ELEGIAE SONNETS,

&c.

[Price 10s. 6d.]
ELEGIAIC SONNETS,

BY

CHARLOTTE SMITH.

THE FIFTH EDITION,

WITH ADDITIONAL SONNETS

AND OTHER POEMS.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND.
M. DCC. LXXXIX.
TO

WILLIAM HAYLEY, Esq.

SIR,

WHILE I ask your protection for these Essays, I cannot deny having myself some esteem for them. Yet permit me to say, that did I not trust to your candour and sensibility, and hope they will plead for the errors your judgment must discover, I should never have availed myself of the liberty I have obtained—that of dedicating these simple effusions to the greatest modern Master of that charming talent, in which I can never be more than a distant copyist.

I am,

SIR,

Your most obedient and obliged servant,

CHARLOTTE SMITH.
PREFACE

TO THE

FIRST AND SECOND EDITIONS.

The little Poems which are here called Sonnets, have I believe no very just claim to that title: but they consist of fourteen lines, and appear to me no improper vehicle for a single Sentiment. I am told, and I read it as the opinion of very good judges, that the legitimate Sonnet is ill calculated for our language. The specimen Mr. Hayley has given, though they form a strong exception, prove no more, than that the difficulties of the attempt vanish before uncommon powers.

Some very melancholy moments have been beguiled, by expressing in verse the sensations those moments brought.
brought. Some of my friends, with partial indiscretion, have multiplied the copies they procured of several of these attempts, till they found their way into the prints of the day in a mutilated state; which, occurring with other circumstances, determined me to put them into their present form. I can hope for readers only among the few, who to sensibility of heart, join simplicity of taste.
PREFACE

TO THE

THIRD AND FOURTH EDITIONS.

THE reception given by the public, as well as my particular friends, to the two first Editions of these Poems, has induced me to add to the present such other Sonnets as I have written since, or have recovered from my acquaintance, to whom I had given them, without thinking well enough of them at the time to preserve any copies myself. A few of those last written, I have attempted on the Italian model; with what success I know not, but I am persuaded that to the generality of readers those which are less regular will be more pleasing.
As a few notes were necessary, I have added them at the end. I have there quoted such lines as I have borrowed; and even where I am conscious the ideas were not my own, I have restored them to their original possessors.
PREFACE.

TO THE

FIFTH EDITION.

In printing a list of so many noble, literary, and respectable names, it would become me, perhaps, to make my acknowledgments to those friends, to whose exertions in my favor, rather than to any merit of my own, I owe the brilliant assemblage. With difficulty I repress what I feel on this subject; but in the conviction that such acknowledgments would be painful to them, I forbear publicly to speak of those particular obligations, the sense of which will ever be deeply impressed on my heart.

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ELEGIAE SONNETS.

SONNET I.

The partial Muse, has from my earlist hours
Smil'd on the rugged path I'm doom'd to tread,
And still with sportive hand has snatch'd wild flowers,
To weave fantastick garlands for my head:
But far, far happier is the lot of those
Who never learn'd her dear delusive art;
Which, while it decks the head with many a rose,
Reserves the thorn, to festler in the heart.
For still the bids soft Pity's melting eye
Stream o'er the ills she knows not to remove,
Points every pang, and deepens every sigh
Of mourning friendship, or unhappy love.
Ah! then, how dear the Muse's favors cost,
If those pain sorrow best—who feel it most?

B SONNET
SONNET II.

WRITTEN AT THE CLOSE OF SPRING.

The garland's fade that Spring so lately wove,
Each simple flower, which she had nurs'd in dew,
Anemones, that spangled every grove,

The primrose wan, and hare-bell, mildly blue.
No more shall violets linger in the dell,
Or purple orchis variegate the plain,
Till Spring again shall call forth every bell,

And dres'd with humid hands her wreaths again.—

Ah! poor humanity! so frail, so fair,
Are the fond visions of thy early day,
Till tyrant passion, and corrosive care,

Bid all thy fairy colours fade away!
Another May new buds and flowers shall bring;
Ah! why has happiness—no second Spring?

SONNET
SONNET III.

TO A NIGHTINGALE.

POOR melancholy bird—that all night long
Tell'st to the Moon thy tale of tender woe;
From what sad cause can such sweet sorrow flow,
And whence this mournful melody of song?

Thy poet's musing fancy would translate
What mean the sounds that swell thy little breast,
When still at dewy eve thou leav'st thy nest,
Thus to the listening night to sing thy fate?

Pale Sorrow's victims wert thou once among,
Thro' now releas'd in woodlands wild to rove?
Say—haft thou felt from friends some cruel wrong,
Or died'st thou—martyr of disastrous love?
Ah! long'stress sad! that such my lot might be,
To figh and sing at liberty—like thee!

B 2    SONNET
SONNET IV:

TO THE MOON.

QUEEN of the silver bow! — by thy pale beam,
Alone and pensive, I delight to stray,
And watch thy shadow trembling in the stream,
Or mark the floating clouds that cross thy way.
And while I gaze, thy mild and placid light
Sheds a soft calm upon my troubled breast;
And oft I think, — fair planet of the night,
That in thy orb, the wretched may have rest:
The sufferers of the earth perhaps may go,
Releas’d by death — to thy benignant sphere,
And the sad children of despair and woe
Forget in thee, their cup of sorrow here.
Oh! that I soon may reach thy world serene,
Poor wearied pilgrim — in this toiling scene!

SONNET
Queen of the Silver Bow, &c.
SONNET V.

TO THE SOUTH DOWNS.

Ah! hills belov'd! — where once; an happy child,
Your beechen shades, 'your turf, your flowers among',
I wove your blue-bells into garlands wild,
And woke your echoes with my artless song.
Ah! hills belov'd! — your turf, your flow'rs remain;
But can they peace to this sad breast restore,
For one poor moment soothe the sense of pain,
And teach a breaking heart to throb no more?
And you, Aruna! — in the vale below;
As to the sea your limpid waves you bare,
Can you one kind Lethean cup bestow,
To drink a long oblivion to my care?
Ah! no! — when all, e'en Hope's last ray is gone,
There's no oblivion — but in death alone!

B 3 SONNET
SONNET VI.

TO HOPE.

O, Hope! thou soother sweet of human woes!
How shall I lure thee to my haunts forlorn!
For me wilt thou renew the wither'd rose,
And clear my painful path of pointed thorn?
Ah come, sweet nymph! in smiles and softness drest,
Like the young hours that lead the tender year,
Enchantress come! and charm my cares to rest:—
Alas! the flatterer flies, and will not hear!
A prey to fear, anxiety, and pain,
Must I a sad existence still deplore;
Lo!—the flowers fade, but all the thorns remain,
"For me the vernal garland blooms no more."
Come then 'pale Misery's love!' be thou my cure:—
And I will bless thee, who thou' flow art sure.
SONNET VII.

ON THE DEPARTURE OF THE NIGHTINGALE.

