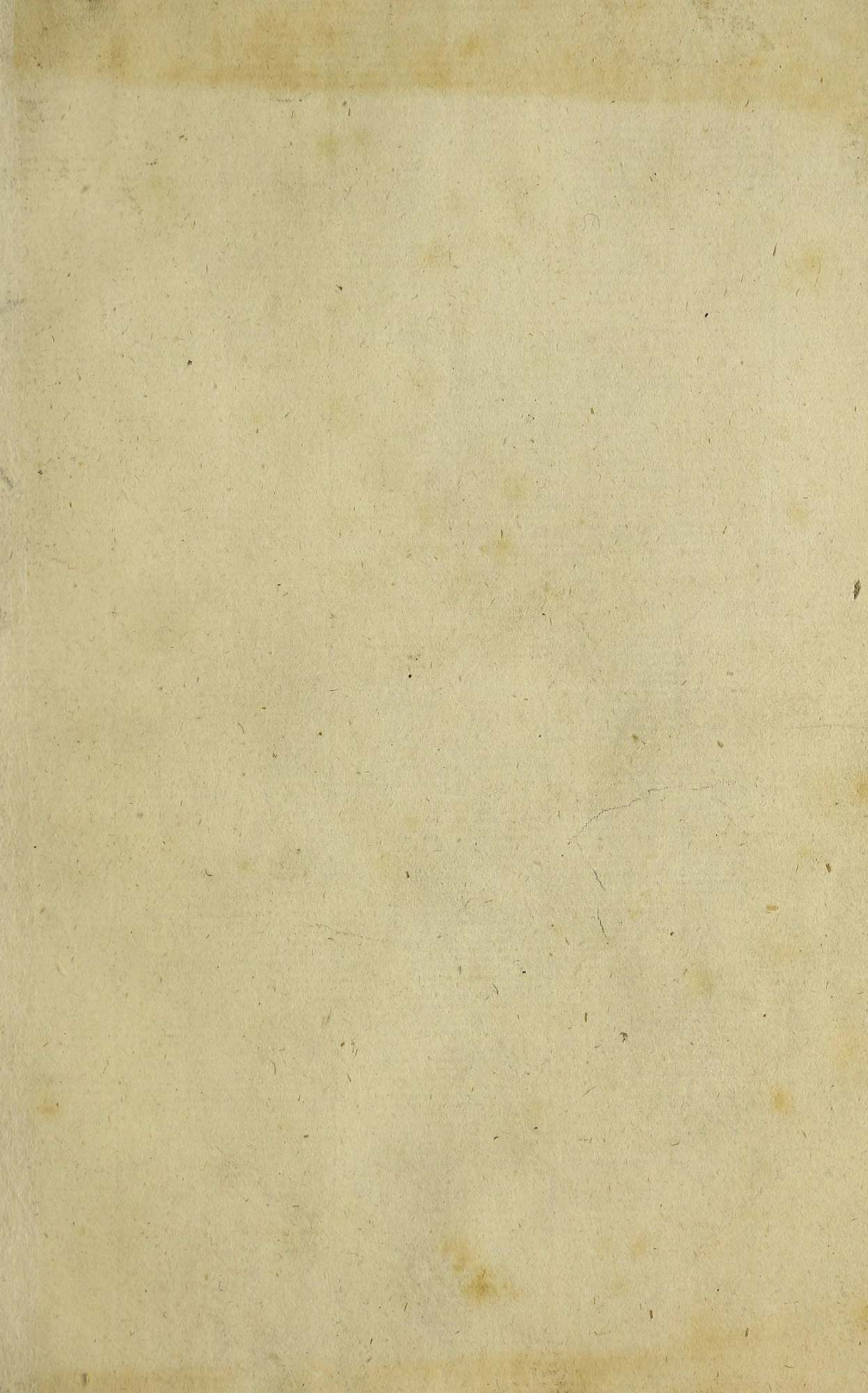




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P O E M S

O N

VARIOUS SUBJECTS,

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL.

---

B Y

*Entered as Stationers' Copy*  
PHILLIS WHEATLEY,

---

NEGRO SERVANT to Mr. JOHN WHEATLEY,  
of BOSTON, in NEW ENGLAND.

---

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L O N D O N:

Printed for A. BELL, Bookseller, Aldgate; and sold by  
Messrs. COX and BERRY, King-Street, BOSTON.

M DCC LXXIII.

P O F O M S

O W

VARIOUS SUBJECTS

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL

*Entered at Stationers Hall.*

PUBLISHED BY

WILLIAM WHEATLEY  
OF BOSTON, IN NEW ENGLAND.

L O W D O W

Printed by A. S. B. Bookster, Algonquin; and sold by  
Messrs. Cox and Barr, King Street, BOSTON.

M DCC LXXXIII

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WH  
1773  
RB  
MHT

3

# DEDICATION.

To the Right Honourable the  
COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON,

THE FOLLOWING

P O E M S

Are most respectfully

Inscribed,

By her much obliged,

Very humble,

And devoted Servant,

*Phillis Wheatley.*

*Boston, June 12,  
1773.*

P R E F A C E.

**T**H E following P O E M S were written originally for the Amusement of the Author, as they were the Products of her leisure Moments. She had no Intention ever to have published them; nor would they now have made their Appearance, but at the Importunity of many of her best, and most generous Friends; to whom she considers herself, as under the greatest Obligations.

As her Attempts in Poetry are now sent into the World, it is hoped the Critic will not severely censure their Defects; and we presume they have too much Merit  
to



5

P R E F A C E. v

to be cast aside with Contempt,  
as worthless and trifling Effusions.

As to the Disadvantages she has  
laboured under, with Regard to  
Learning, nothing needs to be of-  
fered, as her Master's Letter in the  
following Page will sufficiently shew  
the Difficulties in this Respect she  
had to encounter.

With all their Imperfections, the  
Poems are now humbly submitted  
to the Perusal of the Public.

The

The following is a Copy of a LETTER sent by the  
Author's Master to the Publisher.

**P**HILLIS was brought from *Africa* to *America*,  
in the Year 1761, between Seven and Eight  
Years of Age. Without any Assistance from School  
Education, and by only what she was taught in the  
Family, she, in sixteen Months Time from her Ar-  
rival, attained the English Language, to which she  
was an utter Stranger before, to such a Degree, as  
to read any, the most difficult Parts of the Sacred  
Writings, to the great Astonishment of all who  
heard her.

As to her WRITING, her own Curiosity led her  
to it; and this she learnt in so short a Time, that in  
the Year 1765, she wrote a Letter to the Rev.  
Mr. Occom, the *Indian* Minister, while in *England*.

She has a great Inclination to learn the Latin  
Tongue, and has made some Progress in it. This  
Relation is given by her Master who bought her,  
and with whom she now lives.

JOHN WHEATLEY.

*Boston*, Nov. 14, 1772.

DSI

## To the P U B L I C K.

**A**S it has been repeatedly suggested to the Publisher, by Persons, who have seen the Manuscript, that Numbers would be ready to suspect they were not really the Writings of PHILLIS, he has procured the following Attestation, from the most respectable Characters in *Boston*, that none might have the least Ground for disputing their *Original*.

WE whose Names are under-written, do assure the World, that the POEMS specified in the following Page, \* were (as we verily believe) written by PHILLIS, a young Negro Girl, who was but a few Years since, brought an uncultivated Barbarian from *Africa*, and has ever since been, and now is, under the Disadvantage of serving as a Slave in a Family in this Town. She has been examined by some of the best Judges, and is thought qualified to write them.

