined on eggs and bacon and a bottle of ale? For once in a way they are my favorite dishes and drinks, but as I suppose them agnostic with me, I never use them but on great jubilees—once in four or five years or so.

"I see somebody represents the Hunts and Mrs. Shelley as living in my house; they reside at some distance, and I do not see them twice in a month. I have not met Mr. Hunt a dozen times since I came to Genoa, or near it."

"Yours ever, &c."

LETTER DLXXIV.

TO MR. MURRAY.

[Genoa, March 26th, 1823.]

"I had sent you back the Quarterly without perusal, having resolved to read no more reviews, good, bad, or indifferent; but 'who can control his fate?'

Galignani, to whom my English studies are confined, has forwarded a copy of at least one-half of it in his indefatigable catch-penny weekly compilation; and, as 'like honor, it came unlooked for,' I have looked through it. I must say that, upon the whole, that is, the whole of the half which I have read, (for the other half is to be the segment of Galignani's next week's circular,) it is extremely handson, and anything but unkind or unfair. As I take the good in good part, I must not, will not quarrel with the bad. What the writers say of Don Juan is harsh, but it is inevitable. He must fall, as long as they are not in the opinion of a prevailing and yet not very firmly seated party. A review may and will direct and 'turn awry' the currents of opinion, but it must not directly oppose them. Don Juan will be known, by and by, for what it is intended, a Satire on abuses of the present state of society, and not an eulogy of vice. It may be now and then vulpineous:—I can't help that. Ariosto is worse; Smollett (see Lord Stratf well in vol. ii. of Roderick Random) ten times worse; and Fielding no better. No girl will ever be so sensible as reading Don Juan."

"I hope that the Hunters prospered, would not in all probability have continued. As it is, I will not quit them in their adversity, though it should cost me character, fame, and the usual et cetera."

"My original motives I already explained, (in the letter which you thought proper to show:) they are the true ones, and I abide by them, as I tell you, and I told Leigh Hunt when he questioned me on the subject. These were my sentiments, and I confess I don't see any thing in the letter to hurt him, unless I said he was 'a bore,' which I don't remember. Had their Journal gone on well, and I could have aided to make it better for them, I should then have left them, after my avowal of approval of their general purpose, to make a prosperous voyage by themselves. As it is, I can't, and would not if I could, leave them among the breakers."

"As to any community of feeling, thought, or opinion between Leigh Hunt and me, there is little or none. We meet rarely, hardly ever; but I think him a good-principled and able man, and must do as I would be done by. I do not know what was, he has lived in, but I have lived in three or four, but none like him like his Keats and kangaroo incognita. Alas! poor Shelley! how we would have laughed had he lived, and how we used to laugh now and then at various things which are grave in the suburbs!"

"You are all mistaken about Shelley. You do not know how mild, how tolerant, how good he was in society; and as perfect a gentleman as ever crossed a drawing-room, when he liked, and where liked.

"I have some thoughts of taking a run down to Naples (solus, or, at most, cum solo) this spring, and writing, when I have studied the country, a fifth volume of Contes of Childes Harz, if this is merely an idea for the present, and I have other excursions and voyages in my mind. The busts are finished: are you worthy of them?"

"Yours, &c."

N. B.

"P. S. Mrs. Shelley is residing with the Hunts at some distance from me. I see them very seldom, and generally on account of their business. Mrs. Shelley, if I mistake, will go to England in the spring.

"Count Gambia's family, the father and mother and daughter, are residing with me by Mr. Hill (the minister's) recommendation, as a safer asylum from the political persecutions, than they could have in another residence; but they occupy one part of a large house, and I the other, and our establishments are quite separate.

"Since I have read the Quarterly, I shall erase two or three passages in the latter six or seven cantos, in which I had lightly stroked over two or three of your authors; but I will not return evil for good, I liked what I read of the article much.

"Mr. J. Hunt is most likely the publisher of the"
LETTER DLXV.

TO LADY

"Among, Nov. 10, 1892.

... The Chevalier persisted in declaring himself an old, used gentleman, and describing you as a gentlewoman, of a manly disposition without giving them any sort of compensation, containing yourself, it seems, under the same fool instead of two, which is the no more approved method of proceeding on such occasions. For my part, I think you are quite right; and be assured from me that a woman (as society is constituted in England), who gives any advantage to a man may expect a lover, but will sooner or later find a tyrant; and this is not the man's fault either, perhaps, but is the necessary and natural result of the circumstances of society which, in fact, tyrannize over the man equally with the woman that is to say, if either of them have any feeling or honor.

You can write to me at your leisure and inclination. I have always laid it down as a maxim, and found it justified by experience, that a man and a woman make far better friendships than can exist between two of the same sex; but these with this condition, that they never have made, or are to make, love with each other. Lovers may, and, indeed, generally are enemies, but they never can be friends; because there must always be a spice of jealousy and a something of self in all their speculations.

... Indeed, I rather look upon love altogether as a sort of hostile transaction, very necessary to make or to break matches, and keep the world going, but by no means a sinecure to the parties concerned.

... Now, as my love-privileges are, I believe, pretty well over, and yours, by all accounts, are never to begin, we shall be the best friends imaginable as far as both are concerned, and with this advantage, that we may both fall to loving right and left through all our acquaintance, without either sullenness or sorrow from that amiable passion which are inseparable attendants.

... Believe me, &c."

LETTER DLXVI.

TO MR. PROCTOR

"Pens, Jan. 20, 1893.

... Had I been aware of your tragedy when I wrote my note to Maricho Faliero, although it is a matter of no consequence to you, I should certainly not have omitted to insert your name with those of the other writers who still do honor to the drama. My own notions on the subject altogether different from the popular ideas of the day, that we differ essentially, as indeed do I from our whole English literati upon that topic. But I do not contend that I am right—I merely say that such is my opinion, and as it is a solitary one, it can do no great harm. But it does not prevent me from doing justice to the powers of those who adopt a different view."

LETTER DLXVII.

TO MR. MOORE

"Groes, Feb. 29, 1893.

... My Dear Tom,

I must again refer you to those two letters addressed to you at Passy before I read your speech in Galigam, &c., and which you do not seem to have received.

Of Hunt I see little—once a month or so, and then on his own business, generally. You may easily suppose that I know too little of Hampstead and his satellites to have much communion or community with him. My whole present relation to him arose from Shelley's unexpected wretched. You would not have had me leave him in the street with his family, would you? and as to the other plan you mention, you forget how it would humiliate him— that his writings should be supposed to be dead weight! Think a moment—he is perhaps the vainest man on earth, at least his own friends say so pretty loudly; and if he were in other circumstances, might have been tempted to take him down a peg; but not now, it would be cruel. It is a cursed business; but neither the motive nor the means rest upon my conscience, and it happens that he and his brother have been so far benefitted by the publication in a pecuniary point of view. His brother is a steady, bold fellow, such as Pryme, for example, and full of moral, and, I hear, physical courage.

... And you are really recanting, or softening to the clergy! It will do little good for you—it is you not the poem, they are at. They will say they brightened you— forbid it, Ireland!"

"Yours ever,

"N. B."

LETTER DLXVIII.

TO MRS.

... I presume that you, at least, know enough of me to be sure that I could have no intention to insult Hunt's poverty. On the contrary, I honor him for it; for I know what it is, having been as much embarrassed as ever he was, without perceiving aught in it to diminish an honorable man's self-respect. If you mean to say that, had he been a wealthy man, I would have joined in this Journal, I answer in the negative. I engaged in the Journal from good-will towards him, added to respect for his character, literary and personal; and so less for his political courage, as well as regret for his present circumstances: I did this in the hope that he might, with the same aid from literary friends of literary contributions, (which is requisite for all journals of a mixed nature,) render himself independent."

... I have always treated him, in our personal intercourse, with the utmost respect, that I have borne intruding advice, which I thought might be disagreeable, lest he should impute it to what is called 'taking advantage of a man's situation.'

... As to friendship, it is a propensity in which my genius is very limited. I do not know the made human being, except Lord Clare, the friend of my infancy, for whom I feel any thing that deserves the name. All my others are men-of-the-world friendships. I did nothing so delightful as to be much I admired and esteemed him; so that you see not even vanity could bribe me into it, for, of all men, Shelley thought highest of my talents—and, perhaps of my disposition.

... I will do my duty by my intimates, upon the principle of doing as you would be done by. I have done so, I trust, in most instances. I may be pleased with their conversation— rejoice in their
success—he glad to them a service, or to receive their counsel and assistance in return. But, as for friends and friendship, I have (as I already said) named the only remaining male for whom I feel any thing of the kind, excepting perhaps Byron and Moore. I have had, and may have still, a thousand friends, as they are called, in life, who are like one’s partners in the walk of this world, not much remembered when the ball is over, though very pleasant for the time. Habit, business, and companionship in pleasure or in pain, are links of a similar kind, and the same faith in politics is another

LETTER DLXXIX.

TO LADY * * *

"Genoa, March 29, 1813.

* * *

"Mr. Hill is here: I dined with him on Saturday before last, upon leaving his house at S. F. d’Arenca, my carriage broke down. I walked home, about three miles,—no very great feat of pedestrianism; but either the coming out of hot rooms into a bleak wind chilled me, or the walking up-hill of Albisano heated me, or something or other set me wrong, and next day I had an inflammatory attack in the face, to which I have been subject this winter, but I suffered a good deal of pain, but no peril. My health is now much as usual. Mr. Hill is, I believe, occupied with his diplomacy. I shall give him your message when I see him again."

"My name, I see in the papers, has been dragged into the unhappy Portsmouth business, of which all that I know is very succinct. Mr. Hanson is my solicitor. I found him so when I was ten years old—at my uncle’s death—and he was continued in the management of my legal business. He asked me, by a civil epistle, as an old acquaintance of his family, to be present at the marriage of Miss Hanson. I went very reluctantly, one misty morning (for I had been up at two balls all night), to witness the ceremony, which I could not very well refuse without affronting a man who had never offended me. I saw nothing particular in the marriage. Of course I could not know the preliminaries, except from second-hand, not having been present at the wooing, nor after it, for I walked home, and they went into the country as soon as they had promised and vowed. Out of this simple fact I hear the Debats de Paris has quoted Miss H. as ‘autrefois titre le vie avec le cheval,’ &c., &c. I am obliged to him for the celebrity, but beg leave to decline the daisons, which is quite untrue; my liaison was with the father, in the unsentimental shape of long lawyers’ bills, through the medium of which I have had to pay him ten or twelve thousand pounds within these few years. She was not pretty, and I suspect that the indefatigable Mr. A— (was like all her people) more attracted by her title than her charm. I regret very much that I was present at the prologue to the happy state of horsewhipping and black jobs, &c., &c., but I could not foresee that a man was to turn out mad, who had gone about the world for fifty years, as competent to vote, and walk at large; nor did he seem to me more insane than any other person going to be married.

"I have no objection to be acquainted with the Marquis Palavicini, if he likes me. Lately, I have gone little into society, English or foreign, for I had seen all that was worth seeing in the former before I left England, and at the time of life when I was more disposed to like it; and of the latter I had a sufficiency in the first few years of my residence in Switzerland, chiefly at Madame de Stael’s, where I went sometimes, till I grew tired of conversation! and carnivals, with their appendages; and the born is, that if you go once, you are continually at it, daily, and in the night. Therefore I went the round of the most noted sources at Venice or elsewhere (where I remained not any time) to the Benzonas, and the Albrizzi, and the Michelles, &c., &c., and to the cardinals and the various cabinets of the Legation, in Romagna (that is Ravenna), and only receded for the sake of quiet when I came into Tuscany. Besides, if I go into society, I generally get, in the long run, some scamps of some kind or other, which don’t occur in my solitudes. However, I am pretty well settled now, by time and temper, which is so far lucky as it prevents restlessness; but, as I said before, as an acquaintance of yours, I will be ready and willing to know your friends. He may be a sort of connexion for aught I know; for a Palavici, of Bolognens, believe, married a distant relative of mine half a century ago. I happen to know the fact, as he and his spouse had an annuity of five hundred pounds on my uncle’s property, which ceased at his demise, though I recollect hearing they attempted, naturally enough, to make it survive him. If I can do any thing for you here, or elsewhere, pray order, and be obeyed.

LETTER DLXXX.

TO MR. MOORE

"Genoa, April 6, 1813.

"I have just seen some friends of yours, who paid me a visit yesterday, which, in honor of them and of you, I returned to-day;—as I reserve my bear-skin and teeth, and paws and claws, for our enemies.

"I have also seen Henry Fox, Lord Holland’s son, whom I had not looked upon since I left him a pretty mild boy without a neckcloth, in a jacket, and in delicate health, seven long years ago, at the period of mine eclipse—the third. I believe, as I have generally one every two or three years. I think that he has the softest and most amiable expression of countenance I ever saw, and manners too. If to those he can add hereditary talents, he will keep the name of Fox in all its freshness for half a century more. I hope. I speak from a transient glimpse—but I love still to yield to such impressions; for I have ever found that those I liked best and best, I took to at first sight; and I always liked that boy; perhaps, in part, from some resemblance in the less fortunate part of our destinies; I mean, to avoid mistakes of his kind. But there is this difference, that he appears a halting angel, who has tripped against a star: while I am Le Diable Boiteux,—a souririkut, which I marvel that, among their various nominus unusquisque, the Orthodox have not hit upon, an annuity of five hundred pounds on my uncle’s property, which ceased at his demise, though I recollect hearing they attempted, naturally enough, to make it survive him. If I can do any thing for you here, or elsewhere, pray order, and be obeyed.

* The bent of Portsmouth married Miss Hanson. Attempts were made this time to the English courts to prove him insane.
and chemicals, and speeches in our house—1 mean, of peers! I must refer you to Pope—whom you don’t read, and won’t appreciate—for that quotation, which you must allow to be poetical), and sitting to Stroeling, the painter (do you remember our dinner with him?) I was depicted as one of the ‘heroes of Agincourt,’ with his long sword, saddle, bridle, whack fal de, &c., &c.

I have been unwell—a caught a cold and inflammation which I do not expect a cure of, after dining with our ambassador, Monsieur Hill, not owing to the dinner, but my carriage broke down on the way home, and I had to walk some miles up hill partly, after hot rooms, in a very bleak windy evening, and over-hotted, or over-cooled myself. I have not been so robustious as formerly, ever since the last summer, when I fell ill after a long swim in the Mediterranean, and have never been quite right up to this present writing. I am thin,—perhaps thinner than you saw me, when I was nearly transparent, in 1812,—and am obliged to be moderate of my mouth, which nevertheless, won’t prevent me (the gods willing) from dining with you as we used to do in Italy, (which is not for me, by the by, anyway.) They give me a very good account of you, and of your nearly Empirised Angels. But why did you change your title?—you will regret this some day. The bigots are not to be conciliated; and if they were, are they worth it? I suspect that I am a more orthodox Christian than you are; and, whenever I see a real Christian, either in practice or in theory, (for I never yet found the man who could produce either, when put to the proof,) I am his disciple. But, till then, I cannot truble to tithe mongers, nor can I imagine what has made you circaume your Seraphs.

LETTER DLXXXI.

TO THE EARL OF BLESSINGTON.

"April 9, 1823.

"My Dear Lord,

"How is your goot? or rather, how are you? I return the Count **’s * Journal, which is a very extraordinary production,* and of a most melancholy truth in all that regards high life in England. I know, or know, personally most of the persons and societies, which he describes; and after reading his remarks have the sensation fresh upon me as I had seen them yesterday. I would, however, plead in behalf of some few exceptions, in which I will not mention by-name. The most singular thing is, how he should have penetrated not the fact, but the mystery of the English ennui at two-and-twenty. I was about the same age when I made the same discovery, in almost precisely the same circles—for there is scarcely a person mentioned whom I did not see nightly or daily, and was acquainted more or less intimately with most of them—but I never could have described it so well. It has the francess to eff of this.

"But he ought also to have been in the country during the hunting season, with a select party of distinguished guests, as the papers term it. He ought to have been at least in company, if not on the hunting days, and the scone ensuing thereupon—end the women looking as if they had hunted, or rather been hunted; and I could have wished that he had been in a dinner in town, which I recollect at Longford Hall, but select, and composed of the most amusing people. The dessert was hardly on the table, when, out of twelve I counted two asleep; of that, there were Tierney, Lord * &--; I forgive the other two, but they were either wits or orators—perhaps poets.

"My residence in the East and in Italy has made me somewhat indulgent of the siesta—but then they set regularly about it in warm countries, and perform it in six acts (or at most dinner, ete. with a proper companion,) and retire quietly to their rooms to get out of the sun’s way for an hour or two.

"Altogether, your friend’s * Journal is a very formidable production. Alas! our dearly-beloved countrymen have only discovered that they are tired, and not that they are tiresome; and I suspect that the communication of the latter unpleasant verity will not be better received than truth usually are. I have read the whole with great attention and instruction. I am too good a patriot to see pleasure—at least I won’t say so, whatever I may think. I showed it (I hope no breach of confidence,) to a young Italian lady of rank trio insorute also; and who passes, or passed, for being one of the three most celebrated belles in the district of Italy, where her families and connections resided in less troublesome times as to politics, than her own (which is now governed by these.) Without, I am sure, I have lighted with it, and says that she has derived a better notion of English society from it than from all Madame de Staël’s metaphysical disputations on the same subject, in her work on the Revolution. I beg that you will thank the young poet and philosopher, and make my compliments to Lady B. and her sister

"Believe me your very obliged and faithful friend,

"N. B.

"P. S. There is a rumor in letters of some disturbance or complot in the French Pyrenean army—generals suspected or dismissed, and ministers of war travelling to see what’s the matter. ‘Marry, (as David says,) this hath an angry favor.

"Tell Count * * that some of the names are not quite intelligible, especially of the clubs; he speaks of Watts—perhaps he is right, but in my time Watters was the Dandy Club, of (though no dandy) I was a member, at the time too of its greatest glory, when Brummell and Mildmay, Avanley and Pierrepont, gave the dandy balls; and we (the club, that is,) got up the amus masquerade at Burlington House and Garden for Wellington. He does not speak of the Alfred, which was the most recherché and most tiresome of any, as I know by being a member of that too."

LETTER DLXXXII.

TO THE EARL OF BLESSINGTON.

"April 9, 1823.

"It would be worse than idle, knowing as I do, the utter worthlessness of words on such occasions, in me to attempt to express what I ought to feel and do for the loss you have sustained;* and I must thus dismiss the subject, for I dare not trust myself to it self for your sake, and for my own. I shall endeavor to see you as soon as it may not appear intrusive. Pray excuse the levity of my last day’s serial—I little thought under what circumstances it would find you.

"I have received a very handsome and flattering note from Count**. He must excuse my apparent rudeness and real ignorance in replying to it in English, through the medium of your kind intervention. I have not on any account deprived him of a production, of which I really think too much. I have even said, though you are good enough not to be dissatisfied even with that; but whenever it is completed, it would give me the greatest pleasure to have a copy—but how to keep it secret literary

* To a private letter to Lord Blessington, he says of this gentleman, "he seems to have all the qualities requisite to have figured in his brother-in-law’s laconic Memoirs.

* The death of Lord Blessington’s son, which had been so expected but of which the account had just arrived.
secrets are like others. By changing the names, or at least omitting several, and altering the circumstances indicative of the writer's real station, the author would render it a most amusing publication. His countrymen have not been treated either in a literary or personal point of view with such deference in English recent works, as to lay him under any very great national obligation of forbearance; and really the remarks are so true and so poignant that I cannot bring myself to wish their suppression; though, as Dangle says, ‗He is my friend,' many of these personages were my friends, but much such friends as Dangle and his allies.

I return you Dr. Parr's letter—I have met him at Payne Knight's and elsewhere, and he did me the honor once to be a patron of mine, although a great friend of the other branch of the House of Atreus, and the Greek writer (I believe) of my moral, Clytemnestra,—I say moral, because it is true, and so useful to the virtuous, that it enables them to do any thing without the aid of an Argus.

I beg my compliments to Lady B., Miss P., and to your Alfred. I think, since his Majesty of the same name, there has not been such a learned surveyor of our Saxon society.

"Every yours most truly,"

"N. B."

LETTER DLXXXIII.

TO THE EARL OF BLESSINGTON.

"April 14, 1822.

"I am truly sorry that I cannot accompany you in your ride this morning, owing to a violent pain in my face, arising from a wart to which I by medical advice applied a caustic. Whether I put too much, I do not know, but the consequence is, not only I have been put to some pain but the peccant part and its immediate environ are as black as if the printer's devil had marked me for an author. As I do not wish to frighten your horses, or your riders, I shall postpone waiting upon you until six o'clock. I hope to have embarked into a medley of Christianlike resemblance to my fellow-creatures. My infatuation has partially extended even to my fingers for on trying to get the black from off my upper lip at least, I have only transfigured a portion thereof as marked in my letter en-j- noir eau de cologne, nor any other eau, have been able as yet to redeem it also from a more inky appearance than is either proper or pleasant. But the worst of all—you may have perceived something of the kind yesterday, for on my return, I saw that during my visit it had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished; and I could not help laughing at the figure I must have cut before you. At any rate, I shall be with you at six o'clock with the advantage of twilight.

"Ever most truly, &c."

LETTTER DLXXXIV.

TO THE COUNT * * *

"April 20, 1822.

"My dear Count * * *, (if you will permit me to address you so familiarly,) you should be content with writing in your own language, like Grammont, and succeeding in London as nobody has succeeded since the days of Charles the Second and the rococo painter Antonio Hamilton, without deviating into our barbarous language,—which you understand and write, however much better than it deserves.

"My approbation,' as you are pleased to term it, was very sincere, but perhaps not very impartial; for though I love my country, I do not love my countrymen, at least, such as they now are. And besides the seduction of talent and wit in your work, I fear that to the Englishman there was the attraction of verisimilitude. I have seen and felt much of what you have described so well. I have known the persons, and the reunions so described—(many of them that is to say)—and the portraits are so like that I cannot but admire the painter no less than his performance.

"But I am sorry for you; for if you are so well acquainted with life at your age, what will become of you when the illusion is still more deluding but never mind—en avant!—live while you can; and that you may have the full enjoyment of the many advantages of youth, talent, and figure, which you possess, is the wish of an Englishman. I suppose,—but it is no treason; for my mother was Scotch, and my name and my family are both Norman: and as for myself, I am of no country. As for my 'Works,' which you are pleased to mention, let them go to the devil, from whence (if you believe many persons) they came.

"I have the honor to be your obliged, &c., &c."

LETTER DLXXXV.

TO THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON.

"Dear Lady * *,

"My request would be for a copy of the miniature of Lady B., which I have seen in possession of the late Lady Noel, as I have no picture, or indeed memorial of any kind of Lady B., as all her letters were in her own possession before I left England, and we have had no correspondence since—at least on her part.

"My message, with regard to the infant, is simply to this effect—that in the event of any accident occurring to the mother, and my remaining the survivor, it would be my wish to have her plane
LETTERS.

LETTER DLXXXVI.

TO THE COUNTESS OP * * *.

"May 8, 1823.

I send you the letter which I had forgotten, and the book, which I ought to have remembered. It contains (the book, I mean) some melancholy truths; though I believe that it is too trite a work ever to have been popular. The first time I ever read it, (not the edition you send me, for I got it since,) was at the desire of Madame de Staël, who was supposed by the good-natured world to be the heroine;—which she was not, however, and was furious at the supposition. This occurred in Switzerland, in the summer of 1816, and the last season in which I ever saw that celebrated person.

I have a request to make to my friend Alfred, (since he has not disdained the title,) viz., that he would send me, in the course of the letter, which I leave you (for I got it since,) a cap to the gentleman in the jacket,—it would complete his costume,—and smooth his brow, which is somewhat too involuntary a likeness of the original, God help me!

I did well to avoid the water-party,—only, is a mystery, which it would be desirable to be understood by all the other mysteries. Tell Milor that I am deep in his MSS., and will do him justice by a diligent perusal.

The letter which I enclose was prevented from sending, by the desirous of its doing any good. I was perfectly sincere when I wrote it, and am so still. But it is difficult for me to withstand the thousand provocations on that subject, which both friends and foes have not been slow in throwing in the way of a man whose feelings were once quick, and whose temper was never patient. But returning were as tedious as go o'er. I feel this as much as ever Macbeth did; and it is a dreary sensation, which at least avenges the real or imaginary wrongs of one of the two unfortunate persons whom it concerns.

But I am going to be gloomy—so to bed, or bed. Good night,—or rather morning. One of the reasons why I wish to avoid society is, that I can never sleep after it, and the pleasantness it has been, the less I rest.

Ever most truly, &c., &c."

LETTER DLXXXVII.

TO LADY BYRON.

[To the care of the Hon. Mrs. Leigh, London.]

"Alnoro, May 9, 1823.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of 'Ada's hair,' which is very soft and pretty, and nearly as dark as mine was at twelve years old, if I may judge from what I recollect of some in August.

Adolphus, by M. Benjamina Constant.

Enclosed in Letter DLXXXI.

Dr. D.

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LETTER DLXXXVIII.

TO M. BLAQUIER.

"Alnoro, April 5, 1823.

"Dear Sir,

"I shall be delighted to see you and your Greek friend; and the sooner the better. I have been expecting you for some time,—you will find me at home. I cannot express to you how much I feel interested in the cause; and nothing but the hopes I entertained of witnessing the liberation of Italy..."
Itself, prevented me long ago from returning to do
what little I could, as an individual, in that land
which it is an honor even to have visited.

"Ever yours, truly,

"NOEL BYRON."

LETTER DLXXXIX.

TO MR. BOWRING.

Genoa, May 12, 1815.

Sir,

I have great pleasure in acknowledging your letter, and the honor which the committee have done me; I shall endeavor to deserve their confidence by every means in my power. My first wish is to go up into the Levant in person, where I might be enabled to advance, if not the cause, at least the means of obtaining information which the committee might be desirous of acting upon; and my former residence in the country, my familiarity with its language, (I hear by letters that there universally spoken, or at least to the same extent as French in the more polished parts of the continent,) and my not total ignorance of the Remaick would afford me some advantage in that respect. To this project the only objection is a domestic nature, and I shall try to get over it—if I fail in this, I must do what I can where I am; but it will be always a source of regret to me, to think that I might perhaps have done more for the cause on the spot.

Our last information of Captain Blaquiere is from Ancona, where he embarked with a fair wind for Corfu, on the 15th ult.; he is now probably at his destination. My last letter from him personally was dated Rome; he had been refused a passport through the Neapolitan territory, and returned to strike up through Romagna for Ancona; little time, however, appears to have been lost by the delay.

The principal material wanted by the Greeks appears to be, first, a park of field artillery—light, and fit for mountain-service; secondly, gunpowder, thirdly, hospital or medical stores. The readiness of my own residence at Ancona, close to Rome, and addressed to Mr. Negri, the minister, I meant to send up a certain quantity of the latter—no great deal—but enough for an individual to show his good wishes for the Greek success; if it is passing, because, in case I should go myself, I can take them with me. I do not want to limit my own contribution to this merely, but more especially, if I can get to Greece myself, I should devote whatever resources I can muster of my own, to advancing the great object. I am in correspondence with Signor Nicolas Karrellas, (well known to Mr. Hobhouse,) who is now at Pisa; but his latest advice merely stated, that the Greeks are at present employed in organizing their internal government, and the details of its administration; this would seem to indicate security, but the war is however far from being terminated.

The Turks are an obstinate race, as all former wars have proved them, and will return to the charge for years to come, even if beaten, as it is to be hoped they will be. But in no case can the labors of the committee be said to be in vain, for in the event even of the Greeks being subdued and dispersed, the funds which could be employed in succoring and gathering together the remnant, so as to alleviate in part their distresses, and enable them to find out and receive (like a countryman) so many emigrants of other nations have been compelled to do,) would bless both those who gave and those who took, as the bounty both of justice and of mercy.

I shall write to the formation of a brigade, (which Mr. Hobhouse hinted at in his letter of this day's receipt, enclosing the one to which I gave the honor to reply,) I would presume to sug-

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"P.S. The best retribution of Gell will be the active exertions of the Committee;—I am too warm a controversialist; and I suspect that if Mr. Hobhouse has had the chance in hand, there will be little occasion for me to 'encumber him with help.' If I go up into the country, I will endeavor to transmit as accurate and impartial an account as circum-
stances will permit."

"I shall write to Mr. Karrellas. I expect intelligence from Captain Blaquiere, who has promised me some early intimation from the seat of the Provisional Government. I gave him a letter of introduction to Lord Sidney Osborne, to Corinth, as Lord S. is in the government service, of course his reception could only be a cautious one."
LETTER DXC.

TO MR. BOWING.

"Genoa, May 21, 1823.

"Sir,

"I received yesterday the letter of the Committee, dated the 14th of March. What has occasioned the delay, I know not. It was forwarded by Mr. Gaiggiani, from Paris, who stated that he had only had it in his charge for a moment, as it was delivered to him by Mr. Grattan. I need hardly say that I gladly accede to the proposition of the Committee, and hold myself highly honored by being deemed worthy to be a member. I have also to return my thanks, particularly to yourself, for the accompanying letter, which is extremely flattering.

"Since I last wrote to you, through the medium of Mr. Hobhouse, I have received and forwarded a letter from Captain Blaquiere to me, from Corfu, which will show how he gets on. Yesterday I fell in with two young Germans, survivors of General Normann's band. They arrived in Genoa in a most deplorable state—without food—without a sou—without clothes. They came to publish their story on their territory on their landing at Trieste: and they had been forced to come down to Florence, and had travelled from Leghorn here, with four Tuscan levies (about three francs) in their pockets. I have nothing to say of Genoese scudi, (about a hundred and thirty-three livres, French money,) and new shoes, which will enable them to get to Switzerland, where they say that they have friends. All that they could raise in Genoa, besides, was thirty sous. They do not complain of the Greeks, but say that they have suffered more since their landing in Italy.

"I tried their veracity, firstly, by their passports and pass-books; secondly, by a topography, cross-questioning them about Arta, Argos, Athens, Missolonghi, Corinth, &c.; and, thirdly, in Romanio, of which I found (one of them at least) knew more than I do. One of them (they are both of good families) is a fine, handsome young fellow of three-and-twenty—a Wirtemberger, and has a look of SCOUT about him—the other a Bavarian, older, and flat-faced, and less ideal, but a great, sturdy, soldier-like personage. The Wirtemberger was in the action at Arta, where the Philhellenes were cut to pieces after killing six hundred Turks, they themselves being only a hundred and fifty in number, opposed to six or seven thousand; only eight escaped, and of them about three only survived; so that General Normann posted his raggamuffins where they were well peppered—not three of the hundred and fifty left alive—and they are for the towns and cities now.

"These two left Greece by the direction of the Greeks. When Chushrid Pacha overran the Morea, the Greeks seem to have behaved well, in wishing to save their allies, when they thought that the game was up with themselves. This was in September last, (1822;) they wandered from island to island, and got from Milo to Smyrna, where the French consul gave them a passport, and a charitable voyage to Ancona, where they got to Trieste, and were turned back by the Austrians. They complain only of the minister, (who has always been an indifferent character;) say that the Greeks fight well in their own way, but were at first afraid to fire their own cannon—but mended with practice.

"Adolphe (the younger) commanded at Navarino for a short time; the other, a more material person, "the bold Bavarian in a luckless hour," seems chary to lament a fast of three days at Argos, and the loss of twenty-five paras a day of pay in arrear, and some baggage at Tripolitza; but takes his wounds, and marches, and battles with good humor. Both are very simple, full of naives, and quite unpretending: they say the foreigners quarrelled among themselves, particularly the French with the Germans, which produced duels.

"The Greeks accept muskets, but throw away bayonets, and will not be disciplined. When these lads saw two Piedmontese regiments yesterday they said, 'Ah, if we had had but these two, we should have cleared the Morea.' In that case the Piedmontese must have behaved better than they did against the Austrians. They seem to lay great stress upon a few regular troops—say that the Greeks have arms and powder in plenty, but want victuals, hospital stores, and lint and linen, &c., and money very much. Altogether, it would be difficult to show more practical philosophy than this remnant of our 'purit hill folk' have done; they do not seem the least cast down, and their mode of presenting themselves was as simple, and natural as could be. They said, a Dane here had told them that an Englishman, friendly to the Greek cause, was here, and that, as they were reduced to beg their way home, they thought they might as well begin with me. I write in haste to snatch the post.—Believe me, and truly,

"Your obliged, &c.

"P. S. I have, since I wrote this, seen them again. Count P. Gamba asked them to breakfast. One of them must publish his Journal of the campaign. The Bavarian wonders a little that the Greeks are not quite the same with them of the time of Themistocles, (they were not then very irascible, by-the-bye), and at the difficulty of disciplining them—he is a soldier and tactician, and a little like Dugald Dalgety, who would insist upon the erection of a scionce on the hill of Drumsnab, or whatever it was; the other seems to wonder at nothing."

LETTER DXCI.

TO MR. CHURCH, AMERICAN CONSUL AT GENOA.

"Genoa, May 18, 1823.

"The accounts are so contradictory, as to what mode will be best for supplying the Greeks, that I have deemed it better to take up, (with the exception of a few supplies,) what cash and credit I can muster, rather than lay them out in articles that might be deemed superfluous or unnecessary. Here we can learn nothing but from some of the refugees, who appear chiefly interested for themselves. My accounts from an agent of the Committee, an English gentleman lately come up to Greece, are hitherto favorable, but he had not yet reached the seat of the Provisional Government, and I am anxiously expecting further advice.

"An American has a better right than any other, to suggest to other nations the mode of obtaining that liberty which is the glory of his own."

LETTER DXCII.

TO M. H. BEYLE.

Rue de Richelieu, Paris.

"Genoa, May 28, 1823.

"Sir,

"At present, that I know to whom I am indebted for a flattering mention in the 'Home, Naples, and Florence,' in 1817, by Mons. Stendhal, it is fit that I should return my thanks (however undesired or undesirable) to Mons. Beyle, with whom I had the honor of being acquainted at Milan in 1816. You only did me much honor in what you pleased to say in that work; but it hardly given me less pleasure than the praise itself, to
have hurt myself without doing much good to those for whose benefit it was intended.

"Do not defend me—it will never do—you will only make yourself enemies."

"Mine are neither to be diminished nor softened but they may be overthrown; and there are events which may occur less improbable than those which have happened in our time, that may reverse the present state of things—nous verrons."

"I send you this gossip that you may laugh at it, which is all it is good for, if it is even good for so much. I shall be delighted to see you again; but it will be melancholy, should it be only for a moment."

"Ever yours,

"N. B."

LETTER DXCIV.

TO THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON.

"My Dear Lady B. & C.,"

"I am superstitious, and have collected that memorials with a point are of less fortunate augury: I will, therefore request you to accept, instead of the pin, the enclosed chain, which is of so slight a value that you need not hesitate. As you wished for something worn, I can only say, that it has been worn oftener and longer than the other. It is of Venetian manufacture; and the only peculiarity about it is, that it could only be obtained at, or from, Venice. At Genoa they have none of the same kind. I also enclose a ring, which I would wish Alfred to keep; it is too large to wear; but is formed of lace, and so far adapted to the fire of his years and character. You will perhaps have the goodness to acknowledge the receipt of this note, and send back the pin, (for good luck's sake,) which I shall value much more for having been a night in your custody."

"Ever and faithfully your obliged, &c.

"P. S. I hope your nerves are well to-day, and will continue to flourish."

LETTER DXCV.

TO MR. BOWRING.

"July 7, 1829.

"We sail on the 12th for Greece—I have had a letter from Mr. Biaquiere, too long for present transcription, but very satisfactory. The Greek government expects me without delay."

"In conformity to the desires of Mr. B. and other correspondents in Greece, I have to suggest, with all deference to the committee, that a remittance of ten thousand pounds only (Mr. B.'s expression) would be of the greatest service to the Greek Government at present. I have also to recommend strongly the attempt of a loan, for which there will be offered a sufficient security by deputies now on their way to England. In the mean time, I hope that the committee will be enabled to do something effectual.

"For my own part, I mean to carry up, in cash or credits, above eight, and nearly nine thousand pounds sterling, which I am enabled to do by funds I have in Italy, and credits in England. Of this sum I must necessarily reserve a portion for the subsistence of myself and suite; the rest I am willing to apply in the manner which seems most likely to be useful to the cause—having, of course, some

* He had previously presented her with a breast-pin containing a small samovar of Napoileo.
LETTERS.

LETTER DXCVI.

TO GOETHE.

ILLUSTRIOS SIR,

"Leipzig, July 24, 1823.

I cannot thank you as you ought to be thanked for the lines which my young friend, Mr. Sterling, sent me of yours; and it would but ill become me to pretend to exchange verses with him who, for fifty years, has been the undisputed sovereign of European literature. You must therefore accept my most sincere acknowledgements in prose—and in hasty prose too; for I am at present on my voyage to Greece once more, and surrounded by hurry and bustle, which hardly allow a moment even to gratitude and admiration to express themselves. I am, moreover, some distance from home, and was driven back by a gale of wind, and have since sailed again and arrived here, 'Leghorn,' this morning, to receive on board some Greek passengers for their straggling country. "I have also I found your lines and Mr. Sterling's letter, and I could not have had a more favorable omen, a more agreeable surprise, than a word of Goethe written by his own hand. "I am returning to Greece, to see if I can be of any little use there: if ever I come back, I will pay a visit to Weimar, to offer the sincere homage of one of the many millions of your admirers.

have the honor to be, ever and most,

"Your obliged,

NOEL BYRON."

NOTES TO THE COUNTRESS OGGICOLI.

"October 7. "Pietro has told you all the gossip of the island, earthquakes, our politics, and present abode in a pretty village. As his opinions and mine on the Greeks are nearly similar, I need say little on that subject. I was a fool to come here; but, being here, I must see what is to be done." "October — "We are still in Cephalonia, waiting for news of more accurate description; for all is contradiction and division in the reports of the state of the Greeks. I shall fulfill the object of my mission, and return into Italy. For it does not seem likely that, as an individual, I can be of use to them—at least no other foreigner has yet appeared to be so, nor does it seem likely that any will be at present allowed to act as emissaries.

"Pray be as cheerful and tranquil as you can; and be assured that there is nothing here that can excite any thing but a wish to be with you again,—though we are very kindly treated by the English here of all descriptions. Of the Greeks, I can't say much good hitherto, and I do not like to speak ill of them, though they do one another." "October 29. "You may be sure that the moment I can join you again will be as welcome to me as at any period of our recollection. There is nothing very attractive here to divide my attention; but I must attend to the Greek cause, both from honor and inclination. Messrs. B. and T. are both in the Morea, where they have been very well received, and both of them write in good spirits and hopes. I am anxious to hear how the Spanish cause will be arranged, as I think it may have an influence on the Greek contest. I wish that both were fairly and favorably settled, that I might return to Italy, and talk over with you our, or rather Pietro's, adventures, some of which are all amusing, as also some of the incidents of our voyages and travels." But I reserve them, in the hope that we may laugh over them together at no very distant period."

LETTER DXCVII.

TO MR. BOWLING.

"Sep 29, 1823. "This letter will be presented to you by Mr. Hamilton Browne, who precedes or accompanies the Greek deputations. He is both capable and desirous of rendering any service to the cause, and information to the committee. He has already been of considerable advantage to both, of my own knowledge. Lord Archibald Hamilton, to whom he is related, will add a weighty recommendation than mine. "Corinth is taken, and a Turkish squadron said to be beaten in the Archipelago. The public progress of the Greeks is considerable; and internal dissensions still continue. On arriving at the seat of Government, I shall endeavor to mitigate or extinguish them—though neither is an easy task. I have remained here till now, partly in expectation of the squadron in relief of Missolonghi, partly of Mr. Parry's detachment, and partly to receive from Malta or Zante the sum of four thousand pounds sterling, which I have advanced for the payment of the expected squadron. The bills are negotiating, and will be cashed in a short time, as they would have been immediately in any other mart; but the miserable Ionian merchants have little money, and no great credit, and are besides, politestly shy on this occasion; for although I had letters of Messrs. Webb, one of the strongest houses of the Mediterranean, and also of Messrs. Ranson, there is no business to be done on 'fair terms except through English merchants. These, however, have proved both able and willing,—and upright, as usual. "Colonel Stanhope has arrived, and will proceed immediately; he shall have my co-operation in all that ends in the formation of a brigades. This present will be extremely difficult, to say the least of it. With regard to the reception of foreigners,—at least of foreign officers,—I refer you to a passage in Prince Metternich's recent letter, a copy of which is enclosed in my packet sent to the deputies. It is my
LETTER DXXVIII.
TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF GREECE.

"Cephalonia, November 30, 1823.

"The affair of the loan, the expectation so long and vainly indulged of the arrival of the Greek fleet, and the danger to which Missolonghi is still exposed, have detained me here, and will still detain me till some of them are removed. But when the money shall be advanced for the fleet, till I start for the Morea, not knowing, however, of what use my presence can be in the present state of things. We have heard some rumors of new disquisitions, nay, of the existence of a civil war. With all my heart, I pray that these reports may be false or exaggerated; for I can imagine no calamity more serious than this; and I must frankly confess, that unless union and order are established, all hopes of a loan will be in vain; and all the assistance which the Greeks could expect from abroad—an assistance neither trifling nor worthless—will be suspended or destroyed; and, what is worse, the great powers of Europe, of whom no one was an enemy to Greece, but seemed to favor her establishment of an independent power, will be persuaded that the Greeks are unable to govern themselves, and will, perhaps, themselves undertake to settle your disorders in such a way as to blast the brightest hopes of yourselves and of your friends.

"Allow me to add, once for all,—I desire the well-being of Greece, and nothing else; I will do all I can to secure it; but I cannot consent, I never will consent, that the English public, or English individuals, should be deceived as to the real state of Greek affairs. The rest, gentlemen, depends on you. You have fought gloriously,—act honorably towards your fellow-countrymen and the world, and it will then no more be said, as has been repeated for two thousand years with the Roman historians that Philipomen was the last of the Grecians. Let not emulation itself (and it is difficult, I know, to guard against it in so arduous a struggle) compare the patriot Greek, when resting from his labors, to the Turkish pacha, whom his victories have exteriorized.

"I pray you to accept these my sentiments as a sincere proof of my attachment to your real interests, and to believe that I am, and always shall be, Yours, &c."

LETTER DCCXIX.
TO PRINCE MAVROCORDATO.

"Prince.

"The present will be put into your hands by Col. Stanhope, son of Major-General the Earl of Harlington, &c. He has arrived from London in fifty days, after having visited all the committees of Germany. He is charged by our committee to act in concert with me for the liberation of Greece. I conceive that he will arrive, and his mission will have sufficient recommendation, without the necessity of any other from a foreigner, although one who, in common with all Europe, respects and admires the courage, the talents, and above all, the probity of Prince Mavrocordato.

"I am very uneasy at hearing that the dissensions of Greece still continue, and at a moment when she might triumph over every thing in general, as she has already triumphed in part. Greece is, at present, placed between three measures: either to reconquer her liberty, to become a dependence of the sovereigns of Europe, or to return to a Turkish province. She has the choice only of these three alternatives. Crimean war is but a road which leads to the last. If she is desirous of the fate of Walachia and the Crimea, she may obtain it tomorrow; if of that of Italy, the day after; but if she wishes to become truly Greek, free and independent, she must resolve to-day, or she will never again have the opportunity.

"I am, with all respect,
Your Highness's obedient servant.

"N. B.

"P. S. Your Highness will already have known that I have sought to fulfill the wishes of the Greek Government, as much as it lay in my power to do so; but I should wish that the fleet so long and so vainly expected were arrived, or, at least, that it were on the way; and especially that your Highness should approach these parts either on board the fleet, with a public mission, or in some other manner.

LETTER DC.
TO MR. BOWRING.

"Hellen, 7, 1823.

"I confirm the above; it is certainly my opinion that Mr. Millingen is entitled to the same salary with Mr. Tindall, and his service is likely to be harder.

"I have written to you (as to Mr. Hobhouse for your perusal) by various opportunities, mostly scribble; also by the deputies, and by Mr. Hamilton Browne.

"The public success of the Greeks has been considerable; Corinth taken, Missolonghi nearly safe, and some ships in the Archipelago taken for the Turks; but there is not only dissenion in the Morea, but civil war, by the latest accounts.

"He here alludes to a letter, forwarded with his own, from Mr. Millingen, who was about to join, in his mediocrity, the Submission, near Patras, and proposed of the committee an increased pay. This gentleman having mentioned in his letter "that the remnant of the Turks from before Missolonghi had rendered unnecessary the appearance of the Greek fleet," Lord Byron remarks, in a note, "that they will do so, till they obtain a loan. They have not a rup, nor credit (in the islands) to raise one. A medical man may succeed better than others; but all these penurious officers had better stand as such. Much money may not be repayed as a man.""
what extent we do not yet know, but hope trifling

"For six weeks I have been expecting the fleet,
which has not arrived, though I have, at the re-
quest of the Greek Government, advanced—that is,
paid, and have in hand, two hundred thousand piastres (deducting the commission and bankers' charges), of my own moneys to forward their pro-
jects. The Suliotes (now in Acarnania) are very
anxious that I should take them under my direc-
tions, and go over and put things to rights in the
Mediterranean, which, without a force, seems impracticable.

and really, though very reluctant (as my letters will have
shown you) to take such a measure, there seems hardly any milder remedy. However, I will
not do any thing rashly; and have only continued
here so long in the hope of seeing things reconciled,
and have done all in my power thereto. Had I gone
sooner, they would have forced me into one party or
other, and I doubt as much now; but we will do our
best.

"Yours, &c."

LETTER DCII.

TO MR. BOWRING.

October 10, 1823.

"Colonel Napier will present to you this letter.
Of his military character it was superfluous to
speak; of his personal, I can say, from my own
knowledge, as well as from all the reports of the
men of war, that he is as excellent as his military;
short, a better or a braver man is not easily to be
found. He is our man to lead a regular force, or
to organize a national one for the Greeks. Ask the
army—ask any one. He is besides a personal friend
of both Prince Mavrocordato, Colonel Stanhope,
and myself, and in such concord with all three that
we should all put together—an indispensable, as well
as a rare point, especially in Greece at present.

"To enable a regular force to be properly organ-
ized, it will be requisite for the loan-holders to set
apart at least 50,000l. sterling for that particular
purpose—perhaps more—but by so doing they will
guaranty their own moneys, 'and make assurance
doubly sure.' They can appoint commissioners to
see that part properly expended—and I recommend
a similar precaution for the whole.

"I hope that the deputies have arrived, as well as
some of my various despatches (chiefly addressed
to Mr. Hobhouse) for the committee. Colonel
Napier will tell you the recent special interposition
of the gods in behalf of the Greeks—who seem to
have no enemies in heaven or earth to be dreaded,
but their own tendency to discord among them-
sewelves. But these, too, it is to be hoped, will be
mitigated, and then we can take the field on the
offensive, instead of being reduced to the petite
guerre of defending the same fortresses year after
year, and taking a few ships, and starving out a
castle, and making more fuss about them than
Alexander in his cups, or Bonaparte in a bulletin.
Our friends have done something in the way of the
Spartans—but not one-tenth of what is told)—
but have not yet inherited their style.

"Believe me yours, &c."

LETTER DCII.

TO MR. BOWRING.

October 13, 1823.

"Since I wrote to you on the 10th instant, the
long-desired squadron has arrived in the waters of
Missolonghi and intercepted two Turkish corvettes
—ditto transports—destroying or taking all four—
except some of the crews escaped on shore in Ithaca
—and an unarmed vessel, with passengers, chased
to a port on the opposite side of Cephalonia.
The Greeks had fourteen sail, the Turks four—but
the odds don't matter—the victory will make a very
good puff, and be of some advantage besides. I
expect momentarily advice from Prince Mavrocor-
dato, who is on board, and has (I understand) des-
patched letters from the Legislative for me; in conse-
quence of which, after paying the squadron, (for
which I have prepared, and am preparing,) I shall
probably join him at sea or on shore.

"I have added a copy of my letter by Col. Napier, who will inform the committee of every
thing in detail much better than I can do.

"The mathematical, medical, and musical prepara-
tions of the committee have arrived, and in good
condition, shewing some damage from wet, and some
ditto from a portion of the letter-press being split
in landing—(I ought not to have omitted the press
—but forgot it a moment—excuse the same)—they
are excellently like their kind, but till we have an en-
gineer and a trumpeter (we have chirurgeons al-
ready) mere 'pearls to swim,' as the Greeks are
quite ignorant of mathematics, and have a bad ear
for our music. The maps, &c., I will put into use
for them, and take care that all (with proper ca-
tion) are turned to the intended uses of the com-
mittee—but I refer you to Colonel Napier, who will
tell you, that much of your really valuable supplies
should be removed till proper persons arrive to
adapt them to actual service.

"Believe me, my dear sir, to be, &c.

"P. S. Private.—I have written to our friend
Douglas Kinnaird on my own matters, desiring him
to send me out all the further credits I can com
monly trust, and have a year's income and the sale of
a manor besides, he tells me, before me.—for till
the Greeks get their loan, it is probable that I shall
have to stand partly paymaster—as far as I am 'good
upon Change,' that is to say. I pray you to repeat
as much to him, and say that I must in the interim
draw on Messrs. Ransom most formidably. To say
the truth, I do not grudge it, now the fellows have
begun to fight again—and still more welcome shall
they be if they will go on. But they have had, or
are to have, some four thousand pounds (besides
some private extraordinaries for widows, orphans,
refugees, and rascals of all descriptions) of mine at
one 'sway,' and it is to be expected the next will
be at least as much. And more has the enemy
figured it if they will fight?—and especially if I should
happen ever to be in their company? I therefore re-
quest and require that you should apprise my trusty
and trustworthy men of the lease and baccarat, and
crown and sheet anchor, Douglas Kinnaird the Honorable,
that he prepare all moneys of mine, including the
purchase-money of Rochdale manor and mine in
come for the year ensuing. A. D. 1824, to answer
or anticipate, any orders or drafts of mine for the
good cause, in good and lawful money of Great
Britain, &c., &c. May you live a thousand years!
which is nine hundred and ninety-nine longer than
the Spanish Cortes Constitution."

LETTER DCIII.

TO THE HONORABLE MR. DOUGLAS KINNAIRD.

Cephalonia, Dec. 23, 1823.

"I shall be as saving of my purse and person as
you recommend, but you know that it is as well to
be in readiness with one or both, in the event of
their being impracticable.

"I presume that some agreement has been con-
cluded with Mr. Murray about 'Werner.' Although
the copyright should only be worth two or three
hundred pounds, I will tell you what can be done
with them. For three hundred pounds I can man
tain in Greece, at more than the fullest pay of the Provisional Government, rations included, one hundred armed men for three months. You may judge of this when I tell you, that the four thousand pounds advanced by me to the Greeks is likely to be spent and am in danger some months.

A Greek vessel has arrived from the squadron to convey me to Missolonghi, where Mavrocordato now is, and has assumed the command, so that I expect to embark immediately. Second best, however, to Cephallonia, through Messrs. Weloeh and Barry of Genoa, as usual; and get together all the means and credit of mine you can, to face the war establishment, for it is 'in for a penny, in for a pound,' and I must arm all that I can for the ancients.

I have been laboring to reconcile these parties, and there is now some hope of succeeding. Their public affairs go on well. The Turks have retreated from Arcamania without a battle, after a few fruitless attempts on Anatolike. Corinth is taken, and the Greeks have gained a battle in the Archipelago. The squadron here, too, has taken a Turkish corvette, with some money and a cargo. In short, if they can attain a fleet, I am of opinion that matters will assume and preserve a steady and favorable aspect for their independence.

In the mean time I stand paymaster, and what not; and lucky it is that, from the nature of the warfare and of the country, the resources even of an individual can be of a partial and temporary service.

Colonel Stanhope is at Missolonghi. Probably, we shall attempt Patras next. The Suliotes, who are friends of mine, seem anxious to have me with them, and so is Mavrocordato. If I can but succeed in reconciling the two parties (and I have left no stone unturned) it will be something; and in any case we must go over to the Mosquies with the western Greeks—who are the bravest, and at present the strongest, having beaten back the Turks—and try the effect of a little physical advice, should they persist in rejecting moral persuasion.

Once more recommending to you the reinforcement of my strong-box and credit from all lawful sources and resources of mine to their practicable extent—for, after all, it is better playing at nations than gaming at Almack's or Newmancourt—and requesting you to write to me as often as you can,

"I remain ever, &c."
LETTER DCV.

TO THE HONORABLE COLONEL STANHOPES.

969

"Sovereign, (or some such name,) on board a Cephalonian.

Missed, Dec. 31, 1828.

My Dear Stanhope,

"We are just arrived here, that is, part of my people and I, with some things, &c., and which it may be as well not to specify in a letter, (which has a risk of being intercepted, perhaps; but Gamba and my horses, negro, stabbing, &c., the press, and all the C-mimmittee things, also some eight thousand dollars of mine (but never mind we have more left, do you understand?) are taken by the Turkish frigates, and my party and myself, in another boat, nave had a narrow escape last night, (being close under their stern and hailed, but we would not answer, and bore away,) as well as this morning.—Here we are, with sun and clearing weather, within a pretty little port enough: but whether or Turkish friends may not send in their boats and take us out, (for we have no arms except two carbines and some pistols, and, I suspect, not more than four fighting people on board,) is another question, especially long here, since we are blocked out of Missolonghi by the direct entrance.

"You had better send my friend George Drake (Draco,) and a body of Subiotes, to escort us by land or by the canals, with all convenient speed.—Gamba and our Boublir are of course safe: tell them, I suppose; and we must take a turn at the Turks to get them out: but where the devil has the fleet gone?—the Greek, I mean; leaving us to get in without the least intimation to take heed that the Moslems were out again.

"Make my respects to Mavrocordato, and say, that I am here at his disposal. I am uneasy at being here; not so much on my own account as that of a Greek boy with me, for you know what his fate would be: and I would sooner cut him in pieces, and myself too, than have him taken out by those barbarians. We are all very well.

"N. B.

"The Bombard was twelve miles out when taken; at least so it appeared to us, (if taken she actually be,) for it is not certain;) and we had to escape from another vessel that stood right between us and the port."

LETTER DCVII.

TO MR. MUIR.

"Sovereign, Jan. 9, 1824.

My Dear Muir,

"I wish you many returns of the season and happiness therewith. Gamba and the Bombard, (there is strong reason to believe,) are carried into Patras by a Turkish frigate, which we saw chase them at dawn on the 31st; we had been close under the stern in the night, believing her a Greek till within pistol-shot, and only escaped by the miracle of all the Saints, (our captain says,) and truly I am of his opinion, for we should never have got away of ourselves. They were signaling their consort with lights, and had illuminated the ship between decks, and were shooting like a mob; but then why did they not fire? Perhaps they took us for a Greek brig and were afraid of kindling us—they had no colors flying even at dawn nor after.

"At daybreak my boat was on the coast; but the wind unfavorable for the port:—a large vessel with the wind in her favor standing between us and the Gulf, and another in chase of the Bombard about twelve miles off or so. Soon after they stood (i.e. the Bombard and our boat,) apparently towards Patras, and a Zantiotie boat making signals to us from the shore to get away. Away we went before the wind, and ran into a creek called Soroes, I believe where I landed Luke* and another, (as Luke's life was in most danger,) with some money for them selves, and a letter for Stanhope, and sent them up the country to Missolonghi, where they would be in safety, as the place where we were, could be assailed by armed boats in a moment, and Gamba had all our arms except two carbines, a fowling-piece, and some pistols.

"In less than an hour the vessel in chase neared us, and we dashed out again, and showing our stern, (our boat sails very well,) got in before night to Dragomestri, where we now are. But where is the Greek fleet? I don't know—do you? I told our master of the boat that I was inclined to think the two large vessels (there were none else in sight,) Greeks. But he answered 'they are too large—why don't they show their colors?' and his account was confirmed, be it true or false, by several boats which we met or passed, as we could not at any rate have got in with that wind without beating about for a long time; and as there was much property and some lives to risk (the boy's especially) without any means of defence, it was necessary to let our boat men have their own way.

"I despatched yesterday another messenger to Missolonghi for an escort, but we have yet no answer. We are here (those of my boat) for the fifth day without taking our clothes off, and sleeping on deck in all weathers, but are all very well, and in good spirits. It is to be supposed that the government will send, for their own safety, and, as I have sixteen thousand dollars on board, the greater part for their service. I had (besides personal property to the amount of about five thousand more,) eight thousand dollars in specie of my own, without reckoning the committee's stores, so that the Turks will have a good thing of it if the prize be good.

"I regret the detention of Gamba, &c., but the rest we can make up again, so tell Hancock to set to work, and prepare to make his appearance, and I beg to prepare the remainder of my credit with Messrs. Webb to be turned into moneys. I shall remain here, unless something extraordinary occurs, till Mavrocordato sends an then go on, and act according to circumstances. My respects to the two colonels, and remembrances to all friends. Tell 'Ultima Avis,' that his friend Raidi did not make his appearance with the brig, though I think he might as well have spoken with us or off Zante, to give us a gentle hint of what we had to expect.

"Yours ever affectionately,

"N. B.

"P. S. Excuse my scrawl on account of the pen and the frosty morning at daybreak. A boy's hasto, a boat starting for Kalamo. I do not know whether the detention of the Bombard, (if she be detained, for I cannot swear to it,) and I can only judge from appearances, and what all these fellows say,) be an affair of the government, and neutrality, and &c.,—but she was stopped at least twelve miles distant from any port, and had all her papers regular from Zante for Kalamo, and we also. I did not land at Zante, being anxious to lose as little time as possible, but Sir F. S. came off to invite me, &c., and everybody was as kind as could be, even in Cephalonia."

LETTER DCVIII.

TO MR. C. HANCOCK.

"Sovereign, Jan. 9, 1824.

Dear Sir 'Ancock,'

"Remember me to Dr. Muir and everybody I have still the sixteen thousand dollars with me, the

* A Greek youth whom he had brought with him, in his suite, from Cephalonia.

† Cousin Dilevismos, to whom he gave this same in consequence of a habit which got possession had of using the phrase 'to ultima a communicate'

‡ This letter is, more properly, a postscript to a wishes Dr. Muir and
ỡ the Greeks who missed stays), the ditor c:xaimed
"Save him, indeed! by G—d! save me ratner—I'll
be first if I can—a piece of egitism which he pro
ounced with such emphatical simplicity as to set all
who had leisure to hear him laughing, and in a
minute after the vessel drove off again after striking
twice. She sprung a small leak, but nothing fur
ther happened, except that the captain was very ner
vous afterward.

"To be brief, we had bad weather almost always,
though not contrary; slept on deck in the wet gen
erally for eight nights, but never was in bet
er health (I speak personally, for I actually bathed
for a quarter of an hour on the evening of the fourth instant in the sea (to
kill the fleas, and other &c.), and was all the better for
it.

"We were received at Missolonghi with all kinds
of kindness and honors; and the sight of the fleet
saluting, &c., and the crowds and different cus
tomaries, was really picturesque. We think of under
taking an expedition soon, and I expect to be
ordered with the Suliotes to join the army.

"All well at present. We found Gamba al
ready arrived, and every thing in good condition.
Remember me to all friends.

Yours ever,

N. B.

P. S. You will, I hope, use every exertion to
realize the assets. For besides what I have already
advanced, I have undertaken to pay all the annui
totes for a year, (and will accompany them, either
as a chief, or (whichever is most agreeable to the
government,) besides sundries. I do not under
stand Brown's "letters of credit." I neither gave
nor ordered a letter of credit that I know of; and
though of course, if you have done it, I will be
responsible, I was not aware of any thing except that
I would have backed his bills, which you said was
unnecessary. As to orders— I ordered a thousand
but some red cloth and oil cloths, both of which I am
ready to receive, but if Gamba has exceeded my
commission, the other things must be sent back for
I cannot permit any thing of the kind, nor will. The
servants' journey will of course be paid for, though
that is exorbitant. As for Brown's letter, I do
not know anything more than I have said, and I
really cannot defray the charges of half Greece,
and the French and English besides. However, I will
pay you as some dollars soon, for the expenses fall on me for
the present.

January 14, 1824.

P. S. Will you tell Saint (Jew) Goronimo Corgiolengo that I mean to draw for the balance of
my credit with Messrs. Webb & Co. I shall draw
for two thousand dollars, (that being about the
amount, more or less;) but to facilitate the business,
I shall make the draft payable also at Messrs. Han
som & Co., Pall-Mall East, London. I believe I
already showed you my letters, (but if not, I have
to show,) by which, besides the credits now
realizing, you will have perceived that I am not
limited to any particular amount of credit with my
bankers. The Honorable Douglas, my friend and
trustee, is a principal partner in that house, and
having the direction of my affairs, is aware to what
extent my pressed resources may go, and the letters
in question were from him. I can merely say, that
within the current year, 1824, besides the money
already advanced to the Greek government, and
the credits now in your hands and your partner's, (Mr.
Darby,) which are all from the end of 1823, I
have anticipated nothing from that of the present
year hitherto. I shall or ought to have at my
disposition upwards of one hundred thousand dol
ars, (including the interest, and the purchase of the
ey of a manor lately sold,) and perhaps more,
without infringing on my income for 1824, and not
including the remaining balance of 1823.
LETTER DCX.

TO MR. CHARLES HANCOCK.

"Moleondghi, Jan. 17, 1824."

"I have answered, at some length, your obliging letter, and trust that you have received my reply by means of Mr. Thidal. I will also thank you to remind Mr. Thidal that I would thank him to furnish you, on my account, with an order of the committee for one hundred dollars, which I advanced to him on their account through Signor Corgialeno's agency at Corfu, and which I desist from demanding at present, as I believe that the said committee should pay their own expenses. An order will be sufficient, as the money might be inconvenient for Mr. T. at present to disburse.

I have also advanced to Mr. Blackett the sum of fifty dollars, which I will thank Mr. Stevens to pay to you, on my account, from moneys of Mr. Blackett, now in his hands. I have Mr. B.'s acknowledgment in writing.

"As the wants of the State here are still pressing, and there seems very little specie stirring except mine, I still stand paymaster, and must again request you and Mr. Barff to forward by a safe channel (if possible) all the dollars you can collect on the bills now negotiating. I have also written to Corgialeno for two thousand dollars, being about the balance of my separate letter from Messrs. Warden and Co., and making the bills also payable at Ransom's in London.

"Things are going on better, if not well; there is some order, and considerable preparation. I expect to accompany the troops on an expedition shortly, which makes me particularly anxious for the remaining remittance, as 'money is the sinew of war,' and of peace, too, as far as I can see, for I am sure there would be no peace here without it. However, a little does go a long way, which is comfort. The government of the Morea and of Candia have written to me for a further advance from my own pecuniary of twenty or thirty thousand dollars, to which I demur for the present, (having undertaken to pay the Suliotes as a free gift and other things already, besides the loan which I have already advanced,) till I receive letters from England, which I have reason to expect.

"When the expected credits arrive, I hope that you will bear a hand, otherwise I must have recourse to Malta, which will be losing time and taking trouble; but I do not wish you to do more than is perfectly agreeable to Mr. Barff and to yourself. I am very well, and have had considerable correspondence with my personal treatment, or with the posture of public affairs—others must speak for themselves.

"Yours ever and truly, &c.

"P. S. Respects to Colonels Wright and Dulce, and the officers civil and military; also to my friends Muir and Stevens particularly, and the Doleadecina."

LETTER DCXI.

TO MR. CHARLES HANCOCK.

"Moleondghi, Jan. 18, 1824."

"Since I wrote on the 17th, I have received a letter from Mr. Stevens, enclosing an account from Corfu, which is so far way, which is comfort. The government of the Morea and of Candia have written to me for a further advance from my own pecuniary of twenty or thirty thousand dollars, to which I demur for the present, (having undertaken to pay the Suliotes as a free gift and other things already, besides the loan which I have already advanced,) till I receive letters from England, which I have reason to expect.

"When the expected credits arrive, I hope that you will bear a hand, otherwise I must have recourse to Malta, which will be losing time and taking trouble; but I do not wish you to do more than is perfectly agreeable to Mr. Barff and to yourself. I am very well, and have had considerable correspondence with my personal treatment, or with the posture of public affairs—others must speak for themselves.

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LETTER DCXII.

TO MR. CHARLES HANCOCK.

"Moleondghi, Jan. 18, 1824."

"The expedition of about two thousand men is planned for an attack on Lepanto; and for reasons of policy with regard to the native Capitani, who would rather be (nominally at least) under the command of a foreigner than one of their own body, the direction, it is said, is to be given to me. There is another reason, which is, that if a capitulation should take place, the Mussulmans might perhaps, rather have Christian faith with a Frank than with a Greek, as it is inexpedient to accede a point or two. These appear to be the most obvious motives for such an appointment, as far as I can judge, unless there be one reason more, viz., that, under present circumstances, no one else (not even..."
Mavrocordato himself) seems disposed to accept such a nomination—and though my desires are as far as my deserts upon this occasion, I do not decline it, being willing to do as I am bid; and I pay a considerable part of the claus, I may as well see what they are likely to do for their money; besides I am tired of hearing nothing but talk. * * * I presume, from the retardation, that he* is the target for Parry who attempted the North Pole, and is (it may be supposed) now essaying the South."