SWEET poet of the woods—a long adieu!
Farewell, soft minstrel of the early year!
Ah! 'twill be long ere thou shalt sing anew,
And pour thy music on the 'night's dull ear.'

Whether on Spring thy wandering flights await,
Or whether silent in our groves you dwell,
The pensive mute shall own thee for her mate,
And still protect the song, she loves so well.

With cautious step, the love-lorn youth shall glide
Thro' the lone brake that shades thy mossy nest;
And shepherd girls, from eyes profane shall hide
The gentle bird, who sings of pity best:
For still thy voice shall soft affections move,
And still be dear to sorrow, and to love!
SONNET VIII.

TO SPRING.

AGAIN the wood, and long with-drawing vale,

In many a tint of tender green are drest,
Where the young leaves unfolding, scarce conceal

Beneath their early shade, the half-form'd nee

Of finch or wood-lark; and the primrose pale,

And lavish cowslip, wildly scatter'd round,

Give their sweet spirits to the fighting gale.

Ah! season of delight!—could aught be found

To soothe awhile the tortured bosom's pain,

Of Sorrow's rankling shaft to cure the wound,

And bring life's first delusions once again,

'Twere surely met in thee!—thy prospect fair,

Thy sounds of harmony, thy balmy air,

Have power to cure all sadness—but despair. 14
SONNET IX.

BLEST is yon shepherd, on the turf reclin'd;
Who on the varied clouds which float above
Lies idly gazing—while his vacant mind
Pours out some tale antique of rural love!
Ah! he has never felt the pangs that move
Th' indignant spirit, when with selfish pride,
Friends, on whose faith the trusting heart rely'd,
Unkindly shun th' imploring eye of woe!
The ills they ought to soothe, with taunts deride,
And laugh at tears themselves have forc'd to flow.¹⁰
Nor bis rude bosom those fine feelings melt,
Children of Sentiment and Knowledge born,
Thro' whom each shaft with cruel force is felt,
Empoison'd by deceit—or barb'd with scorn.

SONNET
SONNET X.

TO MRS. G.

Ah! why will Mem'ry with officious care
The long lost visions of my days renew;
Why paint the vernal landscape green and fair,
When life's gay dawn was opening to my view;
Ah! wherefore bring those moments of delight,
When with my Anna, on the southern shore,
I thought the future, as the present bright;
Ye dear delusions!—ye return no more!
Alas! how different does the truth appear,
From the warm picture youth's rash hand pourtrays,
How fades the scene, as we approach it near,
And pain and sorrow strike—how many ways!
Yet of that tender heart, ah! still retain
A share for me—and I will not complain—

SONNET
COME balmy Sleep! tire'd nature's soft resort!
On these sad temples all thy poppies shed;
And bid gay dreams, from Morpheus' airy court,
Float in light vision round my aching head!
Secure of all thy blessings, partial Power!
On his hard bed the peasant throws him down;
And the poor sea boy, in the rudest hour,
Enjoys thee more than he who wears a crown.
Clasp'd in her faithful shepherd's guardian arms,
Well may the village girl sweet slumbers prove;
And they, O gentle sleep! still taste thy charms,
Who wake to labour, liberty, and love.
But still thy opiate aid do'st thou deny
To calm the anxious breast; to close the streaming eye.

SONNET
SONNET XII.

WRITTEN ON THE SEA SHORE.—OCTOBER, 1784.

On some rude fragment of the rocky shore,
Where on the fractur'd cliff, the billows break,
Musing, my solitary seat I take,
And listen to the deep and solemn roar.

O'er the dark waves the winds tempestuous howl;
The screaming sea-bird quits the troubled sea;
But the wild gloomy scene has charms for me,
And suits the mournful temper of my soul.

Already shipwreck'd by the storms of Fate,
Like the poor mariner methinks I stand,
Cast on a rock; who sees the distant land
From whence no succour comes—or comes too late.
Faint and more faint are heard his feeble cries,
'Till in the rising tide, th' exhausted sufferer dies.

SONNET
SONNET XIII

FROM PETRARCH

Oh! place me where the burning noon
Forbids the wither'd flow'r to blow;
Or place me in the frigid zone,
On mountains of eternal snow:
Let me purfue the steps of Fame,
Or Poverty's more tranquil road;
Let youth's warm tide my veins inflame,
Or thirty winters chill my blood:
Tho' my fond soul to Heav'n were flown,
Or tho' on Earth 'tis doom'd to pine,
Prisoner or free—obscure or known,
My heart, oh Laura! still is thine.
Whate'er my destiny may be,
That faithful heart, still burns for thee!

SONNET
SONNET XIV.

FROM PETRARCH.

Loose to the wind her golden tresses stream'd,
Forming bright waves, with amorous Zephyr's sighs;
And tho' averted now, her charming eyes
Then with warm love, and melting pity beam'd.
Was I deceiv'd?—Ah! surely, nymph divine!
That fine suffusion on thy cheek, was love;
What wonder then those beauteous tints should move,
Should fire this heart, this tender heart of mine!
Thy soft melodious voice, thy air, thy shape,
Were of a goddes—not a mortal maid;
Yet tho' thy charms, thy heavenly charms should fade,
My heart, my tender heart could not escape;
Nor cure for me in time or change be found:
The shaft extracted, does not cure the wound!

SONNET
SONNET XV.

FROM PETRARCh.

WHERE the green leaves exclude the summer beam,
And softly bend as balmy breezes blow,
And where, with liquid lapse, the lucid stream
Across the fretted rock is heard to flow,
Pensive I lay: when she whom Earth conceals,
As if still living, to my eyes appears,
And pitying Heaven her angel form reveals,
To say——'Unhappy Petrarch, dry your tears.'

'Ah! why sad lover! thus before your time,
In grief and sadness should your life decay,
And like a blighted flower, your manly prime
In vain and hopeless sorrow, fade away?
'Ah! yield not thus to culpable despair,
But raise thine eyes to Heaven—and think I wait
thee there.'

SONNET
SONNET XVI.
FROM PETRARCH.

Ye vales and woods! fair scenes of happier hours!
Ye feather’d people, tenants of the grove!
And you, bright stream! befring’d with shrubs and flowers,
Behold my grief, ye witnesses of love!

For ye beheld my infant passion rise,
And saw thro’ years unchang’d my faithful flame;
Now cold, in dust, the beauteous object lies,
And you, ye conscious scences, are still the same!

While busy memory still delights to dwell
On all the charms these bitter tears deplore,
And with a trembling hand describes too well
The angel form I shall behold no more!
To Heaven she’s fled! and nought to me remains
But the pale ashes, which her urn contains.

SONNET
SONNET XVII.

FROM THE THIRTEENTH CANTATA OF METASTASIO.

ON thy grey bark, in witness of my flame,
    I carve Miranda's cypher——Beauteous tree!
Grac'd with the lovely letters of her name,
    Henceforth be sacred, to my love and me!
Tho' the tall elm, the oak, and darker pine,
    With broader arms, may noon's fierce ardors break,
To shelter me, and her I love, be thine;
    And thine to see her smile and hear her speak.
No bird, ill omen'd, round thy graceful head
    Shall clamour harsh, or wave his heavy wing,
But fern and flowers arise beneath thy shade,
    Where the wild bees, their lullabies shall sing.
And in thy boughs the murmuring Ring-dove rest;
    And there the Nightingale shall build her neft.