*His Excellency* THOMAS HUTCHINSON, *Governor,*

*The Hon.* ANDREW OLIVER, *Lieutenant-Governor.*

*The Hon.* Thomas Hubbard,

*The Hon.* John Erving,

*The Hon.* James Pitts,

*The Hon.* Harrison Gray,

*The Hon.* James Bowdoin,

John Hancock, *Esq;*

Joseph Green, *Esq;*

Richard Carey, *Esq;*

*The Rev.* Charles Chauncy, *D. D.*

*The Rev.* Mather Byles, *D. D.*

*The Rev.* Ed. Pemberton, *D. D.*

*The Rev.* Andrew Elliot, *D. D.*

*The Rev.* Samuel Cooper, *D. D.*

*The Rev.* Mr. Samuel Mather,

*The Rev.* Mr. John Moorhead,

Mr. John Wheatley, *her Master.*

*N. B.* The original Attestation, signed by the above Gentlemen, may be seen by applying to *Archibald Bell*, Bookseller, No. 8, *Aldgate-Street*.

---

\* The Words "*following Page*," allude to the Contents of the Manuscript Copy, which are wrote at the Back of the above Attestation.

To the PUBLIC.

It has been repeatedly suggested to the Publisher, by Per-  
sons who have seen the Manuscript, that Letters of  
world be reserved until they were not really the Writings of  
PHILLIS. He has procured the following Attestation, from  
the most respectable Characters in Boston, that none might have  
the least chance for disputing their veracity.

W. B. and his names are under-written, do assure the World,  
that the names inserted in the following Page, \* Letters we  
truly believe, written by Phillis a young Negro Girl, who  
was but a few Years since, brought an unfortunate Barbarian  
from Africa, and has ever since been, and now is, under the  
Disadvantage of being as a Slave in a Family in this Town.  
She has been examined by some of the best Judges, and is  
thought qualified to write them.

Mr. Andrew Oliver, Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Thomas Hutchinson, Governor.

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| The Hon. Thomas Hubbard, | The Rev. Charles Chauncy, D. D. |
| The Hon. James Paine,    | The Rev. Mather Hyles, A. D.    |
| The Hon. Hanson Gray,    | The Rev. Ed. Pemberton, A. D.   |
| The Hon. James Townsend, | The Rev. Andrew Elliot, D. D.   |
| John Hancock, Esq.       | The Rev. Samuel Cooper, D. D.   |
| Joseph Green, Esq.       | The Rev. Mr. Samuel Mather,     |
| Richard Coney, Esq.      | The Rev. Mr. John Moorhead,     |
|                          | Mr. John Wheatley, an African.  |

W. B. The original Attestation, signed by the above Gentle-  
men, may be seen by applying to Richard Bell, Bookbinder,  
No. 2, Milk Street.

\* The Words "Following Page," added to the Contents of  
the Manuscript Copy, which are wrote at the back of the  
above Attestation.

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P O E M S

O N

V A R I O U S S U B J E C T S.

---

T O M Æ C E N A S.

M Æ C E N A S, you, beneath the myrtle  
shade,

Read o'er what poets sung, and shepherds play'd,

What felt those poets but you feel the same?

Does not your soul possess the sacred flame?

Their noble strains your equal genius shares 5

In softer language, and diviner airs.

While *Homer* paints lo! circumfus'd in air,  
Celestial Gods in mortal forms appear;

B

Swift

Swift as they move hear each recess rebound,  
 Heav'n quakes, earth trembles, and the shores re-  
 found. 10

Great Sire of verse, before my mortal eyes,  
 The lightnings blaze across the vaulted skies,  
 And, as the thunder shakes the heav'nly plains,  
 A deep-felt horror thrills through all my veins.  
 When gentler strains demand thy graceful song, 15  
 The length'ning line moves languishing along.  
 When great *Patroclus* courts *Achilles'* aid,  
 The grateful tribute of my tears is paid;  
 Prone on the shore he feels the pangs of love,  
 And stern *Pelides* tend'rest passions move. 20

Great *Maro's* strain in heav'nly numbers flows,  
 The *Nine* inspire, and all the bosom glows.  
 O could I rival thine and *Virgil's* page,  
 Or claim the *Muses* with the *Mantuan* Sage;  
 Soon the same beauties should my mind adorn, 25  
 And the same ardors in my soul should burn:  
 Then should my song in bolder notes arise,  
 And all my numbers pleasingly surprize;

But

But here I sit, and mourn a grov'ling mind,  
That fain would mount, and ride upon the wind.

Not you, my friend, these plaintive strains be-  
come,

Not you, whose bosom is the *Muses* home;  
When they from tow'ring *Helicon* retire,  
They fan in you the bright immortal fire,  
But I less happy, cannot raise the song, 35  
The fault'ring music dies upon my tongue.

The happier *Terence* \* all the choir inspir'd,  
His soul replenish'd, and his bosom fir'd;  
But say, ye *Muses*, why this partial grace,  
To one alone of *Afric's* fable race; 40  
From age to age transmitting thus his name  
With the first glory in the rolls of fame?

Thy virtues, great *Mæcenæ*! shall be sung  
In praise of him, from whom those virtues sprung:

\* He was an *African* by birth.

While blooming wreaths around thy temples  
 spread, 45  
 I'll snatch a laurel from thine honour'd head,  
 While you indulgent smile upon the deed.

As long as *Thames* in streams majestic flows,  
 Or *Naiads* in their oozy beds repose,  
 While *Phæbus* reigns above the starry train, 50  
 While bright *Aurora* purples o'er the main,  
 So long, great Sir, the muse thy praise shall sing,  
 So long thy praise shall make *Parnassus* ring:  
 Then grant, *Mæcenæ*, thy paternal rays,  
 Hear me propitious, and defend my lays. 55

ON V I R T U E.

O Thou bright jewel in my aim I strive  
 To comprehend thee. Thine own words  
 declare

Wisdom is higher than a fool can reach.

I cease to wonder, and no more attempt

Thine height t' explore, or fathom thy profound. 5

But, O my soul, sink not into despair,

*Virtue* is near thee, and with gentle hand

Would now embrace thee, hovers o'er thine head.

Fain would the heav'n-born soul with her converse,

Then seek, then court her for her promis'd blifs.

Auspicious queen, thine heav'nly pinions spread,  
 And lead celestial *Chastity* along ;

Lo! now her sacred retinue descends,

Array'd in glory from the orbs above.

Attend me, *Virtue*, thro' my youthful years! 15

O leave me not to the false joys of time!

But guide my steps to endless life and blifs.

*Greatness,*

*Greatness, or Goodness, say what I shall call thee,*  
To give an higher appellation still,  
Teach me a better strain, a nobler lay,                    20  
O thou, enthron'd with Cherubs in the realms of  
day!

TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE,  
IN NEW-ENGLAND.

**W**HILE an intrinsic ardor prompts to write;  
The muses promise to assist my pen ;  
'Twas not long since I left my native shore  
The land of errors, and *Egyptian* gloom :  
Father of mercy, 'twas thy gracious hand 5  
Brought me in safety from those dark abodes.