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**LETTER DCXIII.**

TO MR. CHARLES HANCOCK.

"Missolonghi, Feb. 5, 1824.

"Dr. Muir's letter and yours of the 23d reached me some days ago. Tell Muir that I am glad of his promotion for his sake, and of his remaining near us for all our sakes: though I cannot but regret Dr. Kenyon's removal, which, for the previous earthquakes and the present English weather in this climate. With all respect to my medical pastor, I have to announce to him, that among other things, he must fire-master. Just landed I have disembarked an elect blacksmith, entrusted with three hundred and twenty-two Greek Testaments. I have given him all facilities in my power for his works spiritual and temporal, and if he can settle matters as easily with the Greek Archbishop and hierarchy, I trust that neither the heretic nor the supposed skeptic will be accused of intolerance.

"By-the-way, I met with the said Archbishop at Ancona, who was about to take a cruise of the Priate a few days ago, and was received with a heavier cannonade than the Turks, probably) for the second time, (I had known him here before;) and he and I Mavrocordato, and the Chiefs and Priates and I, all dined together, and I thought the metropolitan the merriest of the party, and a very good Christian for all that. But Gamba (we got wet through in our way back) has been ill with a fever and colic; and Luke has been out of sorts too, and so have some others of the people, and I have been very well,—except that I caught cold yesterday with sneezing too much in the rain at the Greek Church. I had landed the committee stores, and newly spotted our combustibles; but I turned out in person, and made such a row as set them in motion, blaspemathing at them from the government downwards, till they actually did some part of what they ought to have done several days before, and this is esteemed, as it deserves to be, a wonder.

"Tell Muir that, notwithstanding his remonstrances, which I receive thankfully, it is perhaps best that I should advance with the troops; for if we do not do something soon we shall only have a third year of defensive operations and another siege, and all that. We hear that the Turks are coming down in force, and sooner than usual; and as these fellows do mind me a little, it is the opinion that I should go,—firstly, because they will sooner listen to a foreigner than one of their own people, out of native jealousies; secondly, because the Turks will sooner treat or capitulate (if such occasion should happen) with a Frank than a Greek; and, thirdly, because nobody else seems disposed to take the responsibility.—Mavrocordato being very busy here, the Ministers and our Parlements, and, after all, he left better end with a bullet than bark in his body. If we are not taken off with the sword, we are like to march off with an auge in this mud-basket; and to conclude with a very bad pun, to the ear rather than to the eye, better marially, than the situation of Missolonghi is not unknown to you. The dykes of Holland, when broken down, are the Deserts of Arabia for dryness, in comparison.

"And with regard to the sinners of war. I thank you and Mr. Barff for your ready answers, which, next to ready money, is a pleasant thing. Besides the assets, and balance, and the relics of the Corigliano correspondence with Leghorn and Genoa, (I sold the dog flour, tell him, but not at his price,) I shall request and require, from the beginning of March ensuing, about five thousand dollars every two months, i. e., about twenty-five thousand without the current year, at regular intervals, independent of the sums now negotiating. I can show you documents to prove that these are considerably within my supplies for the year in more ways than one; but I do not like to tell the Greeks exactly what I would or would not receive on an exact balance, otherwise, they will double and triple their demands, (a disposition that they have already sufficiently shown;) and though I am willing to do all I can see and necessary, yet I do not say that they should not help a little, for they are not quite so bare as they pretend to be by some accounts.

"Feb. 7, 1824.

"I have been interrupted by the arrival of Parry, and afterward by the return of Hesketh, but the former has not brought an answer to my epistles, which rather surprises me. You will write soon I suppose. Parry seems a fine rough subject, but will hardly be ready for the field these three weeks; he and I (I think) be able to draw together—at least I will not interfere with or contradict him in his own department. He complains grievously of the mercantile and outwrengmy part of the committee, but greatly praises Gordon and Hume. Gordon would have given three or four thousand pounds and come out himself, but Kennedy or somebody else disgust him, and thus they have spoiled part of their subscriptions. Also something says Bowring is a humbug, to which I say nothing. He sorely laments the printing and civilizing expenses, and wishes that there was not a Sunday-school in the world, or any school here at present, save and except always an academy for artilleryship.

"He complained also of the cold, a little to my surprise; firstly, because, there being no chimneys, I have used myself to do without other warmth than the animal heat and one's cloak, in these parts; and secondly, because I should as soon have expected to hear a volcano sneeze, as a fire-master (who is to burn a whole fleet) exclaim against the atmosphere. I do not think you have a proper approach would have scorched up the town like the burning-glasses of Archimedes.

"Well, it seems that I am to be Commander-in-chief, and the post is by no means a sinecure for we are not what Major Sturgeon calls 'a set of the most amicable officers.' Whether we shall have a boxing 'bout between Captain Sheer and the Colonel, I cannot tell; but, between the calling of chiefs, German Baronets and English volunteers, and adventurers of all nations, we are likely to form as goodly an armed army as ever quarrelled beneath the same banner.

"Feb. 8, 1824.

"Interrupted again by business yesterday, and it is time to conclude my letter. I drew some time since on Mr. Barff for a thousand dollars to complete some money wanted by the government. The
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had government got cash on that bill here and at a profit; but the very same fellow who gave it to them, after proposing to give me money for other bills on Barff to the amount of thirteen hundred dollars, either could not, or thought better of it. I had written to Barff advising him, but had afterward to write to tell him of the fellow's having not come up to time. You must really send me the balance soon. I have the artilleryists and my Suliotes to pay, and Heaven knows how to make as early a return besides, and as every thing depends upon punctuality, all our operations will be at a stand-still unless you use despatch. I shall send to Mr. Barff or to you further bills on England for three thousand pounds, to be negotiated as speedily as you can. I have already stated here and formerly the sums I can command at home within the year,—without including my credits, or the bills already negotiated or negotiating, as Gorgialeno's balance of Mr. Webb's letter,—and my letters from my friends (received by Mr. Parry's vessel), confirm what I have already stated. How much I may require in the course of the year I can't tell, but I will take care that it shall not exceed the means to supply it.

"Yours ever,

"N. B."

"P.S. I have had, by desire of a Mr. Jerostati, to draw on Dometrius Delledecima (is it our friend in ultima analise?) to pay the committee expenses, I really do not understand what the committee mean by some of their freedoms. Parry and I get on very well hitherto; how long this may last, Heaven knows, but I hope it will, for a good deal for the Greek service depends upon it, but he has already had some miff's with Col. S., and, I do all I can to keep the peace among them. However, Parry is a fine fellow, extremely active, and of strong, sound, practical talents, by all accounts. Enclosed are bills for three thousand pounds, drawn in the mode directed, (i.e. parcelled out in smaller bills.) A good opportunity occurring for Cephalonia to send letters on, I avail myself of it. Remember me to Stevens, and to all friends. Also my compliments and every thing kind to the colonels and officers.

"February 9, 1824,

"P.S. 2d or 3d. I have reason to expect a person from England directed with papers (on business) for me to sign, somewhere in the islands, by-and-by; if such should arrive, would you forward him to me by a safe conveyance, as the papers regard a transaction with regard to the adjustment of a lawsuit, and a sum of several thousand pounds, which I, or my bankers and trustees for me, may have to receive (in England) in consequence. The time of the probable arrival I cannot state, but the date of my letters is the 2d Nov., and I suppose that he ought to arrive soon."

LETTER DCXIV.

TO ANDREW LONDO.

"Dear Friend,

"The sight of your handwriting gave me the greatest pleasure. Greece has ever been for me, as it must be for all men of any feeling or education, the promised land of valor, of the arts, and of liberty; nor did the time I passed in my youth in travelling among her ruins at all chill my affection for the birth-place of heroes. In addition to this, I am bound to myself by ties of friendship and gratitude for the hospitality which I experienced from you during my stay in that country, of which you are now become one of the first defenders and ornaments. To see myself serving, by your side and under your eyes, in the cause of Greece, will be to me one of the happiest events of my life. In the mean time, with the hope of our again meeting,

"I am as ever &c.

LETTER DCXV.

TO HIS HIGNESS YUSUFF PACHA.

"Highness!

"A vessel, in which a friend and some domestick of mine were embarked, was destined a few days ago and released by order of your Highness. I have now to thank you; not for liberating the vessel, which, as carrying a neutral flag, and being under British protection, no one had a right to detain; but for having treated my friends with so much kindness while they were in your hands.

"In the hope, therefore, that it may not be altogether displeasing to your Highness, I have requested the governor of this place to release four Turkish prisoners, and he has humbly consented to do so. I lose no time, therefore, in sending them back, in order to make as early a return as I could for your courtesy on the late occasion. These prisoners are liberated without any conditions: but, should the circumstance find a place in your recollection, I venture to beg that your Highness will treat such Greeks as may henceforth fall into your hands with humanity; more especially since the horrors of war are sufficiently great in themselves, without being aggravated by wanton cruelties on either side.

"NOEL BROWN"

LETTER DCXVI.

TO MR. BARFF.

"Feb. 2d.

"I am a good deal better, though of course weakly; the leeches took too much blood from my temples the day after, and there was some difficulty in stopping it, but I have since been up daily, and put in boats or on horseback. To-day I have taken a warm bath, and live as temperately as can well be, without any liquid but water, and without animal food.

"Besides the four Turks sent to Patras, I have obtained the release of four-and-twenty women and children, and sent them at my own expense to Prevesa, that the English consul-general may sign them to their relations. I did this by their own desire. Matters here are a little embroiled with the Suliotes and foreigners, &c., but I still hope better things, and will stand by the cause as long as my health and circumstances will permit me to be supposed useful.*

"I am obliged to support the government here for the present."

[The prisoners mentioned in this letter as having been released by him and sent to Prevesa had been held in captivity at Missolonghi since the beginning of the Revolution. The following was the letter which he forwarded with them to the English Consul at Prevesa.]

LETTER DCXVII.

TO MR. MAYER.

"Sir,

"Coming to Greece, one of my principal objects was to alleviate as much as possible the miseries in-  

* In a letter to the same gentleman, dated January 27, he had already said, "I hope that things here will go on well some time or other. We stick by the cause as long as a cause exists—first or second."
rident to a warfare so cruel as the present. When the dictates of humanity are in question, I know no
difference between you and Greeks. It is enough
that those who want assistance are men, in order to
claim the pity and protection of the meanest pret-
tender to human feelings. I have found here
twenty-four Turks, including women and children,
who have long pined in distress, far from the means
of support and the consolations of their home.
The government has consigned them to me: I
transmit them to Frevesa, whither they desire to be
sent. I hope they will be under the care that they may be restored to a place of safety,
and that the Governor of your town may accept of my
present. The best recompense I can hope for
would be to find that I had inspired the Ottoman
commanders with the same sentiments towards
these unhappy Greeks who may hereafter fall into
their hands.

*I beg you to believe me, &c.*

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**LETTER DCXVIII.**

TO THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS KINNAIRD.

"Mansfield, Feb. 21, 1824.

"I have received yours of the 23d of November. It is essential that the money should be paid, as I
have drawn it for all, and more too, to help the
Greeks. Parry is here, and he and I agree very
well; and all is going on hopefully for the present,
considering circumstances.

"We shall have work this year, for the Turks
are coming down in force; and, as for me, I must
stand by the cause. I shall shortly march (according
to orders) against Lepanto, with two thousand
men. I have less, after some narrow escapes from the Turks, and also from being
shipwrecked. We were twice upon the rocks, but
this you will have heard, truly or falsely, through
other channels, and I do not wish to bore you with
a long story.

"So far I have succeeded in supporting the Gov-
ernment of Western Greece, which would otherwise
have been dissolve. If you have received the
eleven hundred and odd pounds, these, with what
I have in hand, and my income for the current year,
to say nothing of contingencies, will, or might,
enable me to keep the "sineus of war" properly
strung. If the deputies be honest fellows, and ob-
tain the loan, they will repay the 400,000l. as agreed
upon; and even then I shall save little, or indeed
less than little, since I am maintaining nearly the
whole machine—in this place, at least—at my
own cost. But let the Greeks only succeed, and I don't
care for myself.

"I have been very seriously unwell, but am get-
ting better, and can ride about again; so pray quiet
our friends on that score.

"It is not true that I ever did, will, would, could,
or should write a satire against Gifford, or a hair
of his head. I always considered him as my literary
father, and myself as his "prodigal son;" and if I
have allowed him (fatted call to grow to an ox be-
fore he kills it on my return, it is only because I
prefer beef to veal.

"Yours, &c."
and children, and sent them to Patras and Preveza, at my own charges. One little girl of nine years old, who prefers remaining with me, I shall (if I live) send, with her mother, probably, to Italy, to England. Her name is Hato, or Hatage. She is a very pretty, lively child. All her brothers were killed by the Greeks, and she herself and her mother merely spared by special favor and owing to her extreme youth, she being then but five years old.

"My health is now better, and I ride about again. My office here is no sinecure, so many parties and difficulties of every kind; but I will do what I can. Prince Mavrocordato is an excellent person, and does all in his power, but his situation is perplexing in the extreme. Still we have great hopes of the success of the contest. You will hear, however, more of public news from plenty of quarters, for I have little time to write.

"Believe me yours, &c., &c.,

"N. B."

LETTER DCXLI.

TO MR. MOORE.

"Miscougli, Western Greece, March 4, 1824.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your reproach is unfounded—I have received the letters from you, and answered those previous to leaving Cephalonia. I have not been 'quiet' in an Ionian island, but much occupied with business, as the Greek deputies (if arrived) can tell you. Neither have I continued 'Don Juan,' nor any other poem. You know as usual, I presume, by some newspaper report or other.

"When the proper moment to be of some use, arrived, I came here; and am told that my arrival (with some other circumstances) has been of, at least, temporary advantage to the cause. I had a narrow escape from the Turks, and another from shipwreck on my passage. On the 15th (or 16th) of February I had an attack of apoplexy, or epilepsy, the physicians have not exactly decided which, but the alternative is agreeable. My constitution, therefore, remains between the two opinions, like Mahomet's sarcophagus between the magnets. All that I can say is, but they nearly warned me to death, by placing the leeches too near the temporal artery, so that the blood could with difficulty be stopped, even with caustic. I am supposed to be getting better, slowly, however. But my homilies will I presume, for the future, be like the Archbishop of Grenada's—in this case, 'I order you a hundred duvets from my treasurer, and wish you a little more taste.'"

"For public matters I refer you to Col. Stanhope's and Capt. Parr's reports—and to all other reports whatsoever. There is plenty to do—war without, and tumult within—they 'kill a man a week,' like Hob Acres in the country. Parr's artificers have gone away in alarm, on account of a dispute, in which some of the natives and foreigners were engaged, and a Swede was killed, and a Suliote wounded. In the middle of their fight there was a strong shock of an earthquake; so, between that and the sword, they boomed off it a burrry in despite of all dissensions to the contrary A Turkish brig ran ashore, &c., &c., &c."

"I can answer either publishing or mediating that same. Let me hear from and of you, and believe me, in all events,

"Ever and affectionately yours,

"N. B."


LETTER DCXXIII.

TO MR. BARFF.  

March 5, 1824.  

"If Siseni* is sincere, he will be treated with, and well treated; if he is not, the sin and the shame may lie at his own door. One great object is to heal those internal dissensions for the future, without exacting too rigorous an account of the past. Prince Mavrocordato is of the same opinion, and whoever is disposed to act fairly will be fairly dealt with. I have heard a good deal of Siseni, but not a deal of good; however, I never judge from report, particularly in a revolution. Personally, I am rather obliged to him, for he has been very hospitable to all friends of mine who have passed through his district. You may therefore assure him that any overture for the advantage of Greece and its internal pacification will be readily and sincerely met here. I hardly think that he would have ventured a deceitful proposition to me through you, because he must be sure that in such a case it would eventually be exposed. At any rate, the healing of these dissensions is so important a point, that something must be risked to obtain it."

LETTER DCXXIV.

TO MR. BARFF.  

March 10.  

Enclosed is an answer to Mr. Parrucu's letter, and I hope that you will assure him from me, that I have done and am doing all I can to reunitie the Greeks with the Greeks.  

I am extremely obliged by your offer of your company to the Greek Government, and I do not think that I ought to abandon Roumeli for the Peloponnesus until that Government shall desire it; and the more so, as this part is exposed in a greater degree to the enemy. Nevertheless, if my presence can really be of any assistance in uniting two or more parties, I am ready to go anywhere, either as a mediator, or, if necessary, as a hostage. In these affairs, I have neither private views, nor private dislike of any individual, but this sincere wish of deserving the name of the friend of your country, and of her patriots."

LETTER DCXXV.

TO MR. PARREU.  

March 10, 1824.  

"Sir,  

I have the honor of answering your letter. My first wish has always been to bring the Greeks to agree among themselves. I came here by the invitation of the Greek Government, and I do not think that I ought to abandon Roumeli for the Peloponnesus until that Government shall desire it; and the more so, as this part is exposed in a greater degree to the enemy. Nevertheless, if my presence can really be of any assistance in uniting two or more parties, I am ready to go anywhere, either as a mediator, or, if necessary, as a hostage. In these affairs, I have neither private views, nor private dislike of any individual, but this sincere wish of deserving the name of the friend of your country, and of her patriots."

LETTER DCXXVI.

TO MR. CHARLES HANCOCK.  

Missolonghi, March 10, 1824.  

"Sir,  

I sent by Mr. J. M. Hodges a bill drawn on Signor C. Jerostati for the hundred and eighty-six pounds, on account of the Hesper. I have been present on the Greek Committee, for carrying on the service at this place. But Count Delladecima sent no more than two hundred dollars until he should receive instructions from C. Jerostati. Therefore I am obliged to advance that sum to prevent a positive stop being put to the laboratory service at this place, &c., &c.  

I beg you will mention this business to Count Delladecima, who has the draft and every account, and that Mr. Barff, in conjunction with yourself, will endeavor to arrange this money account, and, when received forward the same to Missolonghi."

LETTER DCXXVII.

TO DR. KENNEDY.  

March 10, 1824.  

"Dear Sir,  

You could not disapprove of the motto to the Telegraph, and do not do it, for the Telegrapb did, and set forth this land of liberty, where most people do as they please, and few as they ought.  

I have not written, nor am inclined to write, for that or any other paper, but have suggested to them, over and over, a change of the motto and style. However, I do not think that it will turn out either an irreligious or a levelling publication, and they promise due respect to both churches and things, as the former do.  

Ifhamer would write for the Greek Chronicle, he might have his own price for articles.  

There is a slight demur about Hato's voyage, her mother wishing to go with her, which is quite natural, and I have not the heart to refuse it; for even Mahomet made a law, that in the division of captives, the child should never be separated from the mother. But this may make a difference in her arrangement, although the poor woman who has..."
Gamba's you eat, Bealed. That they were, Co worse. The weather is so much finer, that I get a good deal of moderate exercise in boats and on horseback, and I am willing to hope that my health is not worse than when you kindly wrote to me. Dr. Bruno can tell you that I adhere to your regimen, and more, for I do not eat any meat, even fish.

Believe me ever, &c.

P. S. The mechanics (six in number) were all pretty much of the same mind. Brownbill was but one. Perhaps they are less to blame than I imagined, since Colonel Stanhope is said to have told them, 'that he could not positively say their lives were safe.' I should like to know whether our life is safe, either here or any where else? With regard to a place of safety, at least such hermetically-sealed safety as these persons appeared to desire, it is not to be found in Greece, at any rate; but Missolonghi was supposed to be the place where they would be useful, and their risk was no greater than that of others.

LETTER DCXXVIII.

TO COLONEL STANHOPE.

'My Dear Stanhope,'

'Missolonghi, March 19, 1804.

'Prince Mavrocordato and myself will go to Salona to meet Ulysses, and you may be very sure that P. M. will accept any proposition for the advantage of Greece. Parry is to answer for himself on his own articles; if I were to interfere with him, it would only stop him from engaging in his exertions, and he is really doing all that can be done without more aid from the government.

'What can be spared will be sent; but I refer you to Captain Humphries's report, and to Count Ganghæ's letter for details upon all subjects.

'In the hope of seeing you soon, and deferring much that will be to be said till then,

'Believe me ever, &c.'

P. S. Your two letters (to me) are sent to Mr. Barff, as you desire; I pray you to remember me particularly to Treawney, whom I shall be much pleased to see again.'

LETTER DCXXX.

TO MR. BARFF.

'March 19.

'As Count Mercati is under some apprehensions of a direct answer to him personally on Greek affairs, I reply (as you requested me) to the person who will have the goodness to communicate to him the enclosed.

'It is the joint answer of Prince Mavrocordato and myself, to Signor Georgio Sisseni's propositions. You may also add, both to him and to Furrate, that I am perfectly sincere in desiring the most amicable termination of their internal dissensions, and that I believe P. Mavrocordato to be so also otherwise I would not act with him or any other, whether native or foreigner.

'If Lord Guilford is at Zante, or, if he is not, if Signor Tricupi is there, you would oblige me by presenting my respects to one or both, and by telling them, that from every one I foretold to Colonel Stanhope and to P. M., that there existed a newspaper (or indeed any other) in the present state of Greece might and probably would tend to much mischief and misconception, unless under some restrictions, (as they are, or will be,) at his earliest convenience, and (what will appear laughable enough) to such a degree that he charged me with despotick principles, and I his with ultra-radicalism.

'Dr. * *, the editor, with his unreserve free dom of the press, and who has the freedom to exercise an unlimited discretion,—not allowing any article but his own and those like them to appear,—and in declaiming against restrictions, cuts, carves, and restricts (as they will, me,) at his pleasure. He is the author of an article against monachy, of which he may have the advantage and fame—but they (the editors) will get themselves into a scrape, if they do not take care.

'Of all petty tyrants, he is one of the pettiest, as are most demagouges, that ever I knew. He is a Swiss by birth, and a Greek by assumption, having married a wife, and changed his religion.

'I shall be very glad, and am extremely anxious for some favorable result to the recent pacific overtures of the contending parties in the Peloponnes.'
LETTER DCXXX.

TO MR. BARRFF.

"March 26.

"Since your intelligence with regard to the Greek loan, P. Mavrocordato has shown to me an extract from some correspondence of his, by which it would appear that three commissioners are to be named to see that the amount is placed in proper hands for the service of the country, and that my name is among the number. Of this, however, we have as yet only the report. This commission is apparently named by the committee or the contracting parties in England. I am of opinion that such a commission will be necessary, but the office will be both delicate and difficult. The weather, which has lately been equinoctial, has flooded the country, and will probably retard our proceeding to Salona for some days, till the road becomes more practicable.

"You were already apprized that P. Mavrocordato and myself had been invited to a conference by Ulysses and the chiefs of Eastern Greece. I hear (and am indeed consulted on the subject) that in case the remittance of the first advance of the loan should not arrive immediately, the Greek General Government mean to try to raise some thousand dollars in the islands in the interim, to be repaid from the earliest instalments on their arrival. What prospect of success they may have, or on what conditions, you can tell better than me: I suppose, if the loan be confirmed, something might be done by them, but subject of course to the usual terms. You can let them and me know your own opinion. There is an imperious necessity for some national fund, and that speedily, otherwise what is to be done? The auxiliary corps of about two hundred men paid by me, are, I believe, the sole regularly and properly furnished with the money, due to them weekly, and the officers monthly. It is true that the Greek government gives their rations, but we have had three mutinies, owing to the badness of the bread, which neither native nor stranger could masticate (nor dogs either), and there is still great difficulty in obtaining them even provisions of any kind.

"There is a dissension among the Germans about the conduct of the agents of their committee, and an examination has taken place among them themselves. Whether the result may be, cannot be anticipated, except that it will end in a row, of course, as usual.

"The English are all very amicable, as far as I know; we get on too with the Greeks very tolerably, always making allowance for circumstances; and we have no quarrels with the foreigners."

LETTER DCXXXII.

TO MR. BARRFF.

"April 2.

"There is a quarrel, not yet settled, between the citizens and some of Carissacchi's people, which has already produced some blows. I keep my people quite neutral; but have ordered them to be on their guard.

"Some days ago we had an Italian private soldier drummed out for thieving. The German officers wanted to flog him; but I flatly refused to permit the use of the stick or whip, and delivered him over to the police. Since then a Prussian officer rioted in his lodgings; and I put him under arrest, according to the order. This, it appears, did not please his German confederation: but I stuck by my text; and have given them plainly to understand, that those who do not choose to be amenable to the laws of the country and service, may retire; but that in all that I have to do, I will see them obeyed by foreigner or native.

"I wish something was heard of the arrival of part of the loan, for there is a plentiful dearth of everything at present."

LETTER DCXXXIII.

TO MR. BARRFF.

"April 3.

"Since I wrote, we have had some tumult here with the citizens and Carissacchi's people, which are all under arms, our boys and all. They nearly fired on me and fifty of my lads, by mistake, as we were taking our usual excursion into the country. To-day matters are not settled, or subsiding; but about an hour ago, the father-in-law of the landlord of the house where I am lodged (one of the principals the said landlord is) was arrested for high treason.

"They are in conclave still with Mavrocordato; and we have a number of new faces from the hills, come to assist, they say. Gun-boats and batteries all ready, &c.

"The row has had one good effect—it has put them on the alert. What is to become of the father-in-law, I do not know; nor what he has done, ex nihilo; but

*To a very fine thing to be father-in-law. To a very magnificent three-backed bear."

* A corps of fifty horsemen, his escort-guard.
as the man in Bluebeard says and sings. I wrote to you upon matters at length, some days ago; the letter, or letters, you will receive with this. We are desirous to hear more of the loan; and it is some time since I have had any letters (at least of an interesting description) from England, excepting one of 4th Feb., from Bowring (of no great importance). My latest dates are of 9th, or of the 6th 10th days of four months exactly. I hope you get well on well in the islands; here most of us are, or have been, more or less indisposed, natives as well as foreigners."

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**LETTER DCXXXV.**

**TO MR. BARFF.**

"April 7."

"The Greeks here of the government have been boring me for more money. As I have the brigade maintain, and the campaign is apparently now to cease, and as I have already spent thirty thousand dollars in three months upon them in one way or another, and more especially as their public loan has succeeded, so that they ought not to draw from individuals at that rate, I have given them a refusal, and—as they would not take that,—another refusal in terms of considerable sincerity."

"They wish now to try in the islands for a few thousand dollars on the ensuing loan. If you can serve them, perhaps you will, (in the way of information, at any rate,) and I will see that you have fair play, but still I do not advise you, except to act as you please. Almost every thing depends upon the arrival, and the speedy arrival, of a portion of the loan to keep peace among themselves. If they can but have sense to do this, I think that they will be a match and better for any force that can be brought against them for the present. We are all doing as well as we can."

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**EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL.**

**BEGUN NOVEMBER 14, 1813.**

"If this had been begun ten years ago, and faithfully kept!—(heigho! there are too many things I wish never to have remembered, as it is. Well—I have had my share of what are called the pleasures of this life, and I have seen more of the European and Asiatic world than I have made a good use of. They say 'virtue is its own reward,'—it certainly should be paid well for its trouble. At five-and-twenty, when the better part of life is over, one should be something—and what am I? nothing but five-and-twenty—and the old months. What have I seen? the same man all over the world,—ay, and woman too. Give me a Mussulman who never asks questions, and a she of the same race who saves one the trouble of putting them. But for this same plague—yellow-fever—and Newstead delay, I should have been by this time a second time close to the Buxine. If I can overcome the last, I don't so much mind your pestilence; and, at any rate, the spring shall see me there,—provided I neither marry myself nor unmarry any one else in the interval. I wish one was—I don't know what I wish. It is odd I never set myself seriously to wishing without attaining it—and repenting. I begin to believe with the good old Magi, that one should only pray for the nation, and not for the individual;—but, on my principle, this would not be very patriotic.

"No more reflections.—Let me see—last night I finished 'Zuleika,'* my second Turkish Tale. I believe the composition of it kept me alive—for it was written to drive my thoughts from the recollection of—"

* The Bride of Aitz

At least, even here, my hand would tremble to write it. This afternoon I have burned the scenes of my commenced comedy. I have some idea of expecting a romance, or rather a tale, in prose;—but what romance could equal the events—"

"To-day Henry Byron called on me with my little cousin Eliza. She will grow up a beauty and a plague; but, in the mean time, it is the prettiest child! dark eyes and eyelashes, black and long as the wing of a raven. I think she is prettier even than my niece, Georgiana,—yet I don't like to think so neither; and, though older, she is not so clever. "Dallas called before I was up, so we did not meet. Lewis, too—who seems out of humor with every thing. What can be the matter? he is not married—has he lost his own mistress, or any other person's wife? Hodgson, too, came. He is going to be married, and he is the kind of man who will be the happier. He has talent, cheerfulness, every thing that can make him a pleasing companion; and his intended is handsome and young, and all that. But I never see any one much improved by matrimony. All my coupled contemporaries are bald and discontented. W. and S. have both lost their hair and good-humor; and the last of the two had a good deal to lose. But it doesn't much signify what falls off a man's temples in that state."

"Mem. I must get a toy to-morrow for Eliza and send the device for the scale of myself and * * * * * Mem. too, to call on the Staél and Lady Holland to-morrow, and on * *, who has advised me (without seeing it, by-the-by) not to publish 'Zuleika;' I believe he is right, but experience might have taught him that not to print is physically impossible. No one has seen it but Hodgson and Mr. Gifford. I never in my life read a composition, save to Hodgson, as he pays me in kind. It is a horrible thing to do too frequently—better print, and they who like may read, and, if they don't like
BYRON'S WORKS

you have the satisfaction of knowing that they are still in my possession.

"I have declined presenting the Doctor's Petition, being sick of parliamentary mummeries. I have spoken three; but I doubt my ever becoming an orator. My first was liked; the second and the third not. I have never yet set to it con amore; one must have some excuse to oneself for laziness, or inability, or both, and this is mine. 'Company, villainous company, has never done me good.' The only thing I have 'drunk medicines,' not to make me love it, but certainly enough to hate myself."

"Two nights ago, I saw the tigers sup at Exeter. 'I cannot know whether they supped on me.'

"—so followed the Arab keeper like a dog,—the fondness of the hyena for her keeper amused me most. Such a conversation! There was a 'hippopotamus,' like Lord Liverpool in the face; and the 'Urso Sibé' hath the very voice and manner of my vole—a test the tiger talked too much. The elephant took and gave me my money again—took off my hat—opened a door—truncked a whip—and behaved, the devil!—equally to the last, as well with the 'as' and with Antony. After doing all she can to persuade him that—but why do they abuse him for cutting off that portly Cicero's head? Did Tully tell Brutus it was a pity to have spared Antony? and did he not speak the Philippics? and are not 'words things?' and such 'words' very pestilent 'things' too? If he had had a hundred heads, they deserved (from Antony) a rostrum (his was stuck up there) a piece—though, after all, he might have as well have pardoned him, for the credit of the thing. But to resume—Cleopatra, after securing him, says, 'yet go'—'it is your interest,' &c., 'how like the sex!' and the questions amount to that in all.

"To-day received Lord Jersey's invitation to Milddon—to travel sixty miles to meet Madame de Staël! I once travelled three thousand to get among the savages; and now, I write octavos and talki s. I have read her books—like most of them, and delight in the last: so I won't hear it, as well as read."

"Read Burns to-day. What would he have been, if a patriot? We should have had more polish—less force—just as much verse, but no immortality— a divorce and a duel or two, the which had he survived, as his potatoes must have been less spirited, he might have lived as long a hereditary Duke, and outlived as much as poor Brinsley. What a week is that man! and all from bad pilottage; for no one had ever better gales, though now and again a little to squally. Poor dear Sherry! I shall never forget the day he, and Rogers, and Moore, and I passed together; when he talked, and we listened, without one yawning, from six till one in the morning."

"Got my seals. I have again forgot a play. I must have ma petite cousine. I was sad for it to-morrow. I hope Harry will bring her to me. I sent Lord Holland the proofs of the last 'Glori,' and the 'Bride of Abyss.' He won't like them. I should not much like them either. It was written in four nights to distract my dreams from. Were it not thus, it had never been composed; and had I not done something at that time, I must have gone mad, by eating my own heart—bitter! H-dgson likes it bet er than the Glori, but nubdy else will,—and he never liked the Fragment. I am sure, had it not been for Murray, that would never have been published, though the circumstances which are the groundwork make it."

"To-night I saw both the sisters of **; my God; the youngest so like! I thought I should have sprung across the house, and am so glad no one was with me in Lady Holland's box. I hate those likeness—these likeness: they look so like as to remind, so different as to be painful. One quarrels equally with the points of resemblance and of distinction.

"No letter from **; but I must not complain. The respectable Job says, 'Why should a living man complain?' I really don't know, except it be that a dead man can't; and he, the said patriarch, did complain, nevertheless, till his friends were tired, and his wife recommended that pious prologue, 'Curse—and die;' the only time, I suppose, when but little relief is to be found in swearing. I have had a meeting of the 'Bride of Abyss,' which he likes, and so does Lady H. This is very good-natured in both, from whom I don't deserve any quarter. Yet I did think, at the time, that my cause of enmity proceeded from Holland House, and am glad I was wrong. I wish I had not been in such a hurry with that confounded satire, of which I would suppress even the memory;—but people, now they can't get it, make a fuss, I verily believe out of contraction.

"George Ellis and Murray have been talking something about Scott and me, George pro Scoito, and very right too. If they want to depose him, I only wish they would not set me up as a competitor. Even if I had any choice, I would rather be the earl of Warwick than all the kings he ever made! Jeffrey and Gifford I take to be the monarch-makers in poetry and prose. The British Critic, in their Rokeby Review, have presupposed a comparison, which I am sure my friends never thought of, and W. Scott's subjects are injudicious in descending to. I like the man—and admire his works to what Mr. Braham calls easewayness. All such stuff can only vex him, and do me no good. Many hate his politics,—(I hate all politics;) and, here, a man's politics are like the Greek soul—an etoiko, besides God knows what other soul; but their estimate of the two general is not together.

"Harry has not brought ma petite cousine. I want us to go to the play together; she has been but once. Another short note from Jersey, inviting Rogers and me on the 23d. I must see my agent to night. I wonder when that Neustead business will be finished. It cost me more than words to part with it—and to have parted with it! What matters it what I do? or what becomes of me?—but let me remember Job's saying, and consoule myself with being 'a living man.'

"I wish I could settle to reading again; my life is monotonous, and yet desultory. I take up books, and fling them down again. I began a comedy, and burned it because the scene ran into reality; a novel, for the same reason. In rhyme, I can keep more away from facts; but the thought always runs through, through, through,—yes, yes, through. I have had a letter from Lady Melbourne, the best friend I ever had in my life, and the cleverest of women."

"Not a word from **. Have they set out from ** or has my last precious epistle fallen into the lion's jaws? Since they have not answered me, I am suspicious—I must clap on 'my musty morion' and hold out my iron.' I am out of practice, but I won't begin again at Manton's now. Besides, I liked these things; it could not much avail me, if I had lost my wafe-splitter; but then the bullies of society made it necessary. Ever since I began to feel that I had a bad cause to support, I have left off the exercise.

"What strange tidings from that Anakim?
EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL.

anybody—Bonaparte! Ever since I defended my boss of him at Harrow against the rashly time-servers, when the war broke out in 1803, he has been a 'Hérao de Roman' of mine, on the continent; I don't want him here. But I don't like these sudden flights, leaving of armies, etc., &c. &c. I am sure when he fought for his bust he had not thought he would run away from himself. But I should not wonder if he banged them yet. To be beat by men would be something; but by three stupid, legitimate-octogenarian sovereigns—O-hone-a-rie!—O-hone-a-rie! It is, as Cobett says, his marriage with the thick-lipped and thick-headed Autrichienne brood. He had been offered me out of Barrow; I never knew any good to come of your young wife, and legal espousals, to any but your 'sober-blooded boy,' who 'eats fish & drinketh 'no sack.' Had he not the whole opera? all Paris? all France? But a mistress is just as perplexing—that is, one,—two or more are manageable by division.

'I have begun, or had begun a song, and flung it into the fire. It was in remembrance of Mary Duff, my first love, before, most people begin to burn. A wonder what lover with her will do to me? I can do nothing, and fortunately there is nothing to do. It has lately been in my power to make two persons (and their connexions) comfortable; and my heart is cool by abstract feeling it. I shall rejoice in the last particularly, as it is an excellent man. I wish there had been more inconvenience and less gratification, to my self-love in it, for then there had been more merit. We are all selfish—and I believe, ye gods, of Epicurean! I believe in RocheFoescouault above men, and in Lucertin, (not Busby's translation,) about yourselves. Your bard has made you very nonchalant and blest; but as he has continued to pay me, thou dost not every year your blessedness much—a little, to be sure. I remem-ber last year, * * * said me at * * * 'Have we not passed our last month like the gods of Lucre-tius?' And so we had. She is an adept in the text of the original, (which I like too,) and when that booby Bus. sent his translating prospectus, she subscribed. But, the devil prompting him to add a specimen, she transmitted him a subsequent answer, saying, that, after perusing it, he himself would not permit her to allow her name to remain on the list of subscribers. * * * *

Last night, at Lord Holland's—Mackintosh, the Ossalstones, Puyeszue, &c., &c., there—I was trying to recollect (as I think) of Stael's, from some Teutonic sophist about architecture. 'Architecture,' says this Macaronica Tedesco, 'reminds me of frozen music.' It is somewhere—but where?—the demon of perplexity must know and won't tell. I asked Moore, and he said it was not in her; but P—* * * said it must be hers; it was so like. * * * * If I laughed, as does still 'De l'Allemagne,—in which, however, I think he goes a little too far. B. I hear, contains it too. But there are fine passages;—and after all, what is a work—any or every work—but a desert with fountains, grove or two, every day's journey? To be sure, in Madame, what we often mistake, and 'pant for,' as the 'cooling stream,' turns out to be the 'mirage,' (critice, verblage;) but we do, at last, get to something like the temple of Jove Ammon, and then the water we have passed is only remembered to gladden the contrast.

"Called on C * * *, to explain * * * * * . She is very beautiful, to my taste, at least; for on coming home from abroad, I recollect being unable to look at any woman but her—they were so fair, and unmeaning, and bloudre. The darkness and regularity of my eye was not a little dammed at Aden.' But this impression wore off; and now I can look at a fair woman without longing for a..."
BYRON'S WORKS.

"Ward—I like Ward." By Mahomet! I begin to think that I like every body; a disposition not to be encouraged; a sort of social gulltiness, that swallows every thing that is before it. But if you will persist in thinking me a +nigmatic +and in my opinion, will stand very high in the House and every where—if he applies regularly. By-the-by, I dine, with him to-morrow which may have some influence on my opinion. It is suitable well not to trust too much after that her. I have heard many a host libelled by his guests, with his burgundy yet reeking on their rascally lips.

"I have taken Lord Salisbury's box at Covent Garden for the season:—and now I must go and prepare to join Lady Holland and party, in theirs, at Drury Lane, quasi sors."

"Holland doesn't think the man is Junius; but that the yet unpublished journal throws great light on the obscurities of that part of George the Second's reign. What is this to George the Third's? I don't know what to think. Why should Junius be yet dead? If suddenly apoplectic, would be rest in his grave without sending his studies to shunt in the cares of posterity, 'Junius was X, X, Z., Esq., buried in the parish of —'. Repair his monument, ye church-wards, ye print a new edition of his letters, ye booksellers!' Impossible; the man must be alive, and will never die without the disclosure. I like him; he was a good hater.

"Came home unwell and went to bed, not so sleepy as might be desirable.

"Tuesday Morning.

"I arose from a dream—well! and have no other dreams!—Such a dream! but she did not overtake me. I wish the dead would rest, however. Ugh! how my blood chilled—and I could not wake—and—heighto!"

"Shadows to-night. Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard, Than could the substance of one thousand! * *

"Am't all in proof, and led by shadow? * *"
Highlands, called ‘Childe Alarique.’ The word ‘sensibility,’ (always my aversion) occurs a thousand times in these essays; and, it seems, is to be an excuse for all kinds of discontent. This young man can know nothing of life; and, if he cherishes the disposition that runs through the ages, will become useless and, perhaps, not even a poet, after all which he seems determined to be. God help him! no one should be a rhymner who could be any thing but. His mind is so vast, it baffles me, as Scott and Moore, and Campbell and Rogers, who might all have been agents and leaders, now mere spectators. For, though they may have other ostensible arocessions, these last are reduced to a second, or even third class, in comparison. His time is away this time among dowagers and unmarried girls. If it advanced any serious affair, it were some excuse; but, with the unmarried, that is a hazardous speculation, and tresomsome enough; and, with the veterans, it is not much worse trying,—unless, perhaps, one in a thousand.

‘If I had any views in this country, they would probably be parliamentary. But I have no ambition; at least, I would not be a member of the non importa. My hopes are limited to the arrangement of my affairs, and settling either in Italy or the East, (rather the last,) and drinking deep of the languages and literature. Past events have moved me, and, I think, I can now do is to make life an amusement, and look on, while others play. After all—even the highest game of crowns and sceptres, what is it? Vide Napoleon’s last twelvemonth. It has quite upset my system of fatalism. I thought, if crushed, he would have fallen, when ‘fractus illa tur orbitus,’ and not have been paraded away to gradual insignificance,—that all this was not a mere jest of the gods, but a prelude to greater and mightier events. I cannot even advance beyond a certain point;—and here we are, retrograding to the dull, stupid, old system,—balance of Europe—poising straws upon kings’ noses, instead of wringing them off! Give me a republic, or a despotism of one, rather than the mixed government of one, two, three. A republic!—look in the history of the Earth—Egypt, Greece, Venice, France, Holland, America, our short (check!) commonwealth, and compare it with what they did under masters. The Asiatics are not qualified to be republicans, but they have the liberty of demolishing despotisms,—which is the next thing to it. To be the first man—not the last—of this extent, is not the great ambition of the Aristides,—the leader in talent and truth—is next to the divinity! Franklin, Penn, and, next to these, either Brutus or Cassius—even Mirabeau,—or St. Just. I shall never be any thing, or rather always be nothing. The most I can hope is, that some will say, ‘He might, perhaps, if he would.’

12, Midnight.

‘Here are two confounded proofs from the printer. I have looked at the one, but, for the soul of me, I can’t look over that ‘Giaour’ again,—at least, just now, and at this hour—and yet there is no moon.

War! talks of going to Holland, and we have partly discussed an assemble expedition. It must be in ten days, if at all, if we wish to be in at the revolution. And why not? * is distant, and will be at **, still more distant, till spring. No one else, except Augusta and Woodhouse, cares for—no fire—no trammels—anitamuk dunque—se torniamo, bene—non c’h’importa? Old William of Orange talked of dying in the last ditch’ of his dingy country. It is like Trafalgar,—I would not well weather the first. But let us see. I have heard hyenas and jackals in the ruins of Asia; and bull-frogs in the marshes, besides wolves and angry Muselmans. Now, I should like to listen to the shout of a free Dutchman.

‘Alas! Viva! For ever! Hours! Huza! which is the most rational or musical of these eries? Orange Boven, according to the Morning Post.

* Wednesday, July 4.

‘No dreams last night of the dead nor the living—so I am firm as the marble, I stood as the rock—til the last. Ward’s dinner went off well. There was not a disagreeable person there—unless I offended any body, which I am sure I could not by contradiction, for I said little, and opposed nothing. Sharpe (a man of elegant mind, and who has always stuck with the best—Fox, Home Tooke, Windham, Fitzpatrik, and all the agitators of other times and tongues) told us the particulars of his last interview with Windham, a few days before the fatal operation, which sent ‘that gallant spirit to aspire to the skies.’ Windham,—the first in one department of oratory and talent, whose only fault was his reflexion beyond the intellect of half his hearers. Windham, half his life as an active participator in the events of the earth, and one of those who governed nations,—he regretted, and dwelt much on the regret, that ‘he had not entirely devoted himself to literature and science!!!’ His mind certainly would have carried him to eminence there, as elsewhere; but I cannot comprehend what debility of that mind could suggest such a wish. I, who have heard him, cannot regret any thing but that I shall never hear him again. What! would he have been a plodder? a metaphysician?—perhaps a rhymner? a scribbler? Such an exchange must have been suggested by illness. But he is gone, and Time shall not look upon his like again.

‘I am tremendously in arrear with my letters,—except to * *, and to her my thoughts overpower me,—my words never compass them. To Lady Melbourne I write with most pleasure—and her answers, so sensible, so tactique—I never met with half her talent. If she had been a few years younger, what a foil she would have made of mine, had she thought it worth her while,—and I should have lost a valuable and most agreeable friend. Mem.—a mistress never is nor can be a friend. While you agree, you are lovers; and, when it is over, any thing but friends.

I have not answered W. Scott’s last letter,—but I will. I regret to hear from others that he has lately been unfortunate in pecuniary involvements. He is undoubtedly the monarch of Parnassus, and the most English of bardz. I should place Rogers next in the living list—(if value be held much more as the last of the best school)—Moore and Campbell both third—Southey, and Wordsworth, and Coleridge the rest, &c &c—thus:

W. SCOTT.

ROGERS.

MOORE-CAMPBELL.

SOUTHEY-WORDSORTH-COLERIDGE.

THE MANY.

There is a triangular ‘Gradsus ad Parnassum!’ The names are too numerous for the base of the triangle. Poor Thurlow has gone wild about the poetry of Queen Bess’s reign—‘est donnage. I have ranked the names upon my triangle more upon what I be—
BYRON'S WORKS

...a few popular opinion than any decided opinion of my own. For, to me, some of Moore's last Erins sparkles - 'As a beam o'er the face of the waters' - 'Oh breathe not his name' - are worth all the Epics that ever were composed.

...thinks the Quarterly will attack me next. Let me be 'peppered so highly' in my time, that it is generally agreed I was the most mandible of all the age that we have, and which young, I did also. 'One gets tired of every thing, my angel,' says Valmont. The 'angels' are the only things of which I am not a little sick - but I do think the prevalence of writers to agitate - the mighty stir made about scribbling and scribes, by themselves and others - a sign of clemency, degeneracy, and weakness. Who would write, who had any thing better to do? 'Action' - 'action' - said Demosthenes: 'Actions, actions,' I say, and not writing, - least of all rhyme.

Look at the querulous and monotonous lives of the 'genius' - except Cervantes, Tasso, Dante, Ariosto, (and a few of the French, who are the cunning lovers of the citadels,) Eschylus, Sophocles, and some other of the antiques also - what a worthless, idle brood it is!

Just returned from dinner with Jackson (the emperor of pupilgism) and another of the select, at Cribb's the champion. I drank more than I like, and have brought away some three bottles of very fair claret - for I have no headache. We had Tim Cribb up after dinner - very facetious, though somewhat prolix. He doesn't like his situation - wants to fight again - pray Pollux (or Castor, if he is the Miller) he may! Tom has been a sailor - a cool-headed young and championed professional one before he took to the eustis. Tom has been in action at sea, and is now only three-and-thirty. A great man! I have a wife and a mistress, and conversations well - bating some sad omitted and misapplications of the asperate. Tim is an old friend of mine; I have seen some of his best battles in my nanage. He is now a publican, and I fear, a sinner; - for Mrs. *** is on alimony, and ***'s daughter married on the championed professions the day before he took to the eustis. Tom had an opinion of my morals, passed her off as a legal spouse. Talking of her, he said, 'she was the truth of women' - from which I immediately inferred she could not be his wife, and so it turned out.

These panegyrics don't belong to matrimoniy for if 'true,' a man don't think it necessary to say so; and if not, the less he says the better.

...is the only man, except ***. I have heard harangue upon his wife's virtue; and I listened to both with great credence and patience, and stufied my headcheif into my mouth, when I found yawning irresistible. By-the-by, I am yawnning now so, - good-night to thee, N - o - p - o - p - o - p - o - p - o. Thursday, 26th November.

Awake a little feverish, but no headache - no dreams neither - thanks to supper! Two letters, one from *** of the Melbourne Lady Melbourne - both excellent in their respective styles. ***'s contained also a very pretty lyric on 'concealed griefs' - 'if not her own, yet very like her. Why did I take the liberty' - etc. - or were not of her composition? - I do not know whether to wish them hers or not. I have no great esteem for poetical persons, particularly women - they have so much of the mirth, and so little of the grave, as ethics. - My mother is - my sister is - always to rally me about this childish amour; and, at last, many years after, when I was sixty she told me one day, 'Oh, Byron, I have had a letter from Edinburgh, from Miss Abercomby, and your old sweetheart, Miss Duff is married to a Mr. Coe.' And what was my answer? I really can't explain or account for my feelings at that moment; but they nearly threw me into convulsions, and alarmed my mother so much, that, after I grew better, she has been seen to sitting at the soirée very silent, and to herself with telling it to all her acquaintance. Now, what could this be? I had never seen her since her mother's faux-pas at Aberdeen had made her a subject of mockery, and sent her down to Banff: we were both the merest children. I had and have been attached fifty times since that period; yet I recollect all we said to each other, all our cresses, her features, my restlessness, sleeplessness, my tormenting my mother's maid to write for me to her, which she at last did, to quiet me. Poor Nancy I thought I was wild, and, as I could not write for myself, became my secretary. I remember, too, our walks, and the happiness of sitting by Mary, in the children's apartment, at their house not far from the Plainstones at Aberdeen, while her less sister Helen played with the doll, and we sat gravely looking at it and talking.

'How the deuce did all this occur so early? where could it originate? I certainly had no sexual ideas for years afterward; and yet my misery, my love for that girl were so violent, that I sometimes doubted if I had not been really a beholder of that that it may, hearing of her marriage several years after, was like a thunder-stroke - it nearly choked me - to the horror of my mother and the astonishment of her and almost every body. And it is a phenomenon in my existence (for I was not eight years old) which has puzzled, and will puzzle me, to the latest hour of it; and lately, I know not why, the recollection (not the attachment) has returned as gravely as ever. I wonder if she can have the least remembrance of it or me? or remem her pitying sister Helen for having an ad mirer too? How very pretty is the perfect image of her in my memory - her brown dark hair, and hazel eyes - her very dress! I should be quite grieved to see her now; the reality, however beautiful, would destroy, or at least confuse, the features of the lovely Peri which then existed in her, and still lives in my imagination at a distance of more than sixteen years. I am now twenty-five and old months.....

'I think my mother told the circumstances (on her hearing of her marriage) to her friends, and certainly to the Pigot family, and probably men tioned it in her answer to Miss A., who was well acquainted with my childish penchant, and had sent the news on purpose for me, - and, thanks to her!'

'Next to the beginning, the conclusion has often occupied my reflections, in the way of investigation. That the facts are thus, others know as well as I, and my memory yet tells me so, in more than a whisper. But, the more I recite, the more I am bewildered to assign any cause for this precocious affection.'

'Lord Holland invited me to dinner to-day; but three days' fasting would destroy me. So, without eating at all since yesterday, I went to my box at Covent Garden.'

'Saw *** looking very pretty, though quite different style of beautiful from the other - the other has the finest eyes in the world, out of which she pretends not to see, and the longest eyelashes I ever saw, since Leila's and Phannio's Moslem curtains of the light. She has my beauty - just enough - but I think, mechante.'
tion than no mental or personal estrangement, from ennui or disagreement, can take place—and when people meet hereafter, even though many changes may have taken place in the mean time, still—unless they are tired of each other—they are ready to reunite, and not to other for the circumstances that severed them.

"Saturday, 27th, (I believe—it may be am double, which is the less sublime of mental truth.)"

"I have missed a day; and, as the Irishman said, or Joe Miller says for him, 'have gained a loss,' or by the loss. Everything is settled for Holland, and nothing but a cough, or a caprice of my fellow-travellers, can stop me. Carriages ordered—funds prepared—and, probably, a gale of wind to the bargain. N. importe—I believe, with Clyn o the Clew, or Robin Hood, 'By our Mary (dear name!) that art both Mother and May, I think it ever was a man's lot to die before his day.' Heigh for Helvoetsluis, and so forth!"

"To-night I went with young Henry Fox to see 'Nourjahad—a drama, which the Morning Post is pleased to censure.' I hear, as for can next week, that Carritte ordere

"I have no conception of any existence which duration would render tiresome. How else 'fell the angels,' even according to your creed? They were immortal, heavenly, and happy as their apostate Abel to is now by his treachery. Time must decide—eternity won't be the less agreeable or more horrible because one did not expect it. In the mean time, I am grateful for some good, and tolerable patient under certain evils—grace & Eiol on mon bon temperament."

"Sunday, 28th."

"Two days missed in my log-book; hiatus hand defends. They were as little worth recollection as the rest, and, luckily, hazziness or society pre

"Sunday, I dined with Lord Holland in St. James's Square. Large party—among them Sir S. Romney and Lady Ry;— General Sir Somebody (I think the son of the late Lord—), Horner—The Horner, an Edinburgh Reviewer, an excellent speaker in the 'Honorable House,' very pleasing, and gentlemanly in company, as far as I can judge. Lord John Russell, and others, I need not true. Holland's society is very good; you always see some one or other in it worth knowing. Stuffed myself with sturgeon, and exceeded in champagne and wine in a manner, but no ventilation of heart. When I do dine, I gorge like an Arab or a boa

"Why does not one see some other in it worth knowing. Stuffed myself with sturgeon, and exceeded in champagne and wine in a manner, but no ventilation of heart. When I do dine, I gorge like an Arab or a boa, snake, on fish and vegetables, but no meat. I am always better, however, on my tea and biscuit than any other regimen—and even that sparingly."

"Redde the Ed. Review of Rogers. He is ranked highly—but where he should be. There is a summary view of us all—Moore and me among the rank. I hear, it is high in London; and in implication (justly again) placed beneath our memorable friend. Mackintosh is the writer, and also of the critic on the Star. His grand essay on Byron is one of the things that have firmly established his name. Nothing of the Edinburgh, or of any other Review, but from rumor; and have long ceased—indeed, I could not, in justice, complain of any, even though I were to rate poetry in general, and my rhymes in particular, more highly than I really do. To withdraw myself from myself (oh that cursed selfishness!) has ever been my sole, my entire, my sincere motive in scribbling at all; and publishing is also the continuance of the same object. The reputation which it affords to the mind, which else recouls upon itself, if I valued fame, I should have rejected opinions, which have gathered strength by time, and will yet be more lasting than any living works to the contrary. For, to some, the mind will not give the lie to my own thoughts and doubts, come what may. If I am a fool, it is, at least, a doubting one; and I envy no one the certainty of his self-assertion."

"All are inclined to believe what they covet, from a lottery-ticket up to a passport to Paradise; in which, from description, I see nothing very tempting; or restlessness tells me the laws have something within that 'passet show.' It is for Him who made it, to prolong that spark of celestial fire which illuminates, yet burns, this frail tenement; but I see no such horror in a 'dreamless sleep' and..."
BYRON'S WORKS

back) on Ward, who was asking 'how much it would take to re-whig him?' I answered that, probably, he must first, before he was re-whigged, be re-warried! This foolish quibble, before the Stael and Mackintosh and a number of conversations Commissioner Mackintosh has been mouthed about, and at last settled on the head of * * * where long may it remain!

"George" is returned from abroad to get a new ship. He looks thin, but, I am not expected. I like George much more than most people like their heirs. He is a fine fellow, and every inch a sailor. I w.uld do any thing, but apostatize, to get him on in his profession.

Lewis is called. It is a good and good-humored man, but pestilently profic, and paradoxical, and personal. If he would but talk half, and reduce his visits in an hour he would add to his popularity. As an author, he is very good, and his vanity is...er. Like Erskine's, and yet not offending.

"Yesterday, a very pretty letter from Annabella,* which I answered. What an odd situation and friendship is ours! without one spark of love on either side produced by circumstances which in general lead in coldness to one side, and aversion on the other. She is a very superior woman, and very little spoiled, which is strange in an heiress—a great fault, as I see to the right—an only child, and a savante, who has always had her own way. She is a poetess—a mathematician—a metaphysician; and yet, withal, very kind, generous, and simple.

Any other head would be turned with half her acquisitions, and a tenth of her advantages.

Wednesday, December 1, 1813.

"To-day responded to La Baronne de Staël Holstein, and sent to Leigh Hunt (an acquisition to my acquaintance)—through Moore—of last summer a copy of the two Turkish tales. Hunt is an extraordinary character and not exactly of the present age. He reminds me more of the Pym and Hampden times—much talent, great independence of spirit, and an austere, yet not repulsive, aspect. If he goes on with his ab incepto, I know few men who will deserve more praise or obtain it. I must go and see him again; the rapid succession of adventure since last summer, added to some serious meanness and business, have interrupted our acquaintance; but he is a man worth knowing; and though, for a man of his age, he is nearly at the reading, I, like some study character in such situations. He has been unshaken, and will continue so. I don't think him deeply versed in life; he is the bigot of virtue, (sit'a) and he is as he appears; a Business, that empty name, as the last breath of Brutus pronounced, and every day proves it. He is, perhaps, a little opinionated, as all men who are the centre of circles, wide or narrow—the Sir Ocales, in whose name two or three are gathered together—must be, and as even Johnson was; but, withal, a valuable man, and less vain than success and even the consciousness of preferring the right to the expedi- 

tent might excuse.

"To-morrow there is a party of purple at the blue Miss * * * * * * Shall I go? um! I don't much affect your blue-bottles; but one ought to be civil. There will be, I guess, (as the American leaves say,) the Stais and Mackintoshes—good— the * * * * * and * * * * not so good—the * * * * * &c, &c. good for nothing. Perhaps that blue-winged-Kashmirian butterfly of book-learning, Lady Sligo, who is * * * * * * * a pleasure to look upon that most beautiful of faces.

"Wrote to Hodgson; he has been telling that I am sure, at least, I did not mention it...
EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL.

\[\text{rived only some days after, and the stimulants are the subject of his letter. That I shall preserve—} \text{it is as well. Lewis and Galt were both harrassed; and I wondered I did not introduce the situation into the dilemma. He may wonder—he might perhaps want more at that production's being written at all. But to describe the feelings of that situation were impossible—it is too even to recollect them.}

\[\text{The Bride of Abydos was published on Thursday the second of December, but how it is liked or disliked, I know not. Whether it succeeds or not is no fault of the public, against whom I can have no complaint. But I am much more indebted to the public for its sale, than to the particular reader; as it wrung my thoughts from reality to imagination—from selfish regrets to vivid recollections—and recalled me to a country replete with the brightest and darkest, but always most lively colors of my memory. Sharpe called, but was not let in, which I regret.}

\[\text{Saw yesterday. I have not kept my appointment at Middleton, which pleases him, perhaps; and my projected voyage with } \ast \ast \text{ will, perhps, please him less. But I wish to keep well with both. Th ey are instrumentals that don't do, in concert; but surely, their separate tones are more musical, and very musical, if not altogether }

\[\text{It is well if I don't jar between these great discord. At present, I stand tolerably well with all, but I cannot adopt their dislikes—so many sects. Holland is of the world and I am } \ast \ast \text{; welcome there, and certainly the tow of his society is the best. Then there is } \ast \ast \text{ de Stael’s—there I never go, though I might, had I counted it. It is composed of the } \ast \ast \text{ and the } \ast \ast \text{ family, with a strange sprinkling—origins, dandies, and all kinds of blue, from the regular Grub street uniform, down to the azure jacket of the biter. To see } \ast \ast \text{ and } \ast \ast \text{ sitting together, at dinner, always reminds me of the grave, where all distinctions are erased, and for are levelled; and they—the Reviewer and Reviewee, the rhinoceros and elephant, the mammoth and Megalonyx—all will lie quietly together. They now sit together, as silent, but not so quiet, as if they were already immured.}

\[\text{I did not go to the Berry’s the other night. The elder is a woman of much talent, and both are handsome, and must have been beautiful. To-night, } \ast \ast \text{ Lord H. } \ast \ast \text{ shall I go? um! perhaps.}

\[\text{Morning, two o'clock.}

\[\text{ Went to Lord H. } \ast \ast \text{ party numerous—mildly in perfect good humor, and consecutively } \ast \ast \text{ perfect that Nc one more agreeable, or perhaps so much so, when she will. Asked for Wednesday to dine and meet the Stael; } \ast \ast \text{ particularly, I believe, out of mischiefl, to see the first interview after the note, with which Corinne professes herself to be so much taken. I don’t much like it—she always talks of } \ast \ast \text{ or herself, and I am not (except in soliloquy, as now) much enamored of either subject—especially one cuckoo that the devil shall I say about } \ast \ast \text{ Allemagne? I like it prodigiously; but unless I can twist my admiration into some fancifull expression, she won’t believe me; and I know my influence, shall be overwhelmed with fine things about rhyme, &c., &c. The lover, Mr. Rocca, was there to-night, and Campbell said, it was the only proof he had seen of her good taste. Monsieur L’Amant is remarkably handsome; but I don’t think the best of it.}

\[\text{Campbell looks well—seemed pleased, and dressed to sprucery. A blue coat becomes him, so does his new wig. He really looked as if Apollo had sent him a glimpse. He not wonder, he might have been wittily and wisely.}

\[\text{He abused Corinne’s book, which I regret; because, firstly, he understands German, and is, consequently, a fair judge; and, secondly, he is first-rate, and, consequently, the best of judges. I reverence and admire him; but I won’t give up my opinion—why should I? I read her again and again, and there can be no affectation in this. I cannot be mistaken (except in taste) in a book I read and lay down, and make up again; and no book can be totally bad, which finds one, even one reader, who can say as much sincerely.}

\[\text{Campbell talks of lecturing next spring; his last lectures were eminently successful. Moore thought of it, but gave it up, I don’t know why. } \ast \ast \text{ had been prating dignity to him, and such stuff; as if a man disgraced himself by instructing and pleasing at the same time.}

\[\text{Introduced Mrs. Hamilton Buckingham—saw Lord Gower—he is going to Holland; Sir J. and Lady Mackintosh and Horner, G. Lamb, with, I know not how many, (R. Wellesley, one—a clever man,) grouped about the room. Little Henry Fox, a fine boy, and very promising in mind and manner;—he went away to bed, before I had time to talk to him. I am sure I had rather hear him than all the sacaus.}

\[\text{Monday, Dec. 6.}

\[\text{Murray tells me that Croker asked him why the thing was called the Bride of Abydos. It is a cursed awkward question, being unanswerable. She is not a bride, only about to be one; but for, &c., &c.}

\[\text{I don’t wonder at his finding out the bull; but the detection } \ast \ast \text{ is too late to do any good. I was a great fool to make it, and am ashamed of not being an Irishman.}

\[\text{Campbell last night seemed a little nettled at something or other—I know not what. We were standing in the ante-saloon, when Lord H. brought out of the other room a vessel of some composition similar to that which is used in Catholic churches, and, seeing us, he exclaimed, ‘Here is some venena for you.’ Campbell answered—‘Carry it to Lord Byron;—he is used to it.’}

\[\text{Now, this companion ‘bearing no brother near the throne.’ I, who have no throne, nor wish to have one now—whatever I may have done—aam at perfect peace with all the poetical fraternity;—or, at least, if I dislike any, it is not poetically, but personally. Surely, the field of thought is infinite;—what does it signify who is before or behind in a race where there is no goal? The temple of Fame is like that of the Persians, the Universe;—our altar, the tops of the mountains and the unsaturated regions of Mount Caucas or Mount Anything; and those who like it may have Mount Blanc or Chimboraz, without my envy of their elevation.}

\[\text{I think I may now speak thus; for I have just published a poem, and am quite ignorant whether it is likely to be liked or not. I have hitherto heard little in its commendation, and no one can downright abuse it to one’s face, except in print. It can’t be good, or I should not have stumbled over the threshold, and blundered in my very title. But I begun it with heart full of } \ast \ast \text{, and my head of orientialities, (I can’t call them iams,) and wrote on rapidly.}

\[\text{This journal is a relief. When I am tire—I as generally am—out comes this, and down goes everything. But I can’t read it over; and God knows what contradictions it contain. If I am sincere and I mean to do it, as I think I do, I don’t refer to any else, (not even to more or less than to any one else,) every page should confute, refute, and utterly abjure its predecessor.}

\[\text{Another scribble from Martin Baldwin the pettioner: I have neither head nor nerves to present that contention at that proper age of it. Lewis has spoiled my digestion and my philanthropy. I have no more charity than a crust of vinegar. Would I were an ostrich, and died of fire-irons—or any thing that my pizzazz could not take up.}

\[\text{To-day saw W. His uncle is dying, and W. don’t much affect our Dutch determinations. Dine with him on Thursday, provided } \ast \ast \text{ is not dined upon, or peremptorily bespoke by the posthumous}
BYRON'S WORKS.

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I wish he may recover
epicures, before that day.
not for our dinner's sake, but to disappoint the undertaker, and the rascally reptiles that may well
wait, since they will dine at last.
" Gcll called he of
Troy after I was out. Mem.
to return his visit.
But my Menis. are the very
landmarks of forgetfulness
something like alighthouse, with a ship wrecked under the nose of its
lantern. I never look at a Mem. without seeing that

the note annejced to the 'Znde.'