C      SONNET
SONNET XVIII

TO THE EARL OF ECREMONT.

WYNDHAM! 'tis not thy blood, tho' pure it runs
Thro' a long line of glorious ancestry,
Percys and Seymours, Britain's boasted sons,
Who trust the honors of their race to thee:

'Tis not thy splendid domes, where science loves
To touch the canvas, and the bust to raise;
Thy rich domains, fair fields, and spreading groves;
'Tis not all these the Muse delights to praise!

In birth and wealth and honors, great thou art!
But nobler, in thy independant mind;
And in that liberal hand and feeling heart
Given thee by Heaven—a blessing to mankind!
Unworthy oft may titled fortune be;
A soul like thine—is true Nobility!

SONNET
SONNET XIX.

TO MR. HAYLEY.

ON RECEIVING SOME ELEGANT LINES FROM HIM.

For me the Muse a simple band design'd
Of 'idle' flowers, that bloom the woods among,
Which with the cypress and the willow join'd,
A garland form'd, as artless as my song.
And little dar'd I hope its transient hours
So long would last; compos'd of buds so brief;
'Till Hayley's hand among the vagrant flowers,
Threw from his verdant crown, a deathless leaf.
For high in Fame's bright fane has Judgment plac'd
The laurel wreath Serena's poet won,
Which, wov'n with myrtles by the hands of Taste,
The Muse decreed, for this her favourite son.
And those immortal leaves his temples shade,
Whose fair eternal verdure—shall not fade!
SONNET XX.

TO THE COUNTESS OF A—.

WRITTEN ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER MARRIAGE.

On this blest day may no dark cloud or shower,
With envious shade, the Sun's bright influence hide;
But all his rays illumine the favour'd hour,
That saw thee, Mary!—Henry's lovely bride!

With years revolving may it still arise,
Blest with each good approving Heaven can lend!
And still with ray serene, shall those blue eyes
Enchant the husband, and attach the friend!

For you, fair Friendship's amaranth shall blow,
And Love's own thornless roses, bind your brow!
And when—long hence—to happier worlds you go,
Your beauteous race shall be, what you are now!
And future Nevills, thro' long ages shine,
With hearts as good, and forms as fair as thine!

SONNET
SONNET XXI.

Supposed to be written by Werter.

Go! cruel tyrant of the human breast!
To other hearts, thy burning arrows bear;
Go, where fond hope, and fair illusion rest!
Ah! why should love inherit with despair!
Like the poor maniac I linger here,
Still haunt the scene, where all my treasure lies:
Still seek for flowers, where only thorns appear,
'And drink delicious poison from her eyes!'
Towards the deep gulph that opens on my sight
I hurry forward, passion's helpless slave!
And scorning reason's mild and sober light,
Pursue the path that leads me to the grave!
So round the flame the giddy insect flies,
And courts the fatal fire, by which it dies!

C 3  SONNET
SONNET XXII.

BY THE SAME.

TO SOLITUDE.

O H, Solitude; to thy sequester'd vale
I come to hide my sorrow and my tears,
And to thy echoes tell the mournful tale
Which scarce I trust to pitying Friendship's ears!

Amidst thy wild-woods, and untrodden glades,
No sounds but those of melancholy move;
And the low winds that die among thy shades,
Seem like soft Pity's sighs, for hopeless love!

And sure some story of despair and pain,
In yon deep cope, thy murm'ring doves relate;
And hark! methinks in that long plaintive strain,
Thine own sweet songstrefs weeps my wayward fate!

Ah, Nymph! that fate afflilt me to endure,
And bear awhile—what death alone can cure!
SONNET XXIII.

BY THE SAME.

TO THE NORTH STAR.

To thy bright beams I turn my swimming eyes,
   Fair, fav'rite planet! which in happier days
Saw my young hopes, ah! faithless hopes!—arise;
   And on my passion shed propitious rays!
Now nightly wandering mid the tempests drear
   That howl the woods, and rocky steeps among,
I love to see thy sudden light appear
   Thro' the swift clouds—driv'n by the wind along:
Or in the turbid water, rude and dark,
   O'er whose wild stream the gust of Winter raves,
Thy trembling light with pleasure still I mark,
   Gleam in faint radiance on the foaming waves!
So o'er my soul short rays of reason fly,
   Then fade:—and leave me, to despair and die!

C 4  SONNET
SONNET XXIV.

By the same.

Make there my tomb; beneath the lime-trees' shade,
Where grass and flowers, in wild luxuriance wave;
Let no memorial mark where I am laid,
Or point to common eyes the lover's grave!
But oft at twilight morn, or closing day,
The faithful friend, with fault'ring step shall glide,
Tributes of fond regret by stealth to pay,
And sigh o'er the unhappy suicide!
And sometimes, when the Sun with parting rays
Gilds the long grass that hides my silent bed,
The tear shall tremble in my Charlotte's eyes;
Dear, precious drops!—they shall embalm the dead!
Yes!—Charlotte o'er the mournful spot shall weep,
Where her poor Werter—and his sorrows sleep.

SONNET
SONNET XXV.

BY THE SAME.

JUST BEFORE HIS DEATH.

Why should I wish to hold in this low sphere
A frail and feverish being? wherefore try
Poorly from day to day to linger here,
Against the powerful hand of destiny?
By those who know the force of hopeless care,
On the worn heart—I sure shall be forgiven,
If to elude dark girt, and dire despair,
I go uncall'd—to mercy and to Heaven!
Oh thou! to save whose peace I now depart,
Will thy soft mind, thy poor lost friend deplore;
When worms shall feed on this devoted heart,
Where even thy image shall be found no more?
Yet may thy pity mingle not with pain,
For then thy hapless lover—dies in vain!

SONNET
SONNET XXVI.

TO THE RIVER ARUN.

ON thy wild banks, by frequent torrents worn,
No glittering fanes, or marble domes appear,
Yet shall the mournful muse thy course adorn,
And still to her thy rustic waves be dear.
For with the infant Otway, lingering here,
Of early woes she bade her votary dream,
While thy low murmurs soothed his pensive ear,
And still the poet—consecrates the stream.
Beneath the oak and birch, that fringe thy side,
The first-born violets of the year shall spring,
And in thy hazles, bending o'er the tide,
The earliest Nightingale delight to sing:
While kindred spirits, pitying, shall relate
Thy Otway's sorrows, and lament his fate!

SONNET
Published Jan. 1789 by T. Cadell, Strand.

For with the infant Otway lingering here.
SIGHING I see yon little troop at play;
By sorrow yet untouch'd; unhurt by care;
While free and sportive they enjoy to-day,
"Content and careless of to-morrow's fare!"