Students, to you 'tis giv'n to scan the heights  
Above, to traverse the ethereal space,  
And mark the systems of revolving worlds.  
Still more, ye sons of science ye receive 10  
The blissful news by messengers from heav'n,  
How *Jesus*' blood for your redemption flows.  
See him with hands out-stretcht upon the cross ;  
Immense compassion in his bosom glows ;  
He hears revilers, nor resents their scorn : 15  
What matchless mercy in the Son of God !  
When the whole human race by sin had fall'n,  
He

He deign'd to die that they might rise again,  
And share with him in the sublimest skies,  
Life without death, and glory without end. 20

Improve your privileges while they stay,  
Ye pupils, and each hour redeem, that bears  
Or good or bad report of you to heav'n.  
Let sin, that baneful evil to the soul,  
By you be shunn'd, nor once remit your guard; 25  
Suppress the deadly serpent in its egg.  
Ye blooming plants of human race divine,  
An *Ethiop* tells you 'tis your greatest foe;  
Its transient sweetness turns to endless pain,  
And in immense perdition sinks the soul. 30



To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

1768.

YOUR subjects hope, dread Sire—  
 The crown upon your brows may flourish  
 long,  
 And that your arm may in your God be strong!  
 O may your sceptre num'rous nations sway,  
 And all with love and readiness obey!

But how shall we the *British* king reward! 5  
 Rule thou in peace, our father, and our lord!  
 Midst the remembrance of thy favours past,  
 The meanest peasants most admire the last. \*  
 May *George*, belov'd by all the nations round,  
 Live with heav'n's choicest constant blessings  
 crown'd! 10

Great God, direct, and guard him from on high,  
 And from his head let ev'ry evil fly!  
 And may each clime with equal gladness see  
 A monarch's smile can set his subjects free!

\* The Repeal of the Stamp Act.

On being brought from AFRICA to  
AMERICA.

'T WAS mercy brought me from my *Pagan*  
land,

Taught my benighted soul to understand  
That there's a God, that there's a *Saviour* too:

Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.

Some view our fable race with scornful eye, 5

“ Their colour is a diabolic die.”

Remember, *Christians*, *Negros*, black as *Cain*,

May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.

On the Death of the Rev. DR. SEWELL:

1769.

**E**RE yet the morn its lovely blushes spread,  
 See *Sewell* number'd with the happy dead.  
 Hail, holy man, arriv'd th' immortal shore,  
 Though we shall hear thy warning voice no more.  
 Come, let us all behold with wishful eyes 5  
 The faint ascending to his native skies;  
 From hence the prophet wing'd his rapt'rous way  
 To the blest mansions in eternal day.  
 Then begging for the Spirit of our God,  
 And panting eager for the same abode, 10  
 Come, let us all with the same vigour rise,  
 And take a prospect of the blissful skies;  
 While on our minds *Christ's* image is impress'd,  
 And the dear Saviour glows in ev'ry breast.  
 Thrice happy faint! to find thy heav'n at last, 15  
 What compensation for the evils past!

Great God, incomprehensible, unknown  
 By sense, we bow at thine exalted throne.  
 O, while we beg thine excellence to feel,  
 Thy sacred Spirit to our hearts reveal, 20  
 And give us of that mercy to partake,  
 Which thou hast promis'd for the *Saviour's* sake!

“ *Sewell* is dead.” Swift-pinion'd *Fame* thus  
 cry'd.  
 “ Is *Sewell* dead,” my trembling tongue reply'd,  
 O what a blessing in his flight deny'd! 25  
 How oft for us the holy prophet pray'd!  
 How oft to us the Word of Life convey'd!  
 By duty urg'd my mournful verse to close,  
 I for his tomb this epitaph compose.

“ Lo, here a man, redeem'd by *Jesus'* blood, 30  
 “ A sinner once, but now a saint with God;  
 “ Behold ye rich, ye poor, ye fools, ye wife,  
 “ Nor let his monument your heart surprize;  
 “ 'Twill tell you what this holy man has done,  
 “ Which gives him brighter lustre than the sun.  
 “ Listen,

- “ Listen, ye happy, from your seats above.  
 “ I speak sincerely, while I speak and love,  
 “ He sought the paths of piety and truth,  
 “ By these made happy from his early youth !  
 “ In blooming years that grace divine he felt, 40  
 “ Which rescues sinners from the chains of guilt.  
 “ Mourn him, ye indigent, whom he has fed,  
 “ And henceforth seek, like him, for living bread ;  
 “ Ev’n *Christ*, the bread descending from above,  
 “ And ask an int’rest in his saving love. 45  
 “ Mourn him, ye youth, to whom he oft has told  
 “ God’s gracious wonders from the times of old.  
 “ I, too have cause this mighty loss to mourn,  
 “ For he my monitor will not return.  
 “ O when shall we to his blest state arrive? 50  
 “ When the same graces in our bosoms thrive.”

On the Death of the Rev. MR. G E O R G E  
W H I T E F I E L D. 1770.

**H**A I L, happy faint, on thine immortal throne,  
 Possess of glory, life, and bliss unknown;  
 We hear no more the music of thy tongue,  
 Thy wonted auditories cease to throng.  
 Thy sermons in unequal'd accents flow'd, 5  
 And ev'ry bosom with devotion glow'd;  
 Thou didst in strains of eloquence refin'd  
 In flame the heart, and captivate the mind.  
 Unhappy we the setting sun deplore,  
 So glorious once, but ah! it shines no more. 10

Behold the prophet in his tow'ring flight!  
 He leaves the earth for heav'n's unmeasur'd  
 height,  
 And worlds unknown receive him from our sight. }  
 There *Whitefield* wings with rapid course his way,  
 And sails to *Zion* through vast seas of day. 15  
 Thy pray'rs, great faint, and thine incessant cries  
 Have pierc'd the bosom of thy native skies.

Thou

Thou moon hast seen, and all the stars of light,  
 How he has wrestled with his God by night.  
 He pray'd that grace in ev'ry heart might dwell, 20  
 He long'd to see *America* excel;  
 He charg'd its youth that ev'ry grace divine  
 Should with full lustre in their conduct shine;  
 That Saviour, which his soul did first receive,  
 The greatest gift that ev'n a God can give, 25  
 He freely offer'd to the num'rous throng,  
 That on his lips with list'ning pleasure hung.

“ Take him, ye wretched, for your only good,  
 “ Take him ye starving sinners, for your food;  
 “ Ye thirsty, come to this life-giving stream, 30  
 “ Ye preachers, take him for your joyful theme;  
 “ Take him my dear *Americans*, he said,  
 “ Be your complaints on his kind bosom laid:  
 “ Take him, ye *Africans*, he longs for you,  
 “ *Impartial Saviour* is his title due: 35  
 “ Wash'd in the fountain of redeeming blood,  
 “ You shall be sons, and kings, and priests to God.”

Great

Great *Countess*, \* we *Americans* revere  
 Thy name, and mingle in thy grief sincere;  
*New England* deeply feels, the *Orphans* mourn, 40  
 Their more than father will no more return.

But, though arrested by the hand of death,  
*Whitefield* no more exerts his lab'ring breath,  
 Yet let us view him in th' eternal skies,  
 Let ev'ry heart to this bright vision rise; 45  
 While the tomb safe retains its sacred trust,  
 Till life divine re-animates his dust.

\* The *Countess* of *Huntingdon*, to whom Mr. *Whitefield*  
 was Chaplain.



On the Death of a young Lady of Five Years  
of Age.