This in to be a.
counted for in several ways
firstly, all women liki
all, or any praise; secondly, this was unexpected
because I have never courted her and, thirdly, as
Scrub says, those who have been all their lives regularly praised, by legular critics, like a little variety,
and are glad when any one goes out of his way tc
say a civil thing and, fourthly, she is a very good,
natured creature, which is the best reason, after all,
I have remembered to forget.
Mem. I have for- and, perhaps, the only one.
" A knock knocks
to
Pitt's
and
I
shall
be
Bland
taxes,
single and double.
gotten
pay
suppose
An' I do not turn rebel when thou art called. He says Dutch society (he has been in Holsurcharged.
oons I believe my very biscuit is leavened land) is second'-hand. French but the women ate
king
like women every where else
This is a bore I
with that impostor's imposts.
" Ly.
e
returns from Jersey's to-morrow
I should like to see them a little unlike ; but that
must call. A Mr. Thomson has sent a song, whiv;h can't be expected.
" Went out came home
I hate annoying them with cenI must applaud.
this, that, and tbfl
other and 'all is vanity, saith the preac ner, and
sure or silence, and yet I hate lettering.
" Saw Lord Glenbervie and his
1 alking of
prospectus, .at so say I, as part of his congregation.
Murray's, of a new Treatise on Timber. Now here vanity whose praise do I prefer ?
Why, Mrs.
is a man more useful than all the historians and Inchbald's, and that of the Americans.
The first,
'
For, by preserving our because her Simple Story and Nature and Art
rhymers ever planted.
woods and forests, he furnishes materials for all the are, vo me, true to their titles; and consequently
'
Giaour denistory of Britain worth reading, and all the odes her short note to Rogers about the
worth nothing.
lighted me more than any thing, except the Edin" Redde a
I like the Americans, because 1
good deal, but desultorily. My head burgh Review.
is crammed with the most useless lumber.
It is happened to be in Asia, while the English Bards
odd that when I do read, I can only bear the chicken- and Scotch Reviewers were redde in America. If I
broth of any thing but novels. It is many a year could have had a speech against the Slave Trade,
since I have looked into one, (though they are some- in Africa, and an epitaph on a dog, in Europe, (i.
times ordered, by way of experiment, but never e. in the Morning Fost,) my vertex sublimis would
taken,) till I looked yesterday at the worst parts of certainly have displaced stars enough to overthrow
the Monk. These descriptions ought to have been the Newtonian system.,
"
Friday, Dec. 10, 1813. ^
written by Tiberias at Caprea they are forced " I am
the philtred ideas of a jaded voluptuary. It is to
ennui/' bevond my usual tense of that
me inconceivable how they could have been com- vawning verb, which 1 am always conjugating and
posed by a man of only twenty his age when he 1 don't find that society much mends the matter
wrote them. They have no nature all the sour I am too lazy to shoot myself and it would annoy
nre'am of eantharides.
I should have suspected Augusta, and perhaps * *
but it would be a pood
BufFon. of writing them on the death-bed of his de- thing for George, on the other side, and no bad one
testable dotage.
I had never redde this edition, and for me
but I won't be tempted.
" I have had the kindest letter from Moore.
merely looked at them from curiosity and recollection of the noise they made, and the name they do think that man is the best-hearted, the only
have left to Lewis. But they could do no harm hearted being I ever encountered
and then, his
* * *.
talents are equal to his feelings.
except
" Called this
on
business
"Dined
at
on
Lord
H.'s
the Sf afevening
my agent my
Wednesday
as usual.
Our strange adventures are the only in- fords, StaSls, Cowpers, Ossulstones, Melbou,
heritances of our family that have not diminished. Mackintoshes, &c., &c., and was introducer! to
the Marquis arid Marchioness of Stafford, ;<n un" I shall now smoke two
cigars, and get me to expected event.
My quarrel with Lord C
The cigars don't keep well here. They get (their or his brother-in-law) having rendert-d ir ';nbed.
as old as a dcmna di quaranti anni in the sun of
But, if it was
'oper, I suppose, brought it about.
Africa.
The Havana are the best
but neither are to happen at all, 1 wonder it did not occur before.
so pleasant as a hooka or chibouque.
The Turkish She is handsome, and must have been beautiful
tobacco is mild, and their horses entire two things and her manners are princessly. * * *
" The Start was at the other end of the
as they should be.
I am so far obliged to this jourtable, and
at least from less loquacious than heretofore.
We are now very
nal, that it preserves me from verse,
keeping it. I have just thrown a poem into the good friends
though she asked Lady Melbourne
fire (which it has relighted to my great, comfort), whether I had really any bonhommie.
She might as
and have smoked out of my head the plan of an- well have asked that question before she told C. L.
other. I wish I could as easily get rid of thinking,
c'est un demon."
True enough, but rather prema
or, at least, the confusion of thought.
ture, for she could not have found it out, and so
she wants me to dine there next Sunday.
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Tuesday, Dec. 7.
Murray prospers, as far as circulation. For my
and slept dreamlessly, but not part, I adhere (in liking) to my Fragment. It is no
Awoke and up an hour before being wonder that I wrote one my mind is a fragment.
retreshingly.
" Saw Lord
called but dawdled three hours in dressing. When
Gower, Tierney, &c., in the square.
one subtracts from life infancy (which is vegetation) Took leave of Lord Gr., who is going to Holland
He tells me, that he carries with
sleep, eating, and swilling buttoning and unbut- and Germany.
toning how much remains of downright existence ? him a parcel of Harolds and Giaours,' fee., for
*
*
*
* the readers of Berlin, who, it seems, read English,
The summer of a dormouse.
" Redde the
have I
papers and tea-ed, and soda-watered, and have taken a caprice for mine. Um
iiid found out that the fire was badly lighted.
Ld. been German all this time, when I thought myself
*
*
*
orii-ntiil !
Glenbervie wants me to go to Brighton um
" This
Lent Tierney my box for to-morrow and remorning a very pretty billet from the Start
ibout meeting her at Ld. II. 's to-morrow. She has ceived a new comedy sent by Lady C. A. but not
I must read it, and endeavor not to displease
Written, 1 dare say, twenty such this morning to hers.
different people, all equally flattering to each.
So the author. I hate annoying them with cavil but
much the better for her and those who believe all a comedy I tarte to be the most difficult of compome wishes them, or they wish to believe. She has sitions, more so than tragedy.
>ean p 3 ased to be pleased with my slight eulogy in
Gait says there is a coincidence between th

''Went

to bed,

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"Much done, but nothing to record. It is quite enough to set down my thoughts; my actions will rarely bear retrospect." —Dec. 17, 18—

"Lord Holland told me a curious piece of sentimentiality in Sheridan. The other night we were all delivering our respective and various opinions on him and other homines maruyans, and mine was to say, 'Whatever Sheridan has done or chosen to do, has been, par excellence, always the best of its kind. He has written the best comedy, (School for Scandal,) the best drama, (in my mind, far before that St. Giles's,) the greatest ballad, (The Beggar's Opera,) the best farce, (the Critic—it is only too good for a farce,) and the best address, (Monologue on Garrick,) and to crown all, delivered the very best oration (the famous Begum Speech) ever conceived or heard in this country.' Somebody told S. this the next day, and on hearing it, he burst into tears!" —Dec. 17, 18—

I went to the box at Covent Garden to-night; and my delirious felt a little shocked at seeing the * * *'s mistress (who, to my certain knowledge, was actually educated, from her birth, for her profession) sitting with her mother, "the three-piled sod, b — d — Major to the army," in a private box opposite. I felt rather indignant; but, casting my eyes round the house, in the next box to me, and the next, and the next, were the most distinguished and young Babylonians of quality; —so I burst out a laughing. It was really odd; Lady * * * divorced—Lady * * * and her daughter, Lady * * *, both disrespectful—Mrs. * * * in the next, the like, and still newer * * * * * * What an assemblage to me, who know all their histories. It was as if the house had been divided between your public and your understood courtiers; but the intrigantes much outnumbered the regular mercenaries. On the other side were only Pauline and her mother, and next box to her, three of inferior note. Now, where lay the difference between her and mamma, and Lady * * * and her mother? Sir last may enter Carleton and any other house, and the two first are limited to the opera and b—house. How I do delight in observing life as it really is! and myself, after all, the worst of any. But, no matter, we must avoid egotism, which, just now, would be no vanity."

"I have lately written a wild, rambling, unfinished rhapsody, called 'The Devil's Drive,' the notion of which I took from Porson's 'Devil's Walk.'"

"Rede some Italian, and wrote two sonnets on * * * * * I never wrote but one sonnet before, and that was not in earnest, and many years ago, as an exercise—and I will never write another, as they are the most piling, petrifying, stupidly platonic compositions. I detest the Petrarch so much, that I would not be the man even to have obtained his Laura, which the metaphysical, whining dotard never would." —Dec. 17, 18—

"To-morrow I leave town for a few days. I saw Lewis to-day, who has just returned from Oatlands where he has been squabbling with Mr. M. He talked a deal about himself, Clarissa Harlowe, Mackintosh, and..."
BYRON'S WORKS.

My homage has never been paid in that quarter, or we would have agreed still worse. I don't talk, I can't write, and won't listen, except to a pretty or foolish woman. She boded Lewis with praises of herself till he sickened—found out that Clariissa was perfection, and Mackintosh the first match, in such a case, least one ever got; and, first, but Lewis did not. As to Clariissa, I leave to those who can read it to judge and dispute. I could not do the one, and am, consequently, not qualified for the other. She told Lewis wisely, he being my friend, that it was affected in the first place; and that, in the next place, I committed the heinous offence of sitting at dinner with my eyes shut, or half shut. I wonder if I really have to. It can't be. It must be a trick. One insensibly acquires awkward habits, which should be broken in time. If this is one, I wish I had been told of it before. It would not so much signify if one was always to be checkmated by a plain woman, but one may as well see some of one's neighbors, as well as the plate upon the table.

"I should like, of all things, to have heard the Amaboan clogge between her and Lewis,—both obsession and curtailing shrill. In fact, one could have heard nothing else. But they fell out, alas!—and now they will never quarrel again. Could one not reconcile them for the nonce?"—Poor Corinoco, she will find that some of her fine sayings not suit our fine ladies and gentlemen.

"I am getting rather into admiration of ***, the youngest sister of **. A wife would be my salvation. I am sure the wives of my acquaintance have hitherto done me little good. ** is beautiful, but very young, and, I think, a fool. But I have not seen enough to judge; besides, I hate an excess in poetry, and he has an excess. It may be, it is very probable, or not. I should love her. But on my system, and the modern system in general, don't sighify. The business (if it came to business) would probably be arranged between papa and me. She would have her own way; I am good-humored to women, and docile; and, if I did not fall in love with her, which I should try to prevent, we should be a very comfortable couple. As to conduct, that she must look to. I am not the type of a stock, nor will I be the type of a stock for that reason I will not be in love. Though, after all, I doubt my temper, and fear I should not be so patient as becomes the benevolence of a4 amused man in my station. **. Divorce is the modern escape; and damages are a paltry compensation. I do fear my temper would lead me into some of our oriental tricks of vengeance, or, at any rate, into a summation appeal to the court of twelve places. So 'I'll none on,' or it, if I remain, single and solitary; though I should like to have somebody, now and then, to yawn with one.

"Ward, and, after him, **, has stolen one of my buffoneries about Mule, de Staël's Metaphysics and the Fog, and passed it by, speech and letter, as their own. As Gibbet says, 'they are the most of a gentleman of any on the road.' W. is in sad enemy with the whigs about this review of Fox, (if he did review him;)—all the epigrammatists and essayists are at him. I hate odds, and wish he may beat them. As for me, by the blessing of indifference, I have simplified my politics into an utter delirium, and have continued to exist; and, whom is the shortest and most agreeable and summary feeling imaginable, the first moment of a universal republic would convert me into an advocate for single and simple lives. The fact is, riches are power, and poverty is slavery, all over the earth, and one sort of establishment is no better, nor worse, for a people than another. I shall adhere to my party, because it would not be honorable to lose it. It is not to be won. We can't think politics worth an opinion. Conduct is another thing—if you begin with a party, go on with them. I have no consistency, except in politics, and that probably arises from my indifference on the subject altogether.

"Better than a month since I last journalized:—most of it out of London, and at Notts., but a busy one and a pleasant, at least three weeks of it. On my return, I am in a London garb, but the town in an uproar, on the awaval and repub- licaion of two stanzas on Princess Charlotte's weeping at Regency's speech to Lauderdale in 1812. They are daily at it still; some of the abuse good, all of it hearty. They talk of a motion in our House upon it—it be so.

"Got up—read the Morning Post containing the battle of Bonaparte, the destruction of the Custermhouse, and many other topics on one as long as my pencil, and versitave, as usual.***

"Hobhouse is returned to England. He is my best friend, the most lively, and a man of the most. sterling talents extant.

"'The Corsair' has been conceived, written, published, &c., since I last took up this journal. They tell me it has great success;—it was written con amore, and much from existence. Murray is satisfied with its progress; and the public are equally so with the perusal, there's an end of the matter.

"'The Dibdab.'

"Been to Hanover on business. Saw Rogers and had a note from Lady Melbourne, who says, 'it is said that I am much out of spirits.' I wonder if really am or not? I have certainly enough of that perilous stuff which weighs upon the heart, and it is better they should believe it to be the result of these attacks than of the real cause; but, ay, always but, to the end of the chapter.

"Hobhouse has told me ten thousand anecdotes of Napoleon, all good and true. My friend H. is the most entertaining of companions, and a fine fellow to boot.

"Redde a little—wrote notes and letters, and am alone, which, Locke says, is bad company. 'Be not solitary, be not idle!'—'Endlessness is troublesome; but I can't see so much to regret in the solitude. The more I see of men, the less I like them. If I could but say so of women, too, all would be well. Why can't I? I am now six-and-twenty, my passions have had enough to cool them: my affections more than enough to wither them,—and yet—and yet—always but—Excellent well, you are a fishmonger—get thee to a nursery. 'They fool me to the top of my bent.'—Midnight.

"Began a letter, which I threw into the fire. Redde—but to little purpose. Did not visit Hobhouse, as I promised and ought. No matter, the loss is mine. Smoked cigars.

"Napoleon!—this week will decide his fate. All seems against him; but I believe and hope he will win—least, beat back the invaders. What right have we to prescribe sovereignty to France? Oh for a republic! 'Brutus, thou sleepest.' Hobhouse abounds in continental anecdotes of this extraordinary man; all in favor of his intellect and courage, but against his bonhomme. No wonder;—how should he, who knows mankind well, do other than despise and abhor them.

"The greater the equality, the more impartially evil is distributed, and becomes lighter by the divi- sion among so many—therefore, a republic!

"More notes from Mad. de Staël unanswered—and so they shall remain. I admire her abilities, but really can't think much of her. The fact is, riches are power, and poverty is slavery, all over the earth, and one sort of establishment is no better, nor worse, for a people than another. I shall adhere to my party, because it would not be honorable to lose it. It is not to be won. We can't think politics worth an opinion. Conduct is another thing—if you begin with a party, go on with them. I have no consistency, except in politics, and that probably arises from my indifference on the subject altogether."

* February 18.
such a world; for what purpose dandies, for instance, were ordained—and kings—and fellows of colleges—and women of a certain age—and many men of any age—and myself, most of all!

"I am a solitary goblin,—a solitary hobgoblin. True;—I am myself alone. The last week has been passed in reading—seeing plays—now and then, visitors—sometimes yawnings and sometimes sighings, but no writing—saving of letters. If I could always read, I should never feel the want of society. Do I regret it?—am Man delights not me, and only one woman—at a time.

"There is something to me very softening in the presence of a woman,—some strange influence, even if one is not in love with them,—which I cannot at all account for, having no very high opinion of the sex. But yet,—I always feel in better humor with myself and every thing else, if there is a woman within ken. Even Mrs. Mule, my fire-lighted,—the most ancient and withered of her kind and (except to myself) not the best tempered,—always makes me laugh,—no difficult task when I am 'I the vein.'

"Heigho! I would I were in mine island!—I am not well, and yet I look in good health. At times, indeed, I fear, 'I am in a very periphrastic scene.' I am not sorry that my heart and head have stood many a crash, and what should all them now? They prey upon themselves, and I am sick—sick—Prithee, undo this button; why should a cat, a rat, a dog, have life, and thou no life at all? Six-and-twenty years, as they call them—why, I might and should have been a Pasha by this time. 'I gin to be a weary of the sun.'

"Bonaparte I do not yet beaten; but I reported Blucher, and repaired Swartzeed; this is to have a head. If he again wins, 'Vie victis'!

"I think that I had a talent for the drama; I would write a tragedy now. But no,—it is gone.—Hogdon talks of one,—he will do it well;—and I think Mr. McCre should try. H has wonderful powers, and much variety; besides, he has lived and felt. To write so as to bring home to the heart, the heart must have been tried,—but, perhaps, ceased to be so. While you are under the influence of passions, I have only felt, but cannot describe them,—very much; in action, you could turn round, and tell the story to your next neighbor! When all is over,—all, all irrevocable,—trust to memory,—she has left me then but too faithful.

"Went out, and answered some letters, yawned now and then, and rode the Robbers. Fine,—but Penn is better; and a Merit and Monti's Aristides is not the least. They are more equal than the Tedeschi dramatists.

"Answered,—or, rather, acknowledged—the receipt of young Flora's letter. The lady is clever, but much of his thoughts are borrowed, whence, the Reviewers may find out. I hate discouraging a young one; and I think,—though wild, and more oriental than he would be, had he seen the scenario in all its splendor,—that he has much talent and certainly fire enough.

"Received a very singular epistle,—and the mode of its conveyance, through Lord H.'s, where I had no written, but not inclined to go any where. Hothouse says I am growing a long garnet,—a solitary hobgoblin. True;—I am myself alone.' The last week has been passed in reading—seeing plays—now and then, visitors—sometimes yawnings and sometimes sighings, but no writing—saving of letters. If I could always read, I should never feel the want of society. Do I regret it?—am Man delights not me, and only one woman—at a time.

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"Bonaparte I do not yet beaten; but I reported Blucher, and repaired Swartzeed; this is to have a head. If he again wins, 'Vie victis'!

"On Tuesday last dined with Rogers,—Madame de Stael, Mackintosh, Sheridan, Erskine, and Payne Knight, Lady Donegall and Miss R. there. Sheridan told a very good story of himself and Mr. Reynolds's quizzing Lord Beccarav's French chef. Erskine's few stories of himself only. She is going to write a big book about England, she says,—I believe her. Asked by her how I liked Miss * * *'s thing, called * * * and answered (very sincerely) that I thought it very bad for her, and worse than any of the others. Afterward thought it possible Lady Donegall being Irish, might be a patroness of * * *, and was rather sorry for my opinion, as I hate putting people into fuses, either with themselves, or their favorites; it looks as if one did it on purpose. The party went off very well, and the fish was very much to my gusto. But we got up too soon after the women; and Mrs. Corinne always lingers so long after dinner, that we wish her in—the drawing-room.

"To-day C. called, and, while sitting here, I saw Sir Merivale. During our colloquy, C. (ignorant that M. was the writer) paused the awkwardness of the Quarterly Review of Grimm's Correspondence. I knewing the secret) changed the conversation as soon as I could; and C. went away, quite convinced of having made the most favorable impression on his new acquaintance. Merivale is luckily a very good-natured fellow, or God knows what might have been engendered from such a malaprop. I did not look at him while this was going on, but I felt like for I like Merivale, as well as the article in question.

"Asked to Lady Keith's to-morrow evening—I think I will go; but it is the first party invitation I have accepted this season,' as the learned Fletcher called it, when that youngest brat of Lady * * *'s cut
my eye and check open with a misdirected pet-ble.
'T Never mind, my lord, the scar will be gone before
the season; as if one's eye was of no importance in
the mean time.
"Lord Erskine called, and gave me his famous
pamphlet, with a marginal note and corrections in
his handwriting. Sent it to be bound superbly, and
shall treasure it.
"Sent most of my fine print of Napoleon to be framed.
It is framed; and the emperor becomes his robes
as if he had been hatched in them."

March 7.
"Rose at seven—ready by half-past eight—went
to Mr. Horne tooke, where I found Berkeley square,
with his eldest daughter, Mary Anne, (a good girl),
and gave her away to the Earl of Portsmouth.—
Saw her fairly a countess—congratulated the family
and groom (bride)—drank a bumper of wine (whole-
some sherris) to their felicity, and all that,—and
came home. Asked to stay to dinner, but could not.
At three sat to Phillips for faces. Called on
Lady M.—I like her so well, that I always stay too
long. (Mem.—to mend of that.)

"Passed the evening with Hobhouse, who has
began a poem, which promises highly; with
he would go on with it. Heard some curious extracts
from a life of Morosini, the blundering Venetian, who
tried to have passed in piracy. 'tis a fine
ship: and be d— to him! Wax'd sleepy,—just come
home,—must go to bed, and am engaged to meet
Sheridan to-morrow at Roger's.

"A queer ceremony that same of marriage—saw
many abroad, Greek and Catholic—one, at home,
many years ago. There be some strange phrases in
the prologue, (the exhortation,) which made me
turn away, not to laugh in the face of the surplice-
man. Made one blunder, when I joined the hands
of the happy—rammed their left hands, by mistake,
into one another. Corrected it—bustled back to
the altar-rail, and said 'Amen.' Portsmouth
responded as if he had got the whole by heart; and,
if any thing, was rather before the priest. It is
now midnight, and

March 10, 'Thurs.' Day.
"On Tuesday dined with Rogers—Mackintosh,
Sheridan, Sharpe—much talk, and good—all, except
my own little prattlement. Much old of times
—Horne Tooke,—the Trials,—evidence of Sheridan,
—and anecdotes of those times, when I alas! was
an infant. If I had been a man, I would have made
a second Lord Edward Fitzgerald.

"Set down Sheridan at Brookes's—where, by-the-
by, he could not have well set down himself, as he
and I were the only drinkers. Sherry means to
stand for Westminster, as Cochrane (the stock-
jobbing hoaxter) must vacate. Broughtum is a
candidate. I fear for poor dear Sherry. Both have
talents of the highest order, but the younger has
yet a character. We shall see, if he lives to Sherry's
age, how he will pass over the red-hot ploughshares
of public life. I don't know why, but I hate to see
the old ones lose; particularly Sheridan, with
standing all his mechanicates.

"Wrote the kindest, thanks from Lady Portsmouth, p:re and mire, for my match-
making. I don't regret it, as she looks the coun-
tess well, and is a very good girl. It is odd how well
she carries her new shawl. She looks a different
woman, and high-bred, too. I had no idea that
I could make so good a peeress.

"Went to the play with Holhouse. Mrs. Jordan
superlative in Hoyden, and Jones well enough in
Forbes's. 'That play hurry—what idiots!' Helen!
Congreve and Vanbrugh are your only comedy. Our
society is too insipid now for the like copy. Would
not go to Lady Keith's. Holhouse thought it odd.
I wonder: it should like parties, if it is in love,
and wants to break a commandment and covet any
thing that is there, they do very well. But to go
out among the mere herd, without a motive, pleas-
ure, or pursuit—'scheid! 'T I none of it. He told
me an old report; that I am the actual Conrad, the
veritable Corsair, and that part of my travels are
staged to have passed in piracy. They say sometimes
hit the truth; out never the whole
truth. H. don't know what I was about the year
'59 he left the Levant; nor does any one—nor—
or—nor—however, it is a lie; but, 'I doubt the
equivocation of the fiend that lies like truth! '"

"I shall have letters of importance to-morrow.—
Which, * * * or * * *? heigho! —is in my heart,
in my head, in my eye, and the single one, heaven
knows where! All written and answered. 'Since I have crept in favor with myself,
I must maintain it;' but I never 'mistook my per-
son,' though I think others have.

"A card to-day in great despair about his mistress, who has taken a freak of * * *.
He began a letter to her, but was obliged to stop short
—finished it for him, and he copied and sent it.—
If he holds out and keeps to my instructions of
affected indifference, she will lower her colors.
If she don't, he will, at least, get rid of her, and she
don't seem much worth keeping. But the poor
lad is in love—and if that is the case, she will win.
When they once discover their power, finita e la
musica.

"Sleepy, and must go to bed."

Tuesday, March 15.
"Dined yesterday with R., Mackintosh, and
Sharpe. Sheridan could not come. Sharpe told
several very amusing anecdotes of Henderson, the
author. Stayed till late, and came to my rooms
drunk, so much tea, that I did not get to sleep till
six this morning. R. says that I am to be in
this Quarterly—cut up, I presume, as they 'hate us
youth.' 'No!' he says, 'the don't wonder—Conrad is so like.' It is odd that one, who knows me so thoroughly, should
tell me this to my face. However, if she don't know,
nobody can.

"Mackintosh is, it seems, the writer of the de-
defensive letter in the Morning Chronicle. If so, it
is very kind, and more than I did for myself.

"W. W. called—Lord Erskine, Lord Helder, 
&c., &c. Wrote to * * * the Corsair report. She
says, she is sure, she don't wonder—'Conrad is so like.' It is odd that one, who knows me so thoroughly, should
tell me this to my face. However, if she don't know,
nobody can.

"Mackintosh is, it seems, the writer of the de-
defensive letter in the Morning Chronicle. If so, it
is very kind, and more than I did for myself.

"Told Murray to secure for me Bandello's Italian
novels at the sale to-morrow. To me they will be
nuts. Redde a satire on myself, called 'Anti-Byron,
and told Murray to publish it, if he liked. The ob-
ject of the author is to prove me an Atheist and a
systematic conspirator against law and government.
Some of the parts are good; the whole I don't quite
understand. He assert's that my 'delatorious
works' have had an 'effect upon civil society, which
requires, &c., &c., &,' and his own poetry. It is a
lengthy poem and a long preface, with a famous
 conclude-page. Like the fly in the fable, I seem
 to have got upon a wheel which makes much dust;
 but, unlike the said fry, I do not take it all for my
own raising.

"A letter from Bella, which I answered. I shall
be in love with her again, if I don't take care.

"I shall begin a more regular system of reading
soon.

Thursday, March 17.
"I have been sparring with Jackson for exercise
this morning; and mean to continue and renew my
acquaintance with the muffles. My chest, and arms, and
wind are in very good plight, and I am not in
flesh. I used to be a hard hitter, and my arms are
very long for my height (5 feet 8 1/2 inches). At
any rate, exercise is good and this the severest of
all; fencing and the broadsword never fatigue me
half so much.

"Redde the ‘Quarrels of Authors’ (another sort of
sparring)—a new work, by that most entertaining
and researchful writer, Israel de Moÿuer, which
is an irritable set, and I wish myself well out of it.
I’ll not march through Coventry with them, that’s
done. What the devil had I to do with scuffling? It
is too late to enquire, and all regret is useless.
But, an’ it were to do again, I should write again,
I suppose. Such is human nature, at least my share
of it;—though I shall think better of myself, if I
have sense to stop now. If I have a wife, and that
wife has a son—by any body—i’ll bring up mine
her in the most anti-poetical way—make him a
lawyer, or a pirate, or—any thing. But if he writes
too, shall I be sure he is none of mine, and cut him
off with a bank-token. Must write a letter—three
clock.

"Sunday, March 30.

I intended to go to Lady Hardwicke’s, but won’t.
I always begin the day with a bias towards going
to parties; but as the evening advances my stimuli
fail, and I hang the gates of Macbeth again. I do,
always regret it. This might have been a pleasant
one;—at least the hostess is a very superior
woman. Lady Lansdowne’s to-morrow.—Lady Heath-
cote’s Wednesday. Um!—I must spare myself into
got none of them; it will look like rudeness, and
it is better to do as other people do—confound
them!

"Redde Machiavel, parts of Chardin, and Sis-
mondi, and Bandello,—by starts. Redde the Edin-
burgh Weekly. Just in the morning of the article on
‘Edgeworth’s Patronage,’ I have gotten
a high compliment, I perceive. Whether this
is creditable to me, I know not; but it does honor
to the editor, because he once abused me. Many
men will retract praise; none but a high-spirited
mind will revoke its censure, or can praise the man
it has once attacked. I have often, since my return
to England, heard Jeffrey most highly commended
by those who know him for things independent
of his talents. I admire him for this—not because he
has praised me (I have been so praised elsewhere
and abused, alternately, that mere habit has ren-
dered the words mere trash as a man at twenty-
six can be to any thing), but because in it is per-
haps the only man who, under the relations in which
he and I stand, or stood, with regard to each other,
would have had the liberality to act thus; none but
a great soul dared hazard it. The height on which
he stands has not made him giddy—i.e., a little scrib-
bler would have gone on cavilling to the end of the
chapter. As to the justice of his panegyric, that
is matter of taste. There are plenty to question it,
and grip, too, of the opportunity.

"Lord Erskine called to-day. He means to carry
down his reflections on the war,—or rather wars,—to
the present day. I trust that he will. Must send
to Mr. Murray for a copy of my copy of his
picture finished, as Lord E. has promised me to
correct it, and add some marginal notes to it. Any
thing in his handwriting will be a treasure, which
will gather compound interest from years. Erskine
has high expectations of Maitland’s promised
history. Undoubtedly it must be a classic, when
finished.

"Spared with Jackson again yesterday morning,
and felt and seemed in a much better for it, my
spirits, though my arms and shoulders are very stiff
from it. Mem.—to attend the pugilistic dinner.
Marquis Huntley is in the chair.

"Lord Erskine thinks that ministers must be in peril
of going out. So much the better for him.

To me it is the same who are in or out,—we want
something more than a change of ministers, and
some day we will have it.

"I remember, in riding from Chriasso to Castri
(Delphos) along the shore of Peraeus, I saw six
eagles in the air. It is uncommon to see so many
gether; and it was the number—not the species,
which is common enough—that excited my
attention.

"The last bird I ever fired at was an eagle, on
the shore of the Gulf of Lepanto, near Vositzza.
It was only wounded, and I tried to save it, the
eye was so bright; but it pined, and died in a few
days; and I never did since, and never will, attempt
the death of another bird. I think, these two things
into my head just now? I have been reading Sismondi, and there is nothing there that
could induce the recollection.

"I am mightily taken with Braccio di Montone,
Giovanni Galeazzo, and Eccellino. But the last is
not Bracciaferro, (of the same name,) Count of Ra-
venna, whose history I want to trace. There is a
fine engraving in Lavater, from a picture by Fuseli,
of that Eccellino, the body is covered with
punished by him for a ‘hitch’ in her constancy during his
absence in the Crusades. He was right—but I want
to know the story.

"Tuesday, March 31.

Last night, party at Lansdowne House. To
night, party at Lady Charlotte Greville’s—deplora-
ble waste of time, and something of temper. No-
thing improper—nothing acquired—talking without
ideas—if any thing like thought in my mind, it was
not on the subjects on which we were gabbling
Heigho!—and in this way half London pass what is
called life. Themorning there is Lady Heathcote’s—
shall I go? yes—to punish myself for not having a
pursuit.

"Let me see—what did I see? The only person
who much struck me was Lady S’s & d’s eldest
daughter, Lady C. L. They say she is not pretty.
I don’t know—every thing is pretty that pleases;
but there is an air of soul about her—and her color
changes—and there is that shyness of the antelope
(which I delight in) in her manner so much, that I
think she must have preserved her the whitest white
in the rooms, and only looked at any thing else when
I thought she might perceive and feel embarrassed
by my scrutiny. After all, there may be something
of association in this. She is a friend of Augusta’s
and whatever she loves, I can’t help liking.

"Her mother, the Marchioness, talked to me a
little; and I was twenty times on the point of ask-
ing her to introduce me to sa Alle, but I stopped
short. This comes of that affray with the Carlistas.

"Earl Grey told me, laughingly, of a paragraph
in the last Moniteur, which has stated, among other
symptoms of rebellion, some particulars of the sen-
soir occasioned in all our government gazettes by the
‘tear’ lines,—only amplifying, in its restate-
ment, an epigram (by-the-by, no epigram except in
the Greek acception of the word) into a Roman.
I wonder the Couriers, &c., &c., have not translated
that part of the Moniteur, with additional com-
ments.

"The Princess of Wales has requested Fuseli
to paint from ‘the Corsair;’ leaving to him the choice
of any passage for the subject: so Mr. Locke tells me.
Tired, jaded, seized, and supine—must go to
bed.

"Rowan, at least Romance, means a song some
times, as in the Spanish. I suppose this is the
Moniteur’s meaning, unless he has confused it with
the Corsair.

"Albany, March 29.

"This night got into my new apartments, rented
of Lord Althorpe, on a lease of seven years. Spec-
cious, and room for my books and sables. In the
house, too, another advantage. The last few days
or whole week, have been very abstemious, regular in exercise, and yet very well.

"Yesterday, dined à la carte at the Cocoa with Scrope Davies—ate from six till midnight—drank between us one bottle of champagne, and six of claret, neither of which wines ever affect me. Offered to take Scrope home in my carriage; but he was tipsy and pious, and I was obliged to leave him on his knees, praying to God not to pardon. No headache, nor sickness that night nor to-day. Got up, if any thing, earlier than usual—spared with Jackson ad audeorem, and have been much better than for many days. I have heard nothing more from Scrope. Yesterday paid him four thousand eight hundred pounds—a debt of some standing, and which I wished to have paid before. My mind is much relieved by the removal of that debt.

"Augusta wants me to make it up with Carlisle. I have refused every body else, but I can't deny her anything; so I must even do it, though I had as lief 'drink up Eisel—eat a crocodile.' Let me see—ward, the Hollands, the Lambs, Rogers, &c., &c., every body more or less, have been trying for the last two years to accommodate this couple quarrel to no purpose. I shall laugh if Augusta succeeds.

"Redde a little of many things—shall get in all my books to-morrow. Luckily, this room will hold them—with 'ample room and verge, &c., the characters of hell to trace.' I must set about some employment soon; my heart begins to eat itself again.

"April 8.

"Out of town six days. On my return, find my poor little pagod, Napoleon, pushed off his pedestal; the thieves are in Paris. It is his own fault. Like Milo he would rend the oak; but it closed again, wedged his hands, and now the beasts—lion, bear, down to the dirtiest jackal—may all tear him. That Muscovite winter wedged his arms; ever since, he has fought with his feet and teeth. The last may still leave their marks; and I guess now (as the Yankees say) that he will yet play them a pass. He is in their rear—between them and their homes. Query—will they ever reach them?

"Sundays, April 9, 1814.

"I mark this day!

"Napoleon Bonaparte has abdicated the throne of the world. 'Excellent well.' Methinks Sylla did better; for he resigned, and signed in the height of his sway, red with the slaughter of his foes— the finest instance of glorious contempt of the rascals upon record. Diodetic did well too—Amurath not amiss; had he become in the capital, and then talk of his readiness to give up what is already gone!! 'What whining monk art thou—what holy chest?' 'Sdeath! Dianysius at Corinth was yet a king to this. The 'isle of Elba' to retire to! Well—if it had been Caprea, I should have marvelled less. I see men's minds are but a parcel of their fortunes.' I am utterly bewildered and confounded.

"I don't know—but I think I, even I, (an insect compared with this creature,) have set my life on casts not a millionth part of this man's. But, after all, a crown may be not worth dying for. Yet, to outlive Loboz for this!! Oh that Juvenal or Johnson could rise from the dead! 'Expendé—quot libras in duce summo inventis! I knew they were light in the balance of mortality; but I thought their living dust weighed more carats. Alas! this imperial diamond hath a flaw in it, and is now hardly fit to stick in a glazier's pencil; the pen of the historian won't rate it worth a duet.

"Psha! 'something too much of this.' But I won't give him up even now; though all his admirers have, 'like the Thanes, fall'n from him.'"

"April 10.

"I do not know that I am happiest when alone; but this I am sure of, that I never am long in the society even of her I love. (God knows too well, and the Devil probably too,) without a yearning for the company of my lamp and my utterly-confused and tumbled-over library. Even in the day, I send away my carriage oftener than I use or abuse it. Per exemplo,—I have not stirréd out of these rooms for these four days past; but I have spared for exercise (windows open) with Napoleon an hour daily, to attenuate and keep up the ethereal part of me. The more violent the fatigue, the better my spirits for the rest of the day; and then, my evenings have that calm nothingness of languor, which I most delight in. To-day I have boxed one hour—written an ode to Napoleon Bonaparte—copied it—eaten six biscuits—drank four bottles of soda-water—redde away the rest of my time—besides giving poor a world of advice about this mistress of his, who is plaguing him into a phthisic and intolerable tedium. I am a pretty fellow truly to lecture about the sect. No matter, my counsellors are all thrown away.

"April 13, 1814.

"There is ice at both poles, north and south—all extremes are the same—misery belongs to the highest and the lowest only,—to the emperor and the beggar, when unsxipenced and unthrone. There is, to be sure, a damned insipid medium—an equinoctial line—no one knows where, except upon maps and measurement.

"And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to richest wealth.'

I will keep no further journal of it at same hetermal torchlight; and, to prevent me from returning, like a dog, to the vomit of memory, I tear out the remaining leaves of this volume, and write, in speculanda,—'that the Bourbons are restored!!' 'Hang up philosophy.' To be sure, I have long despised myself and man, but I never spat in the face of my species before—O fool! I shall go mad."
EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL

IN SWITZERLAND.

"September 18, 1816.

"Yesterday, September 17th, I set out with Mr. Hobhouse on an excursion of some days to the mountains.

"September 17.

"Rose at five; left Diordati about seven, in one of the country carriages, (a char-bane,) our servants on horseback. Weather very fine; the lake calm and clear; Mont Blanc and the Aiguille of Argentavres both very distinct; the borders of the lake beautiful. Reached Lausanne before sunset; stopped and slept at. Went to bed at nine; slept till five o'clock.

"Called by my courier; got up. Hobhouse walked on before. A mile from Lansanne, the road overflowed by the lake; got on horseback and rode till within a mile of Vevey. The colt young, but went very well. Overtook Hobhouse, and resumed the carriage, which is an open one. Stopped at Vevey two hours, (the second time I had visited it;) walked to the church; view from the church-yard superb; within it General Ludlow (the regicide's) monument—black marble—long inscription—Latin, but simple; he was an exile two-and-thirty years—one of King Charles's judges. Near him Broughton (who read King Charles's sentence to Charles Stuart) is buried, with a queer and rather canting, but still a republican inscription. Ludlow's house shown; it retains still its inscription—'Omne solum fortia.' Walked down to the lake side; servants, carriage, saddle-horses—all set off and left us planta a la, by some mistake, and we walked on after them towards Clarens; Hobhouse ran on before, and overtook them at last. Arrived the second time (first time was by water) at Clarens. Went to Chillon through scenery worthy of 1 know not whom; went over the Castle of Chillon again. On our return, met an English party in a carriage; a lady in it fast asleep—fast asleep in the most anti-narcotic spot in the world—excellent! I remember at Chamoine, in the very eyes of Mont Blanc, hearing another woman, English also, exclaim to her party, 'Did you ever see any thing more rural?—as if it was Highgate, or Hampstead, or Brompton, or Hayes—rural!" Quotha? rocks, pines, torrents, glaciers, clouds, and summits of eternal snow far above them—and rural!

"After a slight and short dinner we visited the Chateau de Clarens; an English woman has rented it recently; (it was not let when I saw it first;) the roses are gone with their summer; the family out, but the servants desired us to walk over the interior of the mansion. Saw on the table of the saloon Blair's Sermons, and somebody else (I forget who's) sermons, and a set of noisy children. Saw all worth seeing, and then descended to the 'Bosquet de Julie,' &c., &c.; our guide full of Reusson, whom he is eternally confusing with St. Preaux, and mixing the man and the book. Went again as far as Chillon to re-visit the little torrent from the hill behind it. Sunset reflected in the lake. Have to get up at five to-morrow to cross the mountains on horseback; carriage to be sent round; lodged at my old cottage—hospital and comfortable; tired with a longish ride on the colt, and the subsequent jolting of the char-bane, and my scramble in the hot sun.

"Mcm. The corporal who showed the wonders of Chillon was as drunk as Blucher; he was deaf also, and thinking every one else so, roared out the legends of the castle so fearfully. However, we saw things from the gallow to the dungeons* (the porence and the cachots,) and returned to Clarens with more freedom than belonged to the fifteenth century.

"September 19.

"Rose at five. Crossed the mountains to Mont bovon on horseback, and on mules, and, by dint of scrambling, on foot also; the whole route beautiful as a dream, and now to me almost as indistinct. I am so tired—for, though healthy, I have not the strength I possessed but a few years ago. At Montbovon we breakfasted; afterward, on a steep ascent, dismounted; tumbled down; cut a finger open: the baggage also got loose and fell down a ravine, till stopped by a large tree; recovered baggage; horse tired and drooping; mounted mule. At the approach of the summit of Dent Jument† dismounted again with Hobhouse and all the party. Arrived at a lake in the very bosom of the mountains; left our quadrupeds with a shepherd, and ascended farther; came to some snow in patches, upon which my forehead's perspiration fell like rain, making the same dints as in a sieve; the chill of the wind and the snow turned me giddy, but I scrambled on and upwards. Hobhouse went to the highest pinnacle; I did not, but paused, within a few yards (at an opening of the cliff.) In coming down, the guide tumbled three times; I fell a laughing, and tumbled too—the descent luckily soft, though steep and slippery. Hobhouse also fell, but nobody hurt. The whole f the mountains superb. A shepherd on a very steep and high cliff playing upon his pipe; † very different from Areudia, where I saw the pastors with a long musket instead of a crook, and pistols in their girdles. Our Swiss shep'- herd's pipe was sweet, and his tune agreeable. I saw a cow stray'd; am told that they often break their necks on and over the crags. Descended to

* Prisoner of Chillon, note 2d, 49.
† Dent de Jument.
‡ Mandrot, Art. 1, Sense 11.
BYRON'S WORKS.

Monthovan; pretty, scraggy village, with a wild river and a wooden bridge. Hobhouse went to fish—caught one. Our carriage not come; our horses mules, &c., knocked up; ourselves fatigued.

The vignerons pointed out to-day's journey comprised on one side the greatest part of Lake Leman: on the other, the valleys and mountain of the canton of Fribourg, and an immense plain, with the lakes of Neuchâtel and Morat, and all which the borders of the Lake of Geneva inherit; we had both sides of the Jura before us in one point of view, with Alps in plenty. In passing a ravine the guide recommended strenuously a quickening of pace, as the stones fall with great rapidity and occasional damage; the advice is excellent, but, like most good advice, impracticable, the road being so rough that neither mules, nor mankind, nor horses, can make any violent progress. Passed without fractures or menace thereof.

"The music of the cow's bells* (for their wealth, like the patriarch's, is cattle) in the pastures, which reach to a height far above any mountains in Britain, and the shepherds shouting to us from crag to crag, and playing on their reeds where the steeps appeared almost inaccessible, with the surrounding scenery, realized all that I have ever heard or imagined of a pastoral existence,—much more so than Greece or Austria;—which is far too much at the sabre and musket order, and if there is a crook in one hand, you are sure to see a gun in the other—; but this was pure and unmixed—solitary, savage, at one time they played the 'Rans des Vaches' and other airs, by way of farewell. I have lately reenlagemented my mind with nature."

* September 20.

"Up at six; off at eight. The whole of this day's journey an average of between from two thousand seven hundred to three thousand feet above the level of the sea. This valley, the longest, narrowest, and considered the finest of the Alps, little traversed by travellers. Saw the bridge of La Roche. The bed of the river very low and deep, between immense rocks, and rapid as anger,—a man and a mule said to have tumbled over without damage. The people looked free, and happy, and rich (which last implies not mixed—isolating) between the emblazon of the sabre and musket order, and if there is a crook in one hand, you are sure to see a gun in the other—; but this was pure and unmixed—solitary, savage, at one time they played the 'Rans des Vaches' and other airs, by way of farewell. I have lately reenlagemented my mind with nature."

* September 20.

"Before ascending the mountain, went to the torrent (seven in the morning) again; the sun upon it, forming a rainbow of the lower part of all colors, but principally purple and gold; the bow moving as you move; I never saw any thing like this; it is only in the sunshine. Ascended the Wengen mountain; at noon reached a valley on the summit; left the horses, took off my coat, and went to the summit, seven thousand feet (English feet) above the level of the sea, and about five thousand above the valley we left in the morning. On one side snow, on the other, a magnificent range of mountains; all her glaciers; then the Dent d'Argent, shining like truth; then the Little Giant, (the Kleine Eiger) and the Great Giant, (the Grosse Eiger) and last, not least, the Wetterhorn. The height of the Jungfrau is thirteen thousand feet above the sea, eleven thousand above the valley: she is the highest of this range. Heard the avalanches falling every five minutes, nearly. From whence we stood, on the Wengen Alp, we had all these in view on one side; on the other, the clouds rose from the opposite valley, curling up perpendicular precipices like the foam of the ocean of hell, during a spring that was white and sulphury, andimmense size, depth in appearance. As we ascended was (of course) not of so precipitous a nature; but on arriving at the summit, we looked down upon the other side upon a boiling sea of cloud, rushing against the crags on which we stood, these crags on one side quite perpendicular, stayed a quarter of an hour; began to descend; quite clear from cloud on that side of the mountain. In passing the masses of snow, I made some snowballs and Hobhouse disposed to get well;"

* Manfred, Act II., Scene II.
† Manfred, Act II., Scene II.
‡ Manfred, Act I., Scene II.
I tried to pass my horse over; the horse sunk up to the chin, and of course he and I were in the mud together; bemired, but not hurt; laughed, and rode on. Arrived at the Grindelwald; dined, mounted again, and rode to the higher glacier—like a frozen hurricane. Starlight, beautiful, but a devil of a path! Never mind, got safe in; a little lightning, but the whole of the day as fine in point of weather as the day on which Paradise was made. Passed whole woods of withered pines, all withered; trunks stripped and lifeless, branches lifeless; done by a single winter.

September 24.

"Set off at seven; up at five. Passed the black glacier, the mountain Wetterhorn on the right; crossed the Scheideek mountain; came to the Rose glacier, said to be the largest and finest in Switzerland. I think the Bossou glacier at Chamouni as fine; Hobhouse does not. Came to the Reichenbach waterfall, two hundred feet high; halted to rest the horses. Arrived in the valley of Oberland; rain came on; drenched a little; only four hours' rain, however, in eight days. Came to the lake of Brienz, then to the town of Brienz; changed. In the evening, four Swiss peasant girls of Oberland came and sang the airs of their country; two of the voices beautiful—the tunes also; so wild and original, and at the same time of great sweetness. The singing is over; but below stairs I hear the notes of a fiddle, which bode no good to my night's rest; I shall go down and see the dancing.

September 25.

The whole town of Brientz were apparently gathered together in the rooms below; pretty music and excellent walzing; the dancing much better than in England; the English can't walz, never could, never will. One man, with his pipe in his mouth, but danced as well as the others; some other dances in pairs and in fours, and very good. I went to bed, but the revelry continued below late and early. Brienz but a village. Rose early. Embarked on the lake of Brienz; rowed by the women in a long boat; presently we put to shore, and another woman jumped in. It seems it is the custom here for the boats to be manned by women; four or five men and three women in our bark, all the women took an oar, and but one man.

Got to Interlachen in three hours; pretty lake; not so large as that of Thoun. Dined at Interlachen. Girl gave me some flowers; and made me a speech in German, of which I know nothing; I do not know whether the speech was pretty, but as the woman was, I hope so. Reembarked on the lake of Thoun; fell asleep part of the way; sent our horses round; found people on the shore, blowing up a rock with gunpowder; they blew it up near our boat, only telling us a minute before: mere stupidity, but they might have broken our oars. Got to Thoun in the evening; the weather has been tolerable the whole day. But as this wild part of our tour is finished, it don't matter to us; in all the desirable part, we have been the most lucky in warmth and clearness of atmosphere.

September 26.

"Being out of the mountains, my journal must be as flat as my journey. From Thoun to Berne, good road, hedges, villages, industry, property, and all sorts of tokens of insipid civilization. From Berne to Fribourg; different canton; Catholics; passed a field of battle; Swiss beat the French in one of the late wars against the French republic. Bought a dog. The greater part of this tour has been on horseback, on foot, and on mule.

September 28.

"Saw the tree planted in honor of the battle of Morat; three hundred and forty years old; a good deal decayed. Left Fribourg, but first saw the cathedral; high tower. Overtook the baggage of the nuns of La Trappe, who are removing to Normandy, afterward a coach, with a quantity of nuns in it. Proceeded along the banks of the lake of Neuchâtel; very pleasing and soft, but not so mountainous—at least, the Jura, not appearing so, after the Bernese Alps. Reached Yverdun in the dusk; a long line of large trees on the border of the lake; fine and sombre; the Auberge nearly full—a German Princess and scull got rooms.

September 29.

"Passed through a fine and flourishing country, but not mountainous. In the evening reached Au bonte, (the entrance and bridge something like that of Durham,) which commands by far the fairest view of the Lake of Geneva; twilight; the moon on the lake; a grove on the height, and of very noble trees. Here Tavernier (the eastern traveller) bought (or built) the chateau, because the site resembled and equalled that of Erivan, a frontier city of Persia; here he finished his voyages, and I this little excursus,—for I am within a few hours of Diodati and have little more to see, and no more to say."
EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL

IN ITALY.

"Ravenna, January 4, 1821.

"A sudden thought strikes me." Let me begin a journal once more. The last I kept was in Switzerland, in record of a tour made in the Bernese Alps, after which I made to return to London in 1816, and I suppose that she has it still, for she wrote to me that she was pleased with it. Another, and longer, I kept in 1819-1814, which I gave to Thomas Moore in the same year.

"This morning I got up me late, as usual—weather bad—bad as England—worse. The snow of last week melting to the sirocco of to-day, so that there were two—bad things at once. Could not even get to ride on horseback in the forest. Stayed at home all morning—looked at the fire—wondered when the post would come. Post came at the Ave Maria, instead of half-past one o'clock, as it ought. Galigianni's Messengers, six in number, a letter from Faenza, but none from England. Very sulky in consequence, (for there ought to have been letters,) and ate in consequence a copious dinner; for when I am vexed, it makes me swallow quicker—but drank very little.

"I was out of spirits—read the papers—thought what fame was, on reading, in a case of murder, that Mr. Wyche, grocer, at Tunbridge, sold some bacon, flour, cheese, and, it is believed, some plums, to some gipsy woman accused. He had on his counter (I quote faithfully) a book, the Life of Pamela, which he was tearing for waste paper, &c., &c. In the cheese was found, &c., and a 'leaf' of powdered wrapped round the bacon! What would Richardson, the vainest and luckiest of living authors (i.e. while alive)—he who, with Aaron Hill, used to prophesy and chuckle over the presumed fall of Fielding (the prose Homer of human nature) and of Pope (the most beautiful of poets)—what would he have said could he have traced his pages from their place on the French prince's toilettes (see Boswell's Johnson) to the grocer's counter, and the gipsy-murderess's bacon!!!

"What would he have said? what can any body say, save what Solomon said long before us? After all, it is but passing from one counter to another, from the book-seller's to the other tradesman's—Grocer or pastry-cook. For my part, I have met with most poetry upon trunks; so that I am apt to consider the trunk-maker as the sexton of authorship.

"Wrote five letters in about half an hour, short and savage to all my rascally correspondents. Carriage came. Heard the news of three murders at Faenza and Faenza, and a sailor, and an attorney—all last night. The first two in a quarrel, the latter by premeditation.*

"Three weeks ago—almost a month—the 7th it was—I picked up the commandant, mortally wounded, out of the street; he died in my house; assassins unknown, but presumed political. His brother wrote from Rome the last night to thank me for having assisted him in this last adventure. Poor fellow! He was a pity; he was a good soldier, but imprudent. It was eight in the evening when they killed him. We heard the shot; my servants and I ran out, and found him lying on the ground, with five balls in his mortal—by slugs they seemed. I examined him, but did not go to the dissection next morning.

"Carriage at eight or so—went to visit La Contessa G. Found her playing on the pianoforte—told till ten, when the Count, her father, and the no less Count, her brother, came in from the theatre. Play, they said, Allier's Filippo—well received.

"Two days ago the King of Naples passed through Bologna on his way to congress. My servant Luigi brought the news. I had sent him to Bologna for a lamp. How will it end? Time will show.

"Came home at eleven, or rather before. If the road and weather are comfortable, mean to ride tomorrow. High time—almost a week at this work—snow, sirocco, one day—frost and snow the other—sad climate for Italy. But the two seasons, last and present, are extraordinary. Read a Life of Leonardo da Vinci, by Rossi—ruminated—wrote this much, and will go to bed.

"January 5, 1821.

"Rose life—dull and drooping—the weather dripping and dense. Snow on the ground, and sirocco above in the sky, like yesterday. Roads up to the horse's belly, so that riding (at least for pleasure) is not very feasible. Added a postscript to my letter to Murray. Read the conclusion, for the fiftieth time (I have read all W. Scott's novels at least fifty times) of the third series of Tales of my Landlord,—grand work—Scotch Fielding, as well as great English poet—wonderful man! I long to get drunk with him.

"Dined versus six o'clock. Forgot that there was a plum-pudding, (I have added, lately, entries to my family of views,) and had dined before I knew it. Drunk half a bottle of some sort of spirits—of wine; for what they call brandy, rum & c., & c., here is nothing but spirits of wine, colored accordingly. Did not eat two apples, which were placed, by way of dessert. Fed the two cats, a peahawk, and tame (but not tamed) crow. Read Mitford's History of Greece—Xenophon's Retreat of the Ten Thousand. Up to this present moment: writing, six in plates before eight o'clock—French hours, not Italian.

"Hear the carriage—order pistols and great coat, as usual—necessary articles. Weather cold—carriage open, and inhabitants somewhat savage—rather treacherous and highly inflamed by politics. Fine
fellows, though—good materials for a nation. Out of chaos God made a world, and out of high passions comes a people.

"Clock strikes—going out to make love. Something perilous, but not disagreeable. Memorandum that snow will fall to-morrow. It is rather antique, but will do with a little repair.

"Thaw continues—hopeful that riding may be practicable to-morrow. Sent the papers to Alli—grand events coming.

"Eleven o'clock and nine minutes. Visited La Contessa G. Nata G. G. Found her beginning my letter of answer to the thanks of Alessio del Pinto of Rome for assisting his sister, the late countess, to procure copies of such blunders as I had begged her to pen for my reply for the purer Italian, I am being an ultra-romantic, little skilled in the set phrase of Tuscany. Cut short the letter—finish it another day. Talked of Italy, patriotism, Allieri, Madame Albani, and other branches of learning. Also Salust's Conspiracy of Catiline, and the war of Jugurtha. At nine came in her brother, Il Conte Pietro—ten, her father, Conte Ruggiero.

"Heard of this curious warfare—of the Highlanders and Hampton modes of broadsword exercise, in both whereof I was once a moderate master of fence.' Settled that the R. will break out on the 7th or 8th of March, in which appointment I almost believed that I had broken out in October. 1820. But those Bolongese shirked the Romagnolus.

"It is all one to Ranger. One must not be particular, but take rebellion when it lies in the way. Come home—read the 'Ten Thousand' again, and will go to bed.

"Mem.—Ordered Fletcher (at four o'clock this afternoon) to copy out seven or eight apothegms of Bacon, in which he has detected such blunders as a school-boy might detect, rather than commit. Such are the sages! What must they be, when such as I can stumble on their mistakes or misstatements? I will go to bed, for I find that I grow cynical.

"January 6, 1824.

"Mist—thaw—slop—rain. No stirring out on horseback. Read Spence's Anecdotes. Pope a fine fellow—always thought him so. Corrected blunders in nine apothegms of Bacon—all historical—and read Mitford's Greece. Wrote an epigram. Turned to a passage in Guinguneo, ditto, in Lord Holland's Lope de Vega. Wrote a note on Don Juan. "At eight rain not been settled. Heard a little music—like music. Talked with Count Pietro G. of the Italian comedian Vestris, who is now at Rome have seen him often act in Venice—a good actor—vivacious. Somewhat of a mannerist; but excellent in broad comedy, as well as in sentimental pathetic. He has made me frequently laugh and cry, neither of which is a very easy matter—at least, for a Player to produce in me.

"Thought of the state of women under the ancient Greeks—convenient enough. Present state, a remnant of the barbarism of the chivalry and feudal ages—artificial and unnatural. They ought to mind better, both fed and clothed but not mistreated in society. Well educated, too, in religion—but to read neither poetry nor politics—nothing but books of pitty and cookery. Music—drawing—dancing—also a little gardening and ploughing now and then. I have seen them ending the road in Epirus with good success. Why not, as well as hay-making and milking?

"Come home, and read Mitford again, and played with evasively—gave him supper and other reading to the epigram, but turn the same. To-night at the theatre, there being a prince on his throne in the last scene of the comedy,—the audience laughed, and asked him for a Constitution—

This shows the state of the public mind here, as well as the assassinations. It won't do. There must be a universal republic, and there ought to be.

"The crow is lame of a leg—wonder how it happened—some fool trod upon his toe, I suppose.

"The falcon pretty brisk—the cats large and noisy. The monkeys are quiet lately. It is rather antique, but will do with a little repair.

"Thaw continues—hopeful that riding may be practicable to-morrow. Sent the papers to Alli—grand events coming.

"January 7, 1824, Sunday.

"Still rain—mist—snow—drizzle—and all the in-calculable combinations of a climate, where heat and cold struggle for mastery. Read Spence, and turned over Roscoe, to find a passage I have not found.

"Read the fourth vol. of W. Scott's second series of 'Tales of my Landlord.' Dined. Read the Lugano Gazette. Read—I forget what. At eight went to conversation. Found there the Countess Geltrude, Bettina B., and Emma Inspiration.

"The Count Pietro G. took me aside to say that the Patriots have made no move from Folly, twenty miles off that to-night the government and its party mean to strike a stroke—what the Cardinal here has had orders to make several arrests immediately, and that, in consequence, the Liberals are arming, and have posted patrols in the streets, to sound the alarm and give notice to fight for it.

"He asked me 'what should be done?'—I answered, 'fight for it, rather than be taken in detail,' and offered, if any of them are in immediate apprehension of arrest, to receive them in my house (which is defensible,) and to defend them, with my servants and themselves, (we have arms and ammunition,) as long as we can,—or to try to get them away under a smoke. On going home, I offered him the pistols which I had about me—but he refused, but said he would come off to me in case of accidents.

"It was half an hour of midnight, and rains—

"as Gibbet says, 'a fine night for their enterprise—dark as hell, and blows like the devil.' If the row don't happen now, it must soon. I thought that their system of shooting people would soon produce a reaction—no, it seems not. I conjecture, perhaps, it is that we can in the way of combat, though a little out of exercise. The cause is a good one.
Drank some Seltzer-water. Mem.—received to-day a print, or etching of the story of Ugolino, by an Italian painter—different, of course, from Sir Joshua Reynolds's, and I think (as far as recollection goes; no scarce, for I maintain not good in history. For a button in my new coat.

"I wonder what figure these Italians will make in a regular row. I sometimes think that, like the Irishman's gun, (somebody had sold him a crooked one,) they will only do for 'shooting round a corner;' at least this sort of shooting has been the late terror of their exploiters. And yet, there are materials in this people, and a noble energy, if well directed. But what is to direct them? No matter. Out of such times heroes spring. Difficulties are the hot-beds of high spirits, and Freedom the mother of the few virtues incident to human nature.

"Tuesday, January 9, 1821.

"Dined. Read Johnson's 'Vanity of Human Wishes,'—all the examples and mode of giving them sublime, as well as the latter part, with the exception of an occasional couplet. I do not so much admire the programme of the humour and the mode of Sharpe's (the conversationist, as he was called in London, and a very clever man), that the first line of this poem was superfluous, and that Pope (the very best of poets I think) would have begun a once, only changing the punctuation—

"Surry masked from China to Peru!"

The former line. 'Let observation,' &c., is certainly heavy and useless. But 'tis a grand poem—and is true!—true as the 10th of Juvenal himself. The lapse of ages changes all things—time—language—

The earth—the bounds of the sea—the stars of the sky, and every thing 'about, around, and underneath' man, except man himself, who has always been, and always will be, an unlucky rascal. The infinite variety of lives conduct but to death, and the infinity of wishes leads but to disappointment. All the discoveries made at a younger day have multiplied little but existence. An extinguished disease is succeeded by some new pestilence; and a discovered world has brought little to the old one, except the—first and freedom afterward—the latter a fine thing indeed. Thus at the present moment, Europe in exchange for slavery. But it is doubtful whether 'the sovereigns' would not think the first the best present of the two to their subjects.

"At eight went out—heard some news. They say the king of Naples has declared, by couriers from Florence, to the powers (as they call now those wretches with coronets) that his constitution was 'compulsive, &c., &c., and that the Austrian barbary came home and thereupon to France. But you, dear fellow—only an avaricious one.

"It seems, indeed, that at this moment (as Lydia Langish says) there will be no elopement after all. I wish that I had known as much last night—or rather, this morning—I should have gone to bed two hours earlier. And yet I ought not to complain; for, though it is a sirocco, and heavy rain, I have not yawned for the last four days.

"Came home. Read History of Greece—before dinner had read Walter Scott's Rob Roy. Wrote address to the letter in answer to Alessandro di Clinto, who has thanked me for helping his brother (the latter commandant) understand my last month) in his last months. Have told him I only did a duty of humanity—as is true. The brother lives at Rome.

"Mended the fire with some 'sobole,' (a Romagnole word,) and gave the falcon some water.
Jash upon the shores are, one ey one, broken, but yet the ocean conquer, nevertheless. It overwhelms the Arma la, it wears the rock, and, if the Neptune
were to be belied, it had been only destroyed, but made a world. In like manner, whatever the sacrifice of individuals, the great cause will gather
strength, sweep down what is rugged, and fertilize (for scoured is masure) what is cultivable. And
so, the mere selfish calculation ought never to be
made on such occasions; and, at present, it shall not
be computed by me. I was never a good arith-
metician of chances, and shall not commence now.

January 10, 1821.

"Day fine—rained only in the morning. Looked
over accounts. Read Campbell's Poets—marked
errors of Tom (the author) for correction." Dined.

"I have been turning over different Lives of the
Poets. I rarely read their works, unless an occa-
sional flight over the classical ones, Pope, Dryden,
Johnson, Gray, and those who approach them nearest,
(I leave the rant of the rest to the rant of the
day,) and—I had made several reflections, but I feel
sleepy, and may as well go to bed.

January 11, 1821.

"Read the letters. Corrected Tom Campbell's shil-
ly work, though—style and diction—accepted—but his
defence of Pope, Dryden, and Johnson, I agree with.
I am, in fact, sure it is his own cause, too—but no matter, it is
very good, and does him great credit.

"Evenings.

I have found out the seal cut on Murray's let-
ter. It is meant for Walter Scott—or Sir Walter—
he is the first poet knighted since Sir Richard
Blackmore. But it does not do him justice. Scott's
—particularly when he recites—is a very intelligent
-courtier, and this seal says nothing.

Scott is certainly the most wonderful writer of
the day. His novels are a new literature in them-

..."
mischiefs, while he was more sedate and polished. At Cambridge—both of Trinity—my spirit rather softened, or had rounded, so we became very great friends. The description of Sabrina’s seat reminds me of our rival feats in diving. Though Cam’s is not a very translucent wave, it was fourteen feet deep, where we used to live for, and pick up—having been prevented only, round which Ida and Ann were the medium of English, French, and Italian translations. Of the real language I know absolutely nothing—except outside learned from postillions and officers in a squadron, I have never otherwise read; yet, when I like,—Sacrament—Verdutcher—Hundsfott—and so forth; but I have little of their less energetic conversation.

"I like, and a very rare woman, (I was once as desperately in love with a German woman, Constance,) and all that I have read, translated of their writings, and all that I have seen on the Rhine of their country and people—all, except the Aestrians, whom I abhor, loathe, and I cannot find words for my hate of them, and should be sorry to find deeds correspondent to my hate; for I abhor cruelty more than I abhor the Aestrians—except on an impulse, and then I am savage—but not deliberately so.

"Grillparzer is grand—antique—not so simple as the ancients, but very simple for a modern—too Madame de Staelish now and then—but altogether a great and gooody writer." 

"January 13, 1821, Saturday.

"Sketched the outline and drams, pers. of an intended tragedy of Saradanaulis, which I have for some time wanted. Took the names from Dio Serrone Sicilus, (I know the history of Saradanaulis, but have guessed it, since I was twelve years old,) and read over a passage in the ninth vol. octavo of Mitford’s Greece, where he rather indicates the memory of this last of the Assyrians.

"Died—new crimes, the period mean to war with the peoples. The intelligence seems positive—let it be so—they will be beaten in the end. The king-timbers are fast finishing. There will be blood shed like washing or tears like mist; but the peoples will conquer in the end. I shall not live to see it, but I foresee it.

"I carried Teresa the Italian translation of Grillparzer’s Sappho, which she promises to read. She quarrelled with me, because I said that love was not the loftiest theme for true tragedy; and, having the advantage of her native language, and natural female eloquence, she overcame my fewer arguments. I believe she was right. I must put more love into ‘Saradanaulis’ than I intended. I speak, of course, if the times will allow me leisure. That I will hardly be a peacemaker.

"January 14, 1821.