O happy age! when Hope's unclouded ray
Lights their green path, and prompts their simple mirth,
E'er yet they feel the thorns that lurking lay
To wound the wretched pilgrims of the earth,
Making them rue the hour that gave them birth,
And threw them on a world so full of pain,
Where prosperous folly treads on patient worth,
And to deaf pride, misfortune pleads in vain!
Ah!—for their future fate how many fears
Oppress my heart—and fill mine eyes with tears!

SONNET XXVII.
SONNET XXVIII.

TO FRIENDSHIP.

Oh thou! whose name too often is profan'd!
Whose charms, celestial! few have hearts to feel!
Unknown to folly—and by pride disdain'd!
—To thy soft solace may my sorrows steal!
Like the fair Moon, thy mild and genuine ray,
Thro' life's long evening shall unclouded last;
While pleasure's frail attachments fleet away,
As fades the rainbow from the northern blast!
'Tis thine, oh Nymph! with 'balmy hands to bind'
The wounds inflicted in misfortune's storm,
And blunt severe affliction's sharpest dart!
'Tis thy pure spirit warms my Anna's mind,
Beams thro' the pensive softness of her form,
And holds its altar—on her spotless heart!

SONNET
SONNET XXIX.

TO MISS C——

ON BEING DESIRED TO ATTEMPT WRITING A COMEDY.

WOULD’ST thou then have me tempt the comic scene
Of gay Thalia? Us’d so long to tread
The gloomy paths of sorrow’s cypress shade;
And the lorn lay, with sighs and tears to stain?
Alas! how much unfit her sprightly vein!
Arduous to try!—and seek the sunny mead,
And bowers of roses, where she loves to lead
The sportive subjects of her golden reign!
Enough for me, if still, to soothe my days,
Her fair and pensive sister condescend,
With tearful smile to bless my simple lays;
Enough, if her soft notes she sometimes lend,
To gain for me, of feeling hearts the praise,
And chiefly thine, my ever partial friend!

SONNET
SONNET XXX.

TO THE RIVER ARUN.

BE the proud Thames, of trade the busy mart!
Arun! to thee will other praise belong;
Dear to the lover's, and the mourner's heart,
And ever sacred to the sons of song!

Thy banks romantic, hopeless Love shall seek,
Where o'er the rocks the mantling bind with flaunts; 6
And Sorrows drooping form and faded cheek,
Choose on thy willow'd shore her lonely haunts!

Banks! which inspir'd thy Otway's plaintive strain! 9
Wilds!—whose lorn echo's learn'd the deeper tone
Of Collins' powerful shell! yet once again
Another poet—Hayley is thine own!
Thy classic stream anew shall hear a lay,
Bright as its waves, and various as its way!

SONNET
SONNET XXXI.

WRITTEN ON FARM WOOD, SOUTH DOWNS,
IN MAY 1784.

SPRING'S dewy hand on this fair summit weaves
The downy grass, with tufts of Alpine flowers,
And shades the beechen slopes with tender leaves,
And leads the shepherd to his upland bowers,
Strewn with wild thyme; while slow-descending showers,
Feed the green ear, and nurse the future sheaves!
—Ah! blest the hind—whom no sad thought bereaves
Of the gay Season's pleasures!—All his hours
To wholesome labour given, or thoughtless mirth;
No pangs of sorrow past, or coming dread,
Bend his unconscious spirit down to earth,
Or chase calm slumbers from his careless head!
Ah! what to me can those dear days restore,
When scenes could charm, that now I taste no more!

SONNET
SONNET XXXII.

TO MELANCHOLY.

WRITTEN ON THE BANKS OF THE ARUN,
OCTOBER, 1785.

WHEN latest Autumn spreads her evening veil
And the grey mists from these dim waves arise,
I love to listen to the hollow sighs,
Thro' the half leafless wood that breathes the gale.
For at such hours the shadowy phantom, pale.
Oft seems to fleet before the poet's eyes;
Strange sounds are heard, and mournful melodies,
As of night wanderers, who their woes bewail!
Here, by his native stream, at such an hour,
Pity's own Otway, I methinks could meet,
And hear his deep sighs swell the faddent'd wind!
Oh Melancholy!—such thy magic power,
That to the soul these dreams are often sweet,
And soothe the pensive visionary mind!

SONNET
SONNET XXXIII.

TO THE NAIAD OF THE ARUN.

Go! rural Naiad; wind thy stream along
Thro' woods and wilds: then seek the ocean caves
Where sea nymphs meet, their coral rocks among,
To boast the various honors of their waves!
'Tis but a little, o'er thy shallow tide,
That toiling trade her burthen'd vessel leads;
But laurels grow luxuriant on thy side,
And letters live, along thy classic meads.
Lo! where 'mid British bards thy natives shine!
And now another poet helps to raise
Thy glory high—-the poet of the Mine!
Whose brilliant talents are his smallest praise:
And who, to all that genius can impart,
Adds the cool head, and the unblemish'd heart!

D SONNET
CHARMED by thy suffrage, shall I yet aspire,
(All insuspicious as my fate appears,
By troubles darken'd, that increase with years,)
To guide the crayon, or to touch the lyre?
Ah me! — the sister Muses still require
A spirit free from all intrusive fears,
Nor will they deign to wipe away the tears
Of vain regret, that dim their sacred fire.
But when thy envied sanction crowns my lays,
A ray of pleasure lights my languid mind,
For well I know the value of thy praise;
And to how few, the flattering meed confin'd,
That thou,—their highly favour'd brows to bind,
Wilt weave green myrtle, and unfading bays!
SONNET XXXV.

TO FORTITUDE.

NYMPH of the rock! whose dauntless spirit braves
The beating storm, and bitter winds that howl
Round thy cold breast; and hear'st the bursting waves,
And the deep thunder with unshaken soul;
Oh come!—and shew how vain the cares that press
On my weak bosom—and how little worth
Is the false fleeting meteor, happiness,
That still misleads the wanderers of the earth!
Strengthen'd by thee, this heart shall cease to melt
O'er ills that poor humanity must bear;
Nor friends estrang'd, or ties dissolv'd be felt
To leave regret, and fruitless anguish there:
And when at length it heaves its latest sigh,
Thou and mild hope, shall teach me how to die!

D 2  SONNET
SONNET XXXVI.

Should the lone Wanderer, fainting on his way,
Reft for a moment of the fultry hours,
And tho' his path thro' thorns and roughness lay,
Pluck the wild rose, or woodbine's gadding flowers;
Weaving gay wreaths, beneath some sheltering tree,
The sense of sorrow, he awhile may lose;
So have I sought thy flowers, fair Poetry!
So charm'd my way, with Friendship and the Muse.
But darker now grows life's unhappy day,
Dark, with new clouds of evil, yet to come,
Her pencil sickening Fancy throws away,
And weary Hope reclines upon the tomb;
And points my wishes to that tranquil shore,
Where the pale spectre Care, pursues no more.

SONNET
Her pencil sickening fancy throws away
And weary hope reclines upon the tomb.
SONNET XXXVII.