**F**R O M dark abodes to fair ethereal light  
 Th' enraptur'd innocent has wing'd her flight;  
 On the kind bosom of eternal love  
 She finds unknown beatitude above.  
 This know, ye parents, nor her loss deplore, 5  
 She feels the iron hand of pain no more;  
 The dispensations of unerring grace,  
 Should turn your sorrows into grateful praise;  
 Let then no tears for her henceforward flow,  
 No more distress'd in our dark vale below. 10

Her morning sun, which rose divinely bright,  
 Was quickly mantled with the gloom of night;  
 But hear in heav'n's blest bow'rs your *Nancy* fair,  
 And learn to imitate her language there.

" Thou, Lord, whom I behold with glory crown'd,  
 " By what sweet name, and in what tuneful sound

D

" Wilt

“ Wilt thou be prais’d ? Seraphic pow’rs are faint  
 “ Infinite love and majesty to paint.  
 “ To thee let all their grateful voices raise,  
 “ And faints and angels join their songs of  
     “ praise.”

20

Perfect in bliss she from her heav’nly home  
 Looks down, and smiling beckons you to come ;  
 Why then, fond parents, why these fruitless groans ?  
 Restrain your tears, and cease your plaintive moans.  
 Freed from a world of sin, and snares, and pain, 25  
 Why would you wish your daughter back again ?  
 No — bow resign’d. Let hope your grief control,  
 And check the rising tumult of the soul.  
 Calm in the prosperous, and adverse day,  
 Adore the God who gives and takes away ; 30  
 Eye him in all, his holy name revere,  
 Upright your actions, and your hearts sincere,  
 Till having sail’d through life’s tempestuous sea,  
 And from its rocks, and boist’rous billows free,  
 Yourself, safe landed on the blissful shore, 35  
 Shall join your happy babe to part no more.

On

On the Death of a young Gentleman.

WHO taught thee conflict with the pow'rs  
of night,

To vanquish Satan in the fields of fight?

Who strung thy feeble arms with might unknown,  
How great thy conquest, and how bright thy  
crown!

War with each pryncedom, throne, and pow'r  
is o'er, 5

The scene is ended to return no more.

O could my muse thy feat on high behold,  
How deckt with laurel, how enrich'd with gold!  
O could she hear what praise thine harp em-  
ploys,

How sweet thine anthems, how divine thy joys! 10

What heav'nly grandeur should exalt her strain!

What holy raptures in her numbers reign!

To sooth the troubles of the mind to peace,

To still the tumult of life's tossing seas,

To ease the anguish of the parents heart, 15  
What shall my sympathizing verse impart ?  
Where is the balm to heal so deep a wound ?  
Where shall a sov'reign remedy be found ?  
Look, gracious Spirit, from thine heav'nly bow'r,  
And thy full joys into their bosoms pour ; 20  
The raging tempest of their grief control,  
And spread the dawn of glory through the soul,  
To eye the path the saint departed trod,  
And trace him to the bosom of his God.

To a Lady on the Death of her Husband.

GRIM monarch ! see, depriv'd of vital breath,  
 A young physician in the dust of death :  
 Dost thou go on incessant to destroy,  
 Our griefs to double, and lay waste our joy ?  
*Enough* thou never yet wast known to say,      5  
 Though millions die, the vassals of thy sway ;  
 Nor youth, nor science, nor the ties of love,  
 Nor aught on earth thy flinty heart can move.  
 The friend, the spouse from his dire dart to save,  
 In vain we ask the sovereign of the grave.      10  
 Fair mourner, there see thy lov'd *Leonard* laid,  
 And o'er him spread the deep impervious shade ;  
 Clos'd are his eyes, and heavy fetters keep  
 His senses bound in never-waking sleep,  
 Till time shall cease, till many a starry world      15  
 Shall fall from heav'n, in dire confusion hurl'd,  
 Till nature in her final wreck shall lie,  
 And her last groan shall rend the azure sky :

Not

Not, not till then his active soul shall claim  
His body, a divine immortal frame. 20

But see the softly-stealing tears apace  
Pursue each other down the mourner's face ;  
But cease thy tears, bid ev'ry sigh depart,  
And cast the load of anguish from thine heart :  
From the cold shell of his great soul arise, 25  
And look beyond, thou native of the skies ;  
There fix thy view, where fleetier than the wind  
Thy *Leonard* mounts, and leaves the earth behind.  
Thyself prepare to pass the vale of night  
To join for ever on the hills of light : 30  
To thine embrace his joyful spirit moves  
To thee, the partner of his earthly loves ;  
He welcomes thee to pleasures more refin'd,  
And better suited to th' immortal mind.

G O L I A T H O F G A T H.  
I SAM. Chap. xvii.

Y E martial pow'rs, and all ye tuneful nine,  
Inspire my song, and aid my high design.  
The dreadful scenes and toils of war I write,  
The ardent warriors, and the fields of fight:  
You best remember, and you best can sing 5  
The acts of heroes to the vocal string:  
Resume the lays with which your sacred lyre,  
Did then the poet and the sage inspire.

Now front to front the armies were display'd,  
Here *Israel* rang'd, and there the foes array'd; 10  
The hosts on two opposing mountains stood,  
Thick as the foliage of the waving wood;  
Between them an extensive valley lay,  
O'er which the gleaming armour pour'd the day,  
When from the camp of the *Philistine* foes, 15  
Dreadful to view, a mighty warrior rose;  
In the dire deeds of bleeding battle skill'd,  
The monster stalks the terror of the field.

From

From *Gath* he sprung, *Goliath* was his name,  
 Of fierce deportment, and gigantic frame : 20  
 A brazen helmet on his head was plac'd,  
 A coat of mail his form terrific grac'd,  
 The greaves his legs, the targe his shoulders prest :  
 Dreadful in arms high-tow'ring o'er the rest  
 A spear he proudly wav'd, whose iron head, 25  
 Strange to relate, six hundred shekels weigh'd ;  
 He strode along, and shook the ample field,  
 While *Phæbus* blaz'd refulgent on his shield :  
 Through *Jacob's* race a chilling horror ran,  
 When thus the huge, enormous chief began : 30

“ Say, what the cause that in this proud array  
 “ You set your battle in the face of day ?  
 “ One hero find in all your vaunting train,  
 “ Then see who loses, and who wins the plain ;  
 “ For he who wins, in triumph may demand 35  
 “ Perpetual service from the vanquish'd land :  
 “ Your armies I defy, your force despise,  
 “ By far inferior in *Philistia's* eyes :

“ Produce



“ Produce a man, and let us try the fight,  
 “ Decide the contest, and the victor’s right.” 40

Thus challeng’d he : all *Israel* stood amaz’d,  
 And ev’ry chief in consternation gaz’d ;  
 But *Jesse’s* son in youthful bloom appears,  
 And warlike courage far beyond his years :  
 He left the folds, he left the flow’ry meads, 45  
 And soft recesses of the sylvan shades.  
 Now *Israel’s* monarch, and his troops arise, }  
 With peals of shouts ascending to the skies ; }  
 In *Elab’s* vale the scene of combat lies. }

When the fair morning blush’d with orient  
 red, 50  
 What *David’s* fire enjoin’d the son obey’d,  
 And swift of foot towards the trench he came,  
 Where glow’d each bosom with the martial flame.  
 He leaves his carriage to another’s care,  
 And runs to greet his brethren of the war. 55  
 While yet they spake the giant-chief arose,  
 Repeats the challenge, and insults his foes :

E Struck

Struck with the found, and trembling at the view,  
Affrighted *Israel* from its post withdrew.