"Turned over Seneca’s tragedies. Wrote the opening lines of the intended tragedy of Saradanaulis. Rode out some miles into the forest. Misty and rainy. Returned—distressed—wrote some more of my tragedy.

"Read Diodorus Siculius—turned over Seneca, and some other books. Wrote some more of the tragedy. Took a glass of grog. After having ridden hard in rainy weather, and scribbled, and scribbled again, the spirits (at least mine) need a little exhilaration, and I don’t like laudanum now as I used to do. So I have mixed a glass of strong waters and single waters, which I shall now proceed to empty. Therefore and thereunto I conclude this day’s diary.

"The effect of all wines and spirits upon me is however, strange. It settles, but it makes me gloomy—gloomy at the very moment of their effect, and not gay however. But it compposes for a time, though wholly.

"January 15, 1821.

"Weather fine. Received visit. Rode into the forest—dined. Returned home—distressed—dipped into a volume of Mitford’s Greece—wrote part of a scene of ‘Saradanaulis.’ Went out—heard some music—heard some politics. More ministers from the other Italian courts got to Congress. It seems certain—in that case, it will be a savage one. Talked over various important
matters with one of the initiated. At ten and half returned home.

"I have just thought of something odd. In the year 1814, Moore (the poet, "par excellence," and he deservedly so (of London, of which I have spoken before), having thought of, in the same carriage, to dine with Earl Grey, the Capo Politico of the remaining whigs. Murray, the magnificent, (the illustrious publisher of that name,) had just sent me a Java gazette—I know not why or wherefore, but having let out, by way of curiosity, we found it to contain a dispute (the said Java gazette) on Moore's merits and mine. I think, if I had been there, that I could have saved them the trouble of disputing on the subject. But, the battle was over for you at six-and-twenty! Alexander had conquered India at the same age; but I doubt if he was disputed about, or his conquests compared with those of Indian Bacchus, at Java.

"It was great fame to be named with Moore: greater to be compared with him; greatest—pleasure, at least—to be with him; and, surely, an odd coincidence, that we should be dining together while they were quarrelling about us beyond the equinoctial line.

"Well, the same evening I met Lawrence, the painter, and heard one of Lord Grey's daughter's (a fine, tall, spirit-looking girl, with much of the patrician thoroughbred look of her father, which (if you please) dote (upon) play on the harp, so modestly and ingeniously, that she liked music. Well, I would rather have had my talk with Lawrence (who talked delightfully) and heard the girl than have had all the fame of Moore and me put together.

"The only pleasure of fame is that it paves the way to pleasure; and the more intellectual our pleasure, the better for the pleasure and for us too. It was, however, the first time I had heard our fame before dinner, and a girl's harp after.

January 19, 1821.

"Read—rode—fired pistols—returned—dined—wrote—visited—heard music—talked nonsense—and went home.

"Wrote part of a tragedy—advance in act 1st with 'all deliberate speed.' Bought a blanket. The weather is still muggy as a London May—mist, nizzle, the air replete with Scotticisms, which, though fine in the descriptions of Ossian, are somewhat tiresome, in real, prosaic perspective. Politics still mysterious.

January 17, 1821.

"Rode i' the forest—fired pistols—dined. Arrived, a packet of books from England and Lombardy—English, Italian, French, and Latin. Read till eight—went out.

January 19, 1821.

"To-day, the post arriving late, did not ride. Read letters—only two gazettes, instead of twelve new one. Made Lega write to that negligent Galigiani, and added a postscript. Dined.

"At eight proposed to go out. Lega came in with a letter about a bill unpaid at Venice, which I thought paid months ago. I flew into a paroxysm of rage, which almost made me have not been well ever since. I desire it for being such a fool—but it was provoking—a set of scoundrels! It is, however, but five-and-twenty pounds.

January 19, 1821.

"Rode Winter's wind somewhat more unkind than ingratitude itself, though Shakspeare says otherwise. At least, I am so much more accustomed to meet with ingratitude than the north wind, that I thought the latter the sharper of the two. I had met with both in the course of the twenty-four hours, so could judge.

"Thought of a plan of education for my daughter. Alas, I ought to begin with her studies. Wrote a letter—afterward a postscript. Rather in low spirits—certainly hippish—liver touchard—will take a dose of salts.

I have been reading the Lin, by myself and daughter, of Mr. R. L. Edgeworth, the father of the Miss Edgeworth. It is altogether a great name. In 1815, I recollect to have met them in the fashionable world of London (at which I then stood an item, a fraction, the segment of a circle, the unit of a million, the nothing of something) in the assembly lies of the hour, and at a breakfast of Sir Hanbury and Lady Davy's, to which I was invited for the nonce. I had been the lion of 1812; but Edgeworth and Madame de Stael, with 'the Cosack!', towards the end of 1813, were the exhibitions of the succeeding year.

I thought Edgeworth a fine old fellow, of a clarity, elderly, red complexion, but active, brisk, and endless. He was seventy, but did not look fifty—no, nor forty-eight. I had seen poor Fitzpatrick not very long before—a man of pleasure, wit, eloquence, all things. He tottered—but still talked like a gentleman, though feebly. Edgeworth bounded about, and talked loud and long; but he seemed neither weakly nor decrepit, and hardly old.

"He began by saying 'that he had given Dr. Parr a dressing, who had taken him for an Irish bog-trotter,' &c. &c. Now I, who know Dr. Parr, and who know (not by experience—for I never should have presumed so far as to contend with him—but by the most unassuming of their persons) that it is not so easy a matter to 'dress him,' thought Mr. Edgeworth an assessor of what was not true. He could not have stood before Parr an instant. For the rest, he seemed intelligent, vehement, vivacious, and full of life. He bids fair for a hundred years.

"He was not so much admired in London, and I remember a 'ryght merrie and conciliated jest which was rife among the gallants of the day,—viz. a paper had been presented for the recall of Mrs. Siddons to the stage, (she having lately taken leave, to the loss of ages,—for nothing ever was, or can be, like her,) to which all men had been called to subscribe. Whereupon, Thomas Moore, of profane and poetical memory, did propose that a similar paper should be subscribed and circumscribed 'for the recall of Mr. Edgeworth to Ireland.'

"The fact was—every body cared more about her. She was a nice little unassuming 'Jannie Dams'-looking bodi,' as we Scotch say—and, if not hand some, certainly not ill-looking. Her conversation was a quiet, or rather, a wordless kind. One would have guessed she could write her name; whereas her father talked, not as if he could write nothing else, but as if nothing else was worth writing.

As for Mrs. Edgeworth, I forget—except that I think she was the youngest of the party. Altogether, they were an excellent cage of the kind; and succeeded for two months, till the landing of Madame de Stael.

"To turn from them to their works, I admire them; but they excite no feeling, and they leave no love—except for some Irish steward or postillion. However, the impression of intellect and prudence is profound—and may be useful.

January 20, 1821.

"Rode—fired pistols. Read from Grimm's Correspondence. Dined—went out—heard music—returned—wrote a letter to the Lord Chamberlain to request him to prevent the theatres from representing the 'Duco,' which the Italian papers say that they are going to act. This is pretty work—what I without asking my consent, and even in opposition to it!

January 13, 1821.

"Fine, clear, frosty day—that is to say, an Italian frost, for their winters hardly get beyond snow; for which reason nobody knows how to skate (or skat) —a Dutch and English accomplishment.

* In this, I rather think he was misinformed:—whatever men there may be in the Joel, I have not, as far as I can recollect, the slightest claim to a Moore.
Rode out, as usual, and fired pistols. Good shooting—broke four or five, and rather small, bottles, in four shots, at fourteen paces, with a common pair of pistols and indifferent powder. Almost as good fencing or shooting—considering the difference of powder and pistols—as when in 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, it was my business to split walking-sticks, wafers, half-crowns, shillings, and even the eye of a walking-stick, at twelve paces, with a single bullet—and all by eye and calculation; for my hand is not steady, and apt to change with the very weather. To the prowess which I here note, Joe Manton and others can bear testimony—for the former taught and the latter have seen me do, these feats.

Dined—visited—came home—read. Remark'd on an anecdote in Grimm's Correspondence, which says that 'Regnard et la plupart des poètes comiques s'entendent bien mieux en ménageole, et que M. de Voltaire, qui est tres gai, n'a jamais fait que des tragédies—et que la comedie galante est le seul genre où il n'ait point réussi.' C'est que celui qui rit et celui qui fait rire sont deux hommes fort différents," vol. vi.

"At this moment a feel as bilious as the best comic writer of them all, (even as Regnard himself, the next to, Moliere, who has written some of the best comedies in any language, and who is supposed to have committed suicide,) and am not in spirits to continue my proposed tragedy of Sardanapalus, which I have, for some days, ceased to compose.

"To-morrow is my birthday—that is to say, at twelve o'clock, midnight, i.e. in twelve minutes, I shall have completed thirty and three years of age!!—and I go to my bed with a heaviness of heart at having lived so long, and to so little purpose.

"It is three minutes past twelve.—'Tis the middle of night by the castle clock,' and I am now thirty-three.

"Hence, sages, Phoebus, Phoebus, Labanor, and I—"

but I don't regret them so much for what I have done, as for what I might have done.

"Through life's road, so dim and dirty, I have dropt to three-and thirty.

What have these years left to me?

Nothing except thirty-three.

January 22, 1821."

1821.
HERE LIES,
INTERRED IN THE ETERNITY
OF THE PAST,
FROM WHENCE THERE IS NO
RESURRECTION
FOR THE DAYS—WHATSOEVER THERE MAY BE
FOR THE DUST—
THE THIRTY-THIRD YEAR
OF AN ILL-SPENT LIFE,
WHICH AFTER
A LINGERING DISEASE OF MANY MONTHS,
SUNK INTO A LETHARGY,
AND EXPIRED
JANUARY 22D, 1821, A. D.
LEAVING A SUCCESSOR
INCOURABLE
FOR THE VERY LOSS WHICH OCCASIONED ITS
EXISTENCE.

January 23, 1821.

"Fine day—read—rode—fired pistols, and returned. Dined—read. Went out at eight—made the usual visit. Heard of nothing but war—" the cry is still, 'They come.' The Carus seem to have a plan—nothing fixed among themselves, how, when, or what to do. In that case, they will make nothing of this project, so often postponed, and never put in action.

"Came home, and gave some necessary orders, in case of circumstances requiring a change of place. I shall act according to what may seem proper, when I hear decidedly what the Barbarians mean to do. At present, they are building a bridge of boats over the Po; the Turks will probably show. I think of retiring towards Ancona, nearer the northern frontier; that is to say, if Teresa and her father are obliged to retire, which is most likely, as all the family are Liberals. If not, I shall stay. But my movements will depend upon the lady's wishes, for myself, it is much the same.

"I am somewhat puzzled what to do with my little daughter, and my effects, which are of some quantity and value,—and neither of them do in the east of war where I think of going. But there is an elderly lady who will take charge of her, and T. says that the Marchese C. will undertake to hold the Dutch in the back chaplet in the meantime. Half of France is engaged in their affairs in marching trim. A pretty Carnival! The blackguards might as well have waited till Lent."

January 29, 1821.

"Returned—met some masques in the Corso—" Vive la bagatelle!"—the Germans are on the Po, the Barbarians at the gate, and their masters in council at Leybach, (or whatever the erudition of the sound may syllable into a human pronunciation,) and lo! they dance and sing and make merry, 'for to-morrow they may die.' Why can say that the Arlequins are not right? Like the Lady Baus- siere, and old friend Burton—I 'rode on.'

"Dined—(damn this pen!)—beef tough—there is no beef in Italy worth a curse; unless a man could eat an old ox with the hide on, in the sun.

"The principal persons in the events which may occur in a few days, are gone out on a shooting party. If it were like a Highland hunting," a pretext of the chase for a grand reunion of counsellors and chief, it would be all very well. But it is nothing more or less than a real smiirling, peeping, small-shit, water-hen waste of powder, ammunition, and shot, for their own special amusement—a rare set of fellows for a man to risk his neck with," as 'Marshall Wells' says in the Black Dwarf.

"If they gather,—whilk is to be doubted,—they will not muster a thousand men. The reason of this is, that the populace are not interested,—only the higher and middle orders.

"They wish that the peasantry were: they are a fine savage race of two-legged leopards. But the Bolognese won't—the Romangnoules can't without them. Or, if they try, what then? They will try, and man can do no more—and, if he would but try his utmost, much might be done. The Dutch, for instance, against the Spaniards—then, the tyrants of Europe—since, the slaves—and, lately, the freedmen.

"The year 1820 was not a fortunate one for the individual or whatever it may be for the nation. I lost a lawsuit, after two decisions in my favor. The project of lending money on an Irish mortgage was finally rejected by my wife's trustee, after a year's hope and trouble. The Hochdame laws had endured fifteen years, and always prospered till I married; since which, every thing has gone wrong— with me, at least.

"In the same year, 1820, the Countess T.G. nata Gs. G. in the picture very much of all I said and did to prevent it, would separate from her husband, II Cavaliier Commedatore G. &c., &c., &c., and all on the account of 'P. F. clerk of this parish.' The other little petty vexations of the year—upturns in carriages—the murder of people before one's door, and drowning in one's bed—the cramp in swimming—"
January 28, 1871.

* Received a letter from Lord Sidney Osborne, state secretary of the Seven Islands—a fine fellow—clever—dished in England five years ago, and came abroad to retreat and renew. He wrote from Ancona, in his way back to Corfu, on some matters of our own. He is son of the late Duke of Leys by a second marriage. He wants me to go to Corfu. Why not?—perhaps I may, next spring.

Answered Murray's letter—read—lounged. Scrapped this additional page of life's log-book.

One day more is over, of it and me;—but which is best, life or death, the gods only know," as Socrates said to his judges, on the breaking up of the tribunal. Two thousand years since that sage's declaration of ignorance not enlightened us more upon this important point; for, according to the Christian dispensation, no one can know whether he is sure of salvation—ever the most righteous—since a single slip may throw him on his back, like a skater, while gliding smoothly to his paradise. Now, therefore, whatever the certainty of faith in the facts may be, the certainty of the individual as to his happiness or misery is no greater than it was under Jupiter.

"It has been said that the immortality of the soul is a 'grand peut être'—but still it is a grand one. Every body clings to it—the stupidest, and dullest, and wickedest of human bipeds is still persuaded that he is immortal."

January 29, 1871.

"Fine day—a few mares' tails portending change, but the sky clear, upon the whole. Rode—fired pistols—good shooting. Coming back, met an old nabob and purchased a shilling of salt. If that was to be bought, I have given more to my fellow-creatures in this life—sometimes for vice, but, if not more often, at least more considerably, for virtue—than I now possess. I never in my life so much as given a poor man in honest distress—but, no matter. The scoundrels who have all along persecuted me* (with the help of ** who has crowned their base tricks)—and, when all is done to me, it will be when this hand that writes is as cold as the hearts which have stung me.

"Returning, on the bridge near the mill, met an old woman. I asked her age—she said, 'The crock.' I asked where she was going (though myself an Italian). says the devil her three crosses meant. He said, ninety years, and that she had five years more to boot!! I repeated the same three times, not to mistake—ninety-five years!!—and she was yet rather active—heard my question, for she answered it—saw me, for she advanced towards me; and did not appear at all decrepit, though certainly touched with years. Told her to come to-morrow, and will examine her myself. I love phenomena. If she is ninety-five old, she must recollect the Cardinal Alberoni, who was legate here.

"On disembarking, found Lieutenant E. just arrived from Brindisi. Invited him to dine with me to-morrow. Did not invite him for to-day, because there was a small turbot, (Friday, fast regularly and religiously,) which I wanted to eat all myself. Ate it.

Went out—found Teresa as usual—music. The gentlemen, who make revolutions, and are gone on a shooting, are not yet returned. They don't return till Sunday—that is to say, they have been out for five days, buffooning, while the interests of a whole country are at stake, and even they themselves compromised.

"It is a difficult part to play among such a set of assassins and blockheads—but, when the scum is skinned off, or has boiled over, good may come of it. If this country could but be freed, what would be too great for the accomplishment of that desire? for the extinction of that Sigh of Ages? Let us hope. They have hoped these thousand years. The very revolvement of the chances may bring it—it is upon the dice.

"If the Neapolitans have but a single Massaniello among them, they will beat the bloody butchers of the crown and sabre. Holland, in worse circumstances, beat the Spaniards and Philip; Austria beat the English; Greece beat Xeres; and France beat Europe, till she took a tyrant; South America beats her old vultures out of their nest; and, if these men are but firm in themselves, there is nothing to shake them from without."

January 28, 1871.

"Lugano Garotto did not come. Letters from Venice. It appears that the Austrian brutes have seized my three or four pounds of English powder. The scoundrels! I hope to pay them in ball for that powder. Rode out till twilight.

"Pondered the subjects of four tragedies to be written, (life and physical sensations permitting,) to wit, Sardanapalus, already begun; Cain, a metaphysical subject, something in the style of Manfred, but in five acts, perhaps, with the chorus; Francesca of Rimini, in five acts; and I am not sure that I would not try Tibersius. I think that I could extract a something, of my tragic, at last, out of the gloomy sequestration and old age of the tyrant—and even out of his sujourn at Caprea—by softening the details, and exalting the despair which must have led to those very virtuous pleasures. For none but a powerful and gloomy mind overthrown would have had recourse to such solitary horrors,—being also, at the same time, old, and the master of the world."

"Memoranda.

"What is poetry?—The feeling of a Former world and Future.

"Thought Second.

"Why, at the very height of desire and human pleasure,—worldly, social, amorous, ambitious, or even avaricious,—does there mingle a certain sense of doubt and sorrow—a fear of what is to come—a doubt of what is? a retrospect to the past, leading to a prognostication of the future? (The best of Prophets of the Future is the Past.) Why is this? or these?—I know not, except that on a pinnacle we are most susceptible of godliness, and that we never fear falling beneath from a precipice the higher, the more awful, and the more sublime; and, therefore, I am not sure that fear is not a pleasurable sensation; at least Hope is; and what sensation is so delightful as Hope? and, if it were not for Hope what would the Future be?—in hell. It is useless to say where the Present is, for most of us know; and as for the Past, what predominates in memory?—Hope baffled. Erry, in all human affairs, it is Hope—Hope. I allow sixteen minutes, though I never counted them, to any given or supposed possession. From whatever place we commence, we know that there is no end. And yet, what good is there in knowing it? It does not make men better or wiser. During the greatest horrors of the greatest plagues, (Athens and Florence, for example—see Thucydides and Machiavel), men were in terror and predicature than ever. It is all a mystery. I feel most things, but I know nothing, except

* Thou marked, with impudent strokes of the pen, by myself in the original.
Thought for a speech of Lucifer, in the tragedy of Cain.

"Wen, Death an end, would I then live?
Jacob and I were on thy flocks.
A youth's son's ans shall live for ever more.

"Past Midnight. One of the clocks.
I have been reading W. F. Schlegel (brother to the other of the name) till now, and I can make out nothing. He evidently shows a great power of words, but there is nothing to be taken hold of. He is a man of much reading, I believe, with a great deal of knowledge in history, and white corruption rising up, (in little imitation of mountains upon maps,) but containing nothing scrupulous in discharging nothing, except their own honors.

I dislike him the worse, (that is, Schlegel,) because he is always seen upon the verge of meaning. And, lo, he goes down like sunset, or melts like a rainbow, leaving a rather rich confusion,—to which he never, the above comparisons do too much honor.

"Continuing to read Mr. F. Schlegel. He is not such a fool as I took him for, that is to say, when he speaks of the North. But still he speaks of things all over the world with a kind of authority that a philosopher would disdain, and a man of common sense, feeling, and knowledge of his own ignorance, would be ashamed of. The man is evidently wanting to make an impression, like his brother,—or like George in the Vicar of Wakefield, who forgets that all the good things have been said already on the right side, and therefore 'dressed up some paradoxes' upon the wrong side—ingenious, but false, as he himself says,—to which the learned world seems nothing, nothing at all, sir. The 'learned world,' however, has said something to the brothers Schlegel.

"It is high time to think of something else. What they say of the antiquities of the North is best.

"January 28th, 1821."

"Yesterday the woman of ninety-five years of age was with me. She said her eldest son (if now alive) would have been seventy. She is thin,—short, but active—ears, and sees, and talks incessantly. Several teeth left—all in the lower jaw, and single front teeth. She is very deeply wrinkled, and has a sort of scattered gray beard over her chin, at least as long as my mustachios. Her head, in fact, resembles the drawing in crayons of Pope the poet's mother, which is in some editions of his works.

"I forgot to ask her if she remembered Alberoni, (begato her last husband,) and ask her name. Gave her a louis,—ordered her a new suit of clothes, and put her upon a weekly pension. Till now, she had worked at gathering wood and pine-nuts in the forest,—partly for fifty years old! She had twelve children, of whom some are alive. Her name is Maria Montanari.

"Met a company of the, sect (a kind of Liberal club) called the 'American' in the forest, all armed, and singing, with all their might, in Romagnole—"Non tutti soldati per la liberta," ('we are all soldiers for liberty.' They cheered me as I passed—I returned their salute, and rode on. This may show the spirit of Italy at present.

"My to-day's journal consists of what I omitted yesterday. To-day was much as usual. Have rather a better opinion of the writings of the Schlegels than I had four-and-twenty hours ago; and will amend this for further, if possible. They say, that the Piedmontese have at length risen—ca ira.

"Read Schlegel. Of Dante he says that 'at no time has the greatest and most national of all Italian poets ever been much the favorite of his countrymen.' 'Tis false! There have been more editors and commentators (and imitators, ultimately) of Dante than of any other poet, in the world. Who is his real favorite? Why, they talk Dante—write Dante—and think and dream Dante at this moment (1821) to an excess, which would be ridiculous, but that he deserves it.

"In the same style 'tis German talk of gondoliers on the Arno—a precious fellow to dare to speak of Italy!'

"He says also that Dante's chief defect is a want in a word, of gentle feelings. Of gentle feelings—and Francesca of Rimini—and the father's feelings in Ugolino—and Beatrice—and 'La Pia!' Why, there is a gentleness in Dante beyond all gentle nesse, when he is tender. It is true that, treating of the Choristers, or Heliodorus, or Hell, Dante cannot much scope or site for gentleness—but who but Dante could have introduced any 'gentleness' at all into Hell? Is there any in Milton's? No—and Dante's Heaven is all love, and glory, and majesty.

"January 12, 1821."

"The Count F. G. this evening (by commission from the C.) transmitted to me the new words for the next six months. * * * The new sacred word is * * *—the reply * * *—the rejoinder * * * The former word (now changed) was * * * there is also * * * * * * * Things seem fast coming to a crisis—ca ira!"

"We talked over various matters of moment and movement. These I omit—if they come to any thing, there will speak for themselves. After these, we spoke of Kościusko. Count R. G. told me that he has seen the Polish officers in the Italian war burst into tears on hearing his name.

"Something must be up in Piedmont—all the letters and papers are stopped. Nobody knows any thing, and the Germans are concentrating near Mantua. Of the decision of Laybach, nothing is known. This state of things cannot last long. The ferment in men's minds at present cannot be conceived without seeing it.

"Jan. 22, 1821."

"For several days I have not written any thing except a few answers to letters. In momentary expectation of any impression of some new revolution, it has been easy to settle down to the desk for the higher kinds of composition. I could do it, to be sure; for, last summer, I wrote my drama in the very bustle of Madame G. G.'s divorcement of accompaniments. At the same time, I also had the news of the loss of an important lawsuit in England. But these were only private and personal business; the present is of a different nature.

"I suppose it is this, but have some suspicion that it may be laziness, which prevents me from writing; especially as Rochefoucault says that 'laziness often masters them all—speaking of the passions. If this were true, 't could hardly be our idleness is the root of all evil,' since this is supposed to spring from the passions only—ergo, that which masters all the passions (laziness, to wit) would in so much be a good. Who knows?

"Midnight.

"I have been reading Grimm's Correspondence. He repeats frequently, in speaking of a poet, or of a man of genius in any department, even in music, (he is Grevy, for instance,) that he must have 'une âme qui se tournante un esprit violent.' How far this may be true, I know not; but if it were, I should or a poet 'poet per eccellenza;' for I have always had 'unt

1 In the original MS. these words are blotted over, so as to be illegible.
EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL IN ITALY.

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grave orders for some kermess and portmanteaus for the horses.

"Read some of Bowles's dispute about Pope, with all the replies and rejoinders. Perceive that my name has been introduced into the controversy, but have not time to state what I know of the subject. On some piping day of peace it is probable that I may resume it.

* * *

"Before dinner wrote a little; also, before I rode out, Count P. G. called upon me, to let me know the result of the second of the Po, at A, and at B. He returned last night. Every thing was combined under the idea that the Barbarians would pass the Po on the 15th inst. Instead of this, from some previous information or otherwise, they have hastened their march and actually passed two days ago; so that all that can be done at present in Romagna is, to stand on the alert and wait for the advance of the Neapolitans. Everything was ready, and the Neapolitans had sent on their own instructions and intentions, and calculated for the tenth and eleventh, on which days a general rising was to take place, under the supposition that the Barbarians could not as fast as they advance be as unprepared as the Sicilians are good things, and, it may be some of their own.

February 9, 1821.

I have been considering what can be the reason why I always wake at a certain hour in the morning, and always in very bad spirits—I may say, in actual despair and despondency, in all respects—even of that which pleased me over night. In about an hour or two, this goes off, and I compose either to sleep again, or at least, to quiet. In England, five years ago, I had the same kind of hypochondria, but accompanied with so violent a thirst that I have drank as many as fifteen bottles of soda-water in one day, after going to bed, and am still thirsty—calculating, however, some lost from the bursting out and effervescence and overflow of the soda-water, in drawing the corks, or striking off the necks of the bottles from mere thirsty impatience. At present, I have not the thirst; but the depression of spirits is no less violent.

I read in Edgeworth's Memoirs of something similar (except that the thirst expanded itself on swallow keep in the case of Sir F. B. Delaval)—but then he was, at least, twenty years older. What is it?—Liver? In England, Le Man (the apothecary) cured me of the thirst in three days, and it had lasted as many years. I suppose that it is all hypochondria.

What I feel most growing upon me is laziness and a disrelish more powerful than indifference. If I rouse, it is into fury. I presume that I shall end (if not earlier by accident, or some such termination) like Swift—dying a top. I confess I do not contemplate this with so much horror as he apparently did for some years before it happened. But Swift had hardly known life at the very period (thirty-three) when I feel quite an old sort of feel.

Oh! there is an organ playing in the street—a waltz, too! I must leave off to listen. They are playing a waltz, which I have heard ten thousand times at the balls in London, between 1812 and 1815. Music is a strange thing.

February 9, 1821.

At last, the kiln's in a low. The Germans are ordered to march, and Italy is, for the ten thousandth time, to become a field of battle. Last night the news came.

This afternoon, Count P. G. came to me to consult upon divers matters. We rode out together. The horses are to roll to Florence. To-morrow the decision ought to arrive, and then something will be done. Returned—dined—read—went out—talked over matters. Made a purchase of some arms for the new enrolled Americans, who are all on tiptoe to march. Grave orders for some kermess and portmanteaus for the horses.

Po Journal, January 6, 1821.

As it is, they have but fifty or sixty thousand troops, a number with which they might as well attempt to conquer the world as secure Italy in its present state. The artillery marches last, and, I presume, will advance; but the Sicilians have good things, and, it may be some of their own.

February 10, 1821.

Day passed as usual—nothing new. Barbarians still in march—not well equipped, and, of course, not well received on their route. There is some talk of a commotion at Paris.

Rode out between four and six—finished my letter to Murray on Bowles's pamphlet—added postscript. Passed the evening as usual—out till eleven—and subsequently at home.

February 11, 1821.

Wrote—had a copy taken of an extract from Petter's Letters, with reference to the conspiracy of the Doge for the purposes of Ferriero, contrary to the opinion of the matter. Heard a heavy firing of cannon towards Camacchio—the Barbarians rejoicing for their principal pig's birthday, which is to-morrow—or Saint Day—i forget which. Received a ticket for the first ball to-morrow. Shall not go to the first, but intend going to the second, as also to the Veglioni.

February 12, 1821.

To-day read a little in Louis B.'s Holland, but have written nothing since the completion of the letter on the Pope controversy. Politics are quite misty for the present. The Barbarians still upon their march. It is not easy to divine what the Italians will now do. Lord Byron will be there.

Was elected yesterday 'Socio' of the Carnival ball society. This is the fifth Carnival which I have passed. In the four former, I raked a dodg deal. In the present, I have been as sober as Lady Grace herself.

February 14, 1821.

Much as usual. Wrote, before riding out, part of a scene of 'Sardanapalus.' The first act nearly finished. The rest of the day. I am, as before—partly without, in conversations—partly at home.

Heard the particulars of the late fray at Russi, a town not far from this. It is exactly the fact at Rome and Giulia—of course, as the Barbaries writes it. Two families of Contadini (peasants) are at a feud. At a ball, the younger part of the fami-
lies forget their quarrels, and dance together. An old man of one of them enters, and reproves the young men for dancing with the females of the opposite family. The male relatives of the latter resent this. Both parties rush home, and arm themselves. They meet directly, by moonlight, in the public way, and fight it out. Three are killed on the spot, and six wounded, most of them dangerously.—pretty well for two families, methinks—and all fact, of the last week. Another assassination has taken place at Cesena,—in all about forty in Romagna within these last three months. These people retain much of the middle ages.

February 15, 1821.

Last night finished the first act of Sardanapalus. To-night, or to-morrow, I ought to answer letters.

February 16, 1821.

Last night I Conte P. G. sent a man, with a bag full of bayonets, some muskets, and some hundreds of cart-ridges to my house, without apprising me, though I had seen him not half an hour before. About ten days ago, when there was to be a rising here, the Liberals and my children C. asked me to purchase some arms for a certain few of our raggamuffins. I did so immediately, and ordered ammunition, &c., and they were armed accordingly. Well—the rising is prevented by the Barbarians marching a week sooner than appointed; and an order is issued, and in force, by the Government, that all persons having arms concealed, &c., &c., shall be liable to, &c., &c.—and what do my friends, the patriots, do two days afterward? Why, they throw back upon my hands, and into my house, these very arms (without a word of warning previously) with which I had furnished them at their own request, and at my own peril and expense.

It was lucky that Lega was at home to receive them. If any of the servants had (except Tita and F. and Lega) they would have betrayed it immediately. In the mean time, if they are denounced, or discovered, I shall be in a scrape.

At nine went out—at eleven returned. Beat the crow for stealing the falcon's victuals. Read 'Tales of my Landlord'—wrote a letter—and mixed a moderate beaker of water with other ingredients.

February 18, 1821.

The news are that the Neapolitans have broken a bridge, and slain four pontifical carabiniere, while carabiniere, while carabiniere, while carabiniere, with no other effect. Besides the disrespect to neutrality, it is a pity that the first blood shed in this German quarrel should be Italian. However, the war seems begun in good earnest; for, if the Neapolitans kill the Pope's carabiniere, they will not be more delicate towards the Barbarians. If it be even so, in a short time, 'there will be news o' these cras,' as Mrs. Alison Wilson says of Jenny Blane's 'unco commercial' in the "Tales of my Landlord.'

'Turning over Grimm's Correspondence today, I found a thought of Tom Moore's in a song of Maupertuis to a female Laplander.

To vos tous lieux, Au milieu des saisons, Fault dans le Zenne dortin.'

This is Moore's—

'And these eyes may make my climate, wherever I roam.'

But I am sure that Moore never saw it; for this song was published in Grimm's Correspondence in 1815, and I knew Moore's book by heart in 1812. There is also another but an antithetical coincidence.

I am a solemn boy, Des jours sans voix, Embrît il mon destin; Mais ces longs jours, Rongent les coffres, Passoix pres des Charlotis.'

February 21, 1821.

'This is the thought, reversed, of the last stanza of the ballad on Charlotte Lynes, given in Miss Seward's Memoirs of Darwin, which is pretty—I quote from memory of these last fifteen years.

'To my first night I'll go
To those regions of snow,
Where the sun for six months never shines;
And think, even then,
He too soon came again,
To disturb me with fair Charlotte Lynes.'

'To-day I have had no communication with my Carbonari cronies; but, in the mean time, my lower apartments are full of their bayonets, muskets, cartridges, and what not. I suppose that they consider me as a depot, to be sacrificed, in case of accidents. It is no great matter, supposing that Italy could be liberated, who or what is sacrificed. It is a grand object—the very poetry of politics. Only think—a free Italy!!! Why, there has been nothing like it since the days of Augustus. I reckon the times of Caesar (Julius) free; because the commotions left every body a side to take, and the parties were pretty equal at the set out. But, afterwards, the poor innocent and legitiately businless—we shall see, or at least, some will see, what card will turn up. It is best to hope, even of the hopeless. The Dutch did more than these fellows have to do, in the Seventy Years' War.'

February 19, 1821.

' Came home solus—very high wind—lightning—moonshine—solitary stragglers muffled in cloaks—women in masks—white houses—clouds hurrying over the sky, like split milk blown out of the pail—altogether a wild and unpoetical scene. It is still blowing hard, the tiles flying, and the house rocking—instantaneous lightning flashing—quite a fine Swiss Alpine evening, and the sea roaring in the distance.'

February 20, 1821.

The news of the day are, that the Neapolitans are full of energy. The public spirit here is certainly well kept up. The 'Americani' (a patriotic society here, an underbranch of the 'Carbonari') give a dinner, in the Forest in a few days, and have invited me, as one of the C. It is to be in the Forest of Boccaccio's and Dryden's 'Huntsman's Ghost,' and, even if I had not the same political feelings, (to say nothing of my old convivial turn, which every now and then revives,) I would go as a poor, or, at least, a lover of poetry, to expect to see the spectacle of 'Ostasio' degli Onesti' (Dryden has turned him into Guido Cavalcanti—an essentially different person, as may be found in Dante) come 'thundering for his prey' in the midst of the festival. At any rate, whether he does or no, I will get as tipsy and patriotic as possible.

Within these few days I have read, but not written.

February 20, 1821.

'As usual, rode—visited, &c. Business begins.'
Y Tweaked The Pope was printed a declaration against the patriots. T. D. he says, meditate a rising. The consequence of all this will be, that, in a fortnight, the whole country will be up. The proclamation is not yet published, but printed, ready for distribution. * * * I was a spy, or an impostor. But be it so, even as he says. Their cannot bestow their hospitality on one who loathes and execrates them more than 1 do, or who will oppose their views with more zeal, when the opportunity offers.

February 23, 1821.

Almost ditto with yesterday—rode, &c.—visited wrote nothing—read Roman History.

Had a curious letter from a fellow, who informs me that the Barbarians are ill-disposed towards me. He is probably a spy, or an impostor. But be it so, even as he says. Their cannot bestow their hospitality on one who loathes and execrates them more than I do, or who will oppose their views with more zeal, when the opportunity offers.

February 24, 1821.

Rode, &c., as usual. The secret intelligence arrived this morning from the frontier to the C. is as bad as possible. The plan has missed—the chiefs are betrayed, military as well as civil—and the Neapolitans not only have not moved, but have declared to the P. government, and to the Barbarians, that they know nothing of the matter!!!

Thus the world goes; and thus the Italians are always lost for lack of union among themselves. What is to be done here, between the two fires, and cut off from the N. frontier, is not decided. My opinion was, better to rise than be taken in detail; but how it will be settled now, I cannot tell. Messengers are despatched to the delegates of the other cities to learn their resolutions.

I always had an idea that it would be bungled; but was willing to hope, and am so still. Whatever I can do by money, means, or person, I will venture freely for their freedom; and have so repeated to them (some of the chiefs here) half an hour ago. I have two thousand five hundred scudi, better than five hundred pounds, in the house, which I offered to begin with.

February 25, 1821.

Came home—my head aches—plenty of news, but too tiresome to set down. I have neither read, nor written, nor thought, but led a purely animal life all day. I mean to try to write a page or two before I go to bed. But, as Squire Sullen says, My head aches consumedly: Scrub, bring me a dram! Drank some Imola wine, and some punch.

Log-book continued.*

February 27, 1821.

"I have been a day without continuing the log, because I could not find a blank book. At length I recollected this."

"Rode, &c.—dined—wrote down an occasional stanza for the 5th canto of D. J., which I had composed in bed this morning. Visited T. Amico. We are invited on the night of the Veglione, (next Domenica) with the Marchesa Clelia Cavalli and the Countess Spinelli Respioni. I promised to go."

Last night there was a row at the ball, of which I am a 'socié.' The vice-legate had the impudent insolence to introduce three of his servants in mask—without tickets, too! and in spite of remonstrances. The consequence was, that the young men of the ball took it up, and were near throwing the vice-legate out of the window. His servants, seeing the scene, withdrew, and he after them. His reverence Monsignor ought to know, that these are not times for the predominance of priests over decorum. Two minutes more, two steps farther, and the whole city would have been in arms, and the government driven out of it.

Such is the spirit of day, and these fellows appear not to perceive it. As far as the simple fact went, the young men were right, servants being prohibited always at these festivities.

"Yesterday wrote two notes on the Bowleye Politans, and sent them off to Murray by the post. The old woman whom I relieved in the forest (she is ninety-four years of age,) brought me two bunches of violets. 'Nan vita gaudet mortua floribus.' I was much pleased with the present. An English woman would have presented a pair of worsted stockings, at least, in the month of February. Both excellent things; but the former are more elegant. The present, at this season, reminds one of Gray's stanza, omitted from his elegy.

[^2]: Here accidents of the earliest of the year, By her death, were witnesses of violent found; The maternal lover to build and wakfe her, And little footsteps lightly print the ground."

As fine a stanza as any in his elegy. I wonder that he could have the heart to omit it.

"Last night I suffered horribly—from an indigestion, I believe. I never sup—that is, never at home. But, last night, I was prevailed upon by the Countess Gamba's persuasion, and the strenuous example of her brother, to swallow, at supper, a quantity of boiled cockles, and to dilute them, not reluctantly, with some Imola wine. When I came home, apprehensive of the consequences, I swallowed three or four glasses of spirits, which men (the venders) call brandy, rum, or Hollands, but which gods would entitle spirits of wine, colored or uncolored. All was pretty well till I got to bed, when I became somewhat swo'len, and considerably vigilant. I got out, and mixing some soda-powders, drank them. This brought on temporary relief. I returned to bed; but grew sick and sorry once and again. Took more soda-water. At last I fell into a dreary sleep. Woke, and was ill. All day, till I had galloped a few miles. Query—was it the cockles, or what I took to correct them, that caused the commotion? I think both. I remarked in my illness the complete inaction, inaction, and destruction of my chief mental faculties. I tried to rouse them, and yet could not—and this is the Soul!! I should believe that it was married to the body, if they did not sympathize so much with, each other. If the one rose, when the other fell, it would be a sign that they longed for the natural state of divorce. But, as it is, they seem to draw together like post horses.

"Let us hope the best—it is the grand possession."
DETACHED THOUGHTS.

[EXTRACTED FROM VARIOUS JOURNALS, MEMORANDUMS, &c. &c]

On the first leaf of his "Scriptores Graeci" is, in his schoolboy hand, the following memorial:—

"George Gordon Byron, Wednesday, June 25th.

A.D. 1805, three quarters of an hour past three o'clock in the afternoon third school.—Calvert, monitor, Tom Wildman on my left hand, and Long on my right. Harrow on the Hill." On the same leaf, written five years after, appears this comment:

"Ellen Fitzgerald, Pouchina! Pouchina! Labourer annal.

B. January 9th, 1809.—Of the four persons whose names are here mentioned, one is dead, another in a distant climate, all separated, and from five years have elapsed since they sat together in school and none are yet twenty-one years of age."

In some of his other school-books are recorded the date of his entrance at Harrow, the names of the boys who were at that time monitors, and the list of his fellow-pupils, under Dr. Drury, as follows:

"Byron, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex, Alumnus Scholae Lyceumis primum in anno Domini 1801, Ellission Duce.";

"Monitors, 1801.—Ellison, Royston, Hunxman, Rashleigh, Rokeby, Leigh."

"Drury's Pupils, 1804.—Byron, Drury, Sinclair, Hoare, Bolder, Amesley, Calvert, Strong, Acland, Gordon, Drummond."

"For several years of my earliest childhood, I was in Aberdeen, but have never revisited it since I was ten years old. I was sent, at five years old or earlier, to a school kept by a Mr. Bowers, who was called 'Bodsey Bowers,' by reason of his dapperness. It was a school for both sexes. I learned little there except to repeat by rote the first lesson of Monosyllables ('God made man — Let us love him') by hearing it often repeated, without acquiring a letter. Whenever proof was made of my progress at home, I repeated these words with the most rapid fluency; but on turning over a new leaf, I continued to repeat them, so that the narrow boundaries of my first year's accomplishments were detected, my ears boxed, (which they did not deserve, seeing it was by ear only that I had acquired my letters), and my intellects consigned to a new preceptor. He was a very devout, clever little clergyman, named Ross, afterward minister of one of the kirkis, (East, I think.) Under him I made astonishing progress and I recollect to this day his mild manners and good-natured pains-taking. The moment I could read, my grand passion was history, and why I know not, but I was particularly taken with the battle near the Lake Regillus in the Roman History, put into my hands first. Four years ago, looking down upon the little round lake that was once Regillus, and which dots the immense expanses of water and wood, I remembered my young enthusiasm and my old instructor. Afterward I had a very serious, saturnine, but kind young man, named Patterson for a tutor. He was the son of my shoemaker, but a good scholar, as is common with the Scotch. He was a rigid Presbyterian also. With him I began Latin in Ruddiman's grammar, and continued till I went to the 'Grammar school' (Scotic,' Schule,' Abercouth, 'Squeal,' where I threaded all the classes of the school, with the exception of the fourth, when I was recalled to England (where I had been hatched) by the demise of my uncle. I acquired this handwriting, which I can hardly read myself, under the fair copies of Mr. Duncan, in the same city: I don't think he would plume himself much upon my progress. However, I wrote much better then than I have ever done since. Haste and agitation of one kind or another have quite applied as pretty a scratch as ever scratched over a trunk. The grammar school might consist of a hundred and fifty of all ages under age. It was divided into five classes taught by four masters, the chief teaching the fourth and fifth himself. As in England, the fifth, sixth forms, and monitors, are heard by the head masters."

"I doubt sometimes whether, after all, a quiet and unagitated life would have suited me; yet I sometimes long for it. My earliest dreams (as most boys' dreams are) were martial; but a little later, they were all for love and retirement, till the hopeless attachment to M * * C * * began and continued (though sedulously concealed) very early in my teens; and so upwards for a time. This threw me out again (alone on a wide, wide sea.) In the year 1814, I recollect meeting my sister at General Harcourt's in Portland Place. I was then one thing, and as she had always till then found me. When we met again in 1815, (she told me since,) my temper and disposition were so completely altered that I was hardly to be recognized. I was not then sensible of the change; but I can believe it, and account for it."

"In all other respects," (he says, after mentioning his infant passion for Mary Duke,) "I differed not at all from other children, being neither tall nor short, dull nor witty, of my age, but rather lively—except in my sullen moods, and then was always a devil. They once (in one of my silent rages) wrenched a knife from me, which I had snatched from table at Mrs. B.'s dinner, (I always dined earlier,) and applied to my breast;—but this was three or four years after, just before the late Lord B.'s decease."

"My ostensible temper has certainly improved in later years; but I shudder, and must to my latest..."
nor regret the consequence of it and my passions combined. One event—but no matter—there are others much better to think of also—and to whim I give the preference....

"But I hate dwelling upon incidents. My temper is by nature so easily and frequently affected, and, when I am angry, never deadly. It is when silent, and I feel my forehead and my cheek paling, that I cannot control it; and... but unless there is a woman (and not any or every woman) in the way, I have sunk into tolerable calmness."

"My passions were developed very early—so early that few would believe me if I were to state the period and the facts which accompanied it. Perhaps this was one of the reasons which caused the anticipated melancholy of my thoughts,—having anticipated life. My earlier poems are the thoughts of one at least ten years older than the age at which they were written.—I don't mean for their solidity, but their experience. The first two cantos of Childe Harold were completed at twenty; and they are written as if by a man older than I shall probably ever be.

"My first dash into poetry was as early as 1890. It was the exhibition of a passion for my first cousin, Margaret Parker, (daughter and granddaughter of the two Adaminby Parkers,) one of the most beautiful of evanescent beings. I have long forgotten the verses, but it would be difficult for me to forget her—her dark eyes—her long eyelashes—her completely Greek countenance and figure fully was then about twelve—she rather older, perhaps a year. She died about a year or two afterward, in consequence of a fall, which injured her spine, and induced consumption. Her sister Augusta (by some thought still more lovely) died of the same disease; and it was, indeed, in attending her, that Margaret met with the accident which occasioned her own death. My sister told me, that when she went to see her, shortly before her death, upon accidentally mentioning my name, Margaret colored through the paleness of mortality to the eyes, to the greatest astonishment of my sister, who (residing with her grandmother, Lady Holker, and seeing but little of me, for family reasons) knew nothing of my attachment, nor could conceive why my name should affect her at such a time. I knew nothing of her illness, being at Harrow and in the country, till she was about to die. At this, I made an attempt at an elegy—a very dull one."

"I do not recollect scarcely anything equal to the transparent beauty of my cousin, or to the sweetness of her temper, during the short period of our intimacy. She looked as if she had been made out of a rainbow—all beauty and peace.

My passion had its useful effects upon me—I could not sleep—I could not eat—I could not rest; and although I had reason to know that she loved me, it was the texture of my life to think of the time which must elapse before we could meet again—being exactly about twelve hours of separation! But I was a fool then, and am not much wiser now."

"When I was fifteen years of age, it happened that, in a cavern in Derbyshire, I had to cross a boat, (in which two people only could lie down,) a strong wind had been blowing to raise the waves, so close upon the water as to admit the boat only to be buoyed up by a ferryman (a sort of Chorion) who wades at the stern, stooping all the time. The companion of my transit was Mary Anne Chaworth, with whom I had been long in love; and, though I love her yet, though she had discovered it without me. I recollect my sensations, but cannot describe them, and it is as well. We were a party, a Mr. W., two Miss Ws. and a Miss P.; and I doubt not that C. Alas why do I say my? Our union would have healed feuds in which blood had been shed by our fathers, it would have joined lands broad and rich, it would have joined at least one heart, and two persons not ill matched in years, (she is twc years my elder,) and—and—and—what has been the result?"

"When I was a youth, I was reckoned a good actor. Besides 'Harrow Speeches,' (in which I shone,) I enacted Penriddick, in the 'Wheel of Fortune,' and Tristram Fickle in Allingham's farce of the 'Weathercock,' for three nights, (the duration of our compact,) in some private theatricals at Southwell, in 1898, with great applause. The occasional prologue for our volunteer play was also of my composition. The other performers were young ladies and gentlemen of the neighborhood, and the whole went off with great effcet upon our good natured audience."

"When I first went up to college, it was a new and a heavy-hearted scene for me: firstly, I so much disliked leaving Harrow, that though it was time, (I being seventeen,) it broke my very heart the last quarter with counting the days that remained. I always hated Harrow till the last year and a half, but then I liked it. Secondly, I wished to go to Oxford and not to Cambridge. Thirdly, I was completely alone in this new world, that it half broke my spirits. My companions were not unsocial, but the contrary—flely, hospitable, of rank and fortune, and far beyond my gaiety. I could not dwell with the degree to which I was allied with them; but, I know not how, it was one of the deadliest and heaviest feelings of my life to feel that I was no longer a boy.

"From that time forward, (he adds,) "I began to grow old in my own esteem, and in my esteem age is not estimable. I took my gradations in the vies with great promptitude, but they were not to my taste; for my early passions, though violent in the extreme, were concatenated, and hated division or spreading abroad. I could have left or lost the whole world with, or for, that which I loved; but, though my temperament was naturally burning, I could not shew the common-place hybrid of the place and time; without disgust. And yet I had very disgust, and my heart thrown back upon itself, threw me into excesses perhaps more fatal than those from which I shrank, as fixing upon one (at time) the more success which spread among my fellows would have hurt only myself."

"'Till I was eighteen years old (old as it may seem) I had never read a Review. But while at Harrow, my general information was so great on modern topics as to induce a suspicion that I could only collect so much information from Reviews, because I was never seen reading, but always lie and in mischief, or at play. The truth is that I read eating, read in bed, read when no one one was read, and had read all sorts of reading since I was five years old, and yet never met with a Review, which is the only reason I know of why I should not have read one. But it is in my recollection, when Hunter and Curzon, in 1894, told me this opinion at Harrow, I made them laugh by my ludicrous astonishment in asking them, 'What is a review?' To be sure these were then less common. In three years more, I was better acquainted with that same; but the first I ever read was in 1866-7."

"At school I was (as I have said) remarked for the extent and reading of my general information, but in all other respects idle, capable of great sudden exertions, (such as thirty or forty Greek hexameters, of course with such prosody as it pleased me,) but of nothing else. My oddities were much more oratorical and martial than poetical: and I think, my grand passion, (our head master,) had a great notion that I should turn out..."
an orator, from my fluency, my turbulence, my voice, my copiousness of declamation, and my action. I remember that my first declamation astonished him into some unwonted (for he was economical of such) and sudden compliments, before the dictionary was invented. But I afterwards rather esteemed by what I call the first Harrovian verses, (that is, English, as exercises,) a translation of vowels from the Promethus of Eschylus, were received by him but coolly. No one had the least notion of the beauty of my lines. I believe he was astonished by the first vowels of the Young, Arcite, Timon of Athens, Dante, Petrarch, an alabaster vase, lighted up within,' Satan, Shakspere, Bonaparte, Tiberius, Eschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Harlequin, the Clown, Sternhold and Hopkins, to the phantasmagoria, to Henry the Eighth, to Cheinier, to Mirabeau, to young K. Dal- las, (the schoolboy,) to Michael Angelo, to Raphael, to a petit-maitre, to Diogenes, to Childe Harold, to Lara, to the Count In Beppo, to Milton, to Pope, to Dryden, to Burns, to Savage, to Chatterton, to 'oft have I heard of thee, my Lord Biron,' in Shakspere, to Churchill, the poet, to Kean, the actor, to Alfieri, &c., &c., &c.

Thackeray, who had spoken of Alfieri was asserted very seriously by an Italian who had known him in his younger days. It of course related merely to our apparent personal dispositions. He did not assert this to me, (for we were not then good friends,) but in society.

'The object of so many contradictory comparisons must probably be like something different from them all; but what that is, is more than I know, or any body else.'

'My mother, before I was twenty, would have it that I was like Rousseau, and Madame de Stafli told me to keep it, as a secret, and stated that there is one which has endured (to be sure some have been cut short by death) till now. That with Lord Clare began one of the earliest and lasted longest—which only interrupted by distance—that I knew not was the rank of life, and station of life, and the notion of a little &c., &c., &c., &c.

'At Harrow I fought my way fairly. I think I lost but one battle out of seven; and that was to--; and the rascal did not win it, but by the unfair treatment of his own boarding-house, where we boxed--I had not even a second. I never forgave him, and I should be sorry to meet him now, as I am sure we should quarrel. My most memorable combats were with Morgan, Rice, Rainford, and Lord Jocelyn,—but we were always friendly afterward. I was a most unpopular boy, but left latterly, and have heard many of my school friendships, and all my dislikes—except to Doctor Butler, whom I treated rebelliously, and have been sorry ever since. Doctor Drury, whom I plagued sufficiently too, was the worst. He (the most strict, strict) friend I ever had—'d I look upon him still as a father.

'P. Hunter, Curzon, Long, and Tattersall, were my principal friends. Clare, Dorset, C. Gordon, De Bath, Claridge, and J. Wingfield, were my benefactors, and I spoiled by indulgence. All of us, the second, the third, the smallest, the strict, strict) friend I ever had—'d I look upon him still as a father.

'I have been thinking over, the other day, on the various comparisons, good or evil, which I have seen published of myself in different journals, English and foreign. This was suggested to me by accidently turning over a foreign one lately,—for I have made it a rule latterly never to search for any thing of the kind, but not to avoid the perilous if precocious reading sanctioned by the greatest Harrovian verses."

To begin, then: I have seen myself compared personally or poetically, in English, French, German, (as interpreted to me,) Italian, and Portuguese, with a protestant divine, a younger of the House of Commons, Pope, Milton, Pope, Shakespeare, Bonaparte, Tiberius, Eschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Harlequin, the Clown, Sternhold and Hopkins, to the phantasmagoria, to Henry the Eighth, to Cheinier, to Mirabeau, to young K. Dallas, (the schoolboy,) to Michael Angelo, Raphael, a petit-maitre, to Diogenes, to Childe Harold, to Lara, to the Count In Beppo, to Milton, to Pope, to Dryden, to Burns, to Savage, to Chatterton, to 'oft have I heard of thee, my Lord Biron,' in Shakespeare, to Churchill, the poet, to Kean, the actor, to Alfieri, &c., &c., &c.

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bear the stage from a box so distant and so darkly lighted, that none of the company (composed of young and very bright-eyed people, some of them in the same box) could make out a letter, and thought it was a trick, though I had never been in that theatre before.

"Altogether, I think myself justified in thinking that, History from a book called the Alcibiades, I don't say this out of pique, for Roussseau was a great man, and the thing, if true, were flattering enough—but I have no idea of being pleased with a chimera."

"I have been thinking of an odd circumstance. My daughter, (1) my wife, (2) my half-sister, (3) my mother, (4) my sister's mother, (5) my natural daughter, (6) and myself, (7) are, or were, all only children. My sister's mother (Lady Conyers) had only my half-sister by that second marriage, (herself, too, an only child,) and my father had only me, an only child, by his second marriage with my mother, an only child too. Such a complication of only children, all tending to one family accounting singular, and I see no one who would call me a chimera."

"I have a notion (he says) that gamblers are as happy as many people, being always excited. Women, wine, cake, the table,—even ambition, late now and then; but every turn of the card and cast of the dice keep the gambler alive; besides, one can game ten times longer than one can do anything else. I was very fond of it when young, that is to say, of hazard, for I hate all card games,—even faro. When maco (or whatever they spell it) was introduced, I gave up the whole thing, for I loved and missed the rattle and dash of the box and dice, and the glorious uncertainty, not only of good luck or bad luck, but of any luck at all, as one had sometimes to throw open to design at all. I have thrown as many as four or six mains running, and carried off all the cash upon the table occasionally; but I had no coolness, or judgment, or calculation. It was the delight of the thing that pleased me. Upon the whole, I left off in time, without being much of a winner or loser. Since one-and-twenty years of age, I have played but little, and then never above a hundred, or two, or three."

"List of Historical Writers whose Works I have Consulted in Different Languages."


"Scotland. — Buchanan, Hector Botthius, both in the Latin."

"Ireland. — Gordon."

"Rom. — Hooke, Decline and Fall by Gibbon, Ancient History by Rollin, (including an account of the Carthaginians, &c.) besides Livy, Tacitus, Estrupsius, Cornelius Nepos, Julius Cesar, Arrian, Sallust."

"Greece. — Mitford's Greece, Leland's Philip Fluvare, Potter's Antiquities, Xenophon, Thucydides, Herodotus."

"France. — Mornay, Voltaire."

"Spain. — I chiefly derived my knowledge of old Spain from a book called the Aas, now obsolete. The modern history, from the intrigues of Alberone down to the Prince of Peace, I learned from its connexion with European politics."

"Portugal. — From Vertos; as also his account of the Siege of Rhodes,—though the last is his own invention, the real facts being totally different.—So much for his Knights of Malta."

"Turkey. — I have read Knolles, Sir Paul Rycaut, and Prince Cantemir, besides a more modern history, anonymous. Of the Ottoman History I know every event, from Tangrenopi, and afterward Othman L. to the peace of Passarowitz, in 1718,—the battle of Curzka, in 1739, and the treaty between Russia and Turkey, in 1790."

"Russia. — Tooke's Life of Catherine II., Voltaire's Czar Peter."

"Suede. — Voltaire's Charles XII., also Norberg's Charles XII., in my opinion the best of the two.—A translation of Schiller's Thirty Years' War, which contains the exploits of Gustavus Adolphus, besides Harte's Life of the same prince. I have somewhere, too, read an account of Gustavus Vasa, the deliverer of Sweden, but do not remember the author's name."

"Pruisia. — I have seen, at least, twenty Lives of Frederick II., the only prince worthy recording in Prussian annals. Guille, His own Works, and Thiebit, none very amusing. The last is paltry, but circumstantial."

"Denmark. — I know little of. Of Norway I understand the natural history, but not the chronological."

"Germany. — I have read long histories of the house of Babia, Wenceslaus, and, at length, Robert of Holpbury and his thick-lipped Austrian descendants."

"Switzerland. — Ah! William Tell, and the battle of Morgarten, where Burgundy was slain."

"Italy. — Properly speaking, the Guelphs and Ghibelines, the battle of Pavia, Massaniello, the revolutions of Naples, &c., &c."

"Hindostan. — Orme and Cambridge."

"America. — Robertson, Andrews' American War."

"Africa. — Merely from travels, as Mungo Park, Bruce."

"Biography. — Robertson's Charles V., Caesar, Sallust, (Catiline and Jugurtha,) Lives of Marlborough and Eugene, Tekell, Bonnard, Bonaparte, all the British Poets, both by Johnson and Anderson, Rosseau's Confessions, Life of Cromwell, British Plutarck, British Nepos, Campbell's Lives of the Admirals, Charles XII., Czar Peter, Catherine II., Henry Lord Kames, Marmontel, Teignmont's Sir William Jones, Life of Newton, Belisaire, with thousands not to be detailed."

"Law. — Blackstone, Montesquieu."


"Geography. — Strabo, Cellarius, Adams, Pinkerton, and Guthrie."

"Poetry. — All the British Classics, as before detailed, with most of the living poets, Scott, Southey, &c. Some French, in the original, of which the Cid is my favorite. Little Italian,—Greek and Latin, without number.—those last I shall give up in future, for I have translated a good deal from both languages, verse as well as prose."

"Elocution. — Demosthenes, Cicero, Quintilian, Sheridan's Chironomia, and Parliamentary Debates, from the Revolution to the year 1742."

"Divinity. — Blair, Porteus, Tillieton, Hooker,—all very tiresome. I abhor books of religion, though I reverence and love my God, without the blasphemous notions of sectaries, or belief in their absurd and damnable heresies, mysteries, and Thirty-nine Articles."

"See Letter DXXX.
BYRON'S WORKS.

"MISCELLANIES."

"Spectator, Rambler, World, &c., &c.—Novels by the thousand."

"All the books here enumerated I have taken down from memory. I recollect reading them, and ran quote passages from any mentioned. I have, of course, omitted several in my catalogue; but the greater part of the above I received before the age of fifteen. Since I left Harrow, I have become idle and conceited, from scribbling rhyme and making love to women."

B.—Nov. 39, 1807.

"I have also read (to my regret at present) above four thousand novels, including the works of Cervantes, Fielding, Smollett, Richardson, Mackenzie, Sterne, and Rousseau, &c., &c. The book, in my opinion, most useful to a man who wishes to acquire the reputation of being well read, with the least trouble, is, 'Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy,' the most amusing and instructive medley of quotations and classical anecdotes I ever perused. But a superficial reader must take care, or his intricacies will bewilder him. If, however, he has patience to go through his volumes, he will be more improved in literature by a perusal than by the perusal of any twenty other works with which I am acquainted—at least, in the English language."

In the same book that contains the above record of his studies, he has written out, also from memory, a "List of the different poets, dramatic or otherwise, who have distinguished their respective languages by their productions." After enumerating the ancient poets, both ancient and modern, of Europe, he thus proceeds with his catalogue through other quarters of the world:—

"Arabia.—Mahomet, whose Koran contains most sublime poetical passages, far surpassing European poetry."

"Persia.—Ferdison, author of the Shah Nameh, the Persian Iliad,—Sadi, and Hafiz, the immortal Hafiz, the oriental Amurath. The last is revered beyond any bard of ancient or modern times by the Persians, who resort to his tomb, near Shiraz to celebrate his memory. A splendid copy of his works is claimed to his monument.

"America.—An epic poet has already appeared in that hemisphere, Bowlow, author of the Columbiad, not to be compared with the works of more polished nations."

"Ireland, Denmark, Norway, were famous for the Skoli Skoli. Among these Loeburg was one of the most distinguished. His Death-Song breathes romanticSentiments, but a glorious and impassioned strain of poetry."

"Ilandia is undistinguished by any great bard, at least, the Saneer is so imperfectly known to Europeans, we know not what poetical reliefs may exist."

"The Brunn Empire.—Here the natives are passionately fond of poetry, but their bards are unknown."

"China.—I never heard of any Chinese poet but the Emperor Kien Long, and his ode to Tea. What a pity their philosopher Confucius did not write poetry, with his precepts of morality!"

"Africa.—In Africa some of the native melodies are plaintive, and the words simple and affecting: but whether their rude strains of nature be classed with poetry, as the songs of the bards, the Skoli of Europe, &c., &c., I know not."

"This brief list of poets I have written down from memory, without any book of reference; consequently some errors may occur, but I think, if any, very trivial. The works of the European, and some of the Asiatic, I have perused, either in the original or translations. In my list of English, I have included only what I considered the greatest to enumerate; the minor poets would be useless, even as tedious. Perhaps Gray, Goldsmith, and Collins, might have been added, as worthy of mention, in a cosmopolite account. But as for the others, from Chaucer down to Churchill, they are 'voce et pastores nihil;' and sometimes it is of, rarely read and of no advantage. Chaucer, notwithstanding the praise bestowed on him, I think obscene and contemptible;—he owes his celebrity merely to his antiquity, which has long since served me better than I served him, or Thomas of Ercildoune. English living poets I have avoided mentioning;—we have none who will not survive their productions. Taste is over with us, and another century will crown our empire, our literature, and our name, from all but a place in the annals of mankind."

"BYRON."

"November 39, 1807."

"Knolles, Cantemir, De Tott, Lady M. W. Montague, Hawkins's Translation from Mignot's History of the Turks, the Arabian Nights, all travels, or histories, or books upon the East I could meet with, I had read, as well as Rycuat, before I was ten years old. I think the Arabian Nights first. After these, I preferred the history of naval actions, Don Quixote, and Smollett's novels, particularly Roderick Random, and I was passionate for the London Stage. In short, I could read and read, to read any poetry whatever without disgust and reluctance.

"When I belonged to the Drury-Lane Committee, and was one of the sub-committee of manage ment, the number of plays upon the shelves were about five hundred. Conceiving that among these there must be some of merit, in person and by proxy I caused an inspection of them. I do not think that of those which I saw, there was one which could be conscientiously tolerated. There never were such things as most of them! Maturin was very kindly recommended to me by Walter Scott, whom I had recourse, firstly, in the hope that he would do something for himself, and secondly, in my despair, that he would point out to us any young (or old) writer of promise. Maturin sent his Bertram and a letter without his address, so that at first I could give him no answer. When I at last hit upon his residence, I sent him a favorable answer, and something more substantial. His play succeeded; but I was at the time absent from England.

"I tried Coleridge too; but he had nothing feasible in hand at the time. Mr. Sotheby obligingly offered all his tragedies, and I pledged myself, and notwithstanding many squabbles with my committed and executed. I then met Ivan 'acceptance, but, in parts distributed. But, lo! in the very heart of the matter, upon some topicheness on the part of Kean, or warmth on that of the author, Sotheby withdrew his play. Sir J. B. Burgess did also present four tragedies and a farce, and I moved green-room and sub-committee, but they would not."

"Then the scenes I had to go through! the authors, and the authors, and the milliners, and the Irishmen,—the people from Brighton, from Blackwall, from Chatham, from Cheltenham, from Dublin, from Dundee,—who came in upon me! to all of whom it was proper to give a civil answer, and a hearing, and a reading. Having had an Irish dancing-master of sixty years, called upon me to request to play Archer, dressed in silk stockings, on a frosty morning, to show his legs, (which were certainly better than mine, and still better)—Miss Emma Somebody with a play entitled 'The Bandit of Bohemia,' or some such title or production,—Mr. O'Higgins, then resident at Richmond, with an Irish tragedy, in which the unities could not fail to be observed, for the protagonist was chained by the leg to a pillar during the chief part of the performance. He was a wild man of a salvage appearance, and the difficulty of not laughing at him was so great, I could not enumerate among the probable consequences of such cachinnation.

As I am really a civil and polite person, and do hate giving pain when it can be avoided, I sent them..."
up to Douglas Kinnaird,—who is a man of business, and sufficiently ready with a negative,—and left them to settle with him; and, as the beginning of next year I went abroad, I have since been little aware of the progress of the theatres.

"Players are said to be an impracticable people. They are so: but I managed to steer clear of any disputes with them, and escaping one debate with the elder Byrne about Miss Smith's 'pas de'—something—I forget the technicals,—I do not remember any litigation of my own. I used to protect Miss Smith, because she was like Lady Jane Harley in the face, and likeness goes a great way with me. Indeed, in general, I left such things to my more bustling colleagues, who used to repro me severely for not being able to take such things in hand without buffooning with the histrons, or throwing things into confusion by treating light matters with levity.