SENT TO THE HONORABLE MRS. O'NEILL, WITH PAINTED FLOWERS.

THE poet's fancy takes from Flora's realm
Her buds and leaves to dress fictitious powers,
With the green olive shades Minerva's helm,
And gives to Beauty's Queen, the Queen of flowers.

But what gay blossoms of luxuriant Spring,
With rose, mimosa, amaranth entwinc'd,
Shall fabled Sylphs, and fairy people bring,
As a just emblem of the lovely mind?

In vain the mimic pencil tries to blend
The glowing dyes that dress the flowery race,
Scented and colour'd by an hand divine!

Ah! not less vainly would the Muse pretend
On her weak lyre, to sing the native grace
And native goodness of a soul like thine!
SONNET XXXVIII.

From the Novel of Emmeline.

When welcome slumber sets my spirit free,
Forth to fictitious happiness it flies,
And where Elysian bowers of bliss arise
I seem, my Emmeline—to meet with thee!
Ah! Fancy then, dissolving human ties,
Gives me the wishes of my soul to see;
Tears of fond pity fill thy softened eyes;
In heavenly harmony—our hearts agree.
Alas! these joys are mine in dreams alone,
When cruel Reason abdicates her throne!
Her harsh return condemns me to complain
Thro' life unpitied, unrelived, unknown.
And as the dear delusions leave my brain,
She bids the truth recur—with aggravated pain.
SONNET XXXIX.

T O N I G H T.

F R O M T H E S A M E.

I LOVE thee, mournful sober-suited night,
When the faint moon, yet lingering in her wane,
And veil'd in clouds, with pale uncertain light
Hangs o'er the waters of the restless main.
In deep depression sunk, the enfeebled mind
Will to the deaf, cold elements complain,
And tell the embosom'd grief, however vain,
'To fulllen surges and the viewless wind.
Tho' no repose on thy dark breast I find,
I still enjoy thee—cheerless as thou art;
For in thy quiet gloom, the exhausted heart
Is calm, tho' wretched; hopeless, yet resign'd.
While, to the winds and waves its sorrows given,
'May reach—tho' loft on earth—the ear of Heaven!
SONNET XL.

FROM THE SAME.

FAR on the sands, the low, retiring tide,
In distant murmurs hardly seems to flow,
And o'er the world of waters, blue and wide,
The sighing summer wind, forgets to blow.
As sinks the day star in the rosy West,
The silent wave, with rich reflection glows;
Alas! can tranquil nature give me rest,
Or scenes of beauty, soothe me to repose?
Can the soft lustre of the sleeping main,
Yon radiant heaven, or all creation's charms,
"Erase the written troubles of the brain,"
Which Memory tortures, and which guilt alarms?
Or bid a bosom transient quiet prove,
That bleeds with vain remorse, and unextinguish'd love!

SONNET
SONNET XLI.

TO TRANQUILLITY.

In this tumultuous sphere, for thee unfit,
How seldom art thou found—Tranquillity!
Unless 'tis when with mild and downcast eye
By the low cradles, thou delight'st to sit,
Of sleeping infants—watching their soft breath,
And bidding the sweet slumberers softly lie;
Or sometimes hanging o'er the bed of death,
Where the poor languid sufferer—hopes to die.
Oh! beauteous sister of the halcyon peace!
I sure shall find thee in that heavenly scene
Where care and anguish shall their power resign;
Where hope alike, and vain regret shall cease;
And Memory—loft in happiness serene,
Repeat no more—that misery has been mine!

SONNET
SONNET XLII.

COMPOSED DURING A WALK ON THE DOWNS,
IN NOVEMBER 1787.

THE dark and pillowy cloud; the sallow trees,
Seem o'er the ruins of the year to mourn;
And cold and hollow, the inconstant breeze
Sobs thro' the falling leaves and wither'd fern.
O'er the tall brow of yonder chalky bourn,
The evening-shades their gather'd darkness sling,
While, by the lingering light, I scarce discern
The shrieking night-jar, sail on heavy wing.

Ah! yet a little—and propitious Spring
Crown'd with fresh flowers, shall wake the woodland
strain;
But no gay change revolving seasons bring,
To call forth pleasure from the soul of pain,
Bid Syren Hope resume her long lost part,
And chase the vulture Care—that feeds upon the heart.

SONNET
SONNET XLIII.

The unhappy exile, whom his fates confine
To the bleak coast of some unfriendly isle,
Cold, barren, desart, where no harvests smile,
But thirst and hunger on the rocks repine;
When, from some promontory's fearful brow,
Sun after sun he hopeless sees decline
In the broad shipless sea—perhaps may know
Such heartless pain, such blank despair as mine;
And, if a flattering cloud appears to show
The fancied semblance of a distant sail,
Then melts away—anew his spirits fail,
While the lost hope but aggravates his woe!
Ah! so for me delusive Fancy toils,
Then, from contrasted truth—my feeble soul recoils.
SONNET XLIV.

WRITTEN IN THE CHURCH YARD AT MIDDLETON IN SUSSEX.

PRESSED by the Moon, mute arbitress of tides,
While the loud equinox its power combines,
The sea no more its swelling surge confines,
But o'er the shrinking land sublimely rides.
The wild blast, rising from the Western cave,
Drives the huge billows from their heaving bed;
Tears from their grassy tombs the village dead,
And breaks the silent sabbath of the grave!
With shells and sea-weed mingled, on the shore
Lo! their bones whiten in the frequent wave;
But vain to them the winds and waters rave;
They hear the warring elements no more:
While I am doom'd—by life's long storm opprest,
To gaze with envy, on their gloomy rest.

SONNET
SONNET XLV.

ON LEAVING A PART OF SUSSEX.

FAREWELL Aruna!—on whose varied shore
My early vows were paid to Nature's shrine,
When thoughtless joy, and infant hope were mine,
And whose lorn stream has heard me since deplore
Too many sorrows! Sighing I resign
Thy solitary beauties—and no more
Or on thy rocks, or in thy woods recline,
Or on the heath, by moon-light lingering, pore
On air-drawn phantoms—While in Fancy's ear
As in the evening wind thy murmurs swell,
The Enthusiast of the Lyre, who wander'd here, 11
Seems yet to strike his visionary shell,
Of power to call forth Pity's tenderest tear
Or wake wild frenzy—from her hideous cell!

SONNET
SONNET XLVI.

SONNETS AT CORLETT'S, IN AUTUMN 1788.

When Tempe's hours, deserted now and drear,
When trees are singing to the hollow blast,
When evening summer o'er its linger near,
When Hebe's head is to her glories past:
When Helen, whom they praise as mild and dear,
When vanquished Virtue smiles on varied Form,
When Mars, who shouting, we were wont to hear,
When Caesar, now famous, the ambitious seemed:
When that sad voice of Time first overrate
The happy battlements, and quite deface
The ever-changing whence we love to learn
Wisest book, and Sardanilla's grace;
And beauty Hills daily decay,
And on the historic page—the rose.
SONNET XLVII.