“ Observe ye this tremendous foe, they cry’d, 60

“ Who in proud vaunts our armies hath defy’d :

“ Whoever lays him prostrate on the plain,

“ Freedom in *Israel* for his house shall gain ;

“ And on him wealth unknown the king will pour,

“ And give his royal daughter for his dow’r.” 65

Then *Jesse’s* youngest hope : “ My brethren

“ say,

“ What shall be done for him who takes away

“ Reproach from *Jacob*, who destroys the chief,

“ And puts a period to his country’s grief.

“ He vaunts the honours of his arms abroad, 70

“ And scorns the armies of the living God.”

Thus spoke the youth, th’ attentive people ey’d  
The wond’rous hero, and again reply’d :

“ Such the rewards our monarch will bestow,

“ On him who conquers, and destroys his foe.” 75

*Eliab*

*Eliab* heard, and kindled into ire  
 To hear his shepherd-brother thus inquire,  
 And thus begun? "What errand brought thee?"

"fay

"Who keeps thy flock? or does it go astray?"

"I know the base ambition of thine heart, 80

"But back in safety from the field depart."

*Eliab* thus to *Jesse's* youngest heir,  
 Express'd his wrath in accents most severe.

When to his brother mildly he reply'd,

"What have I done? or what the cause to

"chide?" 85

The words were told before the king, who sent  
 For the young hero to his royal tent:

Before the monarch dauntless he began,

"For this *Philistine* fail no heart of man:

"I'll take the vale, and with the giant fight: 90

"I dread not all his boasts, nor all his might."

When thus the king : “ Dar’st thou a stripling go,  
 “ And venture combat with so great a foe ?  
 “ Who all his days has been inur’d to fight,  
 “ And made its deeds his study and delight : 95  
 “ Battles and bloodshed brought the monster forth,  
 “ And clouds and whirlwinds usher’d in his birth.”

When *David* thus : “ I kept the fleecy care,  
 “ And out there rush’d a lion and a bear ;  
 “ A tender lamb the hungry lion took, 100  
 “ And with no other weapon than my crook  
 “ Bold I pursu’d, and chas’d him o’er the field,  
 “ The prey deliver’d, and the felon kill’d :  
 “ As thus the lion and the bear I slew,  
 “ So shall *Goliath* fall, and all his crew : 105  
 “ The God, who sav’d me from these beasts of  
 “ prey,  
 “ By me this monster in the dust shall lay.”

So *David* spoke. The wond’ring king reply’d ;  
 “ Go thou with heav’n and victory on thy side :  
 “ This coat of mail, this sword gird on,” he  
 said, 110  
 And plac’d a mighty helmet on his head :

The

The coat, the sword, the helm he laid aside,  
 Nor chose to venture with those arms untry'd,  
 Then took his staff, and to the neighb'ring  
 brook

Instant he ran, and thence five pebbles took. 115

Mean time descended to *Philistia's* son

A radiant cherub, and he thus begun :

“ Goliath, well thou know'st thou hast defy'd

“ Yon Hebrew armies, and their God deny'd :

“ Rebellious wretch ! audacious worm ! for-

“ bear, 120

“ Nor tempt the vengeance of their God too far :

“ Them, who with his omnipotence contend,

“ No eye shall pity, and no arm defend :

“ Proud as thou art, in short liv'd glory great,

“ I come to tell thee thine approaching fate. 125

“ Regard my words. The judge of all the gods,

“ Beneath whose steps the tow'ring mountain nods,

“ Will give thine armies to the savage brood,

“ That cut the liquid air, or range the wood.

“ Thee too a well-aim'd pebble shall destroy, 130

“ And thou shalt perish by a beardless boy :

“ Such

“ Such is the mandate from the realms above,  
 “ And should I try the vengeance to remove,  
 “ Myself a rebel to my king would prove. }  
 “ *Goliath* say, shall grace to him be shown, 135  
 “ Who dares heav’ns monarch, and insults his  
 “ throne?”

“ Your words are lost on me,” the giant  
 cries, }  
 While fear and wrath contended in his eyes,  
 When thus the messenger from heav’n replies : }  
 “ Provoke no more *Jehovah’s* awful hand 140  
 “ To hurl its vengeance on thy guilty land :  
 “ He grasps the thunder, and, he wings the  
 “ storm,  
 “ Servants their sov’rign’s orders to perform.”

The angel spoke, and turn’d his eyes away,  
 Adding new radiance to the rising day. 145

Now *David* comes : the fatal stones demand  
 His left, the staff engag’d his better hand :

The

The giant mov'd, and from his tow'ring height  
 Survey'd the stripling, and disdain'd the fight,  
 And thus began: "Am I a dog with thee? 150  
 "Bring'st thou no armour, but a staff to me?  
 "The gods on thee their vullied curses pour,  
 "And beasts and birds of prey thy flesh de-  
 "vour."

*David* undaunted thus, "Thy spear and shield  
 "Shall no protection to thy body yield: 155  
 "Jehovah's name ——no other arms I bear,  
 "I ask no other in this glorious war.  
 "To-day the Lord of Hosts to me will give  
 "Vict'ry, to-day thy doom thou shalt receive;  
 "The fate you threaten shall your own be-  
 "come, 160  
 "And beasts shall be your animated tomb,  
 "That all the earth's inhabitants may know  
 "That there's a God, who governs all below:  
 "This great assembly too shall witness stand,  
 "That needs nor sword, nor spear, th' Almighty's  
 hand: 165  
 "The

“ The battle his, the conquest he bestows,  
 “ And to our pow’r consigns our hated foes.”

Thus *David* spoke ; *Goliath* heard and came  
 To meet the hero in the field of fame.  
 Ah ! fatal meeting to thy troops and thee, 170  
 But thou wast deaf to the divine decree ;  
 Young *David* meets thee, meets thee not in vain ;  
 ’Tis thine to perish on th’ ensanguin’d plain.

And now the youth the forceful pebble flung,  
*Philistia* trembled as it whizz’d along : 175  
 In his dread forehead, where the helmet ends,  
 Just o’er the brows the well-aim’d stone descends,  
 It pierc’d the skull, and shatter’d all the brain,  
 Prone on his face he tumbled to the plain :  
*Goliath’s* fall no smaller terror yields 180  
 Than riving thunders in aerial fields :  
 The soul still ling’red in its lov’d abode,  
 Till conq’ring *David* o’er the giant strode :  
*Goliath’s* sword then laid its master dead,  
 And from the body hew’d the ghastly head ; 185  
 The



The blood in gushing torrents drench'd the plains,  
 The soul found passage through the spouting  
 veins.

And now aloud th' illustrious victor said,  
 "Where are your boastings now your cham- }  
 " pion's dead?"

Scarce had he spoke, when the *Philistines* fled :  
 But fled in vain ; the conqu'ror swift pursu'd :  
 What scenes of slaughter ! and what seas of blood !  
 There *Saul* thy thousands grasp'd th' impurpled  
 sand

In pangs of death the conquest of thine hand ;  
 And *David* there were thy ten thousands laid : 195  
 Thus *Israel's* damsels musically play'd.

Near *Gath* and *Ekron* many an hero lay,  
 Breath'd out their souls, and curs'd the light of  
 day :

Their fury, quench'd by death, no longer burns,  
 And *David* with *Goliath's* head returns, 200  
 To *Salem* brought, but in his tent he plac'd  
 The load of armour which the giant grac'd.