"Then the committee!—then the sub-committee!—we were but few, but never agreed. There was Peter Moore who contradicted Kinnaird, and Kinnaird; and I thought by the beginning of the play, than we had two managers, Rae and Dibdin; and our secretary, Ward! and yet we were all very zealous and in earnest to do good and so forth. I furnished us with prologues to our revived old English plays; but he did not go into the prologues for the sake of speaking of them as 'the Upton' of our theatre. (Mr. Upton is or was the poet who writes the songs for Astley's,) and almost gave up prologuing in consequence.

"In the pantomime of 1815-16, there was a representation of the masquerade of 1814 given by 'us youth' of Water's Club to Wellington and C. Douglas Kinnaird, and one or two others, with myself, put on masques, and went on the stage with the et παλαιον to see the effect of a theatre from the stage—it is very grand. Douglas danced among the figurants too, and they were puzzled to find out who we were, as being more than their number. It was odd enough that Douglas Kinnaird and I should have been both at the red masquerade, and afterward in the mimic one of the same, on the stage of the Drury-Lane Theatre.

"In 1812," he says, "at Middleton, (Lord Jersey's,) among a goodly company of lords, ladies, and gentlemen."

"Erskine, too! Erskine was there; good, but intolerable. He jested, he talked, he did every thing admirably, but then he would be applauded for the same thing twice over. He would read his own verses, his own paragraph, and tell his own story, again and again; and then 'the trial by jury!!!' I almost wished it abolished, for I sat next him at dinner. As I had read his published speeches, there was no occasion to repeat them to me.

"C * *, (the fox-hunter) nicknamed 'Cheek C * *,' and I, sweated the clarinet, being the only two who did so. C * *, who loves his bottle, and had no notion of matching with a 'bon vivant' in a scribbler, in making my enlougy to somebody one evening, summed it up in—By God,—he drinks like a man!

"Nobody drank, however, but C * * and I. To be sure, there was little occasion, for we swept off all what was on the table (a most splendid board, as may be supposed at Jersey's) very sufficiently. However, we carried our liquor discreetly, like the Baron of Bradwardine.

"At the opposition meeting of the Peers, in 1812, at Lord Grenville's, when Lord Grey and he read to the House their accouterments, with me Kinnaird's negotiation, sat next to the present Duke of Grafton, and said, What is so be done next?—Wake the Duke of Norfolk, (who was snoring away near us,) replied: 'I don't think the negotiators have left any thing else for us to do this turn. While Grey was speaking, turned round to me repeatedly, and asked me whether I agreed with him. It was an awkward question to me, who had not heard both sides. Moira kept repeating to me, 'It was not said.' I, therefore, now know very well what to think, but I sympathized with the acuteness of his feelings upon the subject.

"The subject of the Catholic claims was, it is well known, brought forward a second time this year by Lord Wellesley, whose motion for a futute consideration of the question was carried by a majority of one. In reference to this division, another rather amusing anecdote is thus related:—"Lord * * affects an imitation of two very different Chancellors, Thurlow and Loughborough, and can indulge in an oath now and then. On one of the debates on the Catholic question, when we were either equal or within one, (I forget which,) I had been sent for in great haste to a bull, which I quitted, I confess, somewhat reluctantly, to emancipate five millions of people. I came in late, and did not go into it at all, but stood just behind the woolsack. * * turned round, and, catching my eye, immediately said to a peer, (who had come to him for a few minutes on the woolsack, as it is the custom on his hands.)—Damn them! they'll have it now,—by God,—I the vote that is just come in will give it them.'

"When I came of age, some delays, on account of some birth and marriage certificates from Corn wall, occasioned me not to take my seat for several weeks. When these were over and I had taken the oaths, the Chancellor apologized to me for the delay, observing, 'that these forms were a part of his duty.' I begged him to make no apology, and added, (as he certainly had shown no violent hurry,) 'Your Lordship was exactly like Tom Thumb' (which was then being acted)—You did your duty, and you did many.

"I have never heard any one who fulfilled my ideal of an orator. Grattan would have been near it, but for his 'inordinate delivery.' If he had been the Fox but once, and then he struck me as a debater, which to me seems as different from an orator as an improvisatore, or a versifier, from a poet. Grey is great, but it is not oratory. Canning is sometimes very like one. Windham I did not admire, though all the world did; it seemed sad sophistry. Whitbread was the Demosthenes of bad taste and vulgar vehemence, but strong, and English. Holland is impressive from sense and sincerity. Lord Lansdowne good, but still a debater only. Grenville I like vastly, if he would prune his speeches down to an hour's delivery. Burdett is sweet and silvery as Belial himself, and I think the greatest favorite of a pandemonium; at least I always heard the country gentlemen and the ministerial devilry praise his speeches up stairs, and run down from Bellamy's when he was upon his legs. I heard Bob Milnes make his serious speeches; it made me like Ward—studied, but keen, and sometimes eloquent. Peel, my school and form-fellow, (we sat within two of each other,) strange to say, I have never heard him. I often wish to talk from what I remember of him at Harrow, he is, or should be, among the best of them. Now, I do not admire Mr. Wilberforce's speaking; it is nothing but a flow of words, words, words alone.'

"I doubt not the English debater is the least imitative, properly so called; and am inclined to think that the Irish had a great deal, ar that the
French still have, and nave had, in Mirabeau. Lord Chatham and Burke are the nearest approaches to orators in England. I don't know what Erskine may have been at the bar; but in the House, I wish him at the bar once more. Lauderdale is shrill, and Cheltenham and acre.

But among all these, good, bad, and indifferent, I never heard the speech which was not too long for the subject, and not too labored except where it was and there. The whole thing is a grand deception, and as tedious and tiresome as may be to those who must be often present. I heard Sheridan only once, and that briefly, but I liked his voice, his manner, and his wit; and he is the only one of them I ever wished to hear at greater length.

"The impression of Parliament upon me was, that its members are not formidable as speakers, but very much so as an audience; because in so numerous a body there may be little eloquence, (after all, there were but two thorough orators in all antiquity, and I suspect still fewer in modern times,) but there must be a beacon of thought and good sense somewhere, if not accessible what is right, though they can't express it nobly.

"Horne Tooke and Roseee both are said to have declared that they left Parliament with a higher opinion of it, than any other abilities that with which they entered it. The general amount of both in Parliament is probably about the same, as also the number of speakers and their talent. I except orators, of course, because they are things of ages, and not of septennial or triennial reunions. Neither House ever struck me with more awe or respect than the same number of Turks in a divan, or of Methodists in a barn, would have done. Whatever difference or nervousness I felt (and I felt both in a great degree) arose from the number rather than the quality of the assemblage, and the thought rather of the public without than the persons within,—knowing (as all know) that Cicero himself, and probably the Messiah, could never have altered the vote of a single lord of the bedchamber or bishop. I thought our House dull, but the other animating enough upon great days.

"In society I have met Sheridan frequently: he was superb! He had a sort of liking for me, and never attacked me, at least to my face, and he did every body else, high names, and wits, and orators, speechless. He was also, and wisely so, a good judge. That his wit came out Whitbread, quiz Madame de Stair, amniable Colman, and do little less by some others (whose names, as I set not down) of good fame and ability. The company when he was, I thin, at Sir Gilbert Elliot's where he was as quick as ever—no, it was not the last time; the last time was at Douglas Kinnaird's.

"I have met him in all places and parties—as Whitbread with the Melbourne's, at the Marquis of Tavistock's, at Robins's the auctioneer's, at Sir Humphrey Davey's, at Sam Rogers's;—in short, in most kinds of company, and always found him very personal and delightful.

"I have seen Sheridan weep two or three times. It may be that he was mandarin; but this only renders it more impressive, for who would see

Once I saw him cry at Robins's the auctioneers, after a splendid dinner, full of great names and high company. The occasion of some sort of honor to Sheridan. The occasion of his tears was some observation or other upon the subject of the sturdiness of the Whigists resisting office, and keeping to their principles. Sheridan turned round: 'Sir, it is easy for my Lord G., or Earl G., or Marquis B., or Lord H., with thousands upon thousands a year, some of it either presently derived, or inherited in sincere or acquistions from the public money; to boast of their

1 From Munchau's 'the tears of doctrine flows.'
2 Swift expat a deceiver and a slave!"
"When the balliff (for I have seen most kinds of life) came upon me in 1815 to seize my chattels, (being a peer of parliament, my person was beyond him,) being curious, (as is my habit,) I first asked him, where else he had for government? upon which he showed me one upon one house only for seventy thousand pounds! Next I asked him, if he had nothing for Sheridan? 'Oh —Sheridan!' said he; 'no, I have this,' (pulling out of his pocket a contract for the sale of one hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco in Sheridan's house a twelvemonth at a time— a civil gentleman—knows how to deal with us,' &c., &c., &c. Our own business was then discussed, which was none of the easiest for me at that time. But the man was civil, and (what I valued more) communicative. I had met many of his brethren, years before, in affairs of my friends, (companions, that is,) but this was the first (or, second) on my own account. A civil man; fed accordingly: probably he anticipated much as much.

"I have heard that when Grattan made his first speech in the English Commons, it was for some minutes doubtful whether to laugh or to cheer. The d'80 of his predecessor Flood had been a complete failure under nearly similar circumstances. But when the ministerial part of our senators &c. watched Pitt (their thermometer) for the cue, and saw him nod repeatedly his stately nod of approbation, he looked upon the Speaker, and broke out into the most rapturous cheers. Grattan's speech, indeed, deserved it; it was a chef d'ouevre. I did not hear that speech of his, (being then at Harrow,) but heard most of his others on the same question— also that on the war of 1815. I differed from his opinions on the latter question, but coincided in the general admiration of his eloquence.

"When I met old Courtenay, the orator, at Rogers' the poet's, in 1811—12, it was much taken with the portly remains of his fine figure, and the still acute quickness of his conversation. It was he who silenced Flood in the English House by a crushing reply to a 'fusty d'80' of the rival of Grattan in Ireland. I asked Courtenay (for I like to trace motives) if he had not some personal provocation; for the accuracy of his answer seemed to me, as I had read it, to involve it. Courtenay said 'he had; that, when in Ireland, (being an Irishman,) at the bar of the Irish House of Commons, Flood had made a personal and unfair attack upon himself, who, not being a member of that House, could not defend himself, and some years afterward, the opportunity of retort offering in the English Parliament, he could not resist it.' He certainly repaid Flood with interest, for Flood never made any figure, and only spoke three or four times in all, but just after it, my poem of Childes Harold was published, and nobody ever thought about my prose afterward, nor indeed did I; it became to me a secondary and neglected object, though I sometimes wonder to myself if I should have succeeded."

"Curran! Curran's the man who struck me most. Such imagination! there never was any thing like it that ever I saw or heard of. His published life—his published speeches, give you no idea of the man—none at all. He was a machine of imagination, as some one said that Piron was an epigrammatic machine. I did not see a great deal of Curran—only in 1813; but I met him at home, (for he used to call on me,) and in society, at Mackintosh's, Holland House, &c., &c., and he was wonderful, even to me, who had seen many remarkable men of the time.

"The powers of Curran's Irish imagination were exhaustless. I have heard that man speak more poetry than I have ever seen written, — though I met him seldom and but occasionally. I saw him presented to Madame de Stael at Mackintosh's— it was the grand confluence between the Rhone and the Saone, and they were both so d—d ugly, that I could not help wondering how the best intellects of France and Ireland could have taken up respectively such residences."

"One of the cleverest men I ever knew, in conversation, was Scrope Bdermore Davies. HoUhouse is also very good in that line, though it is of less consequence to a man who has other ways of showing his talents than in company. Scrope was always ready and often witty, —Hollhouse as witty, but not always so ready, being more diffident."

"Lewis is a good man, rhymes well, (if not wisely,) but is a bore. He seizes you by the button. One night of a rout, at Mrs. Hopes', he had the most rapturous sensations upon the discovery of my symptoms of manifest distress (for I was ill,) and at last nicked a minute when neither mothers, nor husbands, nor rivals, nor gossips, were near my then idol, who was beautiful as the statues of the gallery where we stood at the time—Lewis, I say, had seized upon me by the button and the heart-strings, and spared neither. W. Spencer, who likes fun, and don't dislike mischief, saw my case, and coming up to us both, took me by the hand, and pathetically bade me farewell; 'for,' said he, 'I see it is all over with you.' Lewis then went away. Sic me serva eit Apollu."

"I remember seeing Blucher in the London assemblies, and never saw any thing of his age less venerable. With the voice and manners of a recruiting sergeant, he pretended to the honors of a hero, — just as if a stone could be worshipped because a man had stumbled over it."

"When I met Hudson Lowe, the jealous, at Lord Holland's, before he sailed for St. Helena, the discourse turned on the battle of Waterloo. I asked him whether the dispositions of Napoleon were those of a great general? He answered, disserting on them, diffusely, 'that they were very simple.' I had always thought that a degree of simplicity was an ingredient of greatness."
BYRON'S WORKS.

"I * * * was a good man, a clever man, but a bore. My only revenge or consolation used to be, setting him by the ears with some vivacious person that hated horses especially.—Madame de S—— or II, for I liked I, but was a jewel of a man, had he been better set—I don't mean personally, but less tiresome, for he was tedious, as well as contradictory to every thing and every body. Being short-sighted, when we used to ride out together near the Brenta in the twilight in summer, he made me go before, to pilot him: I am absent at times, especially towards evening; and the consequence of this pilgrimage was some narrow escapes to the former, and a ditch to the latter. Once I led him into a ditch over which I had passed as usual, forgetting to warn my convey; once I led him nearly into the river, instead of on the movable bridge which incommodes passengers; and twice did we both run against the diligence, which, being heavy and slow, did communicate less damage than it received in its leaders, who were terrifed by the charge; thrice did I lose him in the gray of the gloaming, and was obliged to bring to his distant signals of distress and distress;—all the time he went on talking without interruption, for he was a man of many words. Poor fellow! he died a martyr to his new riches—of a second visit to Jamaica.

1 I'd give the kods of Democrats
Dark Skirmouses were alive again

"Madame de Staël was a good woman at heart, and the cleverest at bottom, but spoiled by a wish to be the new not old. In her own house she was amiable; in any other person's, you wished her gone, and in her own again.

"I liked the dandies; they were always very civil to me, though in general they disliked literary people, and persecuted and mystified Madame de Staël, Lewis, * * * *, and the like dammably. They persuaded Madame de Staël that A * * * had a hundred thousand a year, &c, &c, till she praised him to his face for his beauty! and made a set at him for * * *, and a hundred fooleries besides. The truth is, that, though I gave up the business early, I had a tinge of dandyism in my minority, and probably returned them for it to conciliate the great ones at five-and-twenty. I had gamed, and drank, and taken my degrees in most dissipations, and having no pedantry, and not being overbearing, we ran quietly together. I knew them all more or less, and they made me a member of Watier's, (a superb club at that time.) being, I take it, the only literary man (except two others, both men of the world, Moore and Spencer) in it. Our masquerade was a grand one; so was the dandy ball too, at the Argyle, but that (the latter) was given by the four chiefs, B., M., A., and P., if I err not.

"I was a member of the Alfred, too, being elected while I was in Italy; it was a very good club, and I was not then inclined to any public matters. I was a part of the Whig party, in the Commons, and of the Cambridge Whig Club; the Harrow Club, Cambridge; and one or two private clubs; Hampden (political) Club; and to the Cambridge Philosophical, &c. I saw and knew many persons; and I never stood for any other—at least to my own knowledge. I declined being proposed to several others, though pressed to stand candidate.

" * * * (commonly called by) * * * *, a very clever man, but odd; complained to our friend Scrope B Davies, in riding, that he had a stick in his side. 'I don't wonder at it,' said Scrope, 'you for rid like a tailor.' Wherever we were, * * * * * * * horse back, with his very tall figure on a small mug would not deny the justness of the repartee.

"When Brummell was obliged (by that affair of poor M * * *, who thence acquired the name of 'Dicky the Dandy-killer'—it was about money, and debt, and all that,) to retire to France, he knew no French, and having obtained a grammar for the purpose of study, our friend Scrope Davies was asked what progress Brummell had made in French; he responded, 'that Brummell had been stopped, like Bonaparte in Russia, by the Elements.'

"I have put this pun into Beppo, which is a fair exchange and no robbery,' for Scrope made his fortune at several dinners (as he owned himself,) by repeating occasionally, as his own, some of the buffooneries with which I had encountered him in the morning.'

"I have been called as mediator, or second, at least twenty times, in violent quarrels, and have always been at hand to settle the business, without compromising the honor of the parties, or leading them to mortal consequences, and this too sometimes in very difficult and delicate circumstances, and having to deal with very hot and haughty spirits. Irishmen, gamblers, guardsmen, captains, and cornets of horse, and the like. This was, of course, in my youth; when I lived in hot-headed company. I have had to carry challenges from gentlemen, and men, from captains, from lawyers to counsellors, and once from a clergyman to an officer in the life-guards; but I found the latter by far the most difficult,

* to compose

The bloody duel without blows,

the business being about a woman: I must add too, that I never saw a woman behave so ill, like a cold-blooded, heartless b——, as she was, but very handsomely, some for all that. A certain Susan C * * * was she called. I never saw her but once; and that was to induce her but to say two words, (which in no degree compromised herself,) and which would have the effect of saving a priest or a lieutenant of cavalry, who was neither N * * nor myself (the son of Sir E. N * * *), and a friend to one of the parties) could prevail upon her to say them, both of us used to deal in some sort with woman-kind. At last I managed to quiet the combatants without her talisman, and, I believe, to her great disappointment: she was the damndest b—— that I ever saw, and I have seen a great many. Though my clergyman was sure to lose either his life or his living, he was as warlike as the Bishop of Beauvais, and would hardly be pacified; but then he was in love, and that is a martial passion.

"Like Sylla, I have always believed that all things depend upon fortune, and nothing upon ourselves. I am not aware of any one thought or action worthy of being called good to myself or others, which is not to be attributed to the good goddess Fortune.

"If I were to live over again, I do not know what I should do in life, I am not sure I would live—no—not to have lived at all. All history, and experience, and the rest, teach us that the good and evil are pretty equally balanced in this existence and that what is most to be desired is an easy way
AGED OUT OF IT. WHAT CAN IT GIVE US BUT YEARS?

"The world visits change of polities or change of religion with a more severe censure than a mere difference of opinion would appear to me to deserve. But we appear to be some reason for this feeling; —

and I think it is that these departures from the earliest instilled ideas of our childhood, and from the line of conduct chosen by us when we first enter into public life, have been seen to have more mischievous effects upon the republics of society, and to prove more weakness of mind than other actions, in themselves a crime immoral."

Of the bust of himself by Bartollini:—"The bust does not turn out a good one,—though it may be like for aught I know, as it exactly resembles a superannuated Jesuit. Again, "I assure you Bartollini's is dreadful, though my mind misgives me that it is hideously like. If it is, I cannot be long for this world, for it over looks seventy."

"As far as fame goes (that is to say, living fame,) I have had my share, perhaps—indeed, certainly—more than my deserts."

"Some old instances have occurred, to my own experience, of the wild and strange places to which a name may penetrate, and where it may impress. Two years ago, (almost three, being in August or July, 1819,) I received at Ravelin a letter, in English verse, from 'Drongheim, in Norway, written by a Norwegian, and full of the usual compliments, &c., &c. It is still somewhere among my papers. In the same month I received an invitation into Holstein. Mr. Mebon (I think it was, but I am wrong,) also, by the same medium, a translation of Medora's song in the Corsair by a Westphalian baroness (not 'Thunderton-Tronck'), with some original verses of hers, (very pretty and Klopstoek-ish,) and a prose translation annexed to them, on the subject of my wife:—as they concerned her more than me, I sent them to her, together with Mr. Jacobsen's letter. It was odd enough to receive an invitation to pass the summer in Holstein, while in Italy, from people I never knew. The letter was addressed to Venice. Mr. Jacobsen talked to me of the 'wild roses' growing in the Holstein summer. Why then are there no Adbiri and Tentouma emigrants?"

"What a strange thing is love and man! Were I to present myself at the door of the house where my daughter now is, the door would be shut in my face—unless (as is not impossible) I knocked down the porter; and if I had gone in that year (and perhaps now) to Drongheim, (the farthest town in Norway,) or into Holstein, I should have been received with open arms into the mansion of strangers and foreigners, attached to me by no tie but by that of mind and rumor.

"As far as fame goes, I have had my share: it has indeed been lessened by other human contingencies, and this in a greater degree than has occurred to most literary men of a descent rank in life; but, on the whole, I take it that such equipoise is the condition of humanity."

"Among the various Journals, Memoranda, Diaries, &c., which I have kept in the course of my living, I began one about three months ago, and curried it on till I had men of a decent rank in life; (thin —thoroughly dry,) and two sheets or so of another. I then left off, partly because I thought we should have some business here, and I had furbished up my arms and got my apparatus ready for a taking of dimensions, having my drawers full of their proclamations, oaths, and resolutions, and my lower rooms of their hidden weapons, of most calibers, and partly because I had filled my paper-book.

"But the Neapolitans have betrayed themselves and all the world; and those who would have given their blood for Italy can now only give her their tears.

"Some day or other, if dust holds together, I have been enough in the secret (at least in this part of the country) to cast perhaps some little light upon the atrocious treason which has repudiated Italy into barbarism: at present I have neither the time nor the temper. However, the real Italians are not to blame; merely the soundrels at the heel of the boot, which the Hun now wears, and will trample them to ashes with for their severity. I have risked myself with the others, here, and how far I may or may not be compromised is a problem at this moment. Some of them, like Craugengelt, would tell all, and more than all, to save themselves. But, come what may, the cause was a glorious one, though it reads at present as if the Greeks had ran away from Xerxes. Happy the few who had only to reproach themselves with believing that those rascals were less 'rascaille' than they proved to be, in 1819. The efforts of the Neapolitans were necessarily limited to preparations and good intentions, until the Germans were fairly engaged in equal warfare—as we are upon their very frontiers, without a single fort or hill nearer than San Marino. What will be to them, if not to the man of 'good intentions,' I know not; but there will probably be a good store of Neapolitans to walk upon the pavements, whatever may be its composition. Shabs of lava from their mountains, with the bodies of their own damned souls for cement, would be the finest causeway for Satan's 'Corso.'"

"Pan, November 5, 1821.

"There is a strange coincidence sometimes in the little things of this world, Sancho,' says Sterne in a letter, (if I mistake not,) and I so I have often found it.

"In page 1012 of this collection, I had alluded to my friend Lord Clare in terms such as my feelings suggested. About a week or two afterward, I met him on the road between Imola and Bologna, after not having met for seven or eight years. He was abroad in 1814, and came home just as I set out in 1816.

"This meeting annihilated for a moment all the years between the present time and that of my Haltern. It was not only a never and inexplicable feeling, like rising from the grave to me. Clare too was much agitated—more in appearance than was myself; for I could feel his heart beat to his fingers' ends, unless, indeed, it was the pulse of my own which made me think so. He told me that I should find a note from him left at Bologna. I did. We were obliged to part for our different journeys, he for Rome, I for Pisa, but with the promise to come again in spring. We were but five minutes together, and on the public road; but I hardly recollect an hour of my existence which could be weighed against them. He had heard that I was coming on, and had left his letter for me. Ti fill the things he used to write to me, people with whom he was travelling could not wait longer.

"Of all I have ever known, he has always been the least altered in every respect for the better qualities and kind affections which attached me to him so strongly at school. I should hardly have thought it possible for society (or the world, as it is called) to leave a being with so little of the leaves and bad passions of bad passions.

"I do not speak from personal experience only but from all I have ever heard of him from others, during absence and distance.

"I revisited the Florence Gallery, &c. My former impressions were confirmed; but they are..."
Byron's Works.

Two new English and Spanish Atlantides will be masters of the old countries, in all probability as Greece and Europe overcame their mother Asia in the older or earlier ages, as they are called.

After saying, in reference to his own choice of Venice as a place of residence, "I remembered General Ludlow's domal description, 'Omne solum fortis patria,' and sat down free in a country which had been the school of slavery for centuries," he adds, "But there is no freedom, even for masters, in the midst of slaves. It makes my blood boil to see the thing. I sometimes wish that I was the owner of Africa, to do at once what Wilberforce will do in time, viz., sweep slavery from her deserts, and look upon the first dance of their freedom.

As to political slavery, so general, it is men's own fault: if they will be slaves, let them! Yet it is but 'a word and a blow.' See how England for merely, France, Spain, Portugal, Americas, Switzerland, freed themselves! There is no one instance of a long contest in which men did not triumph over systems. If Tyranny missers her first spring, she isewardly as the tiger, and returns to hunt.

'Going to the fountain of Delphi (Castri) in 1808, I saw a flight of twelve angels (H. says they were not, but at least, in my mind, I seized the men. On the day before, I composed the lines to Parnassus, (in Childe Harold,) and, on beholding the birds, had a hope that Apollo had accepted my homage. I have at least had the name and fame of a poet during the poetic part of life, (from twenty to thirty;) whether it will last is another matter.

In the year 1814, as Moore and I were going to dine with Lord Grey in Portman square, I pulled out a 'Java Gazette,' (which Murray had sent to me,) in which there was a controversy on our respective merits as poets. It was amusing enough that we should be procesing peacefully to the same table, while they were squabbling about us in the Indian seas, (to be sure, the paper was dated six months before,) and filling columns with Batavian criticism. But this is fame, I presume."

"One of my notions different from those of my contemporaries is, that the present is not a high age of English poetry. There are more poets (solicitous) than ever there were, and proportionally less passion excited by them. Yet, in some years, but, strange to say, it meeth not with favor from my brethren of the shelf. Even Moore shakes his head, and firmly believes that this is the grand age of British poetry."

"Of the immortality of the soul, it appears to me that there can be little doubt, if we attend for a moment to the action of mind: it is a perpetual activity. I used to doubt of it, but reflection has taught me better. It acts also so very independently of body—in dreams, for instance;—incoherently and madly, I grant you, but still it is mind, and much more than when we are awake. Now that this should not act separately, as well as jointly, who can pronounce? The stoics, Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius, call the present state a soul which draws a carcass,—a heavy chain, it seems to me, that holds the body and shakes off. How far our future life will be individual, or, rather, how far it will at all resemble our present existence, is another question; but that the mind is eternal seems as probable as the body is not so. Of course, I here venture upon the question without recurrring to revelation, which, however, is at least as rational a solution of it as any other. A material resurrection seems to me so few and far between, make me feel as if talking with posterity from the other side of the Styx. In a century or two, the new English and Spanish Atlantides will be masters of the old countries, in all probability as Greece and Europe overcame their mother Asia in the older or earlier ages, as they are called."

* See Letter to C.  
* See Journal in Italy.
DETACHED THOUGHTS.

 morning evening; and when the world is at an end, what moral or warning purpose can eternal tortures answer? Human passions have probably disfigured the divine doctrines here—but the whole thing is inscrutable.

"It is useless to tell me not to reason, but to believe. You might as well tell a man not to wake, but sleep. And then to bully with torments, and all that! I cannot help the thing that the mentioned hell makes as many devils as the severe penal codes of inhuman humanity make villains."

"Men are born passionate of body, but with an innate though secret tendency to the love of good in his main spring of mind. But, God help us all: it is at present a sad jar of atoms."

"Matter is eternal, always changing, but reproduced, and, as far as we can comprehend eternity, eternal; and why not mind? Why should not the mind act with and upon the universe, as portions of it act upon and with the congregated dust called mankind? See how one man acts upon himself and others, or upon multitudes! The same agency, in a higher and purer degree, may act upon the stars, &c., ad infinitum."

"I have often been inclined to materialism in philosophy, but could never bear its introduction into Christianity, which appears to me essentially founded upon the soul. For this reason, Priestley's Christian Materialism always struck me as deadly. Believe the resurrection of the body, if you will, but not without a soul. The dene is in it, if, after having had a soul (as surely the mind, or whatever you call it) in this world, we must part with it in the next, even for an immortal materity! I own my partiality for spirit."

"I am always most religious upon a sunshiny day, as if there was some association between an internal approach to the light and a sort of kindling of the kinder of this dark lantern of our external existence."

"The night is also a religious concern, and even more so when I viewed the moon and stars through Herschell's telescope, and saw that they were worlds."

"If, according to some speculations, you could prove the world many thousand years older than the Mosaic chronology, or if you could get rid of Adam and Eve, and the apple, and serpent, still, what is to be put up in their stead? or how is the difficulty removed? Things must have had a beginning, and what matters it when or how?"

"I sometimes think that man may be the relic of some higher material being wrecked in a former world, and degenerated in the hardship and struggle through chaos into conformity, or something like it,—as we see Laplanders, Esquimaux, &c., inferior in the present state, as the elements become more inexorable. But even then this higher pre-Adamite suppositionis creation must have had an origin; and a Creator,—for a creation is a more natural imagination than a fortuitous concourse of atoms: all things remount to a fountain, though they may flow to an ocean."

"Plutarch says, in his Life of Lysander, that Aristotle observes 'that in general great geniuses are of a melancholy turn, and instances Socrates, Plato, and Herocles, (or Heracletns,) as examples; and Lysander, though not while young, yet as in clinicd to it when approaching towards age.' Whether I am a genius or not, I have been called such by my friends as well as enemies, and in more countries and languages than one, and also within a no very long period of existence. Of my genius I can say nothing, but of my melancholy, that it is 'increasing and ought to be diminishing.' But how? "I take it that most men are so at bottom, but that it is only remarked in the remarkable. The Duchesse de Broglie, in reply to a remark of mine on the errors of clever people, said that 'they were not worse than others, only, being more in view, were more noted, especially in all that could reduce them to the rest, or raise the rest to them.' In 1816 this was. "In fact, (I suppose that) if the follies of fools were all set down like those of, the wise, the wise (who seem at present only a better sort of fools) would appear almost intelligent."

"It is singular how soon we lose the impression of what senses to be constantly before us: a year impairs, a lustre obliterates. There is little distinction left without an effort always passed. Then, indeed, the lights are rekindled for a moment; but who can be sure that imagination is not the torch-bearer? Let any man try at the end of ten years to bring before him the features, or the mind, of I have been surprised at the extreme confusion of his ideas. I speak confidently on this point, having always passed for one who had a good, ay, an excellent memory. I except, indeed, our recollection of wofulmankind; there is no a great drought,' 'the Thames frozen over,' 'the seven years' war broke out,' the 'English, or French, or Spanish revolution commenced,' 'the Lisbon earthquake,' 'the Lima earthquake,' 'the earthquake of Calabria,' 'the plague of London,' 'diti of Constantinople,' 'the sweating sickness,' 'the yellow fever of Philadelphia,' &c., &c., &c, but you don't see 'the abundant harvest,' 'the fine summer,' 'the long peace, 'the wealthy speculation,' 'the reckless voyage,' recorded so emphatically. By-the-way, there has been a thirty years' war and a seventy years' war; was there ever a seventy years' peace? Or was there ever a day's peace? except perhaps in China, where they have found out the miserable happiness of a stationary and unwarlike mediocrity. And is all this because nature is so gracious to men, as to give them no grateful? Let philosophers decide. I am none."

"In general I do not draw well with the literat men; not that I dislike them—but I never know what to say to them after I have praised their las
publication. There are several exceptions, to be sure, but then they have either been men of the world, such as Scott and Moore, &c.; or visionaries out of it, such as Shelley, &c.; but your literary every-day man and I never went well in company, especially your foreigner, whom I never could abide; except Giordani, and—and—and (I really can't name any other) I don't remember a man among them whom I ever wished to see twice, except perhaps Mezzaphantil, who is a monster of Languages, the Briarbus of parts of speech, a walking Polygott, and more, who ought to have existed at the time of the Tower of Babel, as universal interpreter. He is indeed a marvel—unaccounting also. I tried him in all the tongues of which I know a single oath, (or dedication to the gods against postboys, savages, Tartars, boatmen, sailors, pilots, gondoliers, Cristianoes, camel-drivers, Vetturines, postmasters, posthorses, posthouses, post every thing,) and, egad! he astounded me—even to my English."

"No man would live his life over again; is an old and true saying which all can resolve for themselves. At the same time, there are probably moments in most men's lives which they would live over the rest of life to regain? Else why do we live at all? because Hope recurs to Memory, both false; but—but—but—but—and this but drags on till—what? I do not know: and who does? He that died o' Wednesday."

"Alcibiades is said to have been 'successful in all his battles'—but what battles? Name them! If you mention Caesar, or Hannibal, or Napoleon, you at once rush upon Pharsalia, Senna, Alesia, Can nan, Thermopylae, Troia, Lodi, Marengo, Jena, Austerlitz, Friedland, Wagram, Moskwa: but it is less easy to pitch upon the victories of Alcibiades; though they may be named too, though not so readily as the Leucra and Mantine of Epanomndas the Marathon of Miltiades, the Salamis of Themiste- nocles, and the Thermopylae of Leonidas. Yet, upon the whole, it may be doubted whether there be a name of antiquity which comes down with such a general charm as that of Alcibiades. Why? I cannot answer. Who can?"

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**REVIEW OF WORDSWORTH'S POEMS.**

**TWO VOLS., 1807.**

[From "Monthly Literary Recreatons," for August, 1807.]

The volumes before us are by the author of Lyri- cal Ballads, a collection which has not undeservedly met with a considerable share of public applause. The characteristics of Mr. W.'s muse are simple and flowing, though occasionally inharmonious verse, strong, and sometimes irresistible appeals to the feelings, with unexceptionable sentiments. Though the present work may not equal his former efforts, many of the poems possess a native eleg- ance, natural and unaffected, totally devoid of the tinsel embellishments and abstract hyperboles of several contemporary sonneteers. The last son- net in the first volume, p. 152, is perhaps the best, without any novelty in the sentiments, which we hope are common to every Briton at the present crisis; the force and expression is that of a genuine poet, feeling as he writes:

"Another year! another deadly blow!
Another mighty empire overthrown!
And we are left, or shall be left, alone—
The last that dares to struggle with the foe.
The evil!—from this day forward we shall know
That in ourselves our safety must be sought,
That by our own right hands it must be wrought;
That we must stand as props, or be laid low.
O daring! whom such fortitude does not cheer!
We shall exult, if they who rule this land

Be men who hold his many blessings dear,
Wide, upright, valiant, not a vessel small,
Who are to judge of danger which they fear,
And honor which they do not ascertain.

The song at the Feast of Brougham Castle, the Seven Sisters, the Affliction of Margaret; of posses all the beauties, and few of the defects, of this writer: the following lines from the last are in his first style:

"Ah! little does the young ones dream
When full of play and childish cares,
What power both else his wildness presents,
Hearth by his mother unaware;
He knows it not, he cannot guess;
Yearns to a master being cherisht,
But do not make her love the lines."

The pieces least worthy of the author are those entitled "Moods of my own Mind." We certainly wish these "Moods" had been less frequent, or not permitted to occupy a place near works which only make their deformity more obvious; when Mr. W. ceases to please, it is by "abandoning" his mind to the most common-place ideas, at the same time clothing them in language not simple, but puerile. What will any reader or auditor, out of the nursery, say to such nymby-ramby as "Liner written at the Poot of Brother's Bridge?"

"The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small bird twitter,
The lake doth glimmer,
REVIEW OF GELL'S GEOGRAPHY.

The green field alights in the sun; the loudest and youngest, Art at work with the strongest; the cattle are grazing, their beaks never raising, there are forty feeding like ones. Like anenny defiant, the snow hath returned, and now doth freeze still. On the top of the barn hill.

"The plough-boy is whooping anon, anon," &c., &c., is in the same exquisite measure would have appeared to us neither more nor less than an imitation of such minstrelsies as soothed our cries in the crush, with the shrill ditty of

On the whole, however, with the exception of the above, and other inoffensive odes of the same description, we think these volumes display a genius worthy of higher pursuits, and regret that Mr. W. confines his muse to such trifling subjects. We trust his motto will be in future, "Paulo major canamus." Many, with inferior abilities, have acquired a stiff seat on Parnassus, merely by attempting strains in which Mr. Wordsworth is more qualified to excel.

REVIEW OF GELL'S GEOGRAPHY OF ITHACA, AND ITINERARY OF GREECE.

[From the "Monthly Review," for August, 1811.]

That laudable curiosity concerning the remains of classical antiquity which has of late years increased among our countrymen, is in no traveller or author more conspicuous than in Mr. Gell. Whatever difference of opinion may yet exist with regard to the success of the several disputants in the famous Trojan controversy, or, indeed, relating to the present author's merits as an inspector of the Troas, it must universally be acknowledged that any work, which more forcibly impresses on our imagination the scenes of heroic action, and the subjects of immortal song, possesses claims on the attention of every scholar.

Of the two works which now demand our report, we conceive the former to be by far the most interesting to the reader, as the latter is indisputably the most serviceable to the traveller. Excepting, indeed, the running commentary which it contains on a number of extracts from Pausanias and Strabo, it is, as the title imports, a mere itinerary of Greece, or rather of Argolis only, in its present circumstances. This being the case, surely it would have answered every purpose of utility much better by being printed as a pocket road-book of that part of the Morea; for a quarto is a very unmanageable travelling companion. The maps and drawings, we shall be told, would not permit such an arrangement; but as to the drawings, they are not in general to be admired as specimens of the art; and several of them, as we have been assured by eye-witnesses of the scenes which they describe, do not compensate for their mediocrity in point of execution, by any extraordinary fidelity of representation. Others, indeed, are more faithful, according to our informants. The true reason, however, for this costly mode of publication is in course to be found in a desire of gratifying the public passion for large margins, and all the luxury of typography; and we have before expressed our dissatisfaction with Mr. Gell's aristocratical mode of communicating a species of knowledge which ought to be accessible to a much greater portion of classical students than can at present acquire it by his means—but, as such expostulations are generally useless, we shall be thankful for what we can obtain, and that in the manner in which Mr. Gell has chosen to present it.

The former of these volumes, we have observed, is the most attractive in the closet. It comprehends a very full survey of the far-famed island which the hero of the Odyssey has immortalised; for we really are inclined to think that the author has established the identity of the modern Theski with the Ithaca of Homer. At all events, if it be an illusion, it is a very agreeable deception, and is effected by an ingenious interpretation of the passages in Homer that are supposed to be descriptive of the scenes which our traveller has visited. We shall extract some of these adaptations of the ancient picture to the modern scene, marking the points of resemblance which appear to be strained and forced, as well as those which are more easy and natural; but we must first insert some preliminary matter from the opening chapter. The following passage conveys a sort of general sketch of the book, which may give our readers a tolerably adequate notion of its contents:

"The present work may adduce, by a simple and correct survey of the island, coincidences in its geography, in its natural productions, and sound names, before unnoticed. Some will be directly pointed out; the fancy or memory of the reader may be employed in tracing others; the mind is satisfied with the harmony of the Odyssey will reconcile with satisfaction the scenes themselves; and this volume is offered to the public, not entirely without hope of vindicating the poem of Homer from the suspicion of those critics who imagine that the Odyssey is a mere poetical compilation, unsupported by history, and unconnected with the realities of any particular situation. Some have asserted that, in the comparison of places now existing and the descriptions of Homer, we ought not to expect coincidence in absolute details; yet it occurs only too frequently in Homer, and in an
These citations, we think, appear to justify the author in his attempt to identify the situation of his rock and fountain with the place of those mentioned by Homer. But let us now follow him in the close description of the scene.—After some account of the rock, he kindly indulges in a brief collection of inscriptions, which are

**Auris ton ge avtessi tvraon tis i deymata

Kai Koraksis pete, to to krin 'Avelos,

Evelhios, diwvotis, kai melos el

Helenas'.**

Odessis N. Vogt.

*Having passed some time at the fountain, taking a drawing, and made the necessary observations on the situation of the point, we proceeded to an examination of the precipice, climbing over the terraces above the source, among shady fig-trees, which, however, did not prevent us from feeling the powerful effects of the midday sun. After a short last lingering around, we arrived at the rock, which extends in a vast perpendicular semicircle, beautifully fringed with trees, sitting to the south-east. Under the crape we found a large extra fixture of stones. When the sun, at the moment of sunset, the contrast between the broad mass of rocks, is seen in the view of the fountain. They are still the resort of shepherds and goats, and in one of them are small natural precipices for the water, covered by vegetation and moss.*

*These caves, being at the extremity of the curve formed by the precipice, open toward the south, and present us with another accommodation to the front of Arethusa. As the sun then set at the fountain, so it is necessary that a source should be found in this vicinity; and this source to supply, to illustrious situations, with that of the Poet. Near the source also was the fold or stadia of Eumaeus, for the goddess informs Ulysses that he should find his faithful servant at this situation.*

*Now the hero meets the sneurheus close to the fold, which was consequently very near that source. At the top of the rock, and just above the spot where the waterfalls about the precipice, is at this day a stag and pastoral dwelling, which the hermits of Ithaca still inhabit, on account of the water necessary for their sustenance. One of these people walked on the verge of the precipice at the time of our visit to the place, and seemed so anxious to know how we had been conveyed to the spot, that his enquiries reached us as a question probably not uncommon in the days of Homer, who more than once represents the Ithacans demanding of strangers who ship had brought them to the island, it being evident they could not come on foot. He told us that there, on the summit where he stood, a small herd of goats now grazes. It is possible also wolves of ancient habitations, and the place is now called Anemeneu.*

*Convent-ace, as well as safety, seems to have pointed out the left position of the precipice at a fine fit place for the rock, and also part of the island from the earliest ages. A small source of water is a treasure in these climates; and if the inhabitants of Ithaca now select a ragged and elevated spot, to secure them from the rebels of the Echinades, it is to be recommended. The Tropaeum plates were found near this place, even in the days of Ulysses, and that residence in the solitary part of the island, far from the furtive, and close to a celebrated fountain, most at all times have been dangerous, without some security as the rocks of Korax. Indeed, there can be no doubt that the house of Eumaeus was on the top of the precipice: for Ulysses, in order to evince the truth of his story to the absent, desires to be thrown from the summit if his narrative does not prove correct.*

*Near the bottom of the precipice is a curious natural gallery, about seven feet high, which is expressed in the globe. It may be fairly presumed, from the very remarkable coincidence between this place and the Homeric account, that this was the same designated by the poet as the fountain of Arethusa, and that the rock, the precipice about the fountain, and theフェオ of the Aetna, must be considered the spot which bears this name, at this day, so strong a resemblance to a peculioc description composed at a period so very remote. There is no other fountain in this part of the world, nor any rock which bears the slightest resemblance to the Korax of Homer.*

*The situation of the good Eumaeus appears to have been little different, for he was not twice in the valley, but killed from the top of the rock. The poet expressly mentions that other hermits drove their flocks into the city at summer, as custom which still prevails throughout Greece during the summer, and which is not in use in which Ulysses was told to leave his sheep. Homer accounts for this deviation from the prevailing custom, by observing that he had retired from this city to avoid the authors of Pentepelee. These trifling omissions only prove a strong presumption that the islands of Homer was something more that the creation of his own fancy, as Homer has given it.*

*Sweet sources.* Does Mr. Gell translate from the Latin? To avoid similar cause of mistakes, *μερικαί* should not be rendered severally, but greats, as Barrows has given it.
We must, however, observe that "demonstration is a strong term. In his description of the Lycadian Promontory (of which we have a pleasing representation in the plate), he remarks that it is "celebrated for the leap of Sappho, and the death of Artemisia." From this variety in the expression, a reader would hardly conceive that both the ladies perished in the same manner; in fact, the sentence is as true for one as it would be for the other. We cannot conclude the death of Russell, and the death of Sidney. The view from this promontory includes the island of Corfu; and the name suggests to Mr. Gell the following note: even though rather irrelevant, it is of a curious nature, and we therefore conclude our citations by transcribing it:—

"It has been generally supposed that Corfu, or Corcyra, was the Phœnician Homer; but the history of the place is too inconsistent with the voyage of Ulysses as described in the Odyssey. That gentleman has also observed a number of remarkable coincidences between the courts of Alcmena and Solomon, that they may be thought curious and interesting. Homer was familiar with the names of Tyre, Sihon, and Egypt; and, as we lived about the time of Solomon, it would not have been extraordinary if he had introduced some account of the magnificence of that prince into his poem. As Alcmena was famous for her magnificence, so, to the name of Alcmena according to our knowledge; as the goddess of Solomon were celebrated, as we are those of Alcmena (Od. 7, 112); as the kingdom of Solomon was distinguished by its riches under twelve princes (1 Kings, ch. 4), so that of Alcmena was invested with a shower of gold (1 Kings, ch. 10), so that of Alcmena was placed on dogs of silver and gold (1. Kings, 7. 41); as the name of Solomon was famous, so was that of Alcmena. It is a matter of great curiosity, that in the case of the Stylises, as he returned from Ethiopia to Ephesus, while he rolled the temple which these Ulisses on the coast of Phœnicias; that the Stylises of Phœnicia are very considerably distant from the sea. This magnificent character, also, which Nausicaæ attributes to her countryman agrees precisely with that which the Greek and Roman gave of the Jews."

The seventh chapter contains a description of the Monastery of Kthara, and several adjacent places. The eighth, although of other curiosities, fixes on one imaginary site for the farm of Laertes: but this is the agony of conjecture, indeed—and the ninth chapter mentions another Monastery, and a rock still called the school of Homer. Some sepulchral inscriptions of very simple nature are also published. The tenth and last chapter brings us round to the Port of Schoenus, near Bath; after we have completed, seemingly in a very minute and accurate manner, the tour of the island. We can certainly recommend a perusal of this volume to every lover of classical scene and story. We may indulge the pleasing belief that Homer sang of a real kingdom, and that Ulisses governed it, though we do not feel any feeling of pleasing confidence in the chain of evidence, we are on the whole inclined to fancy that it is the Ithaca of the bard and of the monarch. At all events, Mr. Gell has enabled every future traveller to form a clearer idea of Homer; a question than he could have established without such a "Vade-mecum to Ithaca," or a "Have with you, to the House of Ulisses," as the present With Homer in his pocket, and Gell on his understand the true scenes of the Odyssey. For ourselves, we confess that all our old Grecian feelings would be alive on approaching the fountain of Melanippe, the fountain of the Virgin, the fountain of the priests relate, Homer was restored to sight. We now come to the "Grecian Patterson," or "Carly," which Mr. Gell has begun to publish: and really he has cast his eyes on the whole, while we consider the person of the author as to great a length as either of the above-mentioned heroes of literary history. We hear nothing of his "hair-brush 'scapes" by sea or land; and we do not even know, for the
greater part of his journey through Arcolis, whether he relates what he has seen or what he has heard. From other parts of the book, we find the former to be the case; but, though there have been tourists and "strangers" in other countries, who have kindly permitted their readers to learn rather too much of their sweet selves, yet it is possible to carry delicacy, or cautious silence, or whatever it may be called, without any excess. We think that Mr. Gell has fallen into this error, so opposite to that of his numerous brethren. It is offensive, indeed, to be told what a man has eaten for dinner, or in what pathetic he was on certain occasions; but we like to think that there is a man yet living who describes the scenes to which he introduces us; and that is not a mere translation from Strabo or Pausanias which, we are reading, or a commentary on those authors. This is one loss which the concluding remark in Mr. Gell's preface (by much the most interesting part of his book) to his Itinerary of Greece, in which he thus expresses himself:

"The confusion of the modern with the ancient names of places in this volume is absolutely inevitable, they are, however, mentioned in such a manner as to guard against the possibility of the inconvenience of them. The necessity of applying the ancient appellations to the different scenes, will to extirpate the total ignorance of the public on the subject of the modern names, which, having never appeared in print, are only known to the modern investigators to have existed the classical names.

"What could appear less familiar to the reader, or less useful to the traveller, than a route from Caesar and Strabo to Roudasfrom, from Homer, to Percin and the mills of Perci, while every one is so degree acquainted with the names of Stympaha, Nemea, Mycena, Lyciea, Lerna, and Tegoa?"

Although this may be very true inasmuch as it relates to the reader, yet to the traveller we must observe, in opposition to Mr. Gell, that nothing can be more indecent, or dishonorable, than the illusion or misrepresentation of his route according to the ancient names. We might as well, and with as much chance of arriving at the place of our destination, talk to a Hounslow postboy about making haste to Augustus, as apply to our Turkish guide in modern Greece for a direction to Stympaha, Nemea, Mycena, &c., &c. This is neither more nor less than classical affectation; and it renders Mr. Gell's book of much more confined use than it would otherwise have been;—but we have some other and more important remarks to make on his general directions to Grecian tourists; and we beg leave to assure our readers that they are derived from travellers who have lately visited Greece. In this respect, Mr. Gell is absolutely incompetent to recommend an interference on the part of English travellers with the Minister at the Porte, in behalf of the Greeks. "The folly of such neglect (page 10, preface), in many instances, where the emancipation of a district might often be obtained by the present of a snuff-box or a watch, at Constantinople, and without the slightest danger of exciting the jealousy of such a court as that of Turkey, will be acknowledged when we are no longer able to rectify the error." We have every reason to believe, on the contrary, that the folly of half a dozen travellers taking this advice, might bring us into a war. "No traveller interferes with any thing of the kind," is a much sounder and more political suggestion to all English travellers in Greece.

Mr. Gell apologises for the introduction of "his panoramic drawings," as he calls them, on the score of the great difficulty of giving any tolerable idea of the face of a country in writing, and the ease with which a very accurate knowledge of it may be acquired by maps and panoramic designs. We are inclined to think that is not the case with such designs. The small scale of the single map we have already censured: and we have hinted that some of the drawings are not remarkable for correct resemblance, and that their original designs of the Gate of the Lions at Mycena are indeed good likenesses of their subject, and the first of them is unusually well executed; but the general view of Mycena is not more than tolerable in any respect: and the prospect of Laussa, &c., is bare equal to the former. The view from this last place is also indifferent; and we are positively assured that there are no windows at Naplina which look like a portrait. The view suggested by Mr. Gell's plate. We must not, however, be too severe on these picturesque bagatelles, which, probably, were very hasty sketches; and the circumstances of weather, &c., may not quite so ignorant; or several of our Grecian Mango Parks have travelled in vain, and some very sumptuous works have been published to no purpose! As we proceed, we find the author observing that "Athens is now the most polished seat of Greece," when we believe it to be the most barbarous, even to a proverb—

"Αθήνα, πρωτόχορα,
Το γαλάζιο ράφτει τον.

is a couplet of reproach now applied to this once famous city; whose inhabitants seem little worthy of the inspiration when suggested by strangers. They have been within these twenty years, by the celebrated Riga—

Δεύτε πάντες τοὺς Ἐλλήνους— π. λ.

Lamiana, the capital of Epirus, and the seat of Ali Pacha's government, is in truth deserving of the same estimation. We no longer respect the honour of his dominions, we have heard, from the destruction of the Palais, and the pillage of the capital. As to the correctness of the remark concerning the fashion of wearing the hair cropped in Molasia, as Mr. Gell informs us, our authorities cannot dispute: but why will he use the classical term of Eleusinian images, when that people are so much better known by their modern name of Mainotes? "The court of the Pacha of Tripolizza" is said "to realise the splendid visions of the Arabian Nights." This is true with regard to the court: but surely the traveller ought to have added that the city and palace are most miserable, and form an extraordinary contrast to the splendid of the court.—Mr. Gell mentions gold mines in Greece; he should have specified their situation, as it certainly is not universally known. When, also, he remarks that "the first article of necessity in Greece is a firman, or order from the Sultan, permitting the traveller to pass unmolested to the interior of the Grecian dominions in which a firman is not necessary; since the passport of the Pacha is absolute within his territory (according to Mr. G.'s own admission), and much more effectual than a firman "Money," he remarks, "is easily procured at Sa lonica, or Patras, where the English have consuls. It is not much inferior in the case of the Turkish governors, who never charge discount. The consuls for the English are not of the most magnanimous order of Greeks, and far from being so liberal, generally speaking; although there are, in course of some exceptions, and Strune of Patras has been more honorably mentioned. After having observed that "horses seem the best mode of conveyance in Greece," Mr. Gell proceeds: "Some English travellers would not travel in Greece without the saddle of this sort is always objected to the owner of the horse, and not without reason," &c. This, we learn, is far from being the case; and, indeed, for a great many of the two near species of these horses seem to be pretable to one of the country, because

* We write these lines from the conclusion of the travellers by sea we have alluded; but we cannot vouch for the correctness of the Itinerary.
't is much lighter. When, too, Mr. Gell calls the position "Menzilgi," he mistakes him for his betters; Serrutiecs are postilions; Menzilgis are postmasters:—Our traveller was fortunate in his Turks, who are hired to walk by the side of the baggage-horses. They "are certain," he says, "of performing their engagement without grumbling." We apprehend that this is by no means certain—but Mr. Gell is perfectly right in preferring a Turk to a Greek for this purpose; and in his general recommendation to take a Janissary on the tour: who, we may add, should be suffered to act as plebeys, since nothing is to be done by gentle means, or even by offers of money, at the places of accommodation. A courier, to be sent on before to the place at which the traveller intends to sleep, is indispensable to comfort: but no tourist should be misled by the author's advice to suffer the Greeks to gratify their curiosity, in permitting them to remain for some time about him on his arrival at an inn. They should be removed as soon as possible; for, as to the remark that "no stranger would think of intruding when a room is preoccupied," our informants were not so well convinced of that fact.

Though we have made the above exceptions to the accuracy of Mr. Gell's information, we are most ready to do justice to the general utility of his directions, and can certainly concede the praise which he is desirous of obtaining,—namely, of having facilitated the researches of future travellers, by affording that local information which was before impossible to obtain." This book, indeed, is absolutely necessary to any person who wishes to explore the Morea advantageously; and we hope that Mr. Gell will continue his Itinerary over that and every other part of Greece. He allows that his volume "is only calculated to become a book of reference, and not of general entertainment;" but we do not see any reason against the compatibility of both objects in a survey of the most celebrated country of the ancient world. To that country, we trust, the attention, not only of our travellers, but of our legislators, will hereafter be directed. The greatest caution will, indeed, be required, as we have promised, in touching on so delicate a subject as the amelioration of the possessions of an ally: but the field for the exercise of political sagacity is wide and inviting in this portion of the globe; and Mr. Gell, and all other writers who interest us, however remotely, in its extraordinary capabilities, deserve well of the British empire. We shall conclude by an extract from the author's work, which, even if it fails of exciting that general interest which we hope most earnestly it may attract, towards its important subject, cannot, as he justly observes, "be entirely uninteresting to the scholar:" since it is a work "which gives him a minute description of the remains of cities, the very existence of which was doubtful, as they perished before the era of authentic history." The subjoined quotation is a good specimen of the author's minuteness of research as a topographer; and we trust that the credit which must accrue to him from the present performance will ensure the completion of his library:

The Incompleteness of the Maps of Apanapheus are in many respects very glaring. The situation of Paphi is marked by Serrutiecs as surrounded by the remains of Smyrna, Argos, Chalcis, and Smyrion. Mr. Heraldis, observed, that Paphi, the ruins of which still exist near Agioi Gorgones, lie in a direct line between Chalcis and Smyrion and another from Beyan in Argos; so that Serrutiecs was correct in marking it by between these two towns; yet we see Paphi, in the map of Argos by M. D'Anville, placed ten miles to the north of Smyrion, indicating both history and fact. D'Anville is guilty of the same error.

M. de Boisage places a town named Phasion, by him Phis, and our researches, on the point of land which forms the port of Deepassis; there we are not at present sure to find it. The maps of D'Anville are generally more correct than any others where ancient geography is concerned. A mistake occurs on the subject of Tyrrenus, and a place named by him Yachin, but of which nothing can be understood. It is possible that Yathud or the profound valley, may be a name sometimes used for the valley of Beisachi, and thus the place named by D'Anville Chalaur may be the result of that valley called Klesos, which has a corresponding signification.

The city of Tyrrenus is also placed in two different positions, once by its Greek name, and again as Tyrrheus. The mistake between the labours of D'Anville and Colonna has been noticed in page 152. The Phereus, which D'Anville represents as a river, and the Euranion are equally placed in his map. There was a place called Cressopulis, somewhere toward Cys Qoros; but its situation is not exactly fixed. The ports called Baruthum and Phereus seem to have been nothing more than little bays in the country between Corinth and Epidauros. The town called Athenes, in Cys Qoros, by Pausanias, is called Athens by Thucydides, book 5: 47.
THE FIRST CHAPTER OF A NOVEL

CONTEMPLATED BY LORD BYRON IN THE SPRING OF 1812

[AFTERWARDS PUBLISHED IN ONE OF MR. DALLAS’S NOVELS.]

— DARRELL TO G. Y. —

So much for your present pursuits. I will now resume the subject of my last. How I wish you were upon the spot; your taste for the ridiculous would be fully gratified; and if you felt inclined for more serious amusement, there is no "lack of argument." Within this last week our garden has been blest; and, if some of your old acquaintances. Our host you already know — absurd as ever, but rather duller, and I should conceive, troublesome to such of his very good friends as find his house more agreeable than its owner. I confine myself to observation, and do not find him at all in the way, though Veramore and Aspyn are of a different opinion. The former, in particular, imparts to me many pathetic complaints of the want of opportunities (nothing else being wanting to the success of the said Veramore) created by the fractions and but ill-concealed jealousy of poor Bramblebear, whose Penelope seems to have as many suitors as her namesake, and for aught I can see to the contrary, with as much prospect of carrying their point. In the mean time, I look on and laugh, or rather I should laugh were you present to share in it; sackcloth and sorrow are excellent wear for soliloquy; but for a laugh there should be two, but not many more, except at the first night of a modern tragedy.

You are very much mistaken in the design you impitate to myself; I have none here or elsewhere. I am sick of old intrigues, and too indolent to engage in new ones. Besides, I am, that is, I used to be, apt to find my heart gone at the very time when you fastidious gentlemen begin to recover yours. I agree with you that the world, as well as yourself, are of a different opinion. I shall never be at the trouble to undeceive either; my follies have seldom been of my own seeking. "Rebellion came in my way, and I found it." This may appear as coaxing I deal a speech as Veramore could make, yet you partly know its truth. You talk to me too of "my character," and yet it is one which you and fifty others have been struggling these seven years to obtain for yourselves. I wish you had it, you would make so much better, that is, worse use of it; relieve me, and gratify an ambition which is unworthy of a man of sense. It has always appeared to me extraordinary that you should value women so highly, and yet love them so little. The height of your gratification ceases with its accomplishment; you bow, and you sigh, and you worship,—and abandon. For my part I regard them as a very beautiful, but inferior animal. I think them as much out of place at our tables as they would be in our senate. The whole present system, with regard to that sex, is a remnant of the chivalrous barbarism of our ancestors; I think it much better; and grown-up children, but, like a foolish mam, am always the slave of some only one. With a contempt for the race, I am ever attached to the individual. You know that, though not rude, I am inattentive; any thing but a "beau garçon." I would not hand a woman out of her carriage, but I would leap into a river after her. However, I grant you last, as they must walk offener out of chariots than into the Thames, you gentlemen servitors, Cortezos and Ciesebai, have a better chance of being agreeable and useful; you might, very probably, do both; but as you can't swim, and I can, I recommend you to invite me to your first water-party.

Bramblebear's Lady Penelope puzzles me. She is very beautiful, but not one of my beauties. You know I admire a different complexion, but the figure is perfect. She is accomplished, if her mother and music-master may be believed; amiable, if a soft voice and a sweet smile could make her so; young, even by the register of her baptism; pious and chaste, and doting on her husband, according to Bramblebear's observation; equally loving, not of her husband, though rather less pious, and other thing, according to Veramore's; and if mine hath any discernment, she detests the one, despises the other, and loves—herself. That she dislikes Bramble is evident; poor soul, I can't blame her; she has found him out to be mighty weak and little-tempered; she has also discovered that she married too early to know what she liked, and that there are many likeable people who would have been less discordant and more creditable partners. Still, she conducts herself well, and in point of good humor, to admiration. A good deal of religion, (not enthusiasm, for that leads the contrary way,) a prying husband who never leaves her, and, as I think, a very temperate pulse, will keep her out of scraps. I am glad of it, first, because, though Bramblebear is bad, I don't think him bad; I much better; and next, because Bramblebear is ridiculous enough already, and it would be thrown away upon him to make him more so; thirdly, it would be a pity, because nobody would pity him; and, fourthly, (as Scrub says,) he would then become a melancholy and sentimental harlequin, instead of a merry, fretful pantaloon, and I like the pantomime better as it is now cast. More in my next.

Yours, truly,
DARRELL.
DEBATE ON THE FRAME-WORK BILL, IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, FEBRUARY 27, 1812.

The order of the day for the second reading of this bill being brought before the House.

LORD BYRON rose, and (for the first time) addressed their lordships, as follows:

MY LORDS—The subject now submitted to your lordships for the first time, though new to the House, is by no means new to the country. I believe it had occupied the serious thoughts of all descriptions of persons, long before its introduction to the notice of that legislature, whose interference alone could be of real service. As a person in some degree connected with the suffering county, though a stranger not only to this House in general, but to almost every obvious part of the measures on this subject, I must claim some portion of your lordships' indulgence whilst I offer a few observations on a question in which I confess myself deeply interested.

To enter into any detail of the riots would be superfluous: the House is already aware that every outrage short of actual bloodshed has been perpetrated, and that the proprietors of the frames obnoxious to the rioters, and all persons supposed to be connected with them, have been liable to insult and violence. During the short time I recently passed in Nottinghamshire, not twelve hours elapsed without some fresh act of violence; and on the day I left the county, I was informed that forty frames had been broken the preceding evening, as usual, without resistance and without detection.

Such was then the state of that county, and such I have reason to believe it to be at this moment. But whilst these outrages must be admitted to exist to an alarming extent, it cannot be denied that they have arisen from circumstances of the most unparalleled distress. The perseverance of these miserable men in their proceedings, tends to prove that nothing but absolute want could have driven a large, and once honest and industrious, body of the people, into the commission of excesses so hazardous to themselves, their families, and the community. At the time to which I allude, the town and county were burdened with large detachments of the military; the police was in motion, the magistrates assembled; yet all the movements, civil and military, had led to—nothing. Not a single instance had occurred of the apprehension of any real delinquent actually taken in the fact, against whom there existed legal evidence sufficient for conviction. But the police, however useless, were by no means idle: several notorious delinquents had been detected; men, liable to conviction, on the clearest evidence, of the capital crime of poverty; men who had been notoriously guilty of lawfully beggaring several children, whom, thanks to the times! they were unable to maintain. Considerable injury had been due to the proprietors of the improved frames.

These machines were to them an advantage, inasmuch as they superseded the necessity of employing a number of workmen, who were left in consequence to starve. By the adoption of one species of frame in particular, one man performed the work of many, and the superfluous laborers were thrown out of employment. Yet it is to be observed, that the work thus executed was inferior in quality; not marketable at home, and merely hurried over with a view to exportation. It was called, in the cant of the trade, by the name of "Spider work." The rejected workmen, in the blindness of their ignorance, instead of rejoicing at these improvements in arts so beneficial to mankind, conceived themselves to be sacrificed to improvements in mechanism. In the foolishness of their hearts they imagined, that the maintenance and well-doing of the industrious and their obtrusive persons were to solicit, must claim some portion of your lordships' indulgence whilst I offer a few observations on a question in which I confess myself deeply interested.

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occupied and their excesses, however to be deplored and condemned, can hardly be subject of surprise. It has been stated that the persons in the temporarily of Emerick at their arrest; if this be proved upon inquiry, it was necessary that such material accessories to the crime should be principals in the punishment. But I am informed by an agent of his majesty's government, for your lordship's decision, would have had conciliating for its basis; or, if that were hopeless, that some previous inquiry, some deliberation would have been deemed requisite, and not have been called at once without examination, and without cause, to pass sentences by wholesale, and sign death-warrants biliously.

But admitting that these men had no cause of complaint; that the grievances of them and their employers were alike groundless; that they deserve the worst; what inefficiency, what imbecility has been evinced in the method chosen to reduce them? Why were the military called out to set down to check our foreign triumphs in the midst of all? As far as the difference of seasons would permit, they have merely parodied the summer campaign of Major Sturgeon; and, indeed, the whole proceedings of the military, are a caricature of the proceedings of those of the Mayor and corporation of Garratt.

--Such marching and countermarchings! from Nottingham to Bullwell, from Bullwell to Banford, from Banford to Mansfield! and when at length the developments arrived at their destinations--fan in all "the pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war," they came just in time to witness the mischief which had been done, and ascertain the escape of the perpetrators, to collect the 'police opus' from the fragments of broken frames, and return to their quarters amidst the derision of old women, and the hootings of children. Now, though in a free country, it is wished that our military should never be too formidable, at all events, I cannot see the policy of placing them in situations where they can only be made ridiculous. As the sword is the worst argument that can be used, so should it be the last. In this instance it has been the first; but provisionally as yet only in the scabbard. The present measure will, indeed, pluck it from the sheath; yet had proper meetings been held at the earlier stages of these riots,—had the grievances of these men and their masters (for they also had their grievances) been fairly weighed and justly examined, I do think that means might have been devised to restore the workmen to their avocation, though that of the prison. At present the country suffers from the double indiction of an idle military, and a starving population. In what state of apathy have we been plunged so long, that for the first time the House has been officially apprised of these disturbances! All this has been transacting within one hundred and thirty miles of London, and yet we, "good easy men, have deemed full surely our greatness was a-ripening," and have sat in the midst of domestic calamity. But all the cities you have taken, all the armies which have retreated before your leaders, are but paltry subjects of self-congratulation. You are aware of our grievances; and your droogs and your executioners must be let loose against your fellow-citizens. You call these men a mob, desperate, dangerous, and ignorant; and seem to think that the only way to quiet the "Bellum multorum capitum" is to lop off a few of its superfluous heads. But even a mob may be better reduced to reason by a mixture of conciliation and firmness, than by additional irritation and redoubled penalties. You are aware of our grievances; and your droogs and your executioners must be let loose against your fellow-citizens. You call these men a mob, desperate, dangerous, and ignorant; and seem to think that the only way to quiet the "Bellum multorum capitum" is to lop off a few of its superfluous heads. But even a mob may be better reduced to reason by a mixture of conciliation and firmness, than by additional irritation and redoubled penalties. The Army is a mob, and the Army's officers are military police, and you can never get an Army man to be a mob.