TO FANCY.

THEE, Queen of Shadows!—shall I still invoke,
Still love the scenes thy sportive pencil drew,
When on mine eyes the early radience broke
Which shew'd the beauteous, rather than the true!
Alas! long since, those glowing tints are dead,
And now 'tis thine in darkest hues to dress
The spot where pale Experience hangs her head
O'er the sad grave of murder'd Happiness!
Thro' thy fair medium then, no longer view'd,
May fancy's wing and fancied pleasure fly,
And I, when all thy dreams depart,
Be to me as they thy subdue'd;
Nor shall that poet's eye,
Nor that poet's heart!
( 48 )

SONNET XLVIII.

TO MRS. • • • •

No more my wearied soul attempts to stray
From sad reality and vain regret,
Nor courts enchanting fiction to allay
Sorrows that sense refuses to forget:
For of calamity so long the prey,
Imagination now has lost her powers,
Nor will her fairy loom again essay
To dres'affliction in a robe of flowers.
But if no more the bowers of Fancy bloom
Let one superior scene attract my view,
Where heav'n's pure rays the sacred spot illume,
Let thy lov'd hand with palm and amaranth strew
The mournful path approaching to the tomb,
While Faith's consoling voice endears the friendly gloom.

SONNET
ODE TO DESPAIR.

FROM THE NOVEL OF EMMElINE.

Thou spectre of terrific mien,
Lord of the hopeless heart and hollow eye,
In whose fierce train each form is seen
That drives sick Reason to insanity!
I woo thee with unusual prayer,
"Grim visaged, comfortless Despair:"
Approach; in me a willing victim find,
Who seeks thine iron fway—and calls thee kind!

Ah! hide for ever from my sight
The faithless flatterer Hope—whose pencil, gay,
Portrays some vision of delight,
Then bids the fairy tablet fade away;
While in dire contrast, to mine eyes
Thy phantoms, yet more hideous, rise,

E And.
(50)

And Memory draws, from Pleasure's wither'd flower,
Corrosives for the heart—of fatal power!

I bid the traitor Love, adieu!
Who to this fond, believing bosom came,
A guest insidious and untrue,
With Pity's soothing voice—in Friendship's name;
The wounds he gave, nor Time shall cure
Nor Reason teach me to endure.
And to that breast mild Patience pleads in vain,
Which feels the curse—of meriting it's pain.

Yet not to me, tremendous power!
Thy worst of spirit-wounding pangs impart,
With which, in dark conviction's hour,
Thou strik'st the guilty unrepentant heart!
But of illusion long the sport,
That dreary, tranquil gloom I court,
Where my past errors I may still deplore
And dream of long-lost happiness no more!
To thee I give this tortured breast,
Where Hope arises but to foster pain;
Ah! lull it's agonies to rest!
Ah! let me never be deceiv'd again!
But callous, in thy deep repose
Behold, in long array, the woes
Of the dread future, calm and undismay'd,
Till I may claim the Hope—that shall not fade!
ELEGY.

DARK gathering clouds involve the threatening skies,
'The sea heaves conscious of the impending gloom,
'Deep, hollow murmurs from the cliffs arise;
'They come—the Spirits of the Tempest come!

'Oh! may such terrors mark the approaching night
'As reign'd on that these streaming eyes deplore!
'Flash, ye red fires of heaven, with fatal light,
'And with conflicting winds, ye waters roar!

'Loud and more loud ye foaming billows burst!
'Ye warring elements more fiercely rave!
'Till the wide waves o'erwhelm the spot accurst
"Where ruthless Avarice finds a quiet grave!"

Thus.
Thus with clasped hands, wild looks, and streaming hair,
While shrieks of horror broke her trembling speech,
A wretched maid—the victim of despair,
Survey'd the threatening storm and desart beech,

Then to the tomb where now the father slept
Whose rugged nature bade her sorrows flow,
Frantic she turn'd—and beat her breast and wept,
Invoking vengeance on the dust below.

Lo! rising there above each humbler heap,
Yon cypher'd stones his name and wealth relate,
Who gave his son—remorseless—to the deep,
While I, his living victim, curse my fate.

Oh! my loft love! no tomb is plac'd for thee,
That may to strangers eyes thy worth impart;
Thou hast no grave, but in the stormy sea,
And no memorial but this breaking heart.
Forth to the world, a widow'd wanderer driven,
I pour to winds and waves the unheeded tear,
Try with vain effort to submit to heaven,
And fruitless call on him—"who cannot hear."

Oh! might I fondly clasp him once again,
While o'er my head the infuriate billows pour,
Forget in death this agonizing pain,
And feel his father's cruelty no more!

Part, raging waters part, and shew beneath,
In your dread caves, his pale and mangled form;
Now, while the demons of despair and death
Ride on the blast, and urge the howling storm!

Lo! by the lightenings momentary blaze,
I see him rise the whitening waves above,
No longer such as when in happier days
He gave the enchanted hours—to me and love.
Such, as when daring the enchased sea,
And courting dangerous toil, he often said,
That every peril, one soft smile from me,
One sigh of speechless tenderness, o'erpaid.

But dead, disfigur'd, while between the roar
Of the loud waves his accents pierce mine ear,
And seem to say—Ah! wretch, delay no more,
But come, unhappy mourner—meet me here.

Yet powerful fancy bid the phantom stay,
Still let me hear him!—'Tis already past;
Along the waves his shadow glides away,
I lose his voice amid the deafening blast.

Ah! wild illusion, born of frantic pain!
He hears not, comes not from his watery bed;
My tears, my anguish, my despair are vain,
The infatiate ocean gives not up its dead.

Tis
'Tis not his voice! Hark! the deep thunders roll;
Up-heaves the ground; the rocky barriers fail;
Approach, ye horrors that delight my soul,
Despair, and Death, and Desolation, hail!

The ocean hears——The embodied waters come——
Rife o'er the land, and with restless sweep
Tear from its base the proud aggressor's tomb,
And bear the injured to eternal sleep!

SONG
SONG.

FROM THE FRENCH OF CARDINAL BERNIER.

I.

FRUIT of Aurora's tears, fair rose,
On whose soft leaves fond Zephyrs play,
Oh! queen of flowers, thy buds disclose,
And give thy fragrance to the day;
Unveil thy transient charms:—ah, no!
A little be thy bloom delay'd,
Since the same hour that bids thee blow
Shall see thee droop thy languid head.

II.

But go! and on Themira's breast
Find, happy flower, thy throne and tomb;
While, jealous of a fate so blest,
How shall I envy thee thy doom!

Should
Should some rude hand approach thee there,
    Guard the sweet shrine thou wilt adorn;
Ah! punish those who rashly dare,
    And for my rivals keep thy thorn.