His monarch saw him coming from the war,  
And thus demanded of the son of *Ner*.

“ Say, who is this amazing youth ?” he cry’d, 205  
When thus the leader of the host reply’d ;

“ As lives thy soul I know not whence he sprung,

“ So great in prowess though in years so young :”

“ Inquire whose son is he,” the sov’reign said,

“ Before whose conq’ring arm *Philistia* fled.” 210

Before the king behold the stripling stand,

*Goliath*’s head depending from his hand :

To him the king : “ Say of what martial line

“ Art thou, young hero, and what sire was thine ?”

He humbly thus ; “ the son of *Jesse* I : 215

“ I came the glories of the field to try.

“ Small is my tribe, but valiant in the fight ;

“ Small is my city, but thy royal right.”

“ Then take the promis’d gifts,” the monarch  
cry’d,

Conferring riches and the royal bride : 220

“ Knit to my soul for ever thou remain

“ With me, nor quit my regal roof again.”

Thoughts on the WORKS of PROVIDENCE.

**A**RISE, my soul, on wings enraptur'd, rise  
 To praise the monarch of the earth and  
 skies,

Whose goodness and beneficence appear  
 As round its centre moves the rolling year,  
 Or when the morning glows with rosy charms, 5  
 Or the sun slumbers in the ocean's arms :  
 Of light divine be a rich portion lent  
 To guide my soul, and favour my intent.  
 Celestial muse, my arduous flight sustain,  
 And raise my mind to a seraphic strain ! 10

Ador'd for ever be the God unseen,  
 Which round the sun revolves this vast machine,  
 Though to his eye its mass a point appears :  
 Ador'd the God that whirls surrounding spheres,  
 Which first ordain'd that mighty *Sol* should  
 reign 15  
 The peerless monarch of th' ethereal train :

Of miles twice forty millions is his height,  
 And yet his radiance dazzles mortal sight  
 So far beneath—from him th' extended earth  
 Vigour derives, and ev'ry flow'ry birth : 20  
 Vast through her orb she moves with easy grace  
 Around her *Phœbus* in unbounded space ;  
 True to her course th' impetuous storm derides,  
 Triumphant o'er the winds, and surging tides.

Almighty, in these wond'rous works of thine, 25  
 What *Pow'r*, what *Wisdom*, and what *Goodness*  
 shine ?

And are thy wonders, Lord, by men explor'd,  
 And yet creating glory unador'd !

Creation smiles in various beauty gay,  
 While day to night, and night succeeds to day : 30  
 That *Wisdom*, which attends *Jehovah's* ways,  
 Shines most conspicuous in the solar rays :  
 Without them, destitute of heat and light,  
 This world would be the reign of endless  
 night :

In their excess how would our race complain, 35  
 Abhorring life! how hate its length'ned chain!  
 From air adust what num'rous ills would rise?  
 What dire contagion taint the burning skies?  
 What pestilential vapours, fraught with death,  
 Would rise, and overspread the lands beneath? 40

Hail, smiling morn, that from the orient main  
 Ascending dost adorn the heav'nly plain!  
 So rich, so various are thy beauteous dyes,  
 That spread through all the circuit of the skies,  
 That, full of thee, my soul in rapture soars, 45  
 And thy great God, the cause of all adores.

O'er beings infinite his love extends,  
 His *Wisdom* rules them, and his *Pow'r* defends.  
 When tasks diurnal tire the human frame,  
 The spirits faint, and dim the vital flame, 50  
 Then too that ever active bounty shines,  
 Which not infinity of space confines.  
 The sable veil, that *Night* in silence draws,  
 Conceals effects, but shews th' *Almighty Cause*;

Night

Night seals in sleep the wide creation fair, 55  
 And all is peaceful but the brow of care.  
 Again, gay *Phœbus*, as the day before,  
 Wakes ev'ry eye, but what shall wake no more ;  
 Again the face of nature is renew'd,  
 Which still appears harmonious, fair, and good. 60  
 May grateful strains salute the smiling morn,  
 Before its beams the eastern hills adorn !

Shall day to day and night to night conspire  
 To show the goodness of the Almighty Sire ?  
 This mental voice shall man regardless hear, 65  
 And never, never raise the filial pray'r ?  
 To-day, O hearken, nor your folly mourn  
 For time mispent, that never will return.

But see the sons of vegetation rise,  
 And spread their leafy banners to the skies. 70  
 All-wise Almighty Providence we trace  
 In trees, and plants, and all the flow'ry race ;  
 As clear as in the nobler frame of man,  
 All lovely copies of the Maker's plan.

The pow'r the same that forms a ray of light, 75  
That call'd creation from eternal night.

“ Let there be light,” he said : from his profound  
Old *Chaos* heard, and trembled at the sound :  
Swift as the word, inspir'd by pow'r divine,  
Behold the light around its maker shine, 80  
The first fair product of th' omnific God,  
And now through all his works diffus'd abroad.

As reason's pow'rs by day our God disclose,  
So we may trace him in the night's repose :  
Say what is sleep? and dreams how passing  
strange ! 85

When action ceases, and ideas range  
Licentious and unbounded o'er the plains,  
Where *Fancy's* queen in giddy triumph reigns.  
Hear in soft strains the dreaming lover sigh  
To a kind fair, or rave in jealousy ; 90  
On pleasure now, and now on vengeance bent,  
The lab'ring passions struggle for a vent.  
What pow'r, O man ! thy *reason* then restores,  
So long suspended in nocturnal hours ?

What

What secret hand returns the mental train, 95

And gives improv'd thine active pow'rs again?

From thee, O man, what gratitude should rise!

And, when from balmy sleep thou op'ft thine  
eyes,

Let thy first thoughts be praises to the skies.

How merciful our God who thus imparts 100

O'erflowing tides of joy to human hearts,

When wants and woes might be our righteous lot,

Our God forgetting, by our God forgot!

Among the mental pow'rs a question rose,

“What most the image of th' Eternal shows?”

When thus to *Reason* (so let *Fancy* rove)

Her great companion spoke immortal *Love*.

“Say, mighty pow'r, how long shall strife pre-  
vail,

“And with its murmurs load the whisp'ring  
“gale?”

“Refer the cause to *Recollection's* shrine, 110

“Who loud proclaims my origin divine,

“The



“ The cause whence heav’n and earth began to be,  
 “ And is not man immortaliz’d by me ?

“ *Reason* let this most causeless strife subside.”

Thus *Love* pronounc’d, and *Reason* thus re-  
 ply’d. 115

“ Thy birth, celestial queen ! ’tis mine to own,  
 “ In thee resplendent is the Godhead shown ;  
 “ Thy words persuade, my soul enraptur’d feels  
 “ Resistless beauty which thy smile reveals.”

Ardent she spoke, and, kindling at her  
 charms, 120

She clasp’d the blooming goddess in her arms.

Infinite *Love* where’er we turn our eyes  
 Appears : this ev’ry creature’s wants supplies ;  
 This most is heard in *Nature’s* constant voice,  
 This makes the morn, and this the eve re-  
 joice ; 125

This bids the fost’ring rains and dews descend  
 To nourish all, to serve one gen’ral end,

G

The

The good of man : yet man ungrateful pays  
 But little homage, and but little praise.

To him, whose works array'd with mercy  
 shine, 130

What songs should rise, how constant, how di-  
 vine!

To a Lady on the Death of Three Relations.