The people's mob too often speaks the sentiment of the people. And here I must remark, with what alacrity you are accustomed to fly to the succor of ye or distressed ye country's allies, in the midst of the care of Providence, or the parish. When the Portuguese suffered under the retreat of the French, every arm was stretched out, every hand was opened, every pocket was empty of its contents, all was bestowed to enable them to rebuild their villages and replenish their granaries. And at this moment, when thousands of misguided but most unfortunates fellow-countrymen are struggling with the calamity, those extremities, we have already begun abroad, it should end at home. A much less sum, a tithe of the bounty bestowed on Portugal, even if those men (which I cannot a limit without inquiry) could not have been restored to their employments, would have rendered unnecessary the tender mercies of the bayonets and the gibbet. But doubtless our friends have too many foreign claims to admit a prospect of domestic relief; though never did such objects demand it. I have traversed the seat of war in the Peninsula, I have been in some of the most oppressed provinces of Turkey, but never under the most despot of infidel governours have I seen the death-bill of the unfortunates have seen since my return in the very heart of a Christian country. And what are your remedies? After months of inaction, and months of action worse than inactivity, at length comes forth the grand specious, the never-failing panoply of the state physicians, from the days of D roc to the present time. After feeling the pulse and shaking the head over the patient, prescribing the usual course of warm water and cold, the warm water of you maudish police, and the lancets of your military, these convulsions must terminate in death, the sure consummation of the prescriptions of all political surgeons. And the country, and the certain inefficiency of the bill, are there not capital punishments sufficient in your statutes? Is there not blood enough upon your penal code, that more must be poured forth to ascend Heaven and testify against you? How will you carry the bill into effect? Can you commit a whole county to their own prison? Will you erect a gibbet in every field, and hang up men like scarecrows? or will you proceed, if you must, to bring this measure into (effect) by decimation? place the country under martial law? depopulate and lay waste all around you? and restore Sherwood Forest as an acceptable gift to the crown, in its former condition of a royal chase and desolate? At present, I think, the country is in want of something to fill the place of the country is in want of something to fill the place of those remedies for a starving and desperate populace? Will the vanquished wretch who has braved your bayonets, be appalled by your gibbets? When death is a relief, and the only relief it appears that you will afford him, will he be dragooned into tranquillity? Will that which could not be effected by your grenadiers be accomplished by your executioners? If you proceed by the forms of law, where is your evidence? Those who have refused to impeach their accomplices, when transportation only was the punishment, will hardly be tempted to witness against them when death is the penalty. With all due deference to your wisdom, I think a little investigation, some previous inquiry, would induce even them to change their purpose. That most favorite state measure, so marvellously efficacious in many and recent instances, law, meaning, would not be without its advantages in this case. When a proposal is made to emancipate or relieve, you hesitate, you deliberate for years, you temperize and tamper with the minds of men; but a death-bill must be off hand, without a thought of the consequences. Sure I am, from what I have heard, and from what I have seen, that to pass the Bill under all the existing circumstances, without inquiry, without deliberation, without the slightest regard for the lạc or neglect simplicity, will be the presentation of a case and barbarity to neglect. The framers of such a Bill must be content to inherit the honors of
The enemy is without, and distress within. It is too late to call in doctrinal points, when we must use in defiance of things more important than the mere controversies of this troublesome age. It is too late to say that we are called together to deliberate, not on the God we adore, for in that we are agreed; not on the king we obey, for to him we are loyal; but how far the Catholic church in Ireland, and the churchmen, who believe not too little, but too much, (the worst that can be imputed to the Catholics,) how far too much devotion to their God, may incapacitate our fellow-subjects from effectually serving their king.

Much has been said, within and without doors, of Church and State, and although those venerable words have been oft a prostituted to the most despicable of party uses, we can see them oftener than is well; all, I presume, are the advocates of Church and State, the Church of Christ, and the State of Great Britain; but not a state of exclusion and despotism; not an intolerant church; not a church militant, which renders itself liable to the very objection urged against the Romish communion, and in a greater degree, for the Catholic merely withholding its spiritual benediction, (and even that is done by our church, or rather our churchmen, not only refuse to the Catholic their spiritual grace, but all temporal blessings whatsoever. It was an observation of the great Peterborough, made within these walls, or within the walls where the Lords then assembled, that he was for a "parliamentary king and a parliamentary constitution, but not a parliamentary God, and a parliamentary religion. The interval of a century has not weakened the force of the remark. It is indeed true that we should leave these petty cavils on frivolous points, these sly epithets of sophistry whether our "eggs" are best broken at the broad or narrow end.

The opponents of the Catholics may be divided into two classes; those who assert that the Catholics have too much already, and those who allege that the lower orders, at least, have nothing more than they require. But it is to be noticed that Catholics will never be contented; by the latter, that they are already too happy. The last paradox is sufficiently refuted by the present, as by all past petitions; it might as well be said, that the negroes did not desire to be emancipated—but this is a fortunate comparison, for you have already delivered them out of the house of bondage without any petition on their part, but from their taskmasters to a contrary effect; and for myself, when I consider this, I pity the Catholic peasantry for not having the good fortune to be born black. But the Catholics are contented, or at least ought to be, as we are told: I shall therefore proceed to touch on a few of those circumstances in which so much has been attributed to their exceeding contentment. They are not allowed the free exercise of their religion in the regular army; the Catholic soldier cannot absent himself from his post without the leave of his captain; he is not a man, and, unless he is quartered in Ireland, or in Spain, where can he find eligible opportunities of attending his own? The permission of Catholic chaplains to the Irish militia regiments was conceded as a special favor, and not after years of reconnoissance, although an act, passed in 1738, established it as a right. But are the Catholics properly protected in Ireland? Can the church purchase a rood of land whereby to erect a chapel? No; all the places of worship are built on leases of trust or sufferance from the laity, easily broken and often betrayed. The moment any irregular wish, any casual caprice of the benevolent landlord meets with opposition, the doors are barred against the congregation. This has happened continually, but in no instance more glaringly, than at the town of Newtown Barrery in the county of Wexford. The Catholics, enjoying no regular chapel, as a temporary expedient, hired two barns, which, being thrown into one, served for public worship. At this time there was quartered opposite to the spot an officer, whose mind appears to have been deeply imbued with the spirit of slavish obedience. Thoroughly versed in regulations, now on the table, prove to have been fortuitously eradicated from the more rational portion of the people; and when the Catholics were assembled thereon, and theSuperintendent of the religious establishment was directed towards men, for the worship of their God and yours they found the chapel door closed, and were told that if they did not immediately retire, (and they were told this by a yeoman officer and a magistrate,) the riot act should be read, and the assembly dispersed at the point of the bayonet! This was complained of to the middle-man of government, the secretary at the Castle in 1806, and the answer was, in lieu of the quartering them, to write to the colonel, to prevent, if possible, the recurrence of similar disturbances. Upon this fact, no very great stress need be laid; but it tends to prove that the Catholic man does not desire to purchase land for its chapels to stand upon, the laws for its protection are of no avail. In the mean time, the Catholics are at the mercy of every "pelt- ing, petty officer," who may choose to play his "fanatic tricks" of "dechristianizing," to insult his God, and injure his fellow-creatures.

Every schoolboy, any footboy, (such have held commissions in our service,) any footboy who can exchange his "fanatic" for his "humble" is a "dechristianizer," to insult his God, and injure his fellow-subjects to the last drop of his blood, without
discrimination or distinction between Catholic and Protestant.

Do the Irish Catholics the full benefit of trial by jury? They have not; they never can have until they are permitted to share the privilege of serving as jurors and under-sheriffs. Of this a striking example occurred at the last Enniskillen assizes. A yeoman, named Maevouragh: three respectable uncon- the prisoner load, take am, fire at, and kill the said Maevouragh. This was properly conveyed by the judge; but, to the astonishment of all, the court, the Protestant jury acquitted the accused. So glaring was the partiality, that Mr. Justice Osborne felt it his duty to bind over the acquitted, but not absolved, assassin, in large recognizances, thus for a time taking away his license to kill Catholics.

Are the very laws passed in favor of observed? They are rendered nugatory in trivial as in serious cases. By a late act, Catholics are permitted in jails, but in Fermanagh county the grand jury lately persisted in presenting a suspended clergymen for the office, thereby evading the statute, because they held the most pressing renunciation of a most respectable magistracy, named Fletcher, to the contrary. Such is law, such is justice, for the happy, free, contented Catholic!

In another place, why not the rich Catholics cast foundations for the education of the priesthood? Why do you not permit them to do so? Why are all such bequests subject to the interference, the vexatious, arbitrary, peculating interferences of the Orange commissioners for charitable donations?

As to Maynooth college, in no instance, except at the time of its foundation, when a noble Lord (Comden), at the head of the Irish administration, did appear to have regard for its advancement; and during the government of a noble Duke (Bedford), who, like his ancestors, has ever been the friend of freedom and mankind, and who has not so far adopted the selfish policy of the day as to exclude the Catholics from the number of his fellow-creatures; with these exceptions, in no instance has that institution been properly encouraged. There was indeed a time when the Catholic clergy were consecrated, while the Union was pending, the Union which could not be carried without them, while their assistance was requisite in procuring addresses from the Catholic counties; then they were dismissed, farmed, scattered, and given to understand that "the Union would do every thing;" but, the moment it was passed, they were driven back with contempt into their former occupations.

In the contemplus pursued towards Maynooth college, every thing is done to irritate and perplex—every thing is done to exclaim the slightest impression of gratitude from the Catholic mind; the very hay made upon the law, the fat and fow of the beef and mutton allowed, must be paid for and accounted upon oath. It is true, this economy in miniature cannot be sufficiently commended, perhaps the best way is to substitute the import duties of the treasury, your Hunts and your Chinneys, when only these "gilded bugs" can escape the microscopic eye of ministers. But when you come forward session after session, as your pauper pittance is always the last on the import duties, your chairmen are beloved of the bosom of your lissome, well might the Catholic

To John I owe some obligation, But John modestly thinks fit To write to me & all the nation No Job, and I am more than quit.

Some persons have compared the Catholics to the beggar in Gil Bias. Who made them beggars? Who are enriched with the spoils of their aces- for the murder of a Catholic named Maevouragh: three respectable uncon-
Among many causes of irritation, too numerous for recapitulation, there is one in the militia not to be passed over—I mean the existence of Orange lodges amongst the privates; can the officers deny this? And if such lodges do exist, do they, through the shades of their secrecy, prevent the mass of the people who are thus individually separated in society, although mingled in the ranks? And is this general system of persecution to be permitted, or is it to be believed that with such a system the Catholics can or ought to be contented? If they do so believe human nature; they are then, indeed, unworthy to be any thing but the slaves you have made them. The facts stated are from most respectable authority, or, if the Catholics are enthusiastic, or any thing to the place, to hazard this asovol. If exaggerated, there are plenty, as willing as I believe them to be, to disprove them. Should it be objected that I never was in Ireland, I beg leave to observe, that it is as easy to know something of Ireland without having been there, as it appears with some to have been born, bred, and cherished there, and yet remain ignorant of its best interests.

But there are, who assert that the Catholics have already been too much indulged: see (they what has been done: we have given them one entire college, we allow them food and raiment, the full enjoyment of sports, and holiday amusements, and liberty as long as they have limbs and lives to offer; and yet they are never to be satisfied! Generous and just declaimers! To this, and to this only, amount the whole of your arguments when strict of their sophistication. You have persuaded me of the story of a certain drummer, who being called upon in the course of duty to administer punishment to a friend tied to the halter's, was requested to flog 'high, high, down, down, the middle, he did—high, low, down the middle, and up again, but all in vain, the patient continued his complaints with the most provoking pertinacity, until the drummer, exhausted and angry, flung down his scourge, exclaiming, "the devil burn you, there's no pleasing you, flog where one will!" Thus it is, you have flogged the Catholic, high, low, here, there, and every where, and then you wonder he is not pleased. It is true, that time, experience, and that weariness which attends even the exercise of barbarity, have taught you to flog a little more gently, but still you continue to fay on the last, and will so continue, till perhaps the rod may be wrecked, and the hand fraud applied to the backs of yourselves and your posterity.

It was said by somebody in a former debate, (I forget by whom, and am not very anxious to remember, if the Catholics are enthusiastic, why not the Jews? If this sentiment was dictated by compunction for the Jews, it might deserve attention, but as a sneer against the Catholic, what is it but the language of Shylock transferred from his daughter's marriage to Catholic emancipation?

"Would any of the tribe of Benjamin Should here it rather be a Christian."

I presume a Catholic is a Christian, even in the apportion of him whose taste only can be called in question for his preference of the Jews. It is a remark often quoted of Dr. Johnson, (who had in his personal manners a great aptitude for the gentle apostle of intolerance, Dr. Duigenan,) that he who could entertain serious apprehensions of danger to the Church in these times, would have "early called himself a Jew." Alliteration, as a metaphor, for a remnant of these antediluvians appear actually to have come down to us, with fire in their mouths and water in their brains, to disturb and perplex mankind with their whimsical outcries. As there be subjects, which, not distrusting a sentiments with which I conceive them to be afflicted, (so any doctor will inform your lordships,) for the unhappy invalids to perceive a flame per-
If they are beloved here, in France they must be adored. There is no measure more repugnant to designs and feelings of Bonaparte than Catholic emancipation. But I fear that the most honest of his projects, than that which has been pursued, is pursuing, and, I fear, will be pursued towards Ireland. What is England without Ireland, and what Ireland without Great Britain? In its first operation, gave a death-blow to the independence of Ireland, and in its last may be the cause of her eternal separation from this country. If it must be carried, let it be done with the firm and solemn stroke with which his prey; the spoiler swallows up his victim, and thus they become one and indivisible. Thus has Great Britain swallowed up the parliament, the constitution, the independence of Ireland, and refused to disgrace even a single privilege, although for the relief of her swollen and distempered body politic.

And now, my lords, before I sit down, will his majesty’s ministers permit me to say a few words, not on their merits, for that would be superfluous, but on the degree of estimation in which they are held by the people of these realms. The esteem in which they are held has been restored in a triumphant manner upon several occasions. I have no doubt that there will be a comparison instituted between their conduct, and that of noble lords on this side of the house. What portion of popularity may have fallen to the share of those friends, if I may presume to call them, I shall not pretend to ascertain; but that of his majesty’s ministers it were vain to deny. It is, to be sure, a little like the workmen, who knows when it cometh or when it goeth, but they feel it, they enjoy it, they boast of it. Indeed, modest and unostentitious as they are, to what part of the kingdom, even the most remote, can they flee to avoid the triumph which crowns all their marks of approbation? If they take a trip from Portpatrick to Donaghadee, there will they rush at once into the embraces of four Catholic millions, to whom their vote of this night is about to open the rights of man which they have return to the metropolis, if they can pass under Temple Bar without unpleasant sensations at the sight of the greedy niches over that oamous gateway, which they cannot escape the acclamations of the lively, and the more treacherous, but not less sincere, applause, of those blessings “not loud but deep” of bankrupt merchants and doubting stockholders. If they look to the army, what wreaths, not of laurel, but of nightshade, are preparing for the heroes of Walcheren? It is true there are few living deponents left to testify to their merits on that occasion; but a “cloud of witnesses” are gone above from that gallant army which they so generously and piously despatched, to rendezvous the army of mains on Walcheren. What if, in the course of this triumphal career, (in which they will gather as many pebbles as Cæ- ligaba’s army did on a similar triumph, the prototype to which we are bound,) they may deride me, and say that they will not acknowledge the memorials which a grateful people erect in honor of their benefactors; what although not even a signpost will condescend to depose the Sarmec’s head in his own hands. This is the case of all the heroes of Wal- cheren, they will not want a picture who can always have a caricature; or regret the omission of a statue who will so often see themselves exalted in effigy. But their popularity is not limited to the narrow bounds of their own country. In other countries where their measures, and, above all, their conduct to the Catholics, must render them preeminently popular.

DEBATE ON MAJOR CARTWRIGHT’S PETITION
JUNE 1, 1813.

MY LORDS—The petition which I now hold for the purpose of presenting to the House, is one of those which I have presented to the metropolis, there they will be greeted by the manufacturers, with spurned petitions in their hands, and those halters round their necks recently voted in their behalf, implicating blessings on the heads of those who so simply, yet ingeniously contrived to remove them from their miseries in this to a better world. If they journey on to Scotland, from Glasgow to Johnny Groat’s, every where will they receive kindlier marks of approbation. If they take a trip from Portpatrick to Donaghadee, there will they rush at once into the embraces of four Catholic millions, to whom their vote of this night is about to open the rights of man which they have return to the metropolis, if they can pass under Temple Bar without unpleasant sensations at the sight of the greedy niches over that oamous gateway, which they cannot escape the acclamations of the lively, and the more treacherous, but not less sincere, applause, of those blessings “not loud but deep” of bankrupt merchants and doubting stockholders. If they look to the army, what wreaths, not of laurel, but of nightshade, are preparing for the heroes of Walcheren? It is true there are few living deponents left to testify to their merits on that occasion; but a “cloud of witnesses” are gone above from that gallant army which they so generously and piously despatched, to rendezvous the army of mains on Walcheren. What if, in the course of this triumphal career, (in which they will gather as many pebbles as Cæ- ligaba’s army did on a similar triumph, the prototype to which we are bound,) they may deride me, and say that they will not acknowledge the memorials which a grateful people erect in honor of their benefactors; what although not even a signpost will condescend to depose the Sarmec’s head in his own hands. This is the case of all the heroes of Wal- cheren, they will not want a picture who can always have a caricature; or regret the omission of a statue who will so often see themselves exalted in effigy. But their popularity is not limited to the narrow bounds of their own country. In other countries where their measures, and, above all, their conduct to the Catholics, must render them preeminently popular.
A FRAGMENT.

were seized by a military and civil force, and kept in close custody for several hours, subjected to gross and abusive insinuations from the commanding officer relative to the character of the petitioner; that he (the petitioner) was finally carried before a magi-
istrate; and not released till an examination of his papers proved that there was not only no just, but not even a justifiable charge against him; and that, notwithstanding the promise and order from the presiding magistrates of a copy of the warrant against the petitioner, it was afterwards withheld on divers pretexts, and has never until this hour been granted. The names and condition of the parties will be found in the petition. To the other part of it, touched upon in the petition, I shall not now advert, from a wish not to encroach upon the time of the House; but I do most sincerely call the attention of your lordships to its general contents—it is in the cause of the parliament and people that the rights of this venerable freeman have been vio-
lated, and it is, in my opinion, the highest mark of respect that could be paid to the House, that to your justice, rather than by appeal to any inferior court, he now commits himself. Whatever may be the fate of his remonstrance, it is some satisfaction to me, though mixed with regret for the occasion, that I have this opportunity of publicly stating the obstruction to which the subject is liable, in the prosecution of the most lawful and imperious of his duties the obtaining by petition reform in parlia-
mence. I have shortly stated his complaint; the
petitioner has more fully expressed it. Your lord-
ships will, I hope, adopt some measure fully to pro-
tect and redress him, and not him alone, but the whole body of the people insulted and aggrieved in his person by the interposition of an abused civil, and unlawful military force, between them and their right of petition to their own representa-
tives.

His lordship then presented the petition from Major Cartwright, which was read, complaining of the circumstances at Huddersfield and of interpo-
tions given to the right of petitioning, in several places in the northern parts of the kingdom, and which his lordship moved should be laid on the table.

Several Lords having spoken on the question, LORD BYRON replied, that he had, from no lives of duty, presented this petition to their lord-
ships' consideration. The noble Earl had contend-
ed that it was not a petition but a speech; and that, as it contained no prayer, it should not be re-
ceived. What was the necessity of a prayer? If that word were to be used in its proper sense, their lordships could not expect that any man should pray to others. He had only to say that the peti-
tion, though in some parts expressed strongly per-
haps, did not contain any improper mode of address, but was couched in respectful language towards their lordships; he should therefore trust their lord-
ships would allow the petition to be received.

A FRAGMENT.

June 17, 1819.

In the year 17—, having for some time deter-
mined on a journey through countries hitherto so
much frequented by travellers, I set out, accompa-
nied by a friend whom I shall designate by the name of Augustus Darvell. He was a few years my elder, and a man of considerable fortune and ancient family—advantages which an extensive capacity pre-
vented him alike from undervaluing or over-
rating. Some peculiar circumstances in his private history had rendered him to me an object of atten-
tion of interest, and even of regard, which neither
the reserve of his manners, nor occasional indica-
tions of an inquietude at times nearly approaching
to alienation of mind, could extinguish.

He was yet young in life, which I had begun early; but my intimacy with him was of a recent date; we had been educated at the same schools and univer-
sity; but his progress through these had preceded mine, and he had been deeply initiated into what is called the world, while I was yet in my noviciate. While thus engaged, I had heard much both of his past and present life; and, although in these accounts there were many and irreconcilable con-
tradictions, I could still gather from the whole that he was a being of no common order, and one who,
whatever pains he might take to avoid remark,
would still be remarkable. I had cultivated his
acquaintance sincerely, and endeavored to ob-
tain his friendship, but this last appeared to be
unattainable; whatever affections he might have possessed seemed now, some to have been extin-
guished and others to be concentrated: that his
feelings were acute, I had sufficient opportunities of observing; for, although he could control, he could not altogether disguise them: still he had a
d power of giving to one passion the appearance of
another in such a manner that it was difficult to
define the nature of what was working within him;
and the expression of his features would vary so
rapidly, though slightly, that it was useless to trace
them to their sources. It was evident that he was
a prey to some cruel sense of disease; but whether it
rose from ambition, love, remorse, grief, from one
or all of these, or merely from a morbid tempera-
tment akin to disease, I could not discover: there
were circumstances alleged which might have justi-
fied the application to each of these causes; but,
as I have before said, these were so contradictory
and contradicted, that none could be fixed upon
with accuracy. Where there is mystery, it is gene-

rally supposed that there must also be evil: I know
not how this may be, but in him there certainly was
the one, though I could not ascertain the extent of
the other—and felt loth, as far as regarded himself,
to believe in its existence. My advances were
received with sufficient coldness; but I was young,
and not easily discouraged, and at length succeeded
in obtaining, to a certain degree, that common-place
intercourse and moderate confidence of common and
every-day concerns created and cemented by simi-
larity of pursuit and frequency of meeting; which
he called intimacy, or friendship according to the
ideas of him who uses those words to express them.

Darvell had already travelled extensively, and to
him I had applied for information with regard to
"You have been here before!—If w came you never to mention this to me and what could you be doing in a place where no one would remain a moment longer than they could help it?"

To this question I received no answer. In the mean time I felt mean this had a fex to be in-coming to I was leaving the sergues and the horses at the fountain. The quekening of his thirst had the appearance of reviving him for a moment; and I conceived hopes of his being able to proceed, or at least to return, and I uncorked the bottle:—and appeared to be collecting his spirits for an effort to speak. He began—

"This is the end of my journey, and of my life—

I came here to die; but I have a request to make—"

"It cannot be helped, you must swear.

I took the oath; it appeared to relieve him. He removed a seal-ring from his finger, on which were some Arable characters, and presented it to me.

"The ninth day of the month, at noon precisely, (what month you please, but this must be the day,) you must bring this ring into the salt springs which run into the basin of Eleusis: the day after, at the same hour, you must repair to the ruins of the temple of Ceres, and wait one hour—"

"Why?"

"You will see."

"The ninth day of the month, you say?"

"The ninth."

As I observed that the present was the ninth day of the month, his countenance changed, and he ceased. As he spoke, evidently becoming more feeble, a stork, with a snake in her beak, perched upon a tombstone near us; and, without devouing her prey, appeared to be steadfastly regarding us. I know not what impelled me to drive it away; but, by the attention with which it was attended, I felt convinced that the sergeress had ever been a sojourner in this wilderness. The only caravansers we had seen was left some hours behind us; not a vestige of a town or encampment within sight. The air was calm, and lighted up the "city of the dead" to appear the sole refuge for my unfortunate friend, who seemed on the verge of becoming the last of its inhabitants."

In this situation, I looked round for a place where he might most conveniently repose:—contrary to the usual aspect of Mahometan burial grounds, the cypress-ports were in this few number, and these thinly scattered over its extent; the tombstones mostly fallen, and worn with age; upon one of the most considerable of these, and beneath one of the most spreading trees, Darrell supported himself, in a half-reclining posture, with great difficulty; he asked for water. I had some doubts of our being able to find any, and prepared to go in search of it, with hesitating despondency—but he desired me to remain: and, turning to Sulceman, one of the band, whispering by the ear, "Sulceman, tranquillize," (I. e. bear some water,) and went on describing the spot where it was to be found with great minuteness, at a small well for camels, a few hundred yards to the right of the burying-ground. I asked him of the cypress-ports; he said to Darrell,

"How did you know this?"—He replied, "From our situation: you must perceive that this place was once inhabited, and could not have been so without springs; I have also been here before."
LETTER TO JOHN MURRAY ON BOWLES'S STRICTURES ON POPE. 1037

rapidly altering, and nothing remained but to fulfil
his request. With the aid of Suleiman's ataghans
and my own sabor, we scooped a shallow grave upon
the spot which Darrell had indicated; the earth
each was way, having already received some Ma-
hometan tenant. We dug as deeply as the time
permitted us, and throwing the dry earth upon
all that remained of the singular being so lately
departed, we cut a few sods of greener turf from
the less withered soil around us, and laid them
upon his sepulchre.

Between astonishment and grief, I was tearless.

* * * * *

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LETTER TO JOHN MURRAY

ON THE REV. W. L. BOWLES'S STRICTURES ON THE LIFE AND
WRITINGS OF POPE.

"I'll play at Bowles with the sun and moon.,"
OLD SONG.

"My mother's word, sir, and she has rather forgotten herself in
speaking to my Lecky, that cannot well be to contradicted, (as
I ken nobody likes it if they could help themseh.)"
TALES OF MY LANDLORD, Old Marronie, vol. 8.

DEAR SIR,

In the different pamphlets which you have had
the goodness to send me, on the Pope and Bowles'
controversy, I perceive that my name is occasionally
introduced by both parties. Mr. Bowles refers more
than once to what he is pleased to consider "a
remarkable circumstance," not only in his letter to
Mr. Campbell, but in his reply to the Quarterly.
The Quarterly also and Mr. Gilchrist have conferred
on me the dangerous honor of a quotation; and
Mr. Bowles indirectly makes a kind of appeal to
me personally, by saying, "Lord Byron, if he
remembers the circumstance, will witness—witness
in ITALIC, an ominous character for a testimony at
present."

I shall not avail myself of a "non mi ricordo"
even after so long a residence in Italy;—I do "re-
member the circumstance"—and have no reluctance
to relate it (since called upon so to do) as correctly
as the distance of time and the impression of in-
tervening events will permit me. In the year 1812,
more than three years after the publication of
"English Bards and Scotch Reviewers." I had the
honor of meeting Mr. Bowles in the house of our
venerable host of "Human Life, etc.," the last
Argonaut of classic English poetry, and the Nestor
of our inferior race of living poets. Mr. Bowles
calls this "soon after" the publication; but to me
three years appear a considerable segment of the
immortality of a modern poet. I recollect nothing
of the rest of the company going into another
room—nor, though I well remember the topogra-
phy of our host's elegant and classically-furnished
mansion, could I swear to the very room where
the conversation occurred, though the "taking
down the poem" seems to fix it in the library.
Had it been "taken up," it would probably have
been in the drawing-room. I presume also that the
"remarkable circumstance" took place after din-
ner, as I conceive that neither Mr. Bowles's polite-
ness nor appetite would have allowed him to detain
"the rest of the company" standing round their chairs
in the "other room," while we were disens-
sing "the Woods of Madeira" instead of circulating
its vintage. Of Mr. Bowles's "good-humor" I
have a full and not ungrateful recollection; as also
of his gentlemanly manners and agreeable
conversation. I speak of the whole, and not of
particulars; for whether he did or did not use the
precise words printed in the pamphlet, I cannot
say, nor could he be with accuracy. Of "the tone
of seriousness" I certainly recollect nothing: on
the contrary, I thought Mr. Bowles rather disposed to
treat the subject lightly; for he said (I have no
objection to be contradicted if incorrect) that some
of his good-natured friends had come to him and
exclaimed, "Eh! Bowles! how came you to make
the Woods of Madeira," etc., etc., and that he had
been at some pains and pulling down of the poem
to convince them that he had never made "the
Woods" do any thing of the kind. He was right,
and I was wrong, and have been wrong still up to
this acknowledgment; for I ought to have looked
twice before I wrote that which involved an inac-
curacy capable of giving pain. The fact was,
that although I had certainly before read "the Spirit
of Discovery," I took the quotation from the review.
But the mistake was mine, and not the review's,
which quoted the passage correctly enough, I
believe. I blundered—God knows how—into at-
tributing the tremors of the lovers to the "Woods
of Madeira," by which they were surrounded. And
I hereby do fully and freely declare and asseverate,
that the Woods did not tremble to a kiss, and that
the lovers did. I quote from memory—

"A kiss

Said on a "Catching silence, etc., etc.,
They (the lovers) trembled, even as if the power, sir.

And if I had been aware that this declaration would
have been in the smallest degree satisfactory to Mr.
Bowles, I should not have waited nine years to
make it, notwithstanding that "English Bards and
Scotch Reviewers" had been suppressed some time.

* He alludes to Majorcland, and the other Indian witnesses on the trial of
the Queen.
previously to my meeting him at Mr. Rogers's. Our worthy host might indeed have told him as much as I have, and I am sure he would have pressed it. A new edition of that lampoon was preparing for the press, when Mr. Rogers represented to me, that "I was more acquainted with many of the persons mentioned in it, and with some on terms of intimacy, and that I knew 'the family in particular to whom its suppression would give pleasure.' I did not hesitate one moment; it was cancelled instantly; and it is no fault of mine that it has not appeared in English. When our friends were all in Ireland, in April, 1816, with no very violent intentions of troubling that country again, and amidst scenes of various kinds to distract my attention—almost my last act, I believe, was to sign a power of attorney, to yourself, to prevent or suppress any attempts (of which several had been made in Ireland) at a republication. It is proper that I should state, that the persons with whom I was subsequently acquainted, whose names had occurred in that publication, were made my acquaintances at their own desire, or through the unsought intervention of others. I never, to the best of my knowledge, incurred solicitude of any kind to them; and of all those to this day I know only by correspondence; and with one of those it was begun by myself, in consequence, however, of a polite verbal communication from a third person.

I have an instant on these circumstances because it has sometimes been made a subject of bitter reproach to me to have endeavored to suppress that satire. I never shrunk, as those who know me know from any personal consequences which could be attached to its publication. Of its subsequent suppression, as I possessed the copyright, I was the best judge and the sole judge. The circumstances which occasioned the suppression I thought it my duty to explain; if my duty, each must judge according to his candor or malignity. Mr. Bowles does me the honor to talk of 'noble mind,' and of 'generous magnanimity;' and all this because "the circumstance would have been explained had the book been suppressed." I see no "nobilility of mind" in an act of simple justice; and I hate the word "magnanimity," because I have sometimes seen it applied to the grossest of impostors by the greatest of fools; but I would have explained the circumstance, notwithstanding "the suppression of the book," if Mr. Bowles had expressed any desire thit I should. As the "gallant Gallus" says, "Mr. Galba will take the mistake and all that occasioned it." I have had as great and greater mistakes made about me personally and poetically, once a month for these last ten years, and much about correcting one or the other, at least after the first eight or forty hours had gone over them. I must now, however, say a word or two about Pope, of whom you have my opinion more at large in the unprinted letter on or to (for I forgot which) the editor of "Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine;"—and here I doubt that Mr. Bowles will not approve of my sentiments.

Although having published "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," the part which I regret the least is that which regards Mr. Bowles with respect to Pope. Whilst I was writing that publication, in 1807 and 1808, Mr. Hobhouse was destroyed; this was the occasion of my editorial attack upon Pope, and of Mr. Bowles's edition of his works. At I had completed my outline, and felt lazy, I requested that he would do so. He did it. His fourteen years' residence in Paris, the new Bardi and Scotch Reviewers;" and we are quite as severe and much more poetical than my own in the second. On reprinting the work, as I have no pleasure in doing it, I should have recommended a few cuts and replaced them with my own, by which the work gained less than Mr. Bowles. I have stated this in the preface to the second edition. It is many years since I have read that poem; but the Quarterly Review, Mr. Octavius Gibichrist, and Mr. Bowles himself, request me to reprint it. I know he does not deserve this character. I know no such thing. I have met Mr. Bowles occasionally, in the best society in London; he appeared to me an honest man, and a gentleman. He is desirous of no such man. I desire nothing better than to dine in company with such a mannered man every day in the week; but of "his character" I know nothing personally; I really speak of his manners, and these have my warmest approbation. But I never judge from manners, for I once had my pocket picked by the civilist gentleman I ever met with; and one of the mildest persons I ever saw was all Pacha. Of Mr. Bowles's "character" I will not do him the injustice to judge from the edition of Pope, if he prepared it heedlessly; nor the justice, should he be otherwise, because I would neither become a literary executioner, nor would I publish Bowles the individual, and Mr. Bowles the editor, appear the two most opposite things imaginable.

"And he himself once —— author." I won't say "vile," because it is harsh; nor "mistaken," because it has two syllables; but every one must fill up the blank as he pleases.

What I saw of Mr. Bowles increased my surprise and regret that he should ever have lent his talents to such a task. If he had been a fool, there would have been some excuse for him; as he was a needy or a bad man, his conduct would have been intelligible; but he is the opposite of all these; and thinking and feeling as I do of Pope, to me the whole thing is incomprehensible. For it may not be, that such passages exist; and that Pope, who was not a monk, although a Catholic, may have occasionally slipped in word and deed with woman in his youth; but is this a sufficient ground for such a sweeping denunciation? Where is the unmarmorized Englishman of a certain rank of life, who (provided he has not taken orders) has not to reproach himself between the ages of sixteen and thirty with far more licentiousness than has ever yet been trace to Pope? Pope lived in the public eye from his youth upwards; he had all the dunces of his own time for his enemies, and, I am sorry to say, some who have not the sympathy of delusion for detection since his death; and yet to what do all their accumulated hints and charges amount; —to an equivocal aversion with Martha Blount, which might arise as much from his infirmities as from his passions; to a hopeless flirtation with Mary W. Montagu; to a story of Cibber's; and to two or three coarse passages in his works. Who could come forth clearer from an invincible inquest on a life of itself? I am not pleased with Lord Byron's letters of other occasions, nay, predominant, deprecating poet, so abominably gross, and elaborately coarse, that I do not believe that they could be paralleled
in our language. What is more strange, is, that some of these are couched as postscripts to his serious and sentimential letters, to which he is tackeld either a piece of prose, or some verses, of the most hypocritical kind. Mr. Addison says that "obscenity (using a much coarser word) be the sin against the Holy Ghost, he most certainly cannot be saved." These letters are in existence, and have been accused of the same vice; but would his editor have been "candid" in even alluding to them? Nothing would have even provoked me, an indissipant spectator, to allude to them, but this further attempt at the deprecation of Pope.

Yes; to be "candid" like a Mr. Addison, who cited the following passage from Walpole's letters to George Montagu: "Dr. Young has published a new book, etc. Mr. Addison sent for the young Earl of Warwick, as he was dying, to show him in what sense a Christian could die; peradventure, he died of broody: nothing makes a Christian die in peace like being mauled but don't say this in Gath, where you are." Suppose the editor introduced it with this preface: "Mr. Addison entertained the notion mentioned by Horace Walpole, which, if true, was assuredly flagitious. Walpole informs Montagu that Addison sent for the young Earl of Warwick, when dying, to show him in what sense a Christian could die; but unluckily he died drunk, etc., etc.

Now, as though there might occur on the subsequent, or on the same page, a faint show of disbelieve, seasoned with the expression of "the some candor," (the very exact phrase as 1a made) we would say that this editor was either foolish or false to his trust: such a story ought not to be have admitted, except for one brief mark of crushing indignation; unless it were a complete process. Why the words "true"? That "that" is not a poet-makor. Why talk of "Gibber's testimony" to his candor? To what does this amount? That Pope, when very young, was once decayed by some misadventure and brought to a hospital; by this accidental reception Mr. Bowles was not always a clergyman; and when he was a very young man, was he never rescued into as much? If I were in the humor for story-telling, and relating little anecdotes, I could tell a much better story of Mr. Bowles than Cibber's, upon much better authority, viz., that of Mr. Bowles himself. It was not related by him in my presence, but in that of a third person, whom Mr. Bowles would not have believe or even by the course of his replies. This gentleman related it to me as a humorous and witty anecdote; and so it was, whatever its other characteristics might be. But should I be unwilling to have "the libertine sort of love," or with "licentiousness?" is he the less now a pious or a good man for not having always been a priest? No such thing; I am willing to believe him a good man, almost as good a man as Pope, but no better.

The truth is, that in these days the grand "primus mobili" of England is cant; cant political, cant poetical, cant religious, cant moral; but always cant; and the consequence is not that the English are the fashion, and while it lasts will be too powerful for t.23 who can only exist by taking the tone of the time. I say cant, because it is a thing of words, without the smallest influence upon human actions; the English being no wiser, no better, and much poorer, and more divided among themselves, as well as far less moral, than they were before the prevalence of this verbal decorum. This hysterial household fashion, once maintained, and never fully proved amours, (even for Cibber owns that he prevented the somewhat perilous adventure in which Pope was embarking,) sounds very virtuous in a controversial pamphlet; but all men of the world doubtless agree that it was not to their youth, must laugh at such a ludicrous foundation of the charge of a "libertine sort of love;" while the more serious will look upon those who bring forward such charges upon an insulated fact, as fanatics or hypocrites, perhaps both. The two are sometimes compounded in a happy mixture.

Mr. Octavius Glideli speaks rather irreverently of a "second tumbler of hot white-wine negus." What does he mean? Is there any harm in negus? or is it the worse for being hot? or does Mr. Bowles drink negus? I had a better opinion of him. I hope that he never drank negus; or at least that, like the ordinary in Jonathan Wild, "he preferred punch, the rather as there was nothing against it in Scripture." I should be sorry to believe that Mr. Bowles was fond of negus; it is such a thing as a "candid" man would not aline between the passion for wine and the propriety of water. But different writers have divers tastes.

Judge Blackstone composed his "Commentaries," (he was a poet too, in his youth,) with a bottle of port before him. Addison's conversation was not good for much till he had taken a similar dose. Perhaps the prescription of these two great men was not ir part to the very different one of a soi-disant poet of this day, who, after wandering among the hills, returns, goes to bed, and dictates his verses, being fed by a bystander with bread and butter, during the operation.

I now come to Mr. Bowles's "invariable principles of poetry." These Mr. Bowles and some of his correspondents pronounce "unanswerable;" and they are "unanswerable," at least by Campbell, who seems to have been astounded by the title. The sultan in his rage, is said to have spoken to the king of France, because he "hated the word league:" which proves that the Padishan understood French. Mr. Campbell has no need of my allusions, nor is there occasion to press it; but I do hate that word "invariable." What is there of human, be it poetry, philosophy, wit, wisdom, science, power, glory, mind, matter, life or death which is "invariable?" Of course I put things divine out of the question. Of all arrogance, but none of the terms of a book, this title to a pamphlet appears the most complacently conceited. It is Mr. Campbell's part to assert the contents of this performance, and especially to vindicate his own "Ship," which Mr. Bowles most triumphantly proclaims to have struck to his very first fire.

"Quodh by seen was a Ship. Now let me see, there gra-hold'd no, Or my staff shall make this ship!"

It is no affair of mine, but having once been, in (ceceerably not a friend to Mr. Bowles with but a small degree of the frequent recurrence to my name in the pamphlet, I am like an Irishman in a "row," "any body's customer.") I shall therefore say a word or two on the "Ship.") Mr. Bowles asserts that Campbell's "Ship of the Line" derives all its poetry not from "art" but from "nature." "Take away the waves, the winds the sun, etc., etc., one will become a stripe of blue-lining; and the other a picture of course can on three tall poles. Very true; take away "the waves," "the winds," and there will be no ship at all, not only for poetical, but for any other purposes; and take away "the sun," and we must read Mr. Bowles's pamphlet by candlelight. But the "poetry" of the "Ship" does not depend on "the waves," etc.; on the contrary, the "Ship of the Line" confers its own poetry upon the waters, and heightens their beauty. It is not true, that the "waves and winds," and above all the "sun," are highly poetical; we know it to our cost, by the many descriptions of them in verse: but if the waves bore only the foam upon their bosoms, if the winds wafted only the smoke to the infernal regions, if the sun shone neither upon pyramids, nor fleets nor fortresses, would its beams be equally poetical? I think not: the poetry is at least reciprocal. Take away "the ship of the line," "swinging round"
the "calm water," and the calm water becomes a somewhat monotonous thing to look at, particularly if not transparently clear; witness the thousands who pass by without looking on it at all. What was it attracted the thing? Was it the coasts, and in the launch? They might have seen the poetical "calm water," at Wapping, or in the "London Dock," or in the Paddington Canal, or in a horsepond, or in a slop-basin, or in any other vaze. They might have heard the poetical winds, the chinks of a pig-sty, or the garret-window; they might have seen the sun shining on a footman's livery, or on a brass warming-pan; but could the "calm water," or the "sun," make all, or any of these, "poetical?" I think not. Mr. Bowles admits the "ship" to be poetical, but only from those accessories: now if they convey poetry so as to make one thing poetical, they would make other things poetical; the more so, as Mr. Bowles calls a "ship of the line" without them, that is to say, its "masts and sails and streamers," "bluebunting," and "coarse canvas," and "tall poles." So they are a ship and a sail and a ship and a sail, and flesh is grass, and yet the latter at least are the subjects of much poesy.

Did Mr. Bowles ever gaze upon the sea? I presume that he has, at least upon a sea-piece. Did a voyage take place in the "Forerunner," without the addition of a boat, ship, or some such adjunct? Is the sea itself a more attractive, a more moral, a poetical object with or without a vessel, enclasp to poetical faith? Is a storm more poetical without a ship? or, in the poem of the Shakespeare, is it the storm or the ship which interests? both much, undoubtedly; but without the vessel, what should we care for the tempest? It would not be the "poetical" object, the descriptive poem, which, in itself, was never esteemed a high order of that art.

I look upon myself as entitled to talk of naval masters, at least of poetic—with the exception of Walter Scott, Moore, and Southey, perhaps, (who have been voyagers,) I have seen more miles than all the rest of them together now living ever sailed, and have lived for months and months on board, and during the whole period of my life abroad, have scarce ever passed a month out of sight of the ocean, besides being brought up from two years till ten on the brink of it. I collect, when anchored off Cape St. Vincent, in an English frigate, a violent squall coming on at sunset, so violent as to make us imagine that the ship would part cable, or drive from her anchorage. Mr. Hobhouse and myself, and some officers, had been up the Dardanelles, and had been out on it; and the "Hobhouse" was exposed in time.

The aspect of a storm in the Archipelago is poetic, as need be, the sea being particularly short, dashing, and dangerous, and the navigation intricate and broken by the islands and currents. Cape Sigeum, the tunnul of the Troad, Lemnos, Tenedos, all added to the associations of the time. But what seemed the most "poetical" of all at the moment, as we were in a humble boat (and not a hundred) of Greek and Turkish craft, which were obliged to "cut and run" before the wind, from their unsafe anchorage, some for Tenedos, some for other isles, some for the main, and some it might be for eternity, as attending with more "descriptive" poetry, as the sea is like all other seas; the "marble" of Palmyra makes the poetry of the passage as of the place.

The beautiful but barren Hymettus, the whole coast of Attica, her hills and mountains, Parnassus, Asclepeion, Parnassus, Phileopolis, etc., are, in themselves poetical, and would be so if the name of Athens, of Athenians, and even very ruins, were swept from the earth. But am I to be told that the "nature" of Attica would be more poetical without the "art" of the Acropolis or of the Temple of Theseus? and of the still all Greek and glorious monuments of her exquisitly artifical genius? Ask the traveller who sees the "Forerunner" as the most poetical, as Parthenon, or the rock on which it stands? The columns of Cape Column, or the Cape itself? The rocks, at the foot of it, or the recollection that Pausanias's ship was becalmed and jolted upon them? The thousand rocks and capes, far more picturesque than those of the Acropolis and Cape Sunium in themselves; what are they to a thousand scenes in the wilder parts of Greece, of Asia Minor, Switzerland, or even of Corsica in Portugal, or to many scenes of Italy, and the Sierras of Spain? But it is the "art," the columns, the temples, the wrecked vessel, which give them their antique and their modern poetical and esthetic power. Without them, the spots of earth would be unnoticed and unknown; buried, like Babylon and Nineveh, in indiscriminate confusion, without poetry, as without existence; but to whose spirit of earth these ruins would be like all the rest: were they capable of transportation, like the obelisk, and the sphinx, and the Memnon's head, they would still exist in the perfection of their beauty, and in the pride of their prudence of their power. I remember the rol yvon ruins from Athens, to instruct the English in sculpture; but why did I no? The ruins are as poetical in Piccadilly as they were in the Parthenon... but the art of Parthenon and the ruins are less so without the Art. Such is the poetry of art.

Mr. Bowles contends, again, that the pyramids of Egypt are poetical, because of "the association with boundless deserts," and that a "pyramid of the same dimensions" would not be sublime in
Lucian's Inn Fields;" not so poetical, certainly; but take away the "pyramids," and what is the "desert?" Take away Stone henge from Salisbury Plain: and it is nothing more so, as they are direct manifestations of mina, and presuppose poetry in their very conception; and have, moreover, as being such, a something of actual life, which cannot belong to any part of immanate nature, unless we adopt the system of Spinoza, that the world is the Deity. There can be no more poetical in its aspect than the city of Venice: does this depend upon the sea, or the canals?—

"The dirt and seaweed whence proud Venice rose!"

Is it the canal which runs between the palace and the prison, or the "Bridge of Sighs" which connects them, that render it poetical? Is it the Canal Grande, and the gondolas which glide over the waters, that render this city more poetical than Rome itself? Mr. Bowles says, "This is marble, the palaces and churches only stone, and the gondolas a "coarse" black cloth, thrown over some planks of carved wood, with a shining bit of fantastically-ironed horn at the prow, "without" the water. And I tell him that without these the water would be nothing but a clay-colored ditch, and whoever says the contrary, deserves to be at the bottom of that where Pope's heroes are embraced by the mountain of Calvaries. Nothing but a gondola can make the canal of Venice more poetical than that of Paddington, were it not for the artificial adjuncts above mentioned, although it is a perfectly natural canal, formed by the sea, and the innumerable islands which constitute the site of this extraordinary city.

The very Cloacae of Tarquin at Rome are as poetical as Richmond Hill; many will think more so. To the most poetical of all the modern poets, the sound of the sea in the nature of Evander's time; let Mr. Bowles, or Mr. Wordsworth, or Mr. Southey, or any of the other "naturals," make a poem upon them, and then see which is most poetical, their production or his. Mr. Bowles gives us a great guide-book in his "voyage," and tells us the road from St. Peter's to the Coliseum, and informs you what you will see by the way. The ground-interests in Virgil, because it will be Rome, and not because it is Evander's rural domain.

Mr. Bowles then proceeds to press Homer into his service, in answer to a remark of Mr. Campbell's, that "Homer was a great describer of works of art." Mr. B. replies, that all his great power, even in this, depends upon his connexion with nature. The "shield of Achilles" derives its poetical interest from the subjects described on it. And from what does the spear of Achilles derive its interest? and the hellet and the nothing more than his person, and the celestial armor, and the very brazen greaves of the well-botted Greeks? Is it solely from the legs, and the back, and the breast, and the human body, and the weapons? In that case, I would have been more poetical to have made Achilles fight naked, and Gilly and Gregson, as being nearer to a state of nature, are more poetical, boxing in a pair of drawers, than Hector and Achilles in radiant armor, and with heroic weapons.

Instead of the clash of helmets, and the rushing of chariots, and the whizzing of spears, and the glancing of swords, and the elevating of shields, and the piercing of breastplates, why not represent the Greeks and Trojans like two savage tribes, tugging at

and tearing, and kicking, and biting, and gnashing, foaming, grinning, and gouging, in all the poetry of martial nature, unenumbered with gross, profane, artificial armor, and the embodiment of the natural warrior, and his natural poet? Is there any thing unpoetical in Ulysses striking the horses of Rhesus with his bow, (having forgotten his thongs,) or would Mr. Bowles have him kick them with his foot, or smack them with his hand, as being more unpoetical?

In Gray's Elegy, is there an image more striking than his "shapeless sculpture?" Of sculpture in general, it is true, it is more poetical than nature itself, inasmuch as it represents and bodies forth that ideal beauty and sublimity which is never to be found in actual nature. This at least is the general opinion; but, always excepting the Venus di Medici, I differ from that opinion; at least as far as regards female beauty, for the head of Lady Charlemont (when I first saw her, nine years ago) seemed to possess all that sculpture could require for its ideal. I recollect seeing something of the same kind in the head of an Albanian girl, who was actually employed in mending a road in the mountains, and in some Greek, and one or two Italian statues of young girls. But ask Mr. Bowles if anything in human nature at all to approach the expression of sculpture, either in the Apollo, the Moses, or other of the stern works of ancient or modern art.

Let us examine a little further this "bubble of green fields," and of bare nature in general, as superior to artificial imagery, for the poetical purposes of the fine arts. In landscape painting, the great artist does not give you a literal copy of a country, but he invents and composes one. Nature, in its actual aspect, does not furnish him with such existing scenes as he requires. Even where he presents you with some famous city, or celebrated scene from Mount Athos or from Nepal, he can take from some particular point of view, and with such light, and shade, and distance, etc., as serve not only to heighten its beauties, but to shadow its deformities. The poetry of nature alone, exactly as she appears, is not sufficient to bear him out. The very sky of his painting is not the portrait of the sky of nature; it is a composition of different skies, observed at different times, and not the whole copied from any particular day. And the poet has the same liberty which is not the portrait of the sky of nature; it is a composition of different skies, observed at different times, and not the whole copied from any particular day. And the poet has the same liberty which

When Canova forms a statue, he takes a limb from one, a hand from another, a feature from a third, and a shape, it may be, from a fourth, probably at the same time improving upon all, as the Greek of old did in embodying his Venus.

Ask a portrait painter to describe his sitters in accommodating the faces with which Nature and his sitters have crowded his painting-room to the principles of his art; with the exception of perhaps ten faces in as many millions, there is not one which he can venture to give without shading much and adding more. Nature, exactly simple, bears the painter nothing, it will make no great artist of any kind, and least of all a poet—the most artificial, perhaps, of all artists in his very essence. With regard to natural imagery, the man so equal and true to Nature are the best illustrations from art. You say that "a fountain is as clear or cleaner than glass," to express its beauty—

"A font Danubiana, splendoris virum!"

In the speech of Mark Antony, the body of Caesar is displayed, but so also is his mantle—

"You all saw me this morning," etc.

"Look! in this place ran Cassius' dagger through.
BYRON’S WORKS.

To return once more to the sea. Let any one look on the long wall of Malamocco, which marks the Adriatic, and pronounce between the sea and its master. Surely that Roman work, (I mean Roman in conception and performance,) which says to me as to others, ‘What chance have I with the waves?’ and still more, ‘What chance have I beyond the waves?’ is not less sublime and poetical than the angry waves which vaingloriously break beneath it.

Mr. Bowles makes the chief part of such poetry depend on the ‘wind’; then why is a ship under sail more poetical than a hog in a high wind? The hog is all nature, the ship is all art, ‘coarse canvas,’ ‘blue bunting,’ and ‘all holes’: both are violently acted upon by the wind, tossed here and there, and to and fro; and yet nothing but excessive hunger could make me look upon the pig as the more poetical of the two, and then only in the shape of a griskin.

Will Mr. Bowles tell us that the poetry of an aqueduct consists in the water which it conveys? Let him look on that of Justinian, on those of Rome, Constantinople, Lisbon, and Elvas, or even at the highest order of dramatics, as far as success goes, or Young, or even Otway and Southerne.

We are asked what makes the venerable towers of Westminster Abbey more poetical, as objects, than the tower for the manufacture of patent shot, surrounded by the same scenery? I will answer with the art of Turn Westminister, or Saint Paul’s, into a powder magazine, their poetry, as objects, remains the same; the Parthenon was actually converted into one by the Turks, during the Horatian’s Vesper sings, and part of the tower, in consequence. Cromwell’s dragoons staid their steeds in Worcester Cathedral; was it less poetical, as an object, than before? Ask a foreigner on his approach to London, what strikes him as the most poetical spot in the country, and he will run out, St. Paul’s and Westminster Abbey, without, perhaps, knowing the names or associations of either, and pass over the ‘tower for patent shot’, not that, for any thing he knows to the contrary, it might not be the mausoleum of a monarch, or a Waterloo column, or a Trafalgar monument, but because its architecture is obviously inferior.

To the question, ‘whether the description of a game of cards be as poetical, supposing the execution of the artists equal, as a description of a walk in a forest?” it may be answered, that the materials are certainly not equal; but that the artist, who has the more superior imagination is by far the greater of the two. But all this “ordering” of poets is purely arbitrary on the part of Mr. Bowles. There may or may not be, in fact, different degrees of poeticality, but the poet is always ranked according to his execution, and not according to his branch of the art.

Tragedy is one of the highest presumed orders. Hughes has written a tragedy, and a very successful one; Fenton another; and Pope none. Did any man, however,—will even Mr. Bowles himself rank Hughes and Fenton as poets above Pope? Was even Addison, (the author of Cato,) or Rowe (one of the highest order of dramatics, as far as success goes), or Young, or even Otway and Southerne, ever praised for a moment to the same rank with Pope in the estimation of the reader or the critic, before his death or after? If Mr. Bowles will contend for classifications of this kind, let him recollect that descriptive poetry has been ranked as among the lowest branches of the art, and description as a mere ornament, but which should never form the subject of the poem. The Italian, the French, the most poetical language, and the most fastidious taste in Europe, possess now five great poets, they say, Dante, Petrarch, Ariosto, Tasso, and lastly Alberi; and whom of them do they esteem one of the highest of these, and some of them the very highest? Petrarch, the sonneteer: it is true that some of his Canzoni are not less esteemed, but not more; whatever dreams of his Latin Africa?

If the poet had said that Caesar had run his ship through the rent of the mantle, it would have had more of Mr. Bowles’s ‘nature’ to help it; but the artificial dagger is more poetical than any natural hand without it. In the sublime of sacred poetry, “Who is that man of Israel that cometh from Egypt?” with dyed garments from Bozrah? Would the ‘comer’ be poetical without his “dyed garments?” which strike and startle the spectator, and identify the approaching object.

The mother of Sisera is represented listening for the “wheels of his chariot.” Solomon, in his Song, compares the nose of his beloved to a “tower,” which to us appears an Eastern exaggeration. If he had said, that her stame was like that of an “tower,” it would have been as poetical as if he had compared her to a tree.

“Thy verdant Mansions tower’s above her seat.”

is an instance of an artificial image to express a moral superiority. But Solomon, it is probable, did not compare his beloved’s nose to a “tower” on account of its length, but of its symmetry; and, making allowance for Eastern difficulty of finding a discreet image for a female nose in nature, it is perhaps as good a figure as any other.

Art is not inferior to nature for poetical purposes. What makes a regiment of soldiers a more noble object of view than the same mass of mob? Their arms, their dresses, their banners, and the art and artificial symmetry of their position and movements. A Highland chieftain, a Mamelon’s turban, and a Roman toga, are more poetical than the tattooed or untattooed buttocks of a New Sandwich savage, although they were described by William Wordsworth himself like the “todd in his glory. I have seen as many magnificent as most men, and more fleets than the generality of landsmen: and, to my mind, a large convoy, with a few sail of the line to conduct them, is as noble and as poetical a prospect as all that inanimate nature can produce. I prefer the “most of some great admiral,” with all its tackle, to the Scotch fir or the Alpine tannen, and think that more poetry has been made out of it.

In what does the infinite superiority of ‘Falconer’s Shipwreck,’ over all other shipwrecks, consist? In his admirable application of the terms of his art; in a poet-sailor’s description of the sailor’s fate. These very terms, by his application, make the strength and reality of his poetical art. Why? because he was a poet, and in the hands of a poet art will not be found less ornamental than nature. It is precisely in general nature, and in stepping out of it, that Falconer fails; where he depresses to speak of ancient Greece, and ‘such branches of learning.’

In Dyer’s Grongar Hill, upon which his fame rests, the very appearance of Nature herself is moralized into an artificial image:

“Thou is Nature’s nature wrought,
To instruct our wandering thought.
That she dresst green and gray,
To dispense our cares away.”

And here also we have the telescope, the misuse of which, from Milton, has rendered Mr. Bowles so triumphant over Mr. Campbell:

“Sc we miswe the sunne’s face,
Eyed through hope’s deluding glass.”

And here a word, en passant, to Mr. Campbell:

“As ye summate, sweet and fair,
Cled in colors of the air,
Which to those who journey near,
Bemore, brown, brown, and rough appear,
Still we trave the same coarse way—
The present’s still a cloudy day.”

We are told that the original of the far-famed,

“The distance lends enchantment to the view,
And robes the mountains in its azure hue.”
LETTER TO JOHN MURRAY ON BOWLES'S STRictures ON POPE. 1043

Wore Petrarch to be ranked according to the order of his compositions, where would the best stand? He could hardly stand lower. Dante's powers were higher, but not for Jehovah. The subject altogether was essentially unpoetical; he has made more of it than another could, but it is beyond him and all men. Here is a portion of his reply, Mr. Bowles asserts that Pope "envied Phillips," because he quizzed it, pastoral in the Guardian, in that most admirable model of irony, his paper on the subject. If there were any thing in Phillips, it could hardly be his pastorals. They were commonplace, and Pope expressed his contempt. If Mr. Fitzgerald published a volume of sonnets, or a "Spirit of Discovery," or a "Missionary," and Mr. Bowles wrote in any periodical journal an ironical paper upon them, would this be "envy?" The authors of the "Rejected Addresses" have ridiculed the sixteen or twenty "first living poets" of the day; but do they "envy" them? "Envy" writes, it don't laugh. The authors of the "Rejected Addresses" may despise some, but they can hardly "envy" any of the persons whom they have parodied; and Pope could have no more envied Phillips than he did Wolstede. Theobald, or any other given hero of the Dunciad. He could not have envied him, even had he himself not been the greatest poet of his age. Did Mr. Ings "envy" Mr. Phillips, if he asked him to "walk" with Tyrannus to drive ozen, and say, I am goaded on by love? This question silenced poor Phillips: but it no more proceeded from "envy" than did Pope's ridicule. Did he envy Swift? Did he envy Boling broke? Did he envy Gray the unparalleled success of his "Beggars' Opera?" We may be answered that these were his friends—true; but does friendship prevent envy? Study the first woman you meet with, or the first scribbler you see, and tell me himself (whom I acquaint fully of such an odious quality) study some of his own poetical intimates the most envious man I ever heard of is a poet, and high one; besides it is an universal passion. Goldsmith envied not only the puppets for their dancing, and broke his shins in the attempt at rivalry, but was seriously because two pretty woman received more attention than he. This is envy, but where does Pope say a sign, or his passion? In that case, Dryden envied the hero of his Mac Flecknoe. Mr. Bowles compares, when and where he can, Pope with Cowper, (the same Cowper whom, in his edition of Pope, he demotes at his attaching it to his attachment and search, and you will find it; I remember the passage, though not the page,) in particular he re quotes Cowper's Dutch delineation of a wood, drawn up like a seedman's catalogue,* with an adject

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LETTER TO JOHN MURRAY ON BOWLES'S STRictures ON POPE. 1043

Wore Petrarch to be ranked according to the order of his compositions, where would the best stand? He could hardly stand lower. Dante's powers were higher, but not for Jehovah. The subject altogether was essentially unpoetical; he has made more of it than another could, but it is beyond him and all men. Here is a portion of his reply, Mr. Bowles asserts that Pope "envied Phillips," because he quizzed it, pastoral in the Guardian, in that most admirable model of irony, his paper on the subject. If there were any thing in Phillips, it could hardly be his pastorals. They were commonplace, and Pope expressed his contempt. If Mr. Fitzgerald published a volume of sonnets, or a "Spirit of Discovery," or a "Missionary," and Mr. Bowles wrote in any periodical journal an ironical paper upon them, would this be "envy?" The authors of the "Rejected Addresses" have ridiculed the sixteen or twenty "first living poets" of the day; but do they "envy" them? "Envy" writes, it don't laugh. The authors of the "Rejected Addresses" may despise some, but they can hardly "envy" any of the persons whom they have parodied; and Pope could have no more envied Phillips than he did Wolstede. Theobald, or any other given hero of the Dunciad. He could not have envied him, even had he himself not been the greatest poet of his age. Did Mr. Ings "envy" Mr. Phillips, if he asked him to "walk" with Tyrannus to drive ozen, and say, I am goaded on by love? This question silenced poor Phillips: but it no more proceeded from "envy" than did Pope's ridicule. Did he envy Swift? Did he envy Boling broke? Did he envy Gray the unparalleled success of his "Beggars' Opera?" We may be answered that these were his friends—true; but does friendship prevent envy? Study the first woman you meet with, or the first scribbler you see, and tell me himself (whom I acquaint fully of such an odious quality) study some of his own poetical intimates the most envious man I ever heard of is a poet, and high one; besides it is an universal passion. Goldsmith envied not only the puppets for their dancing, and broke his shins in the attempt at rivalry, but was seriously because two pretty woman received more attention than he. This is envy, but where does Pope say a sign, or his passion? In that case, Dryden envied the hero of his Mac Flecknoe. Mr. Bowles compares, when and where he can, Pope with Cowper, (the same Cowper whom, in his edition of Pope, he demotes at his attaching it to his attachment and search, and you will find it; I remember the passage, though not the page,) in particular he re quotes Cowper's Dutch delineation of a wood, drawn up like a seedman's catalogue,* with an adject
Imitation of Milton's style, as burlesque as the "Splendid Shilling." These two writers (for Cowper is no poet) come into comparison in one great work—the translation of Homer. Now, with all the great, and manifest, and manifold, and improved, and acknowledged beauties of Pope's translation, and all the scholarship, and pains, and time, and trouble, and blank verse of the other, who can ever read Cowper? and who will ever lay down, for the one's sake; Pope's was "not Homer, it was Spondanus;" but Cowper's is not Homer, either, it is not even Cowper. As a child I first read Pope's Homer with a rapture which subsequent years of education never offer'd; and children are not the worst judges of their language. As a man I read Homer in the original, as we have all done, some of us by force, and a few by favor; under which description I come is nothing to the purpose, it is enough that I read him. As a man I have tried to read Cowper's version, and I found it impossible. Has any human reader ever succeeded? And now that we have heard the Catholic re-preached with envy, duplicity, licentiousness, avarice—what was the Calvinist? He attempted the most atrocious of crimes in the Christian code, viz., suicide—and why? Because he was to be examined whether he was fit for an office which he seems to wish to have made a sluicerie. His connexion with Mrs. Unwin was pure enough, for the old lady was devout, and he was deranged; but why then is the inforin and then elderly Pope to be reproved on a connexion with Martha Blow? Cowper was the almoner of Mrs. Throgmorton; but Pope's charities were his own, and they were noble and extensive, far beyond his fortune's warrant. Pope was the tolerant yet steady adherent of the most bigoted of sects; and Cowper the most bigoted and despondent sectary that ever anticipated damnation to himself or others. Is this harsh? I know it is, and I do not assert it as my opinion of Cowper personally, but to show what might be said with just as great an appearance of truth and candor, as all the odium which has been accumulated upon Pope in similar speculations. Cowper was a good man, and lived at a fortunate time for his works.