III.
Love shall himself thy boughs compose,
    And bid thy wanton leaves divide;
He'll shew thee how, my lovely rose,
    To deck her bosom, not to hide:
And thou shalt tell the cruel maid
    How frail are youth and beauty's charms,
And teach her, ere her own shall fade,
    To give them to her lover's arms.
WHEN Jove, in anger to the sons of earth,
Bid artful Vulcan give Pandora birth,
And sent the fatal gift, which spread below
O'er all the wretched race contagious woe,
Unhappy man, by vice and folly tost,
Found in the storms of life his quiet rest,
While Envy, Avarice, and Ambition, hurl'd
Discord and death around the warring world;
Then the blest peasant left his fields and fold,
And barter'd love and peace, for power and gold;
Left his calm cottage, and his native plain,
In search of wealth to tempt the faithless main;
Or, braving danger, in the battle stood,
And bath'd his savage hands in human blood:
No longer then, his woodland walks among,
The shepherd lad his genuine passion sung,
Or sought at early morn his soul's delight,
Or grau'd her name upon the bark at night;
To deck her flowing hair no more he wove
The simple wreath, or with ambitious love
Bound his own brow with myrtle or with bay,
But broke his pipe, and threw his crook away.
The nymphs forfaken, other pleasures sought;
Then first for gold their venal hearts were bought,
And nature's blush to sickly art gave place,
And affectation seiz'd the seat of grace:
No more simplicity, by sense refin'd,
Or generous sentiment, posses'd the mind;
No more they felt each other's joy and woe,
And Cupid fled, and hid his useless bow.
But with deep grief propitious Venus pin'd,
To see the ills which threaten'd womankind;
Ills, that she knew her empire would disarm,
And rob her subjects of their sweetest charm;
( 61 )

Good humour's potent influence destroy,
And change for lowering frowns, the smile of joy.
Then deeply sighing at the mournful view,
She try'd at length what heavenly art could do
To bring back pleasure to her pensive train,
And vindicate the glories of her reign.
A thousand little loves attend the task,
And bear from Mars's head his radiant casque,
The fair enchantress on its silver bound,
Wreath'd with soft spells her magic cestus round.
Then shaking from her hair ambrosial dew,
Infus'd fair hope, and expectation new,
And stifled wishes, and persuasive sighs,
And fond belief, and ' eloquence of eyes,'
And fault'ring accents, which explain so well
What studied speeches vainly try to tell,
And more pathetic silence, which imparts
Infectious tenderness to feeling hearts,
Soft tones of pity; fascinating smiles;
And Maia's son assisted her with wiles,

And
And brought gay dreams, fantastic visions brought,
And wav'd his wand o'er the seducing draught.
Then Zephyr came: To him the goddess cried:
'Go fetch from Flora all her flow'ry pride
'To fill my charm, each scented bud that blows,
'And bind my myrtles with her thornless rose;
'Then speed thy flight to Gallia's smiling plain,
'Where rolls the Loire, the Garonne, and the Seine;
'Dip in their waters thy celestial wing,
And the soft dew to fill my chalice bring;
But chiefly tell thy Flora, that to me
'Send a bouquet of her fleurs de lys;
'That poignant spirit will compleat my spell.'
---'Tis done: the lovely sorceress says 'tis well.
And now Apollo lends a ray of fire,
The cauldron bubbles, and the flames aspire;
The watchful Graces round the circle dance,
With arms entwin'd, to mark the work's advance;
And with full quiver sportive Cupid came,
Temp'ring his favourite arrows in the flame.
Then Venus speaks, the wavering flames retire,
And Zephyr's breath extinguishes the fire.
At length the goddess in the helmet's round
A sweet and subtle spirit duly found,
More soft than oil, than aether more refined,
Of power to cure the woes of womankind,
And called it Flattery:—balm of female life,
It charms alike the widow, maid, and wife;
Clears the sad brow of virgins in despair,
And smooths the cruel traces left by care;
Bids palsy'd age with youthful spirit glow,
And hangs May's garlands on December's snow.
Delicious essence! howsoe'er apply'd,
By what rude nature is thy charm deny'd?
Some form seducing still thy whisper wears,
Stern Wisdom turns to thee her willing ears,
And Prudence listens, and forgets her fears.
The rustic nymph, whom rigid aunts restrain,
Condemn'd to dress, and practice airs in vain,

At
At thy first summons finds her bosom swell,
And bids her crabbed gouvernantes farewell;
While, sir'd by thee with spirit not her own,
She grows a toast, and rises into tea.
The faded beauty who with secret pain,
Sees younger charms usurp her envied reign,
By thee assisted, can with smiles behold
The record where her conquests are enroll'd;
And dwelling yet on scenes by memory nurs'd,
When George the Second reign'd, or George the First;
She sees the shades of ancient beaux arise,
Who swear her eyes exceeded modern eyes,
When poets sung for her and lovers bled,
And giddy fashion follow'd as she led.
Departed modes appear in long array,
The flowers and flounces of her happier day,
Again her locks the decent fillets bind,
The waving lappet flutter'd in the wind,
And then comparing with a proud disdain
The more fantastic taffes that now obtain,
She
( 65 )

She deems ungraceful, trifling and absurd,
The gayer world that moves round George the Third.
Nor thy soft influence will the train refuse,
Who court in distant shades the modest Muse,
Tho' in a form more pure and more refin'd,
Thy soothing spirit meets the letter'd mind.
Not death itself thine empire can destroy;
Towards thee, even then, we turn the languid eye;
Still trust in thee to bid our memory bloom,
And scatter roses round the silent tomb.

F QUOTATIONS,
QUOTATIONS, NOTES,
and EXPLANATIONS.

SONNET I.

LINE 13.
Ah! then, how dear the Muse's favours cost,
If those paint sorrow best—who feel it most!

The well sung woes shall soothe my pensive ghost;
He best can paint them, who shall feel them most.

Pope's Eloisa to Abelard, 366th line.

SONNET II.

LINE 3.
Anemonies, that spangled every grove.
Anemony Nemerofo. The wood Anemony.

SONNET
SONNET III.

LINE 1.
The idea from the 43d Sonnet of Petrarch. Secondo parte.
Quel rosigniul, che si soave piagne.

SONNET V.

LINE 2.
Your turf, your flowers among.

Whose turf, whose shades, whose flowers among.  
Gray.

LINE 9.
Aruna!
The river Arun.

SONNET VI.

LINE 12.
"For me the vernal garland blooms no more."

SONNET VII.

LINE 4.
"On the night's dull ear."

LINE 5.
Whether on Spring—Alludes to the supposed migration of the Nightingale.

LINE 7.
The pensive Muse shall own thee for his mate.

Whether the Muse or Love call thee his mate,
Both them I serve, and of their train am I.

Milton's First Sonnet.
SONNET VIII.

LINE 14.
Have power to cure all sadness—but despair!
To the heart inspires
Vernal delight and joy, able to drive
All sadness but despair.

Paradise Lost, Fourth Book.

SONNET IX.

LINE 10.
And laugh at tears themselves have forc'd to flow.
And hard unkindness' alter'd eye,
That mocks the tear it forc'd to flow.

Gray.

SONNET XI.

LINE 4.
Float in light vision round my aching head.
Float in light vision round the poet's head.