WE trace the pow'r of Death from tomb to  
tomb,

And his are all the ages yet to come.

'Tis his to call the planets from on high,

To blacken *Phæbus*, and dissolve the sky;

His too, when all in his dark realms are hurl'd, **S**

From its firm base to shake the solid world;

His fatal sceptre rules the spacious whole,

And trembling nature rocks from pole to pole.

Awful he moves, and wide his wings are spread:

Behold thy brother number'd with the dead! 10

From bondage freed, the exulting spirit flies

Beyond *Olympus*, and these starry skies.

Lost in our woe for thee, blest shade, we mourn

In vain; to earth thou never must return.

Thy sisters too, fair mourner, feel the dart 15

Of Death, and with fresh torture rend thine heart.

Weep not for them, who wish thine happy mind  
To rise with them, and leave the world behind.

As a young plant by hurricanes up torn,      20  
So near its parent lies the newly born —  
But 'midst the bright ethereal train behold  
It shines superior on a throne of gold :  
Then, mourner, cease ; let hope thy tears restrain,  
Smile on the tomb, and sooth the raging pain.      25  
On yon blest regions fix thy longing view,  
Mindless of sublunary scenes below ;  
Ascend the sacred mount, in thought arise,  
And seek substantial, and immortal joys ;  
Where hope receives, where faith to vision  
springs,      30  
And raptur'd seraphs tune th' immortal strings  
To strains extatic.    Thou the chorus join,  
And to thy father tune the praise divine.

To a Clergyman on the Death of his Lady.

**W**HERE contemplation finds her sacred  
 spring,  
 Where heav'nly music makes the arches ring,  
 Where virtue reigns unfully'd and divine,  
 Where wisdom thron'd, and all the graces shine,  
 There sits thy spouse amidst the radiant throng, 5  
 While praise eternal warbles from her tongue ;  
 There choirs angelic shout her welcome round,  
 With perfect blifs, and peerless glory crown'd.

While thy dear mate, to flesh no more confin'd,  
 Exults a blest, an heav'n-ascended mind, 10  
 Say in thy breast shall floods of sorrow rise ?  
 Say shall its torrents overwhelm thine eyes ?  
 Amid the seats of heav'n a place is free,  
 And angels ope their bright ranks for thee ;  
 For thee they wait, and with expectant eye 15  
 Thy spouse leans downward from th' empyreal  
 sky :

“ O come

“ O come away, her longing spirit cries,  
 “ And share with me the raptures of the skies.  
 “ Our bliss divine to mortals is unknown;  
 “ Immortal life and glory are our own. 20  
 “ There too may the dear pledges of our love  
 “ Arrive, and taste with us the joys above;  
 “ Attune the harp to more than mortal lays,  
 “ And join with us the tribute of their praise  
 “ To him, who dy'd stern justice to atone, 25  
 “ And make eternal glory all our own.  
 “ He in his death flew ours, and, as he rose,  
 “ He crush'd the dire dominion of our foes;  
 “ Vain were their hopes to put the God to flight,  
 “ Chain us to hell, and bar the gates of light.” 30

She spoke, and turn'd from mortal scenes her eyes,  
 Which beam'd celestial radiance o'er the skies.

Then thou, dear man, no more with grief re-  
 tire,  
 Let grief no longer damp devotion's fire,  
 But rise sublime, to equal bliss aspire. 35  
 Thy

Thy sighs no more be wafted by the wind,  
 No more complain, but be to heav'n resign'd.  
 'Twas thine t' unfold the oracles divine,  
 To sooth our woes the task was also thine;  
 Now sorrow is incumbent on thy heart, 40  
 Permit the muse a cordial to impart;  
 Who can to thee their tend'rest aid refuse?  
 To dry thy tears how longs the heav'nly muse!

## An H Y M N to the M O R N I N G.

**A**T T E N D my lays, ye ever honour'd nine,  
 Assist my labours, and my strains refine;  
 In smoothest numbers pour the notes along,  
 For bright *Aurora* now demands my song.

*Aurora* hail, and all the thousands dies, 5  
 Which deck thy progress through the vaulted  
 skies :

The morn awakes, and wide extends her rays,  
 On ev'ry leaf the gentle zephyr plays;  
 Harmonious lays the feather'd race resume,  
 Dart the bright eye, and shake the painted  
 plume. 10

Ye shady groves, your verdant gloom display  
 To shield your poet from the burning day :  
*Calliope* awake the sacred lyre,  
 While thy fair sisters fan the pleasing fire :

The



The bow'rs, the gales, the variegated skies. 15  
 In all their pleasures in my bosom rise.

See in the east th' illustrious king of day!  
 His rising radiance drives the shades away—  
 But Oh! I feel his fervid beams too strong,  
 And scarce begun, concludes th' abortive song. 20

## An H Y M N to the E V E N I N G.

**S** O O N as the sun forsook the eastern main  
 The pealing thunder shook the heav'nly  
 plain ;  
 Majestic grandeur ! From the zephyr's wing,  
 Exhales the incense of the blooming spring.  
 Soft purl the streams, the birds renew their  
 notes, 5  
 And through the air their mingled music floats.

Through all the heav'ns what beauteous dies are  
 spread !  
 But the west glories in the deepest red :  
 So may our breasts with ev'ry virtue glow,  
 The living temples of our God below ! 10

Fill'd with the praise of him who gives the  
 light,  
 And draws the sable curtains of the night,  
Let

Let placid slumbers sooth each weary mind,  
 At morn to wake more heav'nly, more refin'd ;  
 So shall the labours of the day begin 15  
 More pure, more guarded from the snares of sin.

Night's leaden sceptre seals my drowsy eyes,  
 Then cease, my song, till fair *Aurora* rise.

## ISAIAH lxiii. 1—8.

SAY, heav'nly muse, what king, or mighty  
God,

That moves sublime from *Idumea's* road?  
In *Bozrah's* dies, with martial glories join'd,  
His purple vesture waves upon the wind.  
Why thus enrob'd delights he to appear 5  
In the dread image of the *Pow'r* of war?

Compress'd in wrath the swelling wine-press  
groan'd,  
It bled, and pour'd the gushing purple round.

“ Mine was the act,” th' Almighty Saviour  
said,  
And shook the dazzling glories of his head, 10  
“ When all forsook I trod the press alone,  
“ And conquer'd by omnipotence my own ;  
“ For man's release sustain'd the pond'rous load,  
“ For man the wrath of an immortal God :

“ To

V A R I O U S S U B J E C T S. 61

“ To execute th’ Eternal’s dread command 15

“ My soul I sacrific’d with willing hand ;

“ Sinless I stood before the avenging frown,

“ Atoning thus for vices not my own.”

His eye the ample field of battle round  
Survey’d, but no created succours found ; 20

His own omnipotence sustain’d the fight,

His vengeance sunk the haughty foes in night ;

Beneath his feet the prostrate troops were spread,

And round him lay the dying, and the dead.

Great God, what light’ning flashes from thine  
eyes ? 25

What pow’r withstands if thou indignant rise ?

Against thy *Zion* though her foes may rage,  
And all their cunning, all their strength engage,  
Yet she serenely on thy bosom lies,  
Smiles at their arts, and all their force defies. 30

On

## O N R E C O L L E C T I O N .

**M**NEME begin. Inspire, ye sacred nine,  
 Your vent'rous *Afric* in her great design.  
*Mneme*, immortal pow'r, I trace thy spring:  
 Assist my strains, while I thy glories sing:  
 The acts of long departed years, by thee                   5  
 Recover'd, in due order rang'd we see:  
 Thy pow'r the long-forgotten calls from night,  
 That sweetly plays before the *fancy's* sight.