Mr. Bowles, apparently not relying entirely upon his own arguments, has, in person or by proxy, sought for the names of Southey and Moore. Mr. Southey, entirely apart from Mr. Bowles's "invariable principles of poetry." The least that Mr. Bowles can do in return is to approve the "invariable principles of Mr. Southey." I should have thought that the word "invariable" might suit Southey's throat, like Macbeth's "Amen!" I am sure it did in mine, and I am not the least consistent of the two, at least as a voter. Moore (et tu Brute?) also approves, and a Mr. J. Scott. There is a letter also of two lines from a have tried to read Cowper's version, and I found it impossible. Has any human reader ever succeeded? There are those who will believe this, and those who will not. You, sir, know how far I am sincere, and whether my opinion, not only in the short work intended for publication, and in private letters which can never be published, has or has not been the same. I look upon this as the declining age of the English poetry; no regard for others, no selfish feeling can prevent me from seeing this, and expressing the truth. There can be no worse sign for the future of the times than the depreciation of Pope. It would be better to receive for proof Mr. Cockett's rough but strong attack upon Shakespeare and Milton, than to allow this smooth and "candid" undermining of the reputation of the most perfect of our poets, the purest of our realists. Of his power in the passions, in description, in the mock-heroic, I leave others to decent. I take him on his strong ground, as an ethical poet: in the former case one may distinguish the mock-heroic and the solemn equal; and in my mind, the latter is the highest of all poetry, because it does that in verse, which the greatest of men have wished to accomplish in prose. If the essence of poetry must be a lie, throw it to the dogs, or banish it from your republic, as Plato would have done. He who can reconcile poetry with truth and wisdom, is the only true poet in its real sense; the moral, the poet, 'the creator'—why must this mean the "liar," the "feignor," "the tale-teller?" A man may make and create better things than those. I shall not presume to say that Pope is as high a poet as Shakespeare, though his Milton, through his Warton, places him immediately under them. I would no more say this than I would assert in the mosque, (once St. Sophia's,) that Socrates was a greater man than Mahomet. But if I say that he is very superior to the latter, then has been asserted of Burns, who is supposed

"To rival all but Shakespeare's come below." I say nothing against this opinion. But of what "order," according to the poetical aristocracy, are Burns' poems? These are his opus majus, that of a poet of no mean order, "The Cotter's Saturday Night," a descriptive sketch, some others in the same style; the rest are songs. So much for the rank of his productions; the rank of Burns is the very first of his art. Of Pope I have expressed my
LETTER TO JOHN MURRAY ON BOWLES'S STRICKENES ON POPE. 1043

opinion elsewhere, as also of the effect which the present attempts at poetry have had upon our literature. If any great national or natural convulsion could or should overwhelm our country, in such sort as to sweep Great Britain from the kingdoms of the earth, and leave only that, after all the most living of human things, a dead language, to be studied and read, and imitated, but not passed and preserved for future and far generations upon foreign shores; if your literature should become the learning of mankind, divested of party cabals, transient fashions, and national pride and prejudice; an Englishman, anything like the first of his nation, who, with the precept of the English school, can show that there had been such a thing as a British Epic and Tragedy, might wish for the preservation of Shakespeare and Milton; but the surviving world would probably not have the same taste, and the respect would sink with the people. He is the moral poet of all civilization, and, as such, let us hope that he will one day be the national poet of mankind. He is the only poet that never shocks; the only poet whose faultlessness has been made his reproach. Cast your eye over his productions; consider their extent, and contemplate their variety:—pastoral, passion, mock-heroic, translation, satire, ethelis, all that can possibly be there is a place for him to be his melody, how comes it that foreigners adore him even in their diluted translation? But I have made this letter too long. Give my compliments to Mr. Bowles.

Yours ever, very truly,

BYRON.

To J. Murray, Esq.

Post scriptum.—Long as this letter has grown, I find it necessary to append a postscript,—if possible, a shorter one than Mr. Bowles desired. He has accused Pope of "a sordid money-getting passion;" but he adds "if I had ever done so, I should be glad to find any testimony that might show me he was not so." This testimony he may find to his heart's content, in Spence and the others. But he will find there Martha Blount, who, Mr. Bowles charitably says, "probably thought he did not save enough for her as legatee." Whatever she thought upon this point, her words are in Pope's favor. There then is Alderman Barber—see Spence's Anecdotes. There is Pope's cold answer to Halifax, when he proposed a pension; his behavior to Craggs and to Addison upon like occasions; and his own two lives—

"And, uncle to Homer, since I live and dying,
I might be praised, or be revil'd, if my life or dying
were written when princes would have been prou'd to
pencil, and peers to promote him, and when the
whole army of dunces were in array against him,
and would have been too happy to deprive him of
this feast of independence. But there is something a
little more serious in Mr. Bowles's declaration,
that he "would have spoken" of his "noble
generosity to the outage, Richard Savage," and
other instances of a compassionate and generous
heart, "had they occurred to his recollection when
he wrote." What is it come to this? Does Mr.
Bowles sit down to write a minute and laborod life
and edition of a great poet: Does he anatomize his
character, his opinions, and his weaknesses with
his faults and with his foibles? Does he sneer at
his feelings, and doubt of his sincerity? Does he
unfold his vanity and duplicity? and then omit
the good qualities which might, in part, have
"had they occurred to his recollection when
he wrote." Is this the frame of mind and of memory
with which the illustrious dead are to be reproached? If Mr. Bowles, when he pronounced that the
mean of refreshing his memory, did not recollect these
facts, he is unfit for his task; but if he did recollect,
and omit them, I know not what he is fit for, but I
know what he will be fit for. Is the plea of
"not recollecting" such a thing as to excuse
Mr. Bowles? Mr. Bowles has been at a public school,
and, as I have been publicly educated also, I can
sympathize with his predection. When we were
in the third form even, had we pleaded on the Mon-
day morning, it would have been a fine in view of
Mr. Bowles's exercise because "we had forgotten it,"
what would have been the reply? And is an excuse,
which would not be pardon'd to a schoolboy, to pass.
And I can see no reason in a man of sense either to
the name of the first poet of his age, if not of his coun-
try? If Mr. Bowles so readily forgets the virtues of
others, why complain so grievously that others have
a better memory for his own faults? They are but
the faults of an author: Dr. Johnson has been imite-
ted from his catalogue are essential to the justice
due to a man.

Mr. Bowles appears, indeed, to be susceptible
beyond the privilege of authorship. There is a
plausible dedication to Mr. Gifford, in which he is
made responsible for all the articles of the Quarter-
ly. Mr. Southey, it seems, "the most able and elo-
quent writer in that Review," approves of Mr.
Bowles's publication. Now, it seems to me to the
more impartial, that notwithstanding that the great
writer of the Quarterly entertains opinions opposite
to the able article on Spence, nevertheless that essay
may be read with profit, to the opinions of any one
man? Must it not vary according to circumstances,
and according to the subjects to be criticised? I fear that writers must take the sweets and bitters of the public journals as they occur, and as the author of so much praise Mr. Bowles might have become accustomed to such
incidents; he might be angry, but not astonished. I
have been reviewed in the Quarterly almost as often as Mr. Bowles, and have had as pleasant things
said, and some as unpleasant, as could well be
pronounced. In the review of "The Fall of Jerusa-
lem," it is stated that I have devoted "my powers,
etc., to the worst parts of manicheism," which, being
interpreted, means that I worship the false.
Mr. Bowles has neither written a reply, nor complained to
Gifford. I believe that I observed in a letter to you,
that I thought "that the critic might have praised
Milman without finding it necessary to abuse me,"
but I did not add at the same time, or soon after,
(apropos, of the note in the book of travels,) that
I would not, if it were even in my power, have a
single line cancelled on my account in that or in any
other public review. Of course, I do not mean to
myself the privilege of response when necessary. Mr.
Bowles seems in a whimsical state about the article
on Spence. You know very well that I am not in
your confidence in all that of Spence's journal.
The moment I saw that article, I was morally certain that I knew the author "by his style." You will tell me that I do not know him: that is all as it should be: keep the secret; so shall I,
though no one has ever intrusted it to me. He is
not the person whom Mr. Bowles denounces.
Mr. Bowles's extreme sensibility reminds me of a cir-
cumstance which occurred on board of a frigate, in
which I was a passenger and guest of the captain's
for a considerable time. The surgeon on board, a
very gentlemanly young man, and remarkably able
in his profession, wore a wig. Upon this ornament
he was extremely pleased, and his tragic and jests are
sometimes a little rough, his brother officers made
occasional allusions to this delicate appendage to
the doctor's person. One day a young lieutenant,
in the course of a facetious discussion, said, "Sup-
pose you were to wear the wig: I shall laugh in the
face of the surgeon." "Sir," replied the doctor, "I shall talk no longer with you; you grow scurrilous." He would not even admit so near an approach as to the hat, which he wore. It is the more difficult to imagine Mr. Bowles's laurels, even in his outside capacity of an
editor, "they grow scurrilous." You say that you are about to prepare an edition of Pope; you
cannot do better for your own credit as a publisher,
and for the reputation of the works, and of the public taste from rapid degeneracy.
NOTES.

I.

The Italians, with the most poetical language, and the most fictitious taste in Europe, possess now five great poets, they say, Dante, Petrarch, Ariosto, Tasso, and lastly Alberi. Page 1042.

Of these there is one ranked with the others for his Sonnets, and two for compositions which belong to no class at all! Where is Dante? His poem is not an epic; then what is it? He himself calls it a "divine comedy:" and why? This is more than all his thousand commentators have been able to explain. Ariosto is not an epic poem; and if poets are to be classed according to the genus of their poetry, where is he to be placed? Of these five, Tasso and Alberi only come within Aristotle's arrangement, and Mr. Bowles's class-book. But the whole position is false: Poets are classed by the power of their performance, and not according to its rank in a gradus. In the contrary case, the forgotten epic poets of all countries would rank above Petrarch, Dante, Ariosto, Burns, Gray, Dryden, and the highest names of various countries. Mr. Bowles's title of "invariable principles of poetry," is, perhaps, the most arrogant ever prefixed to a volume. So far are the principles of poetry from being "invariable," that they never were nor never will be settled. These "principles" mean nothing more than the predilections of a particular age; and every age has its own, and a different from its predecessor. It is now Homer and now Virgil; once Dryden, and since Walter Scott; now Corneille, and now Racine; now Grevil, now Voltaire. The Homerists and Virgilians in France disputed for half a century. Not fifty years ago the Italians neglected Dante—Bettinelli reproved Moun for reading "that barbarian," at present they adore him. Shakespeare and Milton have had their rise, and they will have their decline. Already they have more than once fluctuated, as must be the case with all the dramatists and poets of a living language. This does not depend upon their merits, but upon the ordinary vicissitudes of human opinions. Schlegel and Madame de Staël have endeavored also to reduce poetry to two systems, classic and romantic. The effect is only beginning.

2.

I shall not presume to say that Pope is as high a poet as Shakespeare and Milton, though his enemy, Warton, places him immediately under them. Page 1044.

If the opinions cited by Mr. Bowles, of Dr. Johnson against Pope, are to be taken as decisive authority, they will also hold good against Gray, Milton, Swift, Thomson, and Dryden: in that case what becomes of Gray's poetical and Milton's moral character? even of Milton's poetical character, or, indeed, of English poetry in general? For Johnson strips many a leaf from every laurel. Still Johnson's is the finest critical work extant, and can never be read without instruction and delight.

OBSERVATIONS UPON "OBSERVATIONS."

A SECOND LETTER TO JOHN MURRAY, ESQ.

ON THE REV. W. L. BOWLES'S STRICITONS ON THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF POPE.

Boswell, March 23, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

In the further "Observations" of Mr. Bowles, in rejoinder to the charges brought against his edition of Pope, it is to be regretted that he has lost his temper. Whatever the language of his antagonists may have been, I fear that his replies have afforded more pleasure to them than to the public. That Mr. Bowles should not be pleased is natural, whether right or wrong; but a temperate defence would have answered his purpose in the former case—and, in the latter, no defence, however violent, can tend to any thing but his discomfiture. I have read over this third pamphlet, which you have been so obliging as to send me, and shall venture a few observations, in addition to those upon the previous controversy.

Mr. Bowles sets out with repeating his "confirmed assertion," that "what he said of the moral part of Pope's character, was, generally speaking, true; and that the principles of poetical criticism which he has laid down are invariable and invulnerable."

&c.; and that he is the more persuaded of this by the "exaggerations of his opponents." This is all very well, and highly natural and sincere. Nobly ever expected that either Mr. Bowles or any other author, would be convinced of human fallibility in their own persons. But it is nothing to the purpose—for it is not what Mr. Bowles thinks, but what is to be thought of Pope—that is the question. It is what he has asserted or insinuated against a man which is the patrimony of posterity, that is to be tried; and Mr. Bowles, as a party, can be no judge. The more he is persuaded, the better for himself, if it give him any pleasure; but he can only persuade others by the proofs brought out in his defence. After these preludary remarks of "conviction," &c., Mr. Bowles proceeds to Mr. Gilchrist; whom he charges with "slang" and "slander," besides a small subsidary indictment of "abuse, ignorance, malice," and so forth. Mr. Gilchrist has, indeed, shown some anger; but it is an honest indignation, which rises up in defence of the illustrious dead. It is a generous rage which interposes between our
ashes and their disturbers. There appears also to have been some slight personal provocation. Mr. Gilchrist, with a chivalrous disdain of the fury of an incensed poet, put his name to a letter avowing the publication of a former essay in defence of Pope, and consequently of an attack upon Mr. Bowles. Mr. Bowles appeals to be angry with Mr. Gilchrist for four reasons—firstly, because he wrote an article in "The London Magazine;" secondly, because he considered it; thirdly, that he was the author of a still more extended article in "The Quarterly Review;" and, fourthly, because he was not the author of the said Quarterly article, and had not condemned or repudiated it. Mr. Bowles had no earthly reason but because he had not written it.

Mr. Bowles declares, that "he will not enter into a particular examination of the pamphlet," which is a misnomer if called "Gilchrist's Answer to Bowles," when it should have been called "Gilchrist's Abuse of Bowles." On this error in the baptism of Mr. Gilchrist's pamphlet, it may be observed, that an answer may be abusive and yet no less an answer, though indisputably a bad one, and better of the two; but if abuse is to cancel all pretensions to reply, what becomes of Mr. Bowles's answers to Mr. Gilchrist? Bowles accordingly says—"But as Mr. Gilchrist derides my peculiar sensitiveness to criticism, before I show how destitute of truth is this representation, I will here explicitly declare the only grounds, &c., &c., Mr. Gilchrist's sensitiveness in denouncing his papers to be abusive, and yet perhaps too much. But if he has been so charged, and truly—what then? There is no moral turpitude in such sensitiveness of feeling: it has been, and may be, combined with many good and great qualities. Is Mr. Bowles a poet or is he not? If he be, he must, from his very essence, be sensitive to criticism; and even if he be not, he need not be ashamed of the common requisite to being attacked. All that is to be wished for, that in "proper" mode and "disagreeable thing it is, before he assailed the greatest moral poet of any age, or in any language. Pope himself "sleeps well."—nothing can touch him further; but those who love the honor of their country, the perfection of her literature, the glory of her language—are not to be expected to permit an atom of his dust to be stirred in his tomb, or a leaf to be stripped from the laurel which grows over his ashes. Mr. Bowles assigns several reasons why and when "an author is justified in appealing to every upright and honorable mind in the kingdom." If Mr. Bowles limits the perusal of his defence to the "upright and honorable mind in the kingdom," he can certainly be extensively circulated. I should rather hope that some of the downright and dishonest will read and be converted, or convicted. But the whole of his reasoning is here superfluous—"an author is justified in appealing," &c., when and why he pleases, let him make out a tolerable case, and few of his readers will quarrel with his motives.

Mr. Bowles will now plainly set before the literature of the country, the perils of his own character. If there is a case which is more honorable to Mr. Gilchrist than another it is, that being engaged in commerce he had the taste, and found the leisure, to become so able a proficient in the higher literature of his country; other of his characters but Mr. Bowles should have written "Mr. Gilchrist's name and his..."

This point he wishes particularly to address to the most respectable characters, who have the direction and management of the minds of the critical press." That the press may be, in some instances, conducted by respectable characters is probable enough; but if they are so, there is no occasion to tell them of it if they not, it is a base adulation. In either case, it looks like a kind of flattery, by which the gentry are not very likely to be offended, since it would be difficult to find two passages in fifteen pages more at variance, than Mr. Bowles's prose at the beginning of this pamphlet, and his verse at the end of it. In page 4, he speaks of "those most respectable characters who have the direction, &c., of the periodical press," and in page 10, we find—

"Ye dark iniquities, a monk-like hand, 0' thine flame snuffing victor's head, A scheme, sneer, and sinister brood, Only verdict in your eyes, and hood,"

And so on—to "bloody law" and "red scourges," with other similar phrases, which may not be altogether agreeable to the above-mentioned "most respectable characters." Mr. Gilchrist concludes my observations in the last Pamphleteer with feelings not unsink'd towards Mr. Gilchrist, or "[it should be nor] to the author of the review of Spence, be he whom he might.

"I was in hopes as I have always been ready to admit any errors I might have been led into, or prejudice I might have entertained, that even Mr. Gilchrist might be disposed to a more amicable mode of discussing what I had advanced in regard to Pope's moral and universal prejudices. As Major Sturgeon observes, "There never was a set of more amicable officers—"with the exception of a boxing-bout between Captain Shelk and the Colone..."

A page and a half—may only a page before—Mr. Bowles reaffirms his conviction, that "what he has said of Pope's moral character is (generally speaking) true, and that his "poetical principles are carried to an extent at which no one can accuse me of having been guilty of literary or moral excess.

Mr. Bowles has since read a publication by him (Mr. Gilchrist) containing such vulgar slander, affecting private life and character," &c., &c.; and Mr. Gilchrist has also had the advantage of reading a publication by Mr. Bowles sufficiently imbued with personal animosity, etc. One of the most popular and principal topics of reproach is that he is a "grocer, that he has a "pipe in his mouth, ledger-book, green canisters, dingy shop-boy, half a hog's head of brown turtle," &c, Nay, the same little railly is with the "very title-page of a book which he has written, it is not so strongly censured as the one published by Mr. Bowles, but that time commenced upon this foot, as Dr. Johnson said to Dr. Percy, "Sir, there is an end of politeness—we are to be as rude as we please—Sir, you said that I was short-sighted. As a man's profession is generally no more in his own power than his person—both having been made out for him—it is hard that he should be reproached with either, and still more that an honest calling should be more honorable to Mr. Gilchrist than another it is, that being engaged in commerce he had the taste, and found the leisure, to become so able a proficient in the higher literature of his country; other of his characters but Mr. Bowles who will be proud to own Glover, Chatterton, Burns, and Bloomfield for his peers, should hardly have quarrelled with Mr. Gilchrist for his criticism. Mr. Gilchrist's stock is enervated in regard to the highest civic honors, and to boundless wealth, has nothing to require apology; but ever if it had, such a reproach was not very disgraceful on the part of a clergyman, nor graceful on that of a gentleman. But, as compared to "Christian criticism" is not particularly happy, especially where Mr. Gilchrist is accused of having "set the first example of this mode in Europe." What pagan criticism may have been we know but little: the names of Zolli..."
and Aristarchus survive, and the works of Aristotle, Longinus, and Quintilian: but of "Christian criticism" we have already had some specimens in the works of Bishop of London, Philip Dormer, Archbishops of Salamanca, the Crusentii (versus Tasso), the French Academy (against the Old), and the antagonists of Voltaire and of Pope—to say nothing of some articles of various journals. It is a pity that Mr. Bowles cannot witness some of the Italian controversy, or become the subject of one. He would then look upon Mr. Gilchrist as a panegyrist.

To me it appears of no very great consequence whether Martha Blount was or was not Pope's mistress, though I could have wished him a better. She appears to have been a cold-hearted, interested, ignoble woman, without love in him the tenderness of Pope's heart in the desolation of his latter days was cast away, not knowing whither to turn, as he drew towards his premature old age, childless and lonely,—like the needle which, approaching a certain distance of the pole, becomes helpless and useless, and, ceasing to tremble, rusts. She seems to have been so totally unworthy of tenderness, that it is an additional proof of the kindness of Pope's heart to have been able to love such a being. But we must love something. I agree with Mr. B. that she "could at no time have regarded Pope personally with attachment," because she was incapable of attachment; but I deny that Pope could not be regarded with a certain degree of attachment by a worthy woman. It is not probable, indeed, that a woman would have fallen in love with him as he walked along the Mall, or in a box at the opera, nor from a balcony, in a ball-room; but in society she seems to have been as amiable as unassuming, and, with the greatest disadvantages of figure, his head and face were remarkably handsome, especially his eyes. He was adored by his friends; and, if the most opposite dispositions, ages, and talents,—by the old and wayward Wycherley, by the cynical Swift, the rough Atterbury, the gentle Spence, the stern attorney—bishop Warburton, the quiet, wise, and bigoted Bolingbroke, the inquisitive and cantankerous Sir William. Bolingbroke wept over him like a child; and Spence's description of his last moments is at least as edifying as the more ostentatious account of the death-bed of Addison. The viscount of Peterborough and the poet Gay, the witty Congreve and the laughing Rowe, the eccentric Cromwell and the steady Bathurst, were all his intimates. The man who could conciliate so many men of the most opposite description, not one of whom but was a remarkable or a celebrated character, might well have pretended to all the attachment which a reasonable man would desire of an amiable woman.

I would, however, recommend this rigor to publish women in general, in the hope of securing the glory of two suicides a-piece. I believe that there are few men who, considering the observations on life, may not have perceived that it is not the greatest female beauty who forms the longest and the strongest passions.

But, upon Pope.—Voltaire tells us that the Marchal Luxemburg (who had precisely Pope's figure) was not only somewhat too amatory for a great man, but fortunate in his attachments. Le Valier, the passion of Louis XIV., had an unexampled devotion to a personage, as indifferent to his appearance and actions as the mistresses of Philip II. of Spain, and Maugiron, the minion of Henry III. of France, had each of them lost an eye; and the famous Latin epigram was written upon them, which has, I believe, been either translated or imitated by Goldsmith—

"Lambani anor drennt, capta ex Lenellea miderro,
Et poeta fors vicino membro Doe;
Blande puer, mutu quaede habendo soror,
Sic te censeo Amor, sic et illa Venus."

Wilkes, with his ugliness, used to say that "he was but a quarter of an hour behind the handsomest man in England," and it is plain that he and the most unexampled passions upon record—Vanessa's and Stella's—

"Vanessa, aged mother a more,
Sight for a crown of fancy face."

He required them bitterly, for he seems to have broken the heart of the one, and worn out that of the other; and he had his reward, for he died a solitary idiot in the hands of servants.

For my own part, I am of the opinion of Pausanias, that success in love depends upon Fortune. "They particularly move those walls of Venus which their temple, &c., &c., &c. I remember, too, to have seen a building in Agina in which there is a statue of Fortune, holding a horn of Amalthea; and near there is a winged Love. The meaning of this is, that the success of men in love affairs depends more on the assistance of Fortune than on the charms of beauty, I am persuaded, too, with Pindar (to whom I submit in other particulars) that Fortune is one of the Fates and that certain respect she is more powerful than her sisters."


Grimm's "Romance," which is no different in kind than the different destinations of the younger Crebillon and Rousseau. The former writes a licentious novel, and a young English girl of some fortune and family (a Miss Stratford) runs away, and crosses the sea to marry him; while Rousseau, the most tender and passionate of lovers, is obliged to espouse his chambermaid. If I recollect rightly, this remark was also repeated in the Edinburgh Review of Grimm's corresp, seven or eight years ago.

In regard to the strange mixture of indecent and sometimes profane levity, which his conduct and language often exhibited, and which so much shocks Mr. W. and makes him talk of the inconstant word "often;" and in extenuation of the occasional occurrence of such language it is to be collected, that it was less the tone of Pope, than the tone of the time. With the exception of the correspondence of Pope and the friends, and many private letters of the period have come down to us; but those, such as they are—fewer, scattered scraps from Farquhar and others—are more indecent and coarse than any thing in Pope's letters. So Madame de Congreve, Vanbrugh, Farquhar, Ciber, &c., which naturally attempted to represent the manners and conversation of private life, are decisive upon this point; as are also some letters to different admirers (one an elderly gentleman) killed themselves in despair (see Lady Morgan's "France.")"
of the country, was at his own table, and his excuse 
for his licentious language, viz., "that every body 
understood that, but few could talk rationally upon 
less common topics." The refinement of latter 
days,—which is perhaps the consequence of vice, 
which is the offspring of an abstinence from 
the bread of civilization,—had not yet made sufficient 
progress. Even Johnson, in his "London," has 
two or three passages which cannot be read aloud, 
and Addison's "Drummer" some inelastic allu-
sions.

To return to Mr. Bowles. "If what is here 
extracted can excite in the mind (I will not say of 
any "hayman," of any "Christian," but of any human 
being), &c., &c., is not Mr. Gilchrest a "human 
being?" Mr. Bowles asks "whether in attributing 
_an article," &c., &c., "to the critic, he had any 
reason for distinguishing him with that courtesy," 
&c., &c. But Mr. Bowles was wrong in attributing 
the article to Mr. Gilchrest at all; and would 
have not been right in calling him a dunce and a 
grocer, if he had written it.

Mr. Bowles is here peremptorily called upon to 
proieve the fact of which gives him the grieved 
resentment,—the mention of a letter he received from 
the editor of "The London Magazine." Mr. Bowles 
seems to have embodied himself on all sides; — 
whether as writer, or reviser, or criticizing, or 
reviewing,—it had been an awkward affair for him. 

Poor Scott is now no more. In the exercise of 
his vocation, he contrived at last to make himself 
the subject of acorner's inquest. But he died like 
a brave man, and he lived in an age. I knew him personally, though slightly. Although several 
years my senior, we had been schoolfellows together 
at the "grammar-school" (or, as the Aberdeenians 
pronounce it, "parson"), of New Aberdeen. He 
did not behave to me quite handsomely in his cap-
sistency of editor a few years ago, but he was under no 
obligation to behave otherwise. The moment was 
too tempting for many friends, and for all enemies. 
At a time when any relations (save one) fell from 
me like leaves from the tree in autumn winds, and 
your friends became still fewer,—when the whole 
periodical press (I mean the daily and weekly, not the 
diary press) was let loose against me in every 
shape of reproach, with the two strange exceptions 
(from their usual opposition) of "The Courier" and 
"The Examiner,"—the paper of which Scott had 
the direction was neither the last nor the least 
vituperative. Its articles were, when it was bowed in griefs, by the loss of his son, and 
known by experience, the bitterness of domes-
tic privation. He was then earnest with me to return to England, and on my refusal, with 
smile, that he was once of a different opinion, he 
replied to me, "that he and others had been greatly 
misled; and that some pains, and rather extraordi-
nary means, had been taken to excite them." Scott 
is a sphere, but there are more than one living, who 
were present at this dialogue. He was a man of 
very considerable talents, and of great require-
ments. He had made his way, as a literary charac-
ter, with such success, and in such great years. 
 poor fellow! I recollect his joy at some appointment 
which he had obtained, or was to obtain, through 
Mr. James Mackintosh, and which, without the 
_further extension (unless by a trip run to Rome) of 
his travels, I felt certain he would conduct him. 
Peace be with him!—and may all such other faults as are inevitable to humanity 
be as readily forgiven him, as the little injury which 
he did unto one who respected his talents, and 
regrets his loss.

I pass over Mr. Bowles's page of explanation, 
upon the correspondence between him and Mr. 
F—.

It is of little importance in regard to Pope, 
and consequently in regard to the kind of 
diction of Mr. Gilchrest's. We now come to a point 
where Mr. Gilchrest has, certainly, rather exagger-
ated matters; and, of course, Mr. Bowles makes 
the most of it. Capital letters, like Kent's name, 
"large upon the bill," are made use of six or seven 
times to express his sense of the outrage. The 
charge is, indeed, very boldly made: but, like 
"Randol of the Mist's" practical joke of putting 
the bread inside a fish, it is, so to speak, as 
Dugald Dalgetty says, "somewhat too wild and 
savage, besides wasting the good victuals." 
Mr. Bowles appeals to the "Christian reader": 
upon this "Gilchristian criticism." Is not this 
play upon such words a "step beyond decorum" in 
a clergyman? But I admit the temptation of a pun 
to be irresistible.

But "a hasty pamphlet was published, in which 
some personalities respecting Mr. Gilchrest were 
suffered to appear." If Mr. Bowles will write 
"hasty pamphlets," why is he so surprised on re-
ceiving short answers? The grand grudge to 
which he perpetually returns is a charge of "Hypo-
ochondriacism," asserted or insinuated in the Quar-
terly. I cannot conceive a man in perfect health 
being much affected by such a charge, because 
his complexion and conduct must amply refute it. 
But if it were true, and that does it amount?—to 
the impeachment of a liver complaint. "I will tell it to 
the world," exclaimed the learned Smolenski. 
You had better," said I, "tell it to your physician.

There is no necessary connexion between such a 
disease, which is more peculiarly the malady of students. 
It has been the complaint of the good, and the 
wise, and the witty, and even of the gay. Regnard, 
the author of the last French comedy after Millev, 
was strainless; and Moliere himself, saturnine. 
Dr. Johnson, Gray, and Burns, were all more or less 
fected by it occasionally. It was the prelude to 
the more awful malady of Collins, Cowper, Swift, 
and Smart; but it by no means follow that a 
partial affliction of this disorder is to terminate like theirs. But even were it so,—

"Nor brow, nor wisest, are exempt from this: 
Polly—Polly's only free." 

If this be the case, I will not remove the 
last of the pamphlets form a better certificate of 
sanity than a physician's. Mendehlson and Bayle were at 
times so overcome with this deposition, as to be 
obliged to recur to seeing "puppet-shows, and 
counting tiles upon the opposite houses," to divert 
their selves. Dr. Johnson at times "would have 
given a limb to recover his spirits." Mr. Bowles, 
who is (strangely enough) fond of quoting Pope, 
may perhaps answer,—

"Go on, obbliging creature, let me see 
All which descries my better men in me."

But the charge, such as it is, neither disgraces them 
nor him. It is easily disproved if false; and even 
if proved true, has nothing in it to make a man so 
very indignant. Mr. Bowles himself appears to be 
a little ashamed of his "hasty pamphlet," for he 
 attempts to excuse it by the "great provocation;" 
that is to say, by Mr. Bowles's supposing that Mr. 
Gilchrest was the writer of the article in the Quar-
terly, which I have quoted, a which Mr. Pope 
refused.

"But, in extenuation, not only the great pro-

crational said, but it ought to be said, 
that orders were sent to the London booksellers, 
that the most direct personal passages should be 
skeweled entirely, or what the proverb calls 
"breaking a head and giving a plaster;" but, 
in this instance, the plaster was not spread in time, 
and Mr. Gilchrest does not seem at present disposed 
to regard Mr. Bowles's courteous reference to 
the spear of Achilles, which had such "skill in 
surgery."

But "Mr. Gilchrest has no right to object, as the 
reader will see." I am a reader, a "gentle reader," 
and I see much that is not according to the kind 
of Mr. Gilchrest's place, I should object exceedingly 
to being abused; firstly, for what I did write, and, secondly, 
for what I did not write; merely because it is Mr
Bowles’s will and pleasure to be as angry with me for having written in the London Magazine, as for not having written in the Quarterly Review. He said emphatically, "for he has, in his answer, said so and so," &c., &c. There is no great revenge in all this; and I presume that nobody either seeks or wishes it. What revenge? Mr. Bowles and the Quarterly Review are not poets, nor pretenders to poetry; therefore they can have no envy nor malice against Mr. Bowles; they have no acquaintance with Mr. Bowles, and can have no quarrel with his life and death, his profession or mode of life, nor he theirs. There is no political feud between them. What, then, can be the motive of their discussion of his deserts as an editor?—veneration for the genius of Pope, love for his memory, and regard for the classic glory of their country. Why would Mr. Bowles edict? Had he limited his honest endeavors to poetry, very little would have been said upon the subject, and nothing at all by his present antagonists.

Mr. Bowles calls the pamphlet a "mid-cart," and the writer a "scavenger." Afterwards he asks, "Shall he bing dirt and receive rose-water?" This means the Memoirs of Mr. Bowles, and the Memoirs of Mr. Gilchrist &c.; who, lamenting to Chamfort the shedding of blood during the French revolution, was answered, "Do you think that revolutions are to be made with rose-water?"

I presume that "rose-water" would be infinitely more graceful in the hands of Mr. Bowles than the substance which he has substituted for that delicate liquid. It would also more confound his adversary, supposing him a "scavenger." I remember, (and do you remember, reader, that it was in my earliest youth, "Console Plano,"—on the morning of the great battle, (the second)—between Guiley and Gregson, —Cribb, who was man to hold the lights, and in the same memorable day, waking me (a lodger at the inn in the next room) by a loud remonstrance to the waiter against the abomination of his towels, which had been laid in reverence. Cribb was a cool-heaven—and was much more discomfited by this odorous efficiency of fine linen, than by his adversary Horton, whom he "finished in style," though with some reluctance; for I recollect that he would not hold it beneath the dignity to be "scavenger;"—Horton being a very fine fresh-colored young man.

To return to "rose-water"—that is, to gentleness and respectability. Mr. Bowles revenge himself upon a hackney-coachman, when he has overcharged his fare? In case he should not, I will tell him. It is of little use to call him a "rascal, a scoundrel, a thief, an impostor, a black-guard, a villain, a ragamuffin, a—what you please," all that he is used to—it is his mother-tongue, and probably his mother's. But look him steadily and quietly in the face, and say—"Upon my word, I think you are the ugliest fellow I ever saw in my life," and he will instantly roll forth the brazen thunders of the charioteer Salomeus as follows:— "Hussy, what the h—l are you? You a gentleman! Why you Easy—why you much disorder it is to procure—and therefore to vindicate (for passion punishes him who feels it more than those whom the passions would excruciate)—by a few quiet words the aggressor, than by retorting violently. The "coals of fire of malice," says Mr. Bowles, are "benefits;"—but they are not the less "coals of fire." I pass over a page of quotation and quotation—

Sir up to my song "—oh let my little bark —not the Catapult, who says he has ample revenge against the Quarterly Review and himself"—"In-door avocations, indeed —"Kings of Brentford" "—One nosegay —Perennial nosegay" "—Oh Juvenes,"—and the like.

Page 12, producing the reasons, (the task supposed not to have been difficult as yet there were none)—"to show why Mr. Bowles attributed the critique in the Quarterly to Octavius Gilchrist. All these "reasons" consist of surmises of Mr. Bowles, upon the presumed character of his opponent. "He supposed, if the man in the kingdom so impudent, &c., &c., except Octavius Gilchrist."—"He did not think there was a man in the kingdom who would pretend ignorance, &c., &c., except Octavius Gilchrist." He did not conceive that the critic in the kingdom would so much stupid flippancy, &c., &c., except Octavius Gilchrist."—"He did not think there was one man in the kingdom, &c., &c., could so utterly misunderstand the meaning of Octavius Gilchrist."—"He did not believe there was a man in the kingdom so perfect Mr. Gilchrist's "old lunes," &c., &c.;—He did not think the mean mind of any one in the kingdom," &c., &c., and so on; always beginning with "any one in the kingdom, and ending with "Octavius Gilchrist," like the word in a catch. I am not in "the kingdom," and have not been much in the kingdom since I was one-and-twenty, (about five years in the whole, since I was of age), and have no desire to be in the kingdom whilst I breathe, nor to sleep there afterwards; and I regret nothing more than having never been in the kingdom. My antagonist must no longer a man in "the kingdom," let me hope that when I have ceased to exist, it may be said, as was answered by the master of Clanmorals's hackney, his day after the battle of Sheriff-Muir, when he was four years old among his children asked, "who was that?" he replied—"it was a man yesterday.

And in this capacity, "in or out of the kingdom," I must own that I participate in many of the obligations engendered by Mr. Gilchrist. I participate in his love of Pope, as I in his understanding, and occasionally finding fault with, the last editor of our last truly great poet.

One of the reproaches against Mr. Gilchrist, which he is, I believe, not to have made, is to have supposed that it—Mr. Bowles denies it: there it rests for the present. Mr. Bowles professes his dislike to Pope's duplicity, not to Pope—a distinction apparently without a difference. However, I believe that I understand him. We have a great dislike to Mr. Bowles's edition of Pope, but not to Mr. Bowles; nevertheless, he takes upon the subject as warmly as if it was personal. With regard to the fact of "Pope's duplicity," it remains to be proved—like Mr. Bowles's benevolence towards his memory.

In page 14, we have a large assertion, that "the Eloisa alone is sufficient to convict him of gross licentiousness." Thus, out it comes at last. Mr. Bowles accuses Pope of being a licentious poet, and grounds the charge upon a poem. The licentiousness is a "grand poet-ete," according to the turn of the times being. The grossness I deny. On the contrary, I do not suppose the course that never was, nor ever could be, treated by any poet with so much delicacy, mingled with, at the same time, such true and intense passion. Is the "Atys" not the Catapult, and Catullus is often a coarse writer. The subject is nearly the same, except that Atys was the suicide of his manhood, and Abelard the victim.

The "licentiousness" of the story was not Pope's—it was a story that had been carried on, but the gross, he has softened;—all that it had of indecency, he has
purified;—all that it had of passionate, he has beautified;—all that it had of holy, he has elevated. Mr. Campbell has admirably marked this in a few words (1 quote from memory), in drawing the parallel between Dryden and Pope, when pointing out where Dryden was wanting. "I fear," says he, "that had the subject of 'Eloisa' fallen into his (Dryden's) hands, that he would have given us but a coarse draft of her passion." Never was the art of Pope more shewn as in this poem. With the facts and the letters of "Eloisa" he has done what no other mind but that of the best and purest of poets could have accomplished with such materials. We, Ovid (in the O'de called)—all that we have of ancient, all that we have of modern poetry, sinks into nothing compared with him in this production.

Let us hear no more of this trash about "licentiousness." Is not "Amorecon" taught in our schools?—translated, praised, and edited? Are no his Odes the amatory praises of a boy? Is not Sappho's Ode a girl? Is not this sublime and (according to Longinus) fierce love for one of her own sex? And is not Phillip's translation of it in the months of all your women? And are the English schools or the English women the more corrupt for all this? When you have thrown the ancients into the mire of this age to drive them mad—when you call "Licentiousness!"—"there's more real mischief and sapping licentiousness in a single French prose novel, in a Moravian hymn, or a German comedy, than in all the actual poetry that ever was penned, or poured forth, since the Rhapsody of Orpheus."

The sentimental anatomy of Rousseau and Mau de S. are far more formidable than any quantity of verse. They are so, because they sap the principles by reasoning upon the passions; whereas poetry is in itself passion, and does not systematise. It assails, but does not argue; it may be wrong, but it does not assume pretensions to Optimism.

Mr. Bowles now has the goodness "to point out the difference between a traducian and him who sincerely states what he sincerely believes." He might have spared himself the trouble. The one is a liar, who lies knowingly; the other (I speak of a scandalmonger of course) lies, charitably believing that he speaks truth, and very sorry to find himself in falsehood;—because he

"Would rather that she deny should say,  
Than his prediction prove a lie."

After a definition of a "traducian," which was quite superfluous (though it is agreeable to learn that Mr. Bowles so well understands the character), we are assured, that "he feels equally indifferent, Mr. Gilchrist, for what your manager can invent, or your impudence utter." This is intelligible; for it rests not only on Mr. Bowles's assurance, but on that of Sir Fretful Plagiary, and nearly in the same words,—"and I shall treat with it exactly the same calm indifference and philosophical contempt, and so your servant."

"One thing has given Mr. Bowles concern. It is a passage which might seem to reflect on the paternity of so many men as Monsieur, "Monsieur seen!" The passage alluded to expresses, that if Mr. Gilchrist be the reviewer of "a certain poet of nature," his praise and blame are equally contemptible. Mr. Bowles, who has a particularly ambiguous style, where it suits him, comes off with a "not to the poet, but the critic," &c. In my humble opinion, the passage referred to both. Had Mr. Bowles really meant fairly, he would have said so. His style would not have beguiled me into an illusion of the opposite. A "certain poet of nature" is not the style of commendation. It is the very prologue to the most scandalous paragraphs of the newspapers, which "will go to wound, and yet shun to strike."

"A certain high personage,"—"a certain peeress,"—"a certain illustrious foreigner,"—what do these words ever precede, but defamation? Had he felt a spark of kindling kindness for John Clare, he would have named him. There is a sneer in the first sentence of the following passage: "A deserving poet can "rather injure than promote his cause." It is difficult to comprehend. The article denounces is able and amiable, yet it says served the poet, as far as poetry can be served by judicious and honest criticism.

With the two next paragraphs of Mr. Bowles's pamphlet it is pleasing to concur. His mention of "Penny," and his former patronage of "Shook, and the monger of them," and, as if to change the subject, Mr. Bowles to be a benevolent man. I merely assert, that he is not a candid editor.

Mr. Bowles has been "a writer occasionally upwards of thirty years, and never wrote one word in reply in his life "to criticisms, merely as criticisms." This is Mr. Lofty in Goldsmith's Goodnatured Man; "and I vow by all that's honorable, my resentment has never done the men, as mere men, any service."—that is, as mere persons.

"The letter to the editor of the newspaper" is owned; but "it was not on account of the criticism. It was because the criticism came down in a frank directed to Mrs. Bowles!!"—(the italics and three points of a sentence underlined.) The paragraph is copied verbatim from the quotation, and Mr. Bowles was not displeased with the criticism, but with the frank and the address. I agree with Mr. Bowles that the intention was not to annoy him, but I fear that this was answered by his poet, when he hears the victim cry:—the adder is deaf.

The best reply to an anonymous intimation is to take no notice directly nor indirectly. I wish Mr. Bowles could see only one or two of the thousand which I have received in the course of a literary life, which, though begun early, has not yet extended to a third part of his existence as an author. I speak of literary life only. Were I to add personal, I might double the amount of anonymous letters. If he could but see the violence, the threats, the absurdity of the whole thing, he would laugh, and so should I, and thus be both gainers.

To keep up the farce,—within the last month of this present war (1831), I have seen Mr. Bowles threatened in the same way which menaced Mr. Bowles's fame,—excepting that the anonymous denunciation was addressed to the Cardinal Legate of France to Monsieur Roumage. To the head of to Mr. Bowles's time, as individuals, I believe, the elderly lady of the two. I append the menace in all its barbarie and literal Italian, that Mr. Bowles may be convinced; and as this is the only promise to pay, which the Italian ever keep, so my person has been at least as much exposed to a "shot in the gloaming," from "John Heatherblunter" (see Waverly), as ever Mr. Bowles's glory was from an editor. I am, therefore, of course ready, should Mr. Bowles have some heart or body, to appeal the matter to the forest daily; and this, because it was my "custom in the afternoon," and that I believe if the tyrant cannot escape amidst his guards (should it be so written?) the humour individual would prove the most effective use of any. Mr. Bowles has here the humility to say, that "he must succumb; for with Lord Byron turned against him, he has no chance,"—a declaration of this denial (to the denunciation of Mr. Bowles) of five lines afterwards, that "for every twenty-four lines quoted by Mr. Gilchrist, or his friend, to greet him with as many from the 'Gilchristiad;'" but so much the better. Mr. Bowles has no reason to succumb; for with Lord Byron turned against him, Mr. Bowles the author of 'The Missionary' may compete with the foremost of his contemporaries. Let it be recollected, that all my previous opinions of Mr.
Byron’s Works.

Bowles's poetry were written long before the publication of his last and best poem; and that a poet's last poem should be his best, is his highest praise. But, however, Mr. Bowles may rank with his living rivals, there never was so complete a proof of the superiority of Pope, as in the lines with which Mr. Bowles closes his "to be concluded" in his new work.

Mr. Bowles is awfully the champion and poet of nature. Art and the arts are dragged, some before, and others behind his chariot. Pope, where he deals with passion, and with the nature of the natural, is allowed, even by themselves, to be sublime; but they complain that too soon——

"He sought to truth and universal'd his song."

and there even they allow him to be unrivalled. He has succeeded, and even surpassed them, when he chose, in their own pretended province. Let us see what their Coryphaeus effects in Pope's. But it is too pitiable, it is too melancholy to see Mr. Bowles "siningy" not "up" but "down" as a poet to his lowest depth as an editor. By the way, Mr. Bowles is always quoting Pope, "warrant that there is no poet—not Shakspere himself—who can be so often quoted, with reference to life;—but his editor is so like the devil quoting Scripture, that I could wish Mr. Bowles in his proper place, quoting in the pursuit.

And now for his lines. But it is painful—painful

—to see such a suicide, though at the shrine of Pope. I can't copy them all.——

"Shall the rank, loutishness of meanest of the age
Be like a night-mare grinning o'er a page?

Whose pre-conceived idea so aptly suit
The two extremes of boisterous and of brute,

Whose heart contends with thy Saturnian head,
A root ofbabel, and a lump of lead.

Glisten, procu'vel, &c., &c.

And thus stand forth, epic of thy wondrous form,
"To give thee his for his, or has thee limping house."

With regard to the last line, the only one upon which I shall venture for fear of infection, I would advise Mr. Gilchrest to keep out of the way of such reciprocal morsure—unless he has more faith in the "Drumskirk medicine" than most people, or may wish to the pension of the recent German professor, (I forget his name, but it is advertised and full of consonants,) who presented his memoir of an infallible remedy for the hydrophobia to the German diet last month, coupled with the phthisic condition of a large annuity, provided that his cure cured. Let him begin with the editor of Pope, and double his demand.

Yours ever,

Byron.

To John Murray, Esq.

P. S. Amongst the above-mentioned lines there occurs the following, applied to Pope—

"The assassin's vengeance, and the coward's lie."

And Mr. Bowles persists that he is a well-wisher of Pop.!! He has, then, edited an "assassin" and a "coward" wittingly, as well as lovingly. In my former letter I have remarked upon the editor’s forgetfulness of Pope's benevolence. But where he mentions his "tender, his generous 

"His tears drop, but they do not blot them out."

"The recording angel" differs from the recording clergyman. A fulous editor is pardonable though tiresome, like to be had over, for generous and generous society would semi-deify his father. But a distracting editor is a parasite. He sins against the nature of his office, and connection—he murders the life to come of his victim. If his author is not worthy to be mentioned, do not edit at all: "The be, edit honestly, and even flatteringe. The reader will forgive the weakness in favor of mortality, and correct your adulation with a smile. But to sit down "mingere in patriots censure" Mr. Bowles has done, meriting a reprobaion so strong, that I am as incapable of expressing as of ceasing to feel it.

Further Addenda.

It is worthy of remark that, after all this outcry about "in-door nature" and "artificial images," Pope was the principal inventor of that boast of the natural. He divided this honor with Milton. Hear Warpton:—"It has come to pass that this enchanting art of modern gardening, in which this kingdom claims a preference over every nation in Europe, chiefly owes its origin and its improvements to two great poets, Milton and Pope."

Walpole (no friend to Pope) asserts that Pope formed Kent's taste, and that Kent was the artist to whom the English are chiefly indebted for diffusing a "taste in laying out grounds." The design of the Prince of Wales's garden at Twickenham, Warpton applauds "his singular effort of art and taste, in impressing so much variety and scenery on a spot of five acres." Pope was the man who ridiuled the Dutch, French, false and unnatural taste in gardening, both in prose and verse. (See, for the former, "The Gardunian.")

"Pope has given not only some of our first, but best rules and directions on Architecture and Gardening." (See Warpton's Essay, vol. ii. p. 237, &c., &c.)

Now, is it not a shame, after this, to hear our Lakers in "Kenilworth Green," and our Buccolical Cockneys, crying out (the latter in a wilderness of bricks and mortar) about "Nature," and Pope's "artificial in-door habits?" Pope had seen all of nature that England alone can supply. He was bred in Windsor pasture, and amidst the beautiful scenery of Eton; he lived familiarly and frequently at the country seats of Bathurst, Cobham, Burlington, Peterborough, Digby, and Bolingbroke; amongst whose seats was to be numbered Noice. He made his own little "five acres" a model to princes, and to the first of our artists who imitated nature. Warpton thinks "that the most engaging of Kent's works was also planned on the model of Pope's,—at least in the opening and retiring shades of Venus's Vale."

It is true that Pope was infirm and deformed; but he could walk, and he could ride, (he rode to Oxford from London in a chaise and dog-cart,) and he had eyes for an exquisite eye. On a tree at Lord Barthurst's is carved, "Here Pope sang,"—he composed beneath it. Bolingbroke, in one of his letters, represents them both, both, "in the hayfield. No one ever admired Nature more, or used her better, than Pope has done, as I will undertake to prove from his works, prose and verse, if not anticipated in so easy and agreeable a labor. I remember a passage in Walpole, and somewhere, of a gentleman who wished to give directions about some willows to a man who had long served Pope in his grounds: "I understand, sir," he replied: "you would have them hanging down, not growing up." He was right: nothing exists but this little anecdote, it would suffice to prove Pope's taste for Nature, and the impression which he had made on a common-minded man. But I have already quoted Warpton and Walpole (both his enemies) and, were it not es- sayary, I could simply quote Pope himself for such tributes to Nature as no poet of the present day has even approached.

His various excellences is really wonderful: architectural, painting, gardening, all are alike subject to his genius. Be it remembered, that English gardening is the perfect perfection of ingrrad Nature, and that without it England is but a hedge-and-ditch, double-post-and-rail, Hawkins.
Observations Upon "Observations."

Fl Heath and Clapham—Common sort of country, since the principal forests have been felled. It is, in general, far from a picturesque country. The case is different with Scotland, Wales, and Ireland; and I except also the lake countries and Derbyshire, together with Wiltshire, Berkshire, and my own district, Harrow on the Hill, and some spots near the coast. In the present rank fertility of "great poets of the age," and "schools of poetry," a word which, like "academy" and "philosophy," has never introduced till the decay of the art has increased with the number of its professors—in the present day, then, there have sprung up two sorts of Naturalists,—the Lakers, who whine about Nature because they live in Cumberland, and their undersec (which some one has maliciously called the "Cockney School," who are enthusiastic for the country because they live in London. It is to be observed, that the rustic founders are rather anxious to disclaim any connexion with their metropoli- tan followers, whom they ungraciously review, and call cockneys, atheists, foolish fellows, bad writers, and other hard names not less ungrateful than unmerited. The aquatic gentlemen of Windermere to what Mr. Braham terms "entusiasmy," for lakes, and moun- tains, and duffidols, and buttercups; but I should be disposed to call the foundation of the London pro- pensities of their imitative brethren to the same "high argument." Southey, Wordsworth, and Coleridge have rambled over half Europe, and seen Nature in most of her varieties, (although I think that they have occasionally not used her very well;) but what on earth,—of earth, and sea, and Nature—have the others seen? Not a half, nor a tenth part so much a Pope. While they sneer at Windsor Forest, has there ever seen any thing of Windsor except its brick? The most rural of these gentlemen is my friend Leigh Hunt, who lives at Hampstead. I believe that I need not disclaim any personal or poetical hostility against that gentleman. A more amiable man in society I know not; nor (when he will allow his sense to prevail over his sectarian principles) a better writer. When he was writing his "Remi- ni," I was not the last to discover its beauties, long before it was published. Even then I was convinced against its vulgarisms; which are the more extra- ordinary, because the author is any thing but a vulgar man. Mr. Hunt's answer was, that he wrote them because he had read a thousand lines of "his enemy!" I then said no more. When a man talks of his system, it is like a woman's talking of her vir- gins. Let them talk on. There are writers who can read Rimini, as it might have been written, I know not; but Mr. Hunt is, probably, the only poet who could have had the heart to spoil his own Capo d'Ora. With the rest of his young people I have no acquaintance, except through some things of theirs (which have been sent out without my desire,) and I confess that till I had read them I was not aware of the full extent of human absurdity. Like Gar- tuck's "Ode to Shakespeare," they are the very thing, he says, as they defy criticism. These are of the sort of "The Pope." Of course, of the Mr. J. Ketch, he has written some lines against him, of which it were better to be the sub- ject than the author. Mr. Hunt redeems himself by saying, "but the rest of these poor creatures seem so far gone that I would not "march through Coventry with them, that's flat!" were I in Mr. Hunt's place. To be sure, has he led his lambs against the wolves they will be well peppered;' but a system-maker might as well be proselytised when they have really seen life,—when they have felt it,—when they have travelled beyond the far distant boundaries of the wilds of Middlesex,—when they travel in the Alps and the Rhine, and are traced to its sources the Nile of the New River—then, and not till then, can it properly be permitted to them to despise Pope; who had, if not in Wales,
manner and of his disciples, therefore, I will not judge of their manners from their verses. They may be honorable and gentlemanly men, for what I know; but the latter quality is studiously excluded from their publications. They remind me of Mr. Smith and the Miss Broughtons at the Hampstead Assembly, in "Evelina." In these things (in private life, at least), I pretend to some small experience; because, in the course of my youth, I have seen a little of all sorts of society, from the Christian prince and the Mussulman sultan and pacha, and the higher ranks of their countries, down to the London boxer, the "flash and the swell," the Spanish muleteer, the wandering Turkish dervisc, the Scotch highlander, and the Albanian robber,—to say nothing of the curious varieties of Italian social life. Par be it from me to presume that there ever was, or can be such a thing as an aristocracy of poets; but there is a nobility of thought and of style, open to all stations, and derived partly from talent, and partly from education,—which is to be found in Shakespeare, and Pope, and Burns, no less than in Dante and Alfieri, but which is nowhere to be perceived in the mock birds and bards of Mr. Hunt's little chorus. If we were asked to define what this gentlemanliness is, I should say that it is only to be defined by examples,—of those who have it, and those who have it not. In life, I should say that most military men have it, and few novel,—that several men of rank have it, and few lawyers;—that it is more frequent among authors than divines (when they are not pedants); that fencing masters have more of it than dancing-masters, and singers than players; and that (if it be not an Irishism to say so) it is far more generally diffused among women than among men. In poetry, as well as writing in general, it will never make entirely a poet or a poem; but neither poet nor poem will ever be good for any thing without it. It is the salt of society, and the seasoning of composition. Vulgarity is far worse than downright blackguardism; for the latter comprehends wit, humor, and strong sense at times; while the former is a sad abortive attempt at all things, "signifying nothing." It does not depend upon low themes, or even low language, for Fielding reveals in both,—but is he ever vulgar? No. You see the man of education, the gentleman, and the scholar, sporting with his subject,—its master, not its slave. Your vulgar writer is always most vulgar, the higher, his subject; as the man who showed the menagerie at Piccadilly was wont to say,—"This, gentlemen, is the eagle of the sun, from Archangel, in Russia; the otter it is, the sopher he flies." But to the proofs. It is a thing to be felt more than explained. Let any man take up a volume of Mr. Hunt's subordinate writers, read (if possible) a couple of pages, and pronounce for himself, if they contain not the kind of writing which may be likened to "shabby-genteel" in actual life. When he has done this, let him take up Pope,—and when he has laid him down, take up the cockney again—if he can.

NOTE.

[Note referring to some remarks of Mr. Bowles, relative to Pope's upon Lady Mary W. Montague.] I think that I could show, if necessary, that Lady Mary W. Montague was also greatly to blame in that quarrel, not for having rejected, but for having encouraged him: but I would rather decline the task—though she should have remembered her own line, "He comes too near, that comes to be denied." I admire her so much—her beauty, her talents—that I should do this reluctantly. I, besides, am so attached to the very name of Mary, that, as Johnson once said, "If you called a dog Hervey, I should love him," so, if you were to call a female of the same species "Mary," I should love it better than others (biped or quadruped) of the same sex with a different appellation. She was an extraordinary woman; she could translate Epictetus, and yet write song worthy of Aristippus. The lines,

May every fond pleasure that moments endear
Be to thee, dear lady, both delicious and rare!
Forgetting or scorning the airs of the crowd,
He may same to formal, and I be proud,
Till, &c., &c.

There, Mr. Bowles!—what say you to such a supper with such a woman? and her own description too? Is not her "champagne and chicken" worth a forest or two? Is it not poetry? It appears to me that this stanza contains the "pure" of the whole philosophy of Epicurus:—I mean the practical philosophy of his school, not the precepts of the master; for I have been too long at the university not to know that the philosopher was himself a moderate man. But, after all, would not some of us have been as great fools as Pope? For my part, I wonder that, with his quick feelings, her coquetry, and his disappointment, he did no more,—instead of writing some lines, which are to be condemned if false, and regretted if true.
SOME OBSERVATIONS
UPON AN ARTICLE IN BLACKWOOD’S MAGAZINE,
No. XXIX., AUGUST, 1819

"Why, how now, Hector! you look angry."
Macbeth.

TO J. D'ISRAELI, ESQ.,

FIF AMIABLE AND INGENIOUS AUTHOR OF "THE CALAMITIES" AND "QUARRELS OF AUTHORS;"
THIS ADDITIONAL QUARREL AND CALAMITY IS INSCRIBED BY ONE OF THE NUMBER.

Ravena, March 15, 1819.

"The life of a writer" has been said, by Pope, I believe, to be "a warfare upon earth." As far as my own experience has gone, I have nothing to say against the proposition; and, like the rest, having once plunged into this state of hostility, must, however reluctantly, carry it on. An article has appeared in a periodical work, entitled "Remarks on Don Juan," which has been so full of this spirit on the part of the writer, as to require some observations on mine.

In the first place, I am not aware by what right the writer assumes this work, which is anonymous, to be my production. He will answer, that there is internal evidence; that is to say, that there are passages which appear to be written in my name, or in my manner. But might not this have been done on purpose by another? He will say, why not then deny it? To this I could answer, that of all the things attributed to me within the last five years,—Pilgrimages to Jerusalem, Deaths upon Pale Horses, Odes to the Land of the Gaul, Adieux to England, Songs to Madame La Valette, Odes to St. Helena, Vampires, and what not,—of which, God knows, I never composed nor read a syllable beyond their titles in advertisements,—I never thought it worth while to disavow any, except one which came linked with an account of my "residence in the isle of Mitylene," where I never resided, and appeared to be carrying the amusement of those persons, who think my name can be of any use to them, a little too far.

I should hardly, therefore, if I did not take the trouble to disavow these things published in my name, and yet not mine, go out of my way to deny an anonymous work; which might appear an act of supererogation. With regard to Don Juan, I neither deny nor admit it to be mine—every body may form their own opinion; but, if there be any who now, or in the progress of that poem, if it is to be continued, feel, or should feel themselves so aggrieved as to require a more explicit answer, privately and personally they shall have it.

I have never shrunk from the responsibility of what I have written, and have more than once incurred obloquy by neglecting to disavow what was attributed to my pen without foundation.

The greater part, however, of the "Remarks on Don Juan," contain but little on the work itself, which receives an extraordinary portion of praise as a composition. With the exception of some quotations, and a few incidental remarks, the rest of the article is neither more nor less than a personal attack upon the imputed author. It is not the first in the same publication: for I recollect to have read, some time ago, similar remarks upon "Beppo" (said to have been written by a celebrated northern preacher), in which the conclusion drawn was, that "Childe Harold, Byron, and the Count in Beppo, were one and the same person;" thereby making me turn out to be, as Mrs. Malaprop says, "like Cerberus, three gentlemen at once." That article was signed "Presbyter Anglicanus:" which, I presume, being interpreted, means Scotch Presbyterian. I must here observe,—and it is at once ludicrous and vexatious to be compelled so frequently to repeat the same thing,—that my case, as an author, is peculiarly hard, in being everlastingly taken, or mistaken for my own protagonist. It is unjust and particular. I never heard that my friend Moore was set down for a fire-worshipper on account of his Guebre; that Scott was identified with Godrick Dhu, or with Balfour of Burley; or that, notwithstanding all the magicians in Thalaba, any body has ever taken Mr. Southey for a conjuror; whereas I have had some difficulty in extricating me even from Manfred, who, as Mr. Southey boldly observes in one of his articles in the Quarterly, "met the devil on the Jungfrau, and bullied him;" and I answer Mr. Southey, who has apparently, in his poetical life, not been so successful against the great enemy, that, in this, Manfred exactly followed the sacred precept,—"Resist the devil, and he will fly from you."—"I shall have more to say on the subject of this person—not the devil, but his most humble servant Mr. Southey—before I conclude.
but for the present, I must return to the article in the Edinburgh Magazine.

In the course of this article, amidst some extraordinary observations, there occur the following words:—‘It appears, in short, as if this miserable man, having exhausted every species of sensual gratification, was reduced to the most disgusting and bitterest dregs, were resolved to show us that he is no longer a human being even in his frailties,—but a cold, unconcerned fiend, laughing with aデザイン that betrays over the whole the worse elements of which human life is composed.’

In another place there appears, ‘the lurking-place of his selfish and polluted exile.’—‘By my truth, these be bitter words!’—With regard to the first sentence, it is much less indifferently as I would have spoken from Suetonius, or from any of the private memoirs of the regency, conceiving it to be amply refuted by the terms in which it is expressed, and to be utterly inapplicable to any private individual. On the words, ‘lurking-place from me, and I thought that word decent or something more to say,—How far the capital city of a government, which survived the vicissitudes of thirteen hundred years, and might still have existed but for the inane and the unequal of his imitators,—a city which was the empire of Europe, when London and Edinburgh were dens of barbarians,—may be termed a ‘lurking-place,’ I leave to those who have seen or heard of Venice, to decide. For my own part, I may have been ‘polluted,’ it is not for me to say, because the word is a wide one, and, with some of its branches, may chance to overshadow the actions of most men; but that I have been ‘selfish.’ To have done such things I do not deem much: but it is hard indeed to be compelled to recapitulate them in my own defence, by such accusations as that before me, like a panel before a jury calling testimonies to his character, or a herald at the door of an infantor, to charge the person who has made the charge of ‘selfishness’ wishes to inform himself further on the subject, he may acquire, not what he would wish to know, but what will alwayse and shame him, by applying to the Consul-General of our nation, resident in the place, who will be in the case either to confirm or deny what I have asserted.

I neither make nor have ever made, pretensions to sanctity of demeanor, nor regularity of conduct; but my means have been expended principally on my own gratification, neither now nor heretofore, neither in England nor out of it; and it wants but a fact, which is known, to prove it. It was necessary, to call forth the most willing witnesses, and at once witnesses and proofs, in England itself, to show that there are those who have derived, not the least好处 from the selfish and sinless, the means which led them to immediate happiness and ultimate independence, by my want of that very ‘selfishness,’ as grossly and falsely now imputed to my conduct.

Had I seen a selfish man,—had I been, in the worldly sense of the word, even a prudent man,—I should not be where I am:—I should not have taken the step which was then in our power; and I should have sunk as many thousands,—so to speak, of a gulph between me and mine; but in this respect the truth will one day be made known: in the mean time, as Durandarte says, in the Cave of Montesinos, ‘Patience, and shuffle the cards.’

I bitterly feel the ostentation of this statement, the first of the kind I have ever made: I feel the degradation of being compelled to make it; but I also feel its truth, and I trust to feel it on my death bed, should the whole history of my selfishness be made public. I find my selfishness, quite as the less sensible of the egotism of all this; but, alas! who have made me thus egotistical in my own defence, if not they, who, by perversely persisting in referring fiction to truth, and tracing poetry to life, and regarding characters of imagination as creatures of existence, have made me personally responsible for almost every poetical delineation which fancy and a particular bias of thought, may have tended to produce?

The writer continues:—‘Those who are acquainted, as who is not? with the main incidents of the private life of Lord B., &c. Assuredly, whoever may be acquainted with these “main incidents,” the writer of the “Remarks on Don Juan” is not, or he would use a very different language. That which I believe he alludes to as a “main incident,” happened to be a very subordinate one, and is but the name of the nation of a conspiracy, or an account of events and circumstances long prior to the period at which it occurred. It is the last drop which makes the cup run over, and mine was already full.

But, to return to Don Juan, Lord B. of “an elaborate satire on the character and manners of his wife.” From what parts of Don Juan the writer has inferred this, he himself best knows. As far as I recollect of the female characters in that production, there is but one who is depicted in ridiculous colors, or that could be interpreted as a satire upon any body. But here my poetical sins are again visited upon me, supposing that it was there that the mountain was sung over, the misanthrope, a libertine, a chief of insurgents, or an infidel, he is set down to the author; and if, in a poem by no means ascertained to be my production, there appears a disagreeable, casuistical, and by no means respectable female parent, it is set down for my wife. Is there any resemblance? If there be, it is in those who make it. I can see none. In my writings I have rarely described any character under a fictitious name: those of whom I have spoken have had their own,—in many cases a stronger satire in itself than any which could be appended to it. But of real circumstances I have availed myself plentifully, both in the serious and the ludicrous—why should I say both? as they are quite indistinguishable in this instance; but my figures are not portraits. It may have happened, that I have seized on some events that have occurred under my own observation, or in my own family, as I would paint a view from my own eyes, did it harmonize with my picture; but I never would introduce the likenesses of its living members, unless their features could be made as favorable to themselves as to the effect; which, in the above instance, would be extremely difficult.