Mason.
( 71 )

LINE 7.
And the poor sea boy, in the rudest hour,
Enjoys thee more than he who wears a crown.

Wilt thou upon the high and giddy mast
Seal up the ship boy's eyes, and rock his brains
In cradle of the rude impetuous surge? &c.

Shakespeare's Henry IV.

SONNET XII.

LINE 8.
And suits the mournful temper of my soul.

Young.

SONNET XIII.

LINE 1.
Pommi ove'l Sol, occide i fiori e l'erba.

Petrarch, Sonetto 112, Parte primo.

SONNET
SONNET XIV.
LINE 1.
Erano i capei d'oro all'aura sparsi.
Sonetto 69. Parte primo.

SONNET XV.
LINE 1.
Se lamentar augelli o verdi fronde.

SONNET XVI.
LINE 1.
Valle che de lamenti miei se piensa.
Sonetto 33. Parte secondo.

SONNET XVII.
LINE 1.
Scrivo in te l'amato nome
Di colei, per cui, mi moro.

This
( 73 )

This is not meant as a translation; the original is much longer, and full of images, which could not be introduced in a Sonnet.—And some of them, tho' very beautiful in the Italian, would not appear to advantage in an English dress.

SONNET XXI.

LINE 5.

' Poor Maniac.'

See the Story of the Lunatic.

' Is this the destiny of man? Is he only happy before he possession his reason, or after he has lost it?—Full of hope you go to gather flowers in Winter, and are grieved not to find any—and do not know why they cannot be found.'


LINE 8.

' And drink delicious poison from thine eye.'

Pope.

SONNET
SONNET XXII.

LINE 1.

'I climb steep rocks, I break my way through copses, among thorns and briars which tear me to pieces, and I feel a little relief.'

Sorrows of Werter. Volume First.

SONNET XXIII.

LINE 1.

'The greater Bear, favourite of all the constellations; for when I left you of an evening it us'd to shine opposite your window.'


SONNET XXIV.

LINE 1.

'At the corner of the church yard which looks towards the fields, there are two lime trees—it is there I wish to rest.'


SONNET
SONNET XXV.

LINE I.

'May my death remove every obstacle to your happiness.—Be at peace, I intreat you be at peace.'


LINE II.

When worms shall feed on this devoted heart,
Where even thy image shall be found no more.

From a line in Rousseau's Eloisa.

SONNET XXVI.

LINE 5.

For with the infant Otway, lingering here.

Otway was born at Trotten, a village in Sussex,
Of Woolbeding, another village on the banks of the Arun, (which runs through them both,) his father was rector. Here it was therefore that he probably
( 76 )
probably passed many of his early years. The
Arun is here an inconsiderable stream, winding in
a channel deeply worn, among meadow, heath,
and wood.

SONNET XXVII.

LINE 4.
' Content, and careless of to-morrow's fare.'
Thomson.

SONNET XXVIII.

LINE 9.
' Balmy hand to bind.'
Collins.

SONNET XXX.

LINE 6.
Bindwith.
The plant Clematis, Bindwith, Virgin's Bower,
or Travellers Joy, which towards the end of June
begins
( 77 )

begins to cover the hedges and sides of rocky hollows, with its beautiful foliage, and flowers of a yellowish white of an agreeable fragrance; these are succeeded by seed pods, that bear some resemblance to feathers or hair, whence it is sometimes called Old Man's Beard.

LINE 9.

Banks! which inspir'd thy Otway's plaintive strain!
Wilds! whose lorn Echo's learn'd the deeper tone
Of Collins' powerful shell!

Collins, as well as Otway, was a native of this country, and probably at some period of his life an inhabitant of this neighbourhood, since in his beautiful Ode on the death of Colonel Rofs, he says:

The Muse shall still, with social aid,
Her gentlest promise keep,
E'en humble Harting's cottag'd vale
Shall learn the sad repeated tale,
And bid her shepherds weep.

And
And in the Ode to Pity:

Wild Arun too has heard thy strains,
And Echo, midst my native plains,
Been sooth'd with Pity's lute.

SONNET XXXI.
LINE 2.

'Alpine flowers.'

An infinite variety of plants are found on these hills, particularly about this spot: many sorts of Orchis and Ciftus of singular beauty, with several others.

SONNET XXXIII.
LINE 9.

Thy natives.

Otway, Collins, Hayley.
SONNET XLII.

LINE 8.

"The shrieking night-jar sail on heavy wing."

The night-jar or night hawk, a dark bird not so big as a rook, which is frequently seen of an evening on the downs. It has a short heavy flight, then rests on the ground, and again, uttering a mournful cry, flits before the traveller, to whom its appearance is supposed by the peasants to portend misfortune. As I have never seen it dead, I know not to what species it belongs.

SONNET XLIV.

LINE 7.

Middleton is a village on the margin of the sea in Suffolk, containing only two or three houses. There were formerly several acres of ground between its small church and the sea; which now, by

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by its continual encroachments, approaches within a few feet of this half ruined and humble edifice. The wall, which once surrounded the church yard, is entirely swept away, many of the graves broken up, and the remains of bodies interred washed into the sea: whence human bones are found among the sand and thingles on the shore.

SONNET XLV.

LINE 11.

"The enthusiast of the lyre who wander'd here."

Collins.—See note to Sonnet 30.

SONNET XLVI.

LINE 8.

"But where now clamsours the discordant heron."

In the park at Penhurst is an heronry. The house is at present uninhabited, and the windows of the galleries and other rooms, in which there are many invaluable pictures, are never opened but when strangers visit it.
Algernon Sidney.

EL E G Y.

This elegy is written on the supposition that an indigent young woman had been addressed by the son of a wealthy yeoman, who resenting his attachment, had driven him from home, and compelled him to have recourse for subsistence to the occupation of a pilot, in which, attempting to save a vessel in distress, he perished.

The father dying, a tomb is supposed to be erected to his memory in the churchyard mentioned in Sonnet the 44th. And while a tempest is gathering, the unfortunate young woman comes thither; and courting the same death as had robbed her of her lover, she awaits its violence, and is at length overwhelmed by the waves.
VERSE 8. LINE 4.

"And fruitless calls on him who cannot hear."

"I fruitless mourn to him who cannot hear,

"And weep the more because I weep in vain."

Gray's exquisite Sonnet;

in reading which it is impossible not to regret that he wrote only one.

THE ORIGIN OF FLATTERY.

This little poem was written almost extempore on occasion of a conversation where many pleasant things were said on the subject of flattery; and some French gentlemen who were of the party, enquired for a synonyme in English to the French word fleurette. The poem was inserted in the two first editions, and having been asked for by very respectable subscribers to the present, it is re-printed. The sonnets have been thought too gloomy; and the author has been advised to insert some
some of a more cheerful cast. This poem may by others be thought too gay, and is indeed so little in unison with the present sentiments and feelings of its author, that it had been wholly omitted but for the respectable approbation of those to whose judgment she owed implicit deference.
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