My learned brother proceeds to observe, that “it is in vain for Lord B. to attempt in any way to justify his own behavior in that affair, and now that he has so openly and audaciously invited in inquiry and reproach, we do not see any good reason, why he should not be clearly told so by the voice of his countrymen. How far the ‘openness of an apology,’” he says, “cannot be concealed from an ignominious character, which the writer supposes to be meant for Lady B., may be deemed to merit this formidable denunciation from their ‘most sweet and eloquent voices,’” he knows nor cares; he cannot “in any way justify my own behavior in that affair,” I acquiesce, because no man can “justify” himself until he knows of what he is accused; and I have never had— and, God knows, I have had every hope to obtain—any specific charge, in a tangible shape, submitted to me by the adversary, nor by others, unless the atrocities of public rumor and the mysterious silence
the lady's legal advisers may be deemed such. But is not the writer content with what has been already said and done? Has not "the general voice of his countrymen" long ago pronounced upon the subject a sentence without trial, and condemnation without intervention, as a clergyman and a political exile? ostracism, except that the shells which proscribed me were anonymous? Is the writer ignorant of the public opinion and the public conduct upon that occasion? If he is, I shall be inclined to believe this will not be long before I shall cease to remember either.

The man who is exiled by a faction has the conclusion of thinking that he is a martyr; he is unjustly and wantonly deprived of the dignity of his cause, real or imaginary: he who withdraws from the pressure of rue may indulge in the thought that time and chance will retrieve his circumstances: he who is condemned by the law, has a term to his banishment, or a dream of its abbreviation; or, it may be, the knowledge or the belief of some injustice of the law, or of its administration in his own particular, but he who is outlawed by general opinion, without the pressure of law, without belief in judging in the dark, or embarrassed circumstances, whether he be innocent or guilty, must undergo all the bitterness of exile, without hope, without pride, without alleviation. And a man whose appeal to the public founded their opinion, I am not aware; but it was general, and it was decisive. Of me or of mine they knew little, except that I had written what is called poetry, was a nobleman, had married, became a father, and was involved in differences with my wife and her relatives, no one knew why, because the persons complaining refused to state their grievances. The fashionable world was divided in every monarchical vice by public rumor and privateity: the reasonable world was naturally on the stronger side, which happened to be the lady's, as was most proper and polite. The press was active and sordid; and such was the rage of the day, that the unfortunate publication of two copies of verses, rather complimentary than otherwise to the subjects of both, was tortured into a species of crime, or constructive petty treason. I was accused of every monstrous vice by public rumor and privateity: my name, which had been a knightly or a noble one since my fathers helped to conquer the kingdom for William the Norman, was tainted. I felt that, if what was whispered, and muttered, and murmured, was true, and if the prepossessions of this country, or this England were false, England was unfit for me. I withdrew: but this was not enough. In other countries, in Switzerland, in the shadow of the Alps, and by the blue depths of the lakes, I was pursued and breathed upon by the same blight. I crossed the mountains, but it was the same; so I went a little farther, and settled myself by the waves of the Adriatic, like the stag at bay, who betakes him to the waters.

If I may judge by the statements of the few friends who gathered round me, the outcry of the periody to which I allude was beyond all precedent, all parallel, even in those cases where political motives have sharpened on the point and doubled on the edge, and I advised not to go to the theatres, lest I should be hissed, nor to my duty in parliament, lest I should be insulted by the way; even on the day of my departure, my most intimate friend told me afterwards, that he was under apprehensions of violence from the people who might be assembled at the door of the carriage. However, I was not deterred by these counsels from seeing Kean in his heroic part, and in the dress and acting of a great man. I paid my respects to the players, and to the impresario, and I parted with the French actors with a great degree of extreme satisfaction. I understand, however, that having been much hurt by Romilly's conduct, (he, having a general retainer for me, had acted as adviser to the adversary, alleging, on being reminded of his retainer, that he had forgotten it, as his clerk had so many,) I observed that some of those who were new: I never thought that there was one—but it was not of my formation, nor did I then know of its existence—none in literature; and in politics I had voted with the whigs, with precise satisfaction that that important vote possessed in these Tory days, and with such personal acquaintance with the leaders in both houses as the society in which I lived sanctioned, but without claim or expectation of any thing like friendship from any one, except a few young men of my own age and standing, and a few others more advanced in life, which last it had been my fortune to serve in cir cumstances of difficulty. This was, in fact, to stand alone; and I recollect, some time after, Madame de Staël said to me in Switzerland, "You should not have warred with the world—it will not do—it is too strong always for any individual: I myself once tried it in early life, but it will not do." I perfectly understood her, and I have always been of the same opinion. I have been on the right side of the world had done me the honor to begin the war; and, assuredly, if peace is only to be obtained by court ing and paying tribute to it, I am not qualified to obtain its countenance. I thought, in the words of Campbell,

I recollect, however, that, having been much hurt by Romilly's conduct, (he, having a general retainer for me, had acted as adviser to the adversary, alleging, on being reminded of his retainer, that he had forgotten it, as his clerk had so many,) I observed that some of those who were new: I never thought that there was one—but it was not of my formation, nor did I then know of its existence—none in literature; and in politics I had voted with the whigs, with precise satisfaction that that important vote possessed in these Tory days, and with such personal acquaintance with the leaders in both houses as the society in which I lived sanctioned, but without claim or expectation of any thing like friendship from any one, except a few young men of my own age and standing, and a few others more advanced in life, which last it had been my fortune to serve in cir cumstances of difficulty. This was, in fact, to stand alone; and I recollect, some time after, Madame de Staël said to me in Switzerland, "You should not have warred with the world—it will not do—it is too strong always for any individual: I myself once tried it in early life, but it will not do." I perfectly understood her, and I have always been of the same opinion. I have been on the right side of the world had done me the honor to begin the war; and, assuredly, if peace is only to be obtained by court ing and paying tribute to it, I am not qualified to obtain its countenance. I thought, in the words of Campbell,
BYRON'S WORKS.

her own feelings; for whatever her reason may have been (and she never abducted them to my least), she probably neither contemplated nor conceived to what she became the means of conducting the father of her child, and the husband of her choice.

So much for "the general voice of his countrymen:" I will now speak of some in particular.

In the beginning of the year 1817, an article appeared in the Quarterly Review, written, I believe, by a great friend of his, and the companion of his banquets, and who disgraced to me, though both poetically and personally more than sufficiently favorable to the work and the author of whom it treated. It was written at a time when a selfish man would not, and a timid one dared not, call to account either of either. It was written by one to whom temporary public opinion had elevated me to the rank of a rival—a proud distinction, and solemnized; but which has not prevented me from feeling as a friend, nor him from more than corresponding to that sentiment.

The article in question was written upon the third canto of Childe Harold; and after many observations, which I could not but feel inclined to forget, concluded with "a hope that I might yet return to England." How this expression was received in England itself I am not acquainted, but it gave great offence at Rome to the respectable ten or twelve English travelers then assembled. I did not visit Rome till some time after, so that I had no opportunity of knowing the fact; but I was informed, long afterwards, that the greatest indignation had been manifested in the enlightened Ango-circle of that year, which happened to comprise within it—amidst a considerable leaven of Welbeck street and Devonshire Place, broken loose upon their travels—several really well-born, well-bred, and sensible people, not the least participate in the feeling of the hour. "Why should he return to England?" was the general exclamation—"I answer why? It is a question I have occasionally asked myself, and I never yet could give it a satisfactory reply. I had then no thoughts of returning, and if I have any now, they are of business, and not of pleasure. Amidst the ties that have been dashed to pieces, there are links yet entire, though the chain itself be broken. There are duties, and connections, which may one day require my presence—and I am a father. I have still some friends whom I wish to meet again, and it may be; The thing is one of those minute and tender details of business, which time accumulates during absence, in every man's affairs and property, may, and probably will, recall me to England; but I shall return with the same feelings with which I left it, in respect to myself, though altered with regard to individuals, as I have been more or less informed of their conduct since my departure; for it was only a considerable time after it that I was made acquainted with the real facts and full extent of some of their proceedings and language. My friends, like other friends, from conciliatory motives, withheld from me much that they could, and some things which they did not think fit to unfold; however, even the thing which was deferred is not lost—but it has been no fault of mine that it has been deferred at all.

I have alluded to what is said to have passed at Bologna; I only show that this sentiment which has described was not confined to the English in England, and as forming part of my answer to the reproach cast upon what has been called my "selfish exaltation," the great name of Mary, it has been; for who would dwell among a people entertaining strong hostility against him? How far it has been "selfish" has been already explained.

I have now arrived at a passage describing me as having vented my spleen against the lofty-minded and virtuous men," men "whose virtues few indeed can equal;" meaning, I humbly presume, the no less virtuous triumphs of the known parts of the Poets" in their aggregate capacity, and by Southey Wordsworth, and Coleridge, when taken singly. I wish to say a word or two upon the virtues of one of those persons, public and private, for reasons which will appear.

When I left England in April, 1816, ill in mind, in body, and in circumstances, I took up my residence at Coligny, by the lake of Geneva. The sole reason, as it will appear, was the knowing some one who had to make his way in the world, and having seen very little of it, was naturally and laboriously desirous of seeing more society than suited my present habits or my past experience. I therefore presented him to those gentlemen of Geneva for whom I had letters of introduction; and having thus seen him in a situation to make his own way, retired for my own part entirely from society, with the exception of one English family, living at about a quarter of a mile's distance from Diodati, and with the further exception of some occasional intercourse with Coppet, at the wish of Madame de Staël. The English family to which I allude consisted of two sisters, a gentleman and his son, a boy of a year old.

One of "these lofty-minded and virtuous men," in the words of the Edinburgh Magazine, made, I understand, a report, that the gentleman to whom I have alluded and myself were living in promiscuous intercourse with two sisters, "having formed a league of inest" (I quote the words as they were stated to me), and indulged himself on the natural comments upon such a conjunction, which are said to have been repeated publicly, with great complacency, by another of that poetical fraternity, of whom I shall say only, that even had the story been true, he should not have repeated it, so as it regarded myself, except in sorrow. The tale itself requires but a word in answer—the ladies were not sisters, nor in any degree connected, except by the second marriage of their respective parents, a widower with a widow, both being the offspring of former marriages; neither of them, in 1816, nineteen years old. "Promiscuous intercourse" could hardly have disgusted the great patron of pantisocracy, (does Mr. Southey remember such a scheme?) but there was no such thing.

How far this man, who, as author of Wat Tyler, has been proclaimed by the Lord Chancellor guilty of a treasonable and blasphemous libel, and denounced by the House of Commons, by the upright and able member for Norwich, as a "rancorous renegade," be fit for sitting as a judge upon others, let others judge. He has said that for this expression "he brands William Smith on the forehead as a calumniator," and that "Be mark without his epitaph." How long William Smith's epitaph will last, and in what words it will be written, I know not; but William Smith's words form the epitaph itself of Wat Tyler, and have written Wat Tyler, and taken the office of poet laureate—he has, in the Life of Henry Kirke White, denominated reviewing "the ungentle craft," and has become a reviewer—he was one of the projectors of a scheme, called "pantisocracy," for having all things, including women, in common, (query, common women?) and he sits up as a moralist—he denounced the battle of Blenheim, and he praised the battle of Waterloo. Wat Tyler, the Volunteer, who tried to blast the character of her daughter (one of the young females mentioned) he wrote treason, and serves the king—he was the butt of the Anti-Jacobins, he left the prop of the State, by licking the hands that smote him, eating the bread.
of his enemies, and internally writhing beneath his own contempt,—he would faint conceal, under anonymous buster, and a vain endeavor to obtain the estimation of bookseller; but ever for his own lost honor, his leprous sense of his own impurity, and am praised by my mother, from the kings who preceded those whom he has hired himself to sing. It cannot, then, be his birth. As a poet, I have, for the past eight years, been trying to apprehend from a competition; and for the future, I conclude, I am open to every poet's creed," is open to all. I will only remind Mr. Southey, in the words of a critic, who, if still living, would have annihilated Southey's literary existence now and hereafter, as the sworn foe of charlatans and impostors, from Macpherson downwards, that "those dreams were Selkirk's once and Ogilby's;" and for my own part, I assure him, that whatever he and his works are remembered, I shall be proud to be "forgot." That he is not content with his success as a poet may reasonably be believed—he has been the nuncio of reviews; the Edinburgh knocked him down, and the Quarterly et al. He has really used himself; he has crossed the pericline, and made a point of recommending his works to purchasers, so that he is occasionally bought, (I mean his book, as well as the author.) Southey has been of the same shelf, if not upon the table, of most of the gentlemen employed in the different offices. With regard to his private virtues, I know nothing—of his principles, I have heard enough. As far as having been, to the best of my power, beneficial to others, I do not find the comparison; and for the errors of the passions, was Mr. Southey always so tranquil and stainless? Did he never covet his neighbor's wife? Did he never calculate for his neighbor's wife's daughter, the offspring of her he coveted? So much for the apostle of pantocracy.

Of the "lofty-minded, virtuous" Wordsworth, one anecdote will suffice to speak his sincerity. In a conversation with Mr. — upon poetry, he concluded with, "After all, I would not give five shilling for all that Southey has ever written." Perhaps this calculation might rather show his esteem for his own value, than the value of Dr. Southey; but considering that when he was in his need, and Southey had a shilling, Wordsworth is said to have had generally a sixpence out of it, it has an awkward sound in the way of valuation. This anecdote was told me by individuals who, quoted by name, would prove that its genealogy is poetical as well as true. I can give my authority for this; and am ready to adduce it also for Mr. Southey's circulation of the falsehood before mentioned.

Of Coleridge, I shall say nothing,—why, he may divine.

I have said more of those people than I intended in this place, being somewhat stirred by the remarks which induced me to commence upon the topic. I see nothing in these men as poets, or as individuals—little in their talents, and less in their characters, to make them worth the commendation of posterity. Of the post-eminent critics, they are admirable for their considerable contempt, in prose or rhyme, as it may happen. Mr. Southey has the Quarterly for his field of rejoinder, and Mr. Wordsworth his postscript to it, as in Lyall's, where the two great instances of the sublime are taken from himself and Milton. "Over her own sweet voice the stock-dove broods;" that is to say, she has the pleasure of listening to herself, in common with Mr. Wordsworth, upon most of his public appearances. "What divinity doth hedge' these persons, that we should respect them? Is it Apollo? Are they not of those who called Dryden's Ode "a drunken song?" have discovered that Gray's Elegy is full of faults, (see Coleridge's Life, vol. i. 8s e, for Wordsworth's kind less in pointing to's out to him,) and have published what is allowed to be the very worst prose that ever was written, to prove that Pope was no poet, and that William Wordsworth, in other topics, they respectable, or respected? Is it on the open avowal of apostasy, on the patronage of government, that their claim is founded? Who is there who esteems those parriades of their own principles, and finds they mean it for the reward of their change has been any thing but honor. The times have preserved a respect for political consistency, and, even though changeable, honor the unchanged. Look long ere Southey meets with such a triumph in London as Moore met with in Dublin, even if the government subscribe for it, and set the money down to secret service. It was not less to the man than to the poet, that was not a patriot, to the not opulent but incorruptible fellow-citizen, that the warm-hearted Irish paid the proudest of tributes. Mr. Southey may applaud himself and his works, but he need not be terrified at the approach of every poet's creed."

"The Love of Triangles," the joint production of Avevant, Cattell and Penn.
Malmsey batt, and Mr. Wordsworth* became qualified to guage it, that the great revolutionary tragedy came before the public and the Court of Chancery. Wordsworth was allowed the privilege of brooding a preface, to be succeeded in due course by a postscript; both couched in such prose as must give peculiar delight to those who have read the prefaces of Pope and Dryden; scarcely less celebrated for the beauty of their prose, than for the charm of their verse. Wordsworth is the reverse of Mollière's gentleman who had been "talking prose all his life, without knowing it," for he thinks that he has "come at last to thinking both prose and verse, and neither of what he conceives to be such can be properly said to be either one or the other. Mr. Coleridge, the future sages, poet and prose, and poet and prose, (an honor also claimed by Mr. Fitzgerald, of the "Rejected Addresses") who ultimately prophesied the downfall of Bonaparte, to which he himself mainly contributed, by giving him the nickname of "the Coriolan," was then employed in predicating the damnation of Mr. Pitt, and the desolation of England, in the two very best copies of verses he ever wrote: to wit, the Infernal elegy of "Fire, Funime, and the Iliad," and the poetical one of "A Dream Yea." These three personages, Southey, Wordsworth, and Coleridge, had all of them a very natural antipathy to Pope, and I respect them for it, as the only logical feeling or principle which they have contrived to have been joined in by those who have joined them in nothing else: by the Edinburgh Reviewers, by the whole heterogeneous mass of living English poets, excepting Crabbe, Rogers, Gifford, and Campbell, who, both by precept and practice, have proved their adherence; and by me, who have shamefully deviated in practice, but have ever loved and honored Pope with my whole soul, and hope to do so till my dying day. I would rather see all I have ever written the same trunk in which I actually read the eleventh book of a modern epic poem at Malta, in 1811, (I opened it to take out a change after the paroxysm of a tertian, in the absence of my servant, and found it lined with the name of the maker, Eyre, Cockspur street, and with the epic poetry alluded to,) than sacrifice what I firmly believe in, that the Christianity of English poetry, the poetry of Pope. But the Edinburgh Reviewers, and the Lakers, and Hunt and his school, and every body else with their school, and even Moore without a score of distinct and elderly gentlemen who translate and imitate, and young ladies who listen and repeat, baronets who draw indifferent frontispieces for bad poets, and noblemen who let them down with them in the country, the small body of the wits and the great body of the blues, have latterly united in a deprecation, of which their fathers would have been as much ashamed as their children will be. In the mean time, what have we got instead? The last school, which began with an epic poem, written in six weeks, (so Joan of Arc proclaimed herself,) and finished with a ballad composed in twenty years, as "The Smugglers," has engaged all their forces to inform the few who will inquire. What have we got instead? A deluge of flimsy and unintelligible romances, imitated from Scott and myself, who have both made the best of our bad materials and erroneous system, which we got into our heads, were neither an epic nor any thing else; Thalaba, Kehama, Gebir, and such gibberish, written in all metres and in no language. Hunt, who had power to have made "the Story of Rimini" as perfect a fable of Job, had the best genius and his taste to some unintelligible notions of Wordsworth, which I defy him to explain. Moore has — but why continue? All, with the exception of the Baroness Gaskell — who may be considered as having taken their station, will, by the blessing of God, survive their own reputation, without attaining any very extraordinary period of longevity. Of course there must be a still further decrease, and novel having never obtained any reputation at all, unless it be among provincial literati, and their own families, have none to lose; and of Moore, who, as the Burns of Ireland, possesses a fame which can not be lost.

The greater part of the poets mentioned, however, have been able to gather together a few followers. A paper of the Connoisseur says, that "it is observed by the French, that a cat, a priest, and an old woman are sufficient to constitute a religious sect in England." The same number of animals, with a difference in kind, will suffice for a similar purpose, if poetical ones, instead of the cat, having shown himself but too distinctly to be an object to which that noble creature is peculiarly hostile.

Nevertheless, I will not go so far as Wordsworth in his postscript, who pretends that "no great poet ever had immediate fame; which being interpreted, means that William Wordsworth is not quite so much read by his cotemporaries as might be desirable. This assertion is as false as it is foolish. Homer's glory is due to his present popularity: he recited,—and without the strongest impression of the moment, who would have gotten the Iliad by heart, and given it to tradition? Ennins, Terence, Plautus, Lucretius Horace, Virgil, Eschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Sappho, Anacreon, Theocritus, all the great poets of antiquity, were the delight of their cotemporaries. The very existence of a poet, previous to the invention of printing, depended upon his present popularity; and how often has it impaired his future fame? Hardly ever. History informs us that the best have come down to us. The reason is evident; the most popular found the greatest number of transcribers for their works, the most public cotemporaries was corrupt can hardly be avouched by the moderns, the mightiest of whom have but barely approached them. Dante, Petrarch, Ariosto, and Tasso, were all the darlings of the cotemporary reader. Dante's poem was celebrated long before his death: and, not long after it, states negotiated for his ashes, and disputed for the sites of the composition of the Divina Commedia. Petrarch was crowned in the Capitol. Ariosto was permitted to pass free by the public robber who had read the Orlando Furioso. I would not recommend Mr. Wordsworth to try the same experiment with his Smugglers. The great discredits of the criticisms of the Crusatcni, would have been crowned in the Capitol, but for his death.

It is easy to prove the immediate popularity of the chief poets of modern nation in Europe that has a poetical language—the Italian. In our own, Shakespeare, Spencer, Johnson, Waller, Dryden, Congreve, Pope, Young, Shenstone, Thomson, Johnson, Goldsmith, Gray, were all as popular in their lives as since Gray's Elegy pleased instantly, and eternally. His Odes did not, nor yet do they please like his Elegy. Milton's politics kept him down. But the Epigram of Dryden,* and the very

* Goldsmith has anticipated the definition of the Lake poetry, as far as change of name is concerned. He calls it the "Lakers," from the lake which they all Moralized to the Exe, and the usual see his pedlar? It will have answered perfectly for that purpose, but a uno unfortunately not written in good English.
OBSERVATIONS UPON AN ARTICLE IN BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.

In Blackwood's Magazine, by Mr. Hoole, the author of "Poetry," and "The Character of Pope," the following is printed.

"I have understood, that the late Mr. Horace Walpole was great-

er in the first four years after its publication, than that of "The Excursion." If you search for passion, where is it to be found stronger than in the epistle from Eloisa to Abelard, or in Palamon and Arcite? Do not, then, say, "I will for my imagination, subtlety, character? seek them in the Rape of the Lock, the Fables of Dryden, the Ode of Saint Cecilia's Day, and Absalom and Achitophel; you will discover in those two poems, all for which you must range up innumerable, and God only knows how many writers of the day, without finding a tittle of the same qualities,—with the ad-

dition, too, of wit, of which the latter have none. I have endeavored to vindicate the names of Brown the Younger, the Fudge Family, or Whistler's; but that is not wit—it is humor. I will say nothing of the harmony of Pope and Dryden in comparison, for there is not a living poet (except Rogers, Giff-

ford, Campbell, and Crabbe), who can write an heroic couplet. The fact is, that the exquisite beauty of their versification has withdrawn the public attention from their other excellences, as the vulgar eye will rest more upon the splendor of the uniform than the quality of the troops. It is this very harmony, particularly in Pope, which has raised the vulgar and atrocious cant against him;—because his versification is perfect, it is his only perfection: because his truths are so clear, it is asserted that he has no invention; and because he is always intelligible, it is taken for granted that he has no genius. We are sneeringly told that he is the 'authoritative writer, without reason, who has a reason for his being no poet.'

Taking passage for passage, I will undertake to cite more lines teeming with imagination from Pope than from any two living poets, be they who they may. To take an instance at random from a species of composition not very favorable to imagination—Satire: set down the character of Sporus, with all the wonderful play of fancy which is scattered over it, and you see by its side an example of two existing poets, of the same power, and the same variety—where will you find them?

I merely mention one instance of many in reply to the injustice done to the memory of him who harmonized our poetical language. The attorneys' clerks, and other self-educated geni, found it easier to distort themselves to the new models, than to tell after the symmetry of him who had enchanted the world by being told that the new school were to revive the language of Queen Elizabeth, the true English: as every body in the reign of Queen Anne wrote no better than French, by a species of literary treason.

'* Let Sporus amble—A. What? that thing of our Sporus, that mere white coat of sam's smite?  
Satire in error, since I can Sporus feel!  
Who ignites a butterfly upon a wheel!  
P. Yet let me flag this bug with golden wings,  
This painted child of dirt, that sings and swats  
Whose face is the grin and the dim comets,  
You wit never taste, and beauty never supply,  
So well-backed soiled and slightly scolded  
In muddling of the game they dare not bite  
Erected under his episcopal breezy hat.  
As shallow swarms run stuffing all the way.  
Whatever in Your bosom he speaks,  
And, in the proper measure, the popet apostate,  
Or at the roar of Eve, familiar loud,  
Half truths, half evens, make himself absurd  
In press, in politics, or town, or sea,  
Or spirit, or wit, or rhymes, or blasphemies,  
His wit all see-seen between that and this,  
Not with poetic law, now present, now new laws,  
And he himself one vile asterisms.  
Ambitious thing that must sitting ever part,  
That with all that, or the corrupted heart.  
For as the toats, flatterer at the board,  
Now trip it lucky, and now stairs a lord.  
Everywhere, and that the Holdsden has spread,  
A chee's face, a rope all the rest,  
 Rwanda that speaks to pure, pure nor must there,  
With it can creep, and spite that likes that thing.  
Proe, in oO.
BLANK VERSE, WHICH, UNLESS IN THE DRAMA, NO ONE EXCEPT MILTON EVER WROTE WHO COULD RHYME, BECAUSE THE ORDER OF THE DAY—OR ELSE SUCH RHYME AS LOOKED SO STRANGE TO THE VERSE WITHOUT A RHYME—HAS SAID HE COULD NOT "PREVAIL UPON HIMSELF TO WISH THAT MILTON HAD BEEN A RHYMER." THE OPINIONS OF THAT TRULY GREAT MAN, WHOM IT IS ALSO THE PRESENT FASHION TO DECRY, WILL EVER BE RECEIVED BY ME WITH THAT RESPECT WHICH TIME WILL RESTORE TO HIM FROM ALL, BUT WITH ALL HUMILITY, I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT THE PARADISE LOST WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE NOBLY CONVEYED TO THE_public CONSCIOUS, NOT PERHAPS MORE COMPLICATED, ALTHOUGH EVEN THEY COULD SUSTAIN THE SUBJECT IF WELL BALANCED, BUT IN THE STANZA OF SPENCER OR OF TASSO, OR IN THE TERZA RIMA OF DANTE, WHICH THE POWERS OF MILTON COULD EASILY HAVE GRAVED ON OUR LANGUAGE. THE SEASONS OF THOMSON WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IN VERSE, ALTHOUGH STILL INFERIOR TO HIS CASTLE OF INDOLENCE; AND Mr. SOUTHEY'S JOHN OF ARC NO WORSE, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN SIX MONTHS INSTEAD OF WEEKS IN THE COMPOSITION. I RECOMMEND ALSO TO THE LOVERS OF LAY THE PERUSAL OF THE PRESENT LAUREATE'S ODYSSEY BY THE SIDE OF DRYDEN'S ON SAINT CEILLIA, BUT LET HIM BE SURE TO READ FIRST THOSE OF MR. SOUTHEY.

TO THE HEAVEN-BORN GENIUS AND INSPIRED YOUNG SCRIBERALS OF THE DAY MUCH OF THIS WILL APPEAR PARADOXICAL; IT WILL APPEAR SO EVEN TO THE HIGHER ORDER OF OUR CRITICS; BUT IT WAS TRULY TWENTY YEARS AGO, AND IT WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE NEW TRUTH OF TEN YEARS. IN THE MEAN TIME, I WILL CONCLUDE WITH TWO QUOTATIONS, WHICH INTENDED FOR SOME OF MY OLD CLASSICAL FRIENDS WHO HAVE STILL ENOUGH OF CUMBRIAN ABOUT THEM TO THINK THEMSELVES INSPIRED BY HAVING HAD JOHN DRYDEN AS A PREDECESSOR IN THEIR COLLEGE, AND TO RECOLLECT THAT THEIR EARLIEST ENGLISH POETICAL PLEASURES WERE DRAWN FROM THE "LITTLE NIGHTINGALE" OF TWICKENHAM. THE FIRST IS FROM THE NOTES TO THE POEM OF THE "SPOONFUL." THE SECOND IS FROM THE VOLUME OF A YOUNG PERSON LEARNING TO WRITE POETRY, AND BEGINNING BY TEACHING THE ART. HEAR HIM: •

"BUT YE WERE DEAD
To things ye knew not of—were clearly dead
To mean laws lived out with wonted rule
And compass wise; so that ye taught a school,
Of dole to smooth, i.e., to, and ship, and she, and she,
Yet, oye the certain wand of Jenucia's wife,
Their verse alluded. Essay was the task:
A thousand habitations were the mask
Of poesy, Halian, impious race,
That disdained the bright lyric to his face,

1. Written by Lord Byron's early friend, the Rev. Francis Hodgson.
2. In a manuscript note on this passage of the pamphlet, dated Nov. 15, 1817, Lord Byron says—"Mr. Keats died at the age of 18, a year after this was written, of a disease proximately caused by his having burnt a thistle-vessel in reading the article on his 'Endymion' in the Quarterly Review. I have read the article before and since; and although it is bitter, I do not think that man should be permitted to be killed by a young man's dreams. He must inevitably die as the cause of a life amusement of public notice. My indignation at Mr. Keats's depreciation of Pope has usually prevented me to do justice to his own genius, which, most marvelously fantastic Hyperion of his style, was ungodly of great promise. His fragment of 'Hyperion' seems actually inspired by the Thane, and is so sublime as to be sublime in its own genus, which, most marvelously fantastic Hyperion of his style, was ungodly of great promise.

3. A thousand similar passages crowd upon me, all compiled by Pope unless his two and two-thirds in verse is in question, then he is not a poet, and no poet. He is told so in such lines as—"I beg the reader to compare these youthful verses of the "no poet." Most we repeat the question of Johnson. If Pope is not a poet, where is poetry to be found? Even in desperted poetry, the lowest department of the art, he will be found, on a fair examination, to surprise any living writer.
ominous title,) from whence the above canons are taken. Pope's was written at nineteen, and published at twenty-two.

Such are the triumphs of the new schools, and such their scholars. The disciples of Pope were Johnson, Goldsmith, Rogers, Campbell, Crabbe, Gifford, Matthias, Hales, and the author of the Paradise of Coquettes; to whom may be added Richards, Heber, Wrangham, Bland, Hodgeson, Merivale, and others who have not had their full fame, because "the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong," and because there is a fortune in fame as in all other things. Now, of all the new schools—I say all, for, "like Legion, they are many"—has there appeared a single scholar who has not made his master ashamed of him? unless it be Sotheby, who has imitated every body, and occasionally surpassed his models. Scott found peculiar favor and imitation among the fair sex: there was Miss Holford, and Miss Mitford, and Miss Francis; but, with the greatest respect be it spoken, none of his imitators did much honor to the original, except Hogg, the Ettrick shepherd, until the appearance of "The Bridal of Triermain," and "Harold the Dauntless," which in the opinion of some equalled if not surpassed him; and lo! after three or four years they turned out to be the Master's own compositions. Have Southey, or Coleridge, or T'other fellow, made a follower of renown? Wilson never did well till he set up for himself in the "City of the Plague." Has Moore, or any other living writer of reputation, had a tolerable imitator, or rather disciple? Now, it is remarkable, that almost all the followers of Pope, whom I have named, have produced beautiful and standard works, and it was not the number of his imitators who finally hurt his fame, but the despair of imitation, and the case of not imitating him sufficiently. This, and the same reason which induced the Athenian burgher to vote for the banishment of Aristides, "because he was tired of always hearing him called the Just," have produced the temporary exile of Pope from the State of Literature. But the term of his ostracism will expire, and the sooner the better, not for him, but for those who banished him, and for the coming generation, who

"Will blush to find their fathers were his foes."

I will now return to the writer of the article which has drawn forth these remarks, whom I honestly take to be John Wilson, a man of great powers and acquirements, well known to the public as the author of the "City of the Plague," "Isle of Palms," and other productions. I take the liberty of naming him, by the same species of courtesy which has induced him to designate me as the author of Don Juan. Upon the score of the Lake Poets, he may perhaps recall to mind that I merely express an opinion long ago entertained and specified in a letter to Mr. James Hogg, which he the said James Hogg, somewhat contrary to the law of copyists, showed to Mr. John Wilson, in the year 1814, as he himself informed me in his answer, telling me by way of apology, that "he'd be d— if he could help it;" and I am not conscious of any thing like "envy" or "exacerbation" at this moment which induces me to think better or worse of Southey, Wordsworth, and Coleridge as poets than I do now, although I do know one or two things more which have added to my contempt for them as individuals. And, in return for Mr. Wilson's invective, I shall content myself with asking one question: Did he never compose, recite, or sing any parody or parodies upon the Psalms (of what nature this deponent with not), in certain joyful meetings of the youth of Edinburgh? It is not that I think any great harm if he did; because it seems to me that all depends upon the intention of such a parody. If it be meant to throw ridicule on the sacred original, it is a sin; if it be intended to burlesque the profane subject, or to inculcate a moral truth, it is none. If it were, the unbelievers' Creed, the many political parodies of various parts of the Scriptures and liturgy, particularly a celebrated one of the Lord's Prayer, and the beautiful moral parable in favor of toleration by Franklin, which has often been taken for a real extract from Genesis, would all be signs of a damning nature. But I wish to know, if Mr. Wilson ever has done this, and if he has, why he should be so very angry with similar portions of Don Juan—I did no "parody profane" appear in any of the earlier numbers of Blackwood's Magazine?

I will now conclude this long answer to a short article, repenting of having said so much in my own defence, and so little on the "crying, left-hand fallings off and national deflections" of the poetry of the present day. Having said this, I can hardly be expected to defend Don Juan, or any other "living" poetry, and shall not make the attempt. And although I do not think that Mr. John Wilson has in this instance treated me with candor or consideration, I trust that the tone I have used in speaking of him personally will prove that I bear him as little malice as I really believe at the bottom of his heart he bears towards me; but the duties of an editor, like those of a tax-gatherer, are paramount and peremptory. I have done.

YRON.
In the first canto of Don Juan appeared the following passage:

"For fear some prudish readers should grow sillish, I've bribed My Grandmother's Review,—the British!

I sent it in a letter to the editor, Who thanked me daily by return of post—I'm for a handsome article his creditor; Yet if my gentle Muse he please to rest, And break a promise after having made it, I'll show the receipt of what I owe, And since his page with gold instead of honey, All I can say is—that he had the money."

On the appearance of the poem, the learned editor of the Review in question allowed himself to be deceived into the ineffable absurdity of taking the charge as serious, and, in his succeeding numbers, came forth with an indignant contradiction of it: to which Lord Byron replied in the following letter:

"My Dear Roberts,

"As a believer in the Church of England—to say nothing of the State—I have been an occasional reader, and great admirer of, though not a subscriber to, your Review, which is rather expensive. But I do not know that any part of its contents ever gave me much surprise till the eleventh article of your twenty-seventh number made its appearance. You have there most vigorously refuted a calumnious accusation of bribery and corruption, the credence of which in the public mind might not only have damaged your reputation as a barrister and an editor, but, what would have been still worse, have injured the circulation of your journal; which, I regret to hear, is not so extensive as the purity (as you well observe) of its, &c., &c., and the present taste for propriety would induce us to expect. The charge itself is of a solemn nature, and, although in verse, is couched in terms of such circumstantial gravity, as to induce a belief little short of that generally accorded to the thirty-nine articles, to which you so frankly subscribed on taking your degrees. It is a charge the most revolting to the heart of man, from its frequent occurrence; to the mind of a lawyer, from its occasional truth; and to the soul of an editor, from its moral impossibility. You are charged, then, in the last line of one octave stanza, and the whole eight lines of the next, viz., two hundred and ninth and two hundred and tenth of the first canto of Dr. a pestilent poet, Don Juan, with receiving, and still more foolishly acknowledging the receipt of certain monies, to eulogize the unknown author by whom this count must be known to you, if to nobody else. An impecuniosity of this nature, so seriously made, there is but one way of refuting; and it is my firm persuasion, that whether you did or did not (and I believe that you did), you are accused of the said monies, of which I wish that he had specified the sum, you are quite right in denying a knowledge of the transaction. If charges of this nefarious description are to go forth sanctioned by all the solemnity of circumstance, and guaranteed by the veracity of verse (as Counselor Phillips would say) what is to become of readers hitherto implicitly confident in the not less veracious prose of our critical journals? What is to become of the reviews? And if the reviews fail, what is to become of the editors? It is common cause, and you have done well to sound the alarm. . . . myself, in my humble sphere, will be one of your echoes. In the words of the tragedian Liston, 'I love a row,' and you seem justly determined to make one.

"It is barely possible, certainly improbable, that the writer might have been in jest; but this only aggravates his crime. A joke, the beheader says, breaks no bones; but it may break a bookseller, or it may be the cause of bones being broken. The jest is but a bad one at the best for the author, and might have been a still worse one for you, if your copious contradiction did not certify to all whom it may concern your own indignant innocence, and the immaculate purity of the British Review. I do not doubt your word, my dear Roberts, yet I cannot help wishing that in a case of such vital importance, it had assumed the more substantial shape of an affidavit sworn before the Lord Mayor.

"I am sure, my dear Roberts, that you will take these observations of mine in good part; they are written in a spirit of friendship not less pure than your own editorial integrity. I have always admired you; and not knowing any shape which friendship and admiration can assume more agreeable and useful than that of good advice, I shall continue my benevolences, mixed with here and there a monitory hint as to what I conceive to be the line you should pursue, in case you should ever again be assailed with bribes, or accused of taking them. By-the-way, you don't say much about the poem, except that it is 'flagitious.' This is a pity—you should have cut it up; because, to say the truth, it not doing so, you somewhat assist any notions which the malignant might entertain on the score of the anonymous asseveration which has made you so angry.

"You say, no bookseller 'was willing to take upon himself the publication, though many of them disgrace themselves by selling it.' Now, my dear

LETTER
TO THE EDITOR OF MY GRANDMOTHER'S REVIEW,
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE "LIBERAL."
LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF MY GRANDMOTHER'S REVIEW

friend, though we all know that those fellows will do any thing for money, methinks the disgrace is more with the purchaser; and when such, double less, there are, for there can be no very extensive selling (as you will perceive by that of the British Review) without buying. You then add, 'what can the critic say?' I am sure I don't know; at present liberty to make the book fit for the purpose. Then comes, 'for praise, as far as regards the poetry, many passages might be exhibited; for condemnation, as far as regards the morality, all.' Nor do I suppose that you and I made any reputation; my heart bleeds for both; and I ask you, whether or not such language does not come positively under the description of 'the puff collious,' for which see Sheridan's face of 'The Critic,' (by-the-by, a little more facetious than your face under the same title) towards the close of scene second, act the first.

'The poem, it seems, sold as the work of Lord Byron; but you feel yourself 'at liberty to suppose it not Lord B.'s composition.' Why did you ever suppose that it was? I approve of your indignation—I applaud it—I feel as angry as you can; but perhaps your virtuous wrath carries you a little too far, which made me think that 'no man is an island, nor even that of sending into the world obscene and blasphemous poetry, the product of studious lewdness and labored impetu, appears to you so detestable as it would be to any man by the exercise of a review, as the condition of praising an author.' The devil it doesn't! Think a little. This is being critical overmuch. In point of Gentile benevolence or Christian charity, it were surely less criminal to praise for a bribe, than to abuse a fellow-creature for nothing; and as to the assertion of the comparative innocence of blasphemy and obscenity, confronted with an editor's 'acceptance of a present,' I think you must admit it is not a very good point, very well, but as a Christian barrister, I would not recommend you to transplant this sentence into a brief.

And yet you say, 'the miserable man, (for miserable he is, as having a soul of which he cannot get rid.)' But here I must pause, and inquire what is the meaning of this parenthesis. We have heard of people of 'little soul,' or of 'no soul at all,' but never till now of the misery of having a soul of which we cannot get rid; a misery under which you are possibly no great sufferer, having got rid apparently of some of the intellectual part of your own, when you penned this pretty piece of eloquence.

You call, 'That you call Lord Byron, always supposing him not the author, to disdain 'with all gentlemanly haste,' &c, &c. I am told that Lord B. is in a foreign country, some thousand miles off it may be; so that it will be difficult for him to hurry to your wishes. In the mean time, perhaps you yourself have set an example of more haste than gentility; but 'the more haste the worse speed.'

Let us now look at the charge itself, my dear Roberts, which appears to me to be in some degree not quite explicitly worded:

"I blamed my Grandmother's Review, the British."

I recollect hearing, soon after the publication, this subject discussed at the tea-table of Mr. S. the poet, who expressed himself, I remember, a good deal of it. He was of opinion that Byron had not composed the poem, nor any of his six tragedies, of which, in one instance, the bad taste of the pit, and in all the rest, the barbarous repugnance of the principal and inexpressive performance. Mrs. and Mr. Misses S., being in a corner of the room, I had the proof sheets of some new poems on Italy. (I wish, by-the-by, Mrs. S. would make the tea a little stronger, the male part of the conversazioni were so talkative.) I made a few observations on the poem and passage in question, and there was a difference of opinion. Some thought the allusion was to the British Critic; others, that by the expression, 'my Grandmother's Review,' it was intimated that I was not a reader of the review, but actually the writer; whereby insinuating, my dear Roberts, that you were an old woman; because, as people often say, 'Jeffrey's Review,' 'Gofford's Review,' in lieu of Edinburgh a Quarterly; so 'my Grandmother's Review' be also synonymous. Now, whatever color his insinuation might derive from the circumstance of your wearing a gown, as well as from your time of life, your old age, your plain dress, and your writings, I will take upon myself to exculpate you from all suspicion of the kind, and assert, without calling Mrs. Roberts in testimony, that if ever you should be chosen Pope, you will pass through all the previous ceremonies with as much credit as any pontiff since the parturition of Joan. It is very unfair to judge of sex from writings, particularly from those of the British Review. We are all liable to be deceived; and it is an indubitable fact, that many of the best articles in your journal, which were attributed to a veteran female, were actually written by you yourself; and yet to this day there are people who have never found out the difference. But let us return to the main subject at hand.

'I agree with you that it is impossible Lord Byron should be the author, not only because as a British peer and a British poet, it would be impracticable for him to write it; but for some other reasons which you have omitted to state. In the first place, his lordship has no grandmother. Now the author—and we may believe his in this—doth express in that the "British" is his 'Grandmother's Review' and if, as I think I have distinctly proved, this was not a mere figurative allusion to your supposed intellectual age and sex, my dear friend, it follows, whether you be she or he, that Lord Byron is still extant. And I can the more readily credit this having a sexagenary am of your own, who perused you constantly, till unfortunately falling asleep over the leading article of your last number, her spectacles fell off and were broken against the fender, after a faithful service of fifteen years, and she has never been able to fit her eyes since; so that I have been forced to read you aloud to her; and this is in fact the reason why I became acquainted with the subject of my present letter, and thus determined to become your public correspondent.

In the next place, Lord B.'s destiny seems in some sort connected with that of Hercules, and became the author of all unappropriated profiliogies.

B. has been supposed the author of the 'Vampire,' of a 'Pilgrimage to Jerusalem,' 'To the Dead Sea,' of 'Death upon the Pale Horse,' of odes to 'Lavolette,' to 'Saint Helena,' to the Lord of the Goul, and to a sucking child. Now he turned out to have written none of these things. Besides, you say, he knows in what a spirit of, &c, &c. criticise. Are you sure he knows all this? that he has read you like your poor dear aunt? They tell me he is a queer sort of a man; and I would not be too sure, if I were you, either of what he has read or what he has written. I thought his style had been the serious and terror, for thro' as much as he would for the first time that ever I heard of his paying his reviewers in that coin; I thought that it was rather in their own, to judge from some of his earlier productions. He has praised his name, the present, and given his professor, in his expenditure, I should conjecture that his reviewer's bill is not so long as his tailor's.

'If shall I give you what I think a prudent opinion? I don't mean to insinuate, God forbid! but if, by any addendum, one could persuade him that it is the correspondence between you and the unknown author, whoever he may be, send him back his money: I dare say he will be very glad to have it again: it can't be much, considering the value of the article and the circulation of the journal; and you are too modest to rate your praise beyond its real worth —
### LORD BACON'S APOTHEGMS.

#### BACON'S APOTHEGMS.

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Original Text</th>
<th>Observations</th>
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<td>91</td>
<td>Michael Angelo, the famous painter, painting in the pope's chapel the portraiture of hell and damned souls, made one of the damned souls so like a cardinal that was his enemy, as every body at first sight knew it; whereupon the cardinal complained to Pope Clement, humbly praying it might be defaced. The pope said to him, saith, you know very well I have power to deliver a soul out of purgatory, but not out of hell.</td>
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<td>155</td>
<td>Alexander, after the battle of Granicus, had very great offers made him by Darius. Consulting with his captains concerning them, Parmenio said, Sure, I would accept of these offers, if I were as Alexander. Alexander answered, So would I, if I were as Parmenio.</td>
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<td>158</td>
<td>Antigonus, when it was told him that the enemy had such volleys of arrows, that they did hide the sun, said, That falls out well, for it is hot weather, and so we shall fight in the shade.</td>
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**Don't be angry,—I know you won't,—at this appraisement of your powers of eulogy; for on the other hand, my dear friend, depend upon it your abuse is worth, not its own weight—that's a farther,—but your weight in gold. So don't spare it: if he has bargained for that, give it handsomely, and depend upon your doing him a friendly office.**

"But I only speak in case of possibility; for, as I said before, I cannot believe in the first instance, that you would receive a bribe to praise any person whatever; and still less can I believe that your praise could ever produce such an offer. You are a good creature, my dear Roberts, and a clever fellow; else I could almost suspect that you had fallen into the very trap set for you in verse by this anonymous wag, who will certainly be too happy to see you bearing the trouble of making you ridiculous. The fact is, that the solemnity of your eleventh article does make you look a little more absurd than you ever yet looked, in all probability, and at the same time does no good; for if any body believed before in the octave stanzas, they will believe still, and you will find it not less difficult to prove your negative, than the learned Partridge found it to demonstrate his not being dead, to the satisfaction of the readers of almanacs."

"What the motives of this writer may have been for (as you magnificently translate his quizzing you) 'sitting, with the particularity which belongs to fact, the forgery of a groundless fiction,' (do pray, my dear R., talk a little less 'in King Canutes' vein,) I cannot pretend to say; perhaps to laugh at you, but this is no reason for your benevolently making all the world laugh also. I approve of your being angry; I tell you I am angry too; but you should not have shown it so outrageously. Your solemn 'if somebody personating the Editor of the,' &c., &c., 'has received from Lord B., or from any other person,' reminds me of Charley Incledon's usual exordium when people came into the tavern to hear him sing without paying their share of the reckoning—'If a maun, or any maun, or any other maun,' &c., &c.; you have both the same redundant eloquence. But why should you think any body would persuade you? Nobody would dream of such a prank who ever read your compositions and perhaps not many who have heard your conversation. But I have been inoculated with a little of your proximity. The fact is, my dear Roberts, that somebody has tried to make a fool of you, and what he did not succeed in doing, you have done for him and for yourself."

"With regard to the poem itself, or the author, whom I cannot find out, (can you?) I have nothing to say; my business is with you. I am sure that you will, upon second thoughts, be really obliged to me for the intention of this letter, however far short my expressions may have fallen of the sincere good will, admiration, and thorough esteem, with which I am ever, my dear Roberts.

"Most truly yours,

"WORTLEY CLUTTERBUCK.

* Sept. 2d, 1819.

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**P. S. My letter is too long to revise, and the post is going. I forget whether or not I asked you the meaning of your last words, 'the forgery of a groundless fiction.' Now, as all forgery is fiction, and all fiction a kind of forgery, is not this tautological? The sentence would have ended more strongly with 'forgery,' only it hath an awful Bank-of-England sound, and would have ended like an indiction, besides sparing you several words, and conferring some meaning upon the remainder. But this is mere verbal criticism. Good bye—once more yours truly."

"W. C."

"P. S. 2d. Is it true that the Saints make up the losses of the review?—It is very handsome in them to be at so great an expense.—Pray pardon my taking up so much of your time from the bar, and from your clients, who I hear are about the same number with the readers of your journal. Twice more yours,

"W. C."
162.

There was a philosopher that disputed with Demosthenes, the Emperor, and did it but weakly. One of his friends that stood by, afterwards said unto him, Methinks you were not like yourself last day, in argument with the Emperor: I could have answered better myself. Why, said the philosopher, would you have contented him that commands thirty legions?

163.

There was one that found a great mass of money digged under ground in his grandfather's house, and being somewhat doubtful of the case, signified it to the emperor that he had found such treasure. The emperor made a rescript thus: Use it. He wrote back again, that the sum was greater than his state or condition could use. The emperor wrote a new rescript, thus: Abuse it.

178.

One of the seven was wont to say, that laws were like cobwebs: where the small flies were caught, and the great brake through.

209.

An orator of Athens said to Demosthenes, The Athenians will kill you if they wax mad. Demosthenes replied, And they will kill you, if they be in good sense.

221.

There was a philosopher about Tiberius, that, looking into the nature of Caius, said of him, That he was more mingled with blood.

97.

There was a king of Hungary took a bishop to battle, and kept him prisoner, whereupon the pope writ a monitory to

This happened under Augustus Caesar, and not during the reign of Adrian.

This happened to the father of Herodes Atticus, and the answer was made by the emperor Nero, who deserved that his name should have been stated by the"greatest-wisest-meantest of mankind."

This was said by Anacharsis the Scythian, and not by a Greek.

This was not said by Demosthenes, but to Demosthenes by Phocion.

This was not said of Caius (Caligula, I presume, is intimated by Caius), but of Tiberius himself.

This reply "was not made by a king of Hungary, but sent by Richard the first, Cour de Lion, of England to the Pope, with the breastplate of the bishop of Beauvais.

267.

Demetrius, king of Macedonia, had a petition offered him divers times by an old woman, and answered he had no leisure; whereupon the woman said aloud, Why then give over to be king?

VOLTAIRE.

Having stated that Bacon was frequently incorrect in his citations from history, I have thought it necessary in what regards so great a name (however trifling), to support the assertion by such facts as more immediately occur to me. They are but trifles, and yet for such trifles a schoolboy would be whipped (if still in the fourth form); and Voltaire for half a dozen similar errors has been treated as a superficial writer, nay, withstar Ping the testimony of the learned Warton—"Voltaire, a writer of much deeper research than is imagined, and the first who has displayed the literature and customs of the dark ages with any degree of penetration and comprehension." For another distinguished testimony to Voltaire's merits in literary research, see also Lord Holland's excellent Account of the Life and Writings of Lope de Vega, vol. i., p. 215, edition of 1817.

Voltaire has even been termed "a shallow fellow," by some of the same school who called Dryden's Ode "a drunken song;"—a school (as it is called, I presume, from their education being still incomplete) the whole of whose filthy trash of Epics, Excursions, a., a., &c., is not worth the two words in Zaire, "Voua plaisirs," or a single speech of Tancred.—a school, the apostate lives of whose renegades, with their tea-drinking neutrality of morals, and their convenient treachery in politics—in the record of their accumulated pretences to virtue can produce no actions (were all their good deeds drawn up in array) to equal or approach the sole defence of the family of Calas, by that great and unequalled genius—the universal Voltaire.

I have ventured to remark on these little inaccuracy of "the greatest genius that England or perhaps any other country ever produced," merely to show our national injustice in condemning generally, the greatest genius of France for such inadvertencies as these, of which the highest of England has been no less guilty. Query, was Bacon a great intellect than Newton?

TRANSLATION OF TWO EPISTLES
FROM THE ARMENIAN VERSION.

THE EPISTLE OF THE CORINTHIANS
TO ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE.*

1 Stephen, and the elders with him, Dabnus, Eubulus, Theophilus, and Xinon, to Paul, our father and evangelist, and faithful master in Jesus Christ, health.†
2 Two men have come to Corinth, Simon, by name, and Cleobus, who vehemently disturb the faith of some with deceitful and corrupt words;
3 Of which words thou shouldst inform thyself:
4 For neither have we heard such words from thee, nor from the other apostles:
5 But we know only that what we have heard from thee and from them, that we have kept firmly.
6 But in this chiefly has our Lord had compassion, that, whilst thou art yet with us in the flesh, we are again about to hear from thee.
7 Therefore do thou write to us, or come thyself among us quickly.
8 We believe in the Lord, that, as it was revealed to Theonas, he hath delivered thee from the hands of the unrighteous.†
9 But these are the sinful words of these impure men, for thus do they say and teach:
10 That it behooves not to admit the Prophets.‡
11 Neither do they affirm the omnipotence of God:
12 Neither do they affirm the resurrection of the flesh:
13 Neither do they affirm that man was altogether created by God:
14 Neither do they affirm that Jesus Christ was born in the flesh from the Virgin Mary:
15 Neither do they affirm that the world was the work of God, but of some one of the angels.
16 Therefore do thou make haste to come among us.
17 That this city of the Corinthians may remain without scandal.
18 And that the folly of these men may be made manifest by an open refutation. Fare thee well.††
19 The deacons Thereutus and Tichus††† received and conveyed this Epistle to the city of the Philippians.*

When Paul received the Epistle, although he was then in chains on account of Stratonice,† the wife of Apolohanus,† yet, as it were forgetting his bonds, he mourned over these words, and said, weeping, "It were better for me to be dead, and with the Lord. For while I am in this body, and hear the words of such false doctrine, behold, grief arises upon grief, and my trouble adds a weight to my chains; when I behold this calamity and progress of the machinations of Satan, who searcheth to do wrong."

And thus with deep affliction Paul composed his reply to the Epistle.‡‡

EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS.¶

1 Paul, in bonds for Jesus Christ, disturbed by so many errors, to his Corinthian brethren, health.
2 I nothing marvel that the preachers of evil have made this progress.
3 For because the Lord Jesus is about to fulfill his coming, verily on this account do certain men perturb and despise his words.
4 But I, verily, from the beginning, have taught you that only which I myself received from the former apostles, who always remained with the Lord Jesus Christ.
5 And I now say unto you, that the Lord Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, who was of the seed of David.
6 According to the annunciation of the Holy Ghost, sent to her by our Father from heaven;
7 That Jesus might be introduced into the world, and deliver our flesh by his flesh, and that he might raise us up from the dead:
8 As in this also he himself became the example:
9 That it might be made manifest that man was created by the Father.
10 He has not remained in perdition unsought,††
11 But he is sought for, that he might be revived by adoption.
12 For God, who is the Lord of all, the Father of

* The Whitson's have, To the city of Philadephia; but in all the MSS. we find, To the city of the Philippians.
† Others read, On account of Cleobus.
‡ The Whitson's have, Of Apolohanus; but in all the MSS. we read Apolohanian.
§ In the text of this Epistle there are some other variations in the words, but the sense is the same.
¶ Some MSS. here, Paul's Epistle from Prison, for the instruction of the Corinthians.
†† Others read, Disturbed by various compunctions.
††† Some MSS. have, That Jesus might comfort the world.
††† Others read, He has not remained indifferent.
TRANSLATION OF TWO EPISTLES.

our Lord Jesus Christ, who made heaven and earth, sent firstly, the Prophets to the Jews: 13 That he would absolve them from their sins, and bring them to his judgment. 14 Because he wished to save, firstly, the house of Israel, he bestowed, and poured forth his Spirit upon the Prophets; 15 That they should for a long time preach the worship of God, and the nativity of Christ. 16 But he who was the prince of evil, when he wished to make himself God, laid his hand upon them, 17 And bound all men in sin,* 18 Because the judgment of the world was approaching. 19 But Almighty God, when he willed to justify, was unwilling to abandon his creature; 20 But when he saw his affliction, he had compassion upon him. 21 And at the end of a time he sent the Holy Ghost into the Virgin foretold by the Prophets. 22 Who, believing readily,† was made worthy to conceive, and bring forth our Lord Jesus Christ. 23 In a perishable body, in which the evil spirit was glorified, he should be cast out, and it should be made manifest 24 That he was not God: For Jesus Christ, in his flesh, had recalled and saved this perishable flesh, and drawn it into eternal life by faith, 25 Because in his body he would prepare a pure temple of justice for all ages; 26 In whom we also, when we believe, are saved. 27 Therefore know ye that these men are not the children of justice, but the children of wrath; 28 Who turn away from themselves the compasion of God; 29 Who say that neither the heavens nor the earth were altogether works made by the hand of the Father of all things.‡ 30 But these cursed men have the doctrine of the serpent. 31 But do ye, by the power of God, withdraw yourselves far from these, and expel from among you the doctrine of the wicked. 32 Because you are not the children of rebellion,§ but the sons of the belied church. 33 And on this account the time of the resurrection is preached to all men. 34 Therefore they who affirm that there is no resurrection of the flesh, they indeed shall not be raised up to eternal life; 35 But to judgment and condemnation shall the unbeliever arise in the flesh: 36 For to that body which denies the resurrection of the body, shall be denied the resurrection: because such are found to refuse the resurrection. 37 But you also, Corinthians! have known, from the seeds of wheat, and from other seeds, 38 That one grain falls † dry into the earth, and within it first dies. 39 And afterward rises again, by the will of the Lord, endued with the same body:

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40 Neither indeed does it arise with the same simple body, but manifold, and filled with blessing. 41 But we produce the example not only from seeds, but from the honorable bodies of men.* 42 Ye also have known Jonas, the son of Amitai.† 43 Because he delayed to preach to the Ninevites he was swallowed up in the belly of a fish for three days and three nights: 44 And after three days, God heard his supplication, and brought him out from the deep abyss; 45 Neither was any part of his body corrupted; neither was his eyebrow bent down.‡ 46 And how much more for you, oh men of little faith! 47 If you believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, will he raise you up, even as he himself hath arisen. 48 If the bones of Elisha the prophet, falling upon the dead, revived the dead, 49 By how much more shall Jesus Christ revive you, on that day, with a perfect body, even as he himself hath arisen? 50 But if ye receive other things vainly,§ 51 Henceforth no one shall cause me to travail: for I bear on my body these fettors,|| 52 To obtain Christ; and I suffer with patience these afflictions to become worthy of the resurrection of the dead. 53 And do each of you, having received the law from the hands of the blessed Prophets and the holy gospel,‖ firmly maintain it; 54 To the end that you may be rewarded in the resurrection of the dead, and the possession of the life eternal. 55 But if any of ye, not believing, shall trespass, he shall be judged with the misdoers, and punished with those who have false belief. 56 Because such are the generations of vipers, and the children of dragons and basilisks. 57 Drive far from among ye, and fly from such, with the aid of our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 And the peace and grace of the beloved Son be upon you.** Amen.

Done into English by me, January-February, 1817, at the Convent of San Lazaro, with the aid and exposition of the Armenian text by the Father Paschal Aucher, Armenian Friar. Byion.  

"Yenice, April 10, 1817.  

I had also the Latin text, now it is in many places very corrupt, and with great omissions.

* Others read, But we have not only produced from seeds, but from the honorable body of men.  
† Others read, The son of Elmethius.  
‡ Others add, Nor did a hair of his body fall thereby.  
§ Others read, Ye shall not receive other things in vain.  
|| Others translate here thus, Henceforth no one can trouble me further for I bear in my body the sufferings of Christ. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brethren. Amen.  
‖ Others add, Of the holy evangel.  
** Others add, Our Lord be with ye all. Amen.
THE WILL OF LORD BYRON.

EXTRACTED FROM THE REGISTRY OF THE PREROGATIVE COURT OF CANTERBURY

This is the last will and testament of me, George Gordon, Lord Byron, Baron Byron, of Rochdale, in the county of Lancaster, as follows:—I give and devise all that my manor of lordship of Rochdale, in the said county of Lancaster, with all its rights, royalties, and hereditaments, and premises situate, lying, and being within the parish, manor, and lordship of Rochdale aforesaid, and all other my estates, lands, tenements, hereditaments, and premises whatsoever and wheresoever, unto my said Manors of Camberwell, Camby, and Hobhouse, late of Trinity College, Cambridge, Esquire, and John Hanson, of Chancery Lane, London, Esquire, to the use and behoof of them, their heirs, and assigns; and I direct the said John Cam Hobhouse and John Hanson, and the survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of such survivor, do and shall, as soon as conveniently may be after my decease, sell and dispose of all my said manor and estates for the most money that can or may be had or gotten for the same, either by private contract or public sale by auction, and either together or in lots, as my said trustees shall think proper, and for the facilitating such sales and sales, I do direct that the receipt and receipts of my said trustees, and the survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of such survivor, shall be a good and sufficient discharge, and good and sufficient discharge to the purchaser or purchasers of my said estates, or any part or parts thereof, for so much money as is in such receipt or receipts shall be expressed or acknowledged to be received; and that such purchaser or purchasers, his, her, or their heirs and assigns, shall not afterward be in any manner answerable or accountable for such purchase-money, or be obliged to see to the application thereof; and I do will and direct that my said trustees shall stand possessed of the moneys to arise by the sale of my said estates upon such trusts and for such intents and purposes as I have hereinafter directed of and concerning the same: And whereas I have by certain deeds of conveyance made on my marriage with my present wife conveyed all my other manor and estate of Newstead, in the parishes of Newstead and Linley, in the county of Nottingham, unto my executors, upon trust to sell the same, and apply the sum of sixty thousand pounds, part of the money to arise by such sale, upon the trusts of my marriage settlement: Now I do hereby give and bequeath all the remainder of the purchase-money to arise by sale of my said estate at Newstead, and all the whole of the said sixty thousand pounds, or such part thereof as shall not become vested and payable under the trusts of my said marriage settlement, unto the said John Cam Hobhouse and John Hanson, their executors, administrators, and assigns, upon such trusts and for such ends, intents, and purposes as hereinafter directed of and concern-
THE WILL OF LORD BYRON.

 witnessed appointment in the nature of a will, shall
direct or appoint, and in default of any such ap-
pointment, or in case of the death of my said sister
in my lifetime, then upon trust that they, my said
trustees, and the survivor of them, his executors,
administrators, and assigns, do and shall assign and
transfer all the trust, property and funds unto and
among the children of my said sister, if more than
one, equally to be divided between them, share and
share alike, and if only one such child, then to such
only child the share and shares of such of them as
shall be a son or sons, to be paid and transferred
unto him and them when and as he or they shall re-
spectively attain his or their age or ages of twenty-
one years; and the share and shares of such of them
as shall be a daughter or daughters, to be paid and
transferred unto her or them when and as she or
they shall respectively attain his or their age or ages
of twenty-one years, or be married, which shall
first happen, and in case any of such children shall
happen to die, being a son or sons, before he or
they shall attain the age of twenty-one years, or be
married; then it is my will and I do direct that the
share and shares of such of the said children as
shall so die shall go to the survivor or survivors of
such children, with the benefit of further accruer in
case of the death of any such surviving children
before their shares shall become vested. And I do
direct that my said trustees shall pay and apply the
interest and dividends of each of the said children's
shares in the said trust funds for his, her, or their
maintenance and education during their minorities,
notwithstanding their shares may not become vested
interests, but that such interest and dividends as
shall not have been so applied shall accumulate,
and follow, and go over with the principal. And I
do nominate, constitute, and appoint the said John
Cam Hobhouse and John Hanson executors of this
my will. And I do will and direct that my said
trustees shall not be answerable the one of them for
the other of them, or for the acts, deeds, receipts,
or defaults of the other of them, but each of them
for his own acts, deeds, receipts, and wilful defaults
only, and that they my said trustees shall be entitled
to retain and deduct out of the moneys which shall
come to their hands under the trusts aforesaid all
such costs, charges, damages, and expenses which
they or any of them shall bear, pay, sustain, or be
put unto, in the execution and performance of the
trusts herein reposed in them. I make the above
provision for my sister and her children, in conse-
cquence of my dear wife Lady Byron and any chil-
dren I may have, being otherwise amply provided
for; and, lastly, I do revoke all former wills by me
at any time heretofore made, and do declare this
only to be my last will and testament. In witness
whereof, I have to this my last will, contained in
three sheets thereof, and to this third and last sheet my
hand and seal this 29th day of July, in the year of
our Lord 1815.

BYRON, [L.S.]

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by the
said Lord Byron, the testator, as and for his last
will and testament, in the presence of us, who, at
his request, in his presence, and in the presence of
each other, have hereto subscribed our names as
witnesses.

THOMAS JONES MAWBE,
EDMUND GRIFFIN,
FREDERICK JERVIS,
Clerks to Mr. Hanson, Chancey Lanes.

CODICIL.—This is a Codicil to the last will and
testament of me, the Right Honorable George
Gordon, Lord Byron. I give and bequeath unto
Allegra Byron, an infant of about two months
old, by me brought up, and now residing at Venice,
the sum of five thousand pounds, which I direct
the executors of my said will to pay to her on her
attaining the age of twenty-one years, or on the
day of her marriage, on condition that she does not
marry with a native of Great Britain, which shall
first happen. And I direct my said executors, as
soon as conveniently may be after my decease,
to invest the said sum of five thousand pounds, upon
government or real security, and to pay and apply
the annual income thereof in or towards the main
tenance and education of the said Allegra Byron
until she attains her said age of twenty-one years
or shall be married as aforesaid; but in case she
shall die before attaining the said age and without
having been married, then I direct the said sum
of five thousand pounds to become part of the residue
of my personal estate, and in all other respects I
do confirm my said will, and declare this to be a
codicil thereto. In witness whereof, I have here-
unto set my hand and seal, at Venice, this 17th day
of November, in the year of our Lord 1818.

BYRON, [L.S.]

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by the
said Lord Byron, as and for a codicil to his will, in
the presence of us, who, in his presence, at his re-
quest, and in the presence of each other, have sub-
scribed our names as witnesses.

NEWTON HANSON,
WILLIAM FLETCHER.

Proved at London, (with a codicil,) 6th of July,
1824, before the Worshipful Stephen Lushington,
Doctor of Laws, and surrogate, by the oaths of
John Cam Hobhouse and John Hanson. Requires
the executors to whom administration was granted
having been first sworn duly to administer.

NATHANIEL GRIMKES,
GEORGE GREENER,
CHARLES DYNERLY,
Deputy Registrars.

THE END.
Byron