*Mneme* in our nocturnal visions pours  
 The ample treasure of her secret stores;                   10  
 Swift from above she wings her silent flight  
 Through *Phæbe's* realms, fair regent of the  
     night;  
 And, in her pomp of images display'd,  
 To the high-raptur'd poet gives her aid,  
 Through the unbounded regions of the mind,           15  
 Diffusing light celestial and refin'd.

The

The heav'nly *phantom* paints the actions done  
By ev'ry tribe beneath the rolling sun.

*Mneme*, enthron'd within the human breast,  
Has vice condemn'd, and ev'ry virtue blest. 20  
How sweet the sound when we her plaudit hear?  
Sweeter than music to the ravish'd ear,  
Sweeter than *Maro's* entertaining strains  
Resounding through the groves, and hills, and  
plains.

But how is *Mneme* dreaded by the race, 25  
Who scorn her warnings, and despise her grace?  
By her unveil'd each horrid crime appears,  
Her awful hand a cup of wormwood bears.  
Days, years mispent, O what a hell of woe!  
Hers the worst tortures that our souls can know. 30

Now eighteen years their destin'd course have  
run,  
In fast succession round the central sun.  
How did the follies of that period pass  
Unnotic'd, but behold them writ in brass!

In

In Recollection see them fresh return, 35  
 And sure 'tis mine to be asham'd, and mourn.

O *Virtue*, smiling in immortal green,  
 Do thou exert thy pow'r, and change the scene;  
 Be thine employ to guide my future days,  
 And mine to pay the tribute of my praise. 40

Of *Recollection* such the pow'r enthron'd  
 In ev'ry breast, and thus her pow'r is own'd.  
 The wretch, who dar'd the vengeance of the skies,  
 At last awakes in horror and surprize,  
 By her alarm'd, he sees impending fate, 45  
 He howls in anguish, and repents too late.  
 But O! what peace, what joys are hers t' impart  
 To ev'ry holy, ev'ry upright heart!  
 Thrice blest the man, who, in her sacred shrine,  
 Feels himself shelter'd from the wrath divine! 50



ON IMAGINATION.

**T**HY various works, imperial queen, we see,  
 How bright their forms! how deck'd with  
 pomp by thee!

Thy wond'rous acts in beauteous order stand,  
 And all attest how potent is thine hand.

From *Helicon's* refulgent heights attend, 6  
 Ye sacred choir, and my attempts befriend:  
 To tell her glories with a faithful tongue,  
 Ye blooming graces, triumph in my song.

Now here, now there, the roving *Fancy* flies,  
 Till some lov'd object strikes her wand'ring  
 eyes, 10  
 Whose silken fetters all the senses bind,  
 And soft captivity involves the mind.

*Imagination!* who can fing thy force?  
 Or who describe the fwiftnefs of thy courfe?  
 Soaring through air to find the bright abode, 15  
 Th' empyreal palace of the thund'ring God,  
 We on thy pinions can furpafs the wind,  
 And leave the rolling univerfe behind:  
 From ftar to ftar the mental optics rove,  
 Measure the fkies, and range the realms  
 above. 20

There in one view we grasp the mighty whole,  
 Or with new worlds amaze th' unbounded foul.

Though *Winter* frowns to *Fancy's* raptur'd  
 eyes

The fields may flourish, and gay fcenes arife;  
 The frozen deeps may break their iron bands, 25  
 And bid their waters murmur o'er the fands.  
 Fair *Flora* may refume her fragrant reign,  
 And with her flow'ry riches deck the plain;  
*Sylvanus* may diffufe his honours round,  
 And all the forest may with leaves be crown'd: 30  
 Show'rs

Show'rs may descend, and dews their gems disclose,  
 And nectar sparkle on the blooming rose,

Such is thy pow'r, nor are thine orders vain,  
 O thou the leader of the mental train :  
 In full perfection all thy works are wrought, 35  
 And thine the sceptre o'er the realms of thought.  
 Before thy throne the subject-passions bow,  
 Of subject-passions sov'reign ruler Thou ;  
 At thy command joy rushes on the heart,  
 And through the glowing veins the spirits dart. 40

*Fancy* might now her silken pinions try  
 To rise from earth, and sweep th' expanse on  
 high ;  
 From *Tithon's* bed now might *Aurora* rise,  
 Her cheeks all glowing with celestial dyes,  
 While a pure stream of light o'erflows the  
 skies. 45

The monarch of the day I might behold,  
 And all the mountains tipt with radiant gold,

But I reluctant leave the pleasing views,  
Which *Fancy* dresses to delight the *Muse* ;  
*Winter* austere forbids me to aspire, 50  
And northern tempests damp the rising fire ;  
They chill the tides of *Fancy's* flowing sea,  
Cease then, my song, cease the unequal lay.

A FUNERAL POEM on the Death of C. E.  
an Infant of Twelve Months.

**T**HROUGH airy roads he wings his infant  
flight

To purer regions of celestial light ;  
Enlarg'd he sees unnumber'd systems roll,  
Beneath him sees the universal whole,  
Planets on planets run their destin'd round, 5  
And circling wonders fill the vast profound.  
Th' ethereal now, and now th' empyreal skies  
With growing splendors strike his wond'ring eyes :  
The angels view him with delight unknown,  
Press his soft hand, and seat him on his throne ;  
Then smiling thus. " To this divine abode,  
" The seat of saints, of seraphs, and of God,  
" Thrice welcome thou." The raptur'd babe  
replies,  
" Thanks to my God, who snatch'd me to the  
" skies,  
" E'er

“ E’er vice triumphant had possess’d my heart, 15

“ E’er yet the tempter had beguil’d my heart,

“ E’er yet on sin’s base actions I was bent,

“ E’er yet I knew temptation’s dire intent ;

“ E’er yet the lash for horrid crimes I felt,

“ E’er vanity had led my way to guilt, 20

“ But, soon arriv’d at my celestial goal,

“ Full glories rush on my expanding soul.”

Joyful he spoke : exulting cherubs round

Clapt their glad wings, the heav’nly vaults resound,

Say, parents, why this unavailing moan ? 25

Why heave your pensive bosoms with the groan ?

To *Charles*, the happy subject of my song,

A brighter world, and nobler strains belong.

Say would you tear him from the realms above

By thoughtless wishes, and prepost’rous love ? 30

Doth his felicity increase your pain ?

Or could you welcome to this world again

The heir of bliss ? with a superior air

Methinks he answers with a smile severe,

“ Thrones and dominions cannot tempt me

“ there.”

35

But

But still you cry, “ Can we the sigh forbear,  
 “ And still and still must we not pour the tear?  
 “ Our only hope, more dear than vital breath,  
 “ Twelve moons revolv’d, becomes the prey of  
 “ death;  
 “ Delightful infant, nightly visions give 40  
 “ Thee to our arms, and we with joy receive,  
 “ We fain would clasp the *Phantom* to our breast,  
 “ The *Phantom* flies, and leaves the soul unblest.”

To yon bright regions let your faith ascend,  
 Prepare to join your dearest infant friend  
 In pleasures without measure, without end.

To Captain H—D, of the 65th Regiment.

SAY, muse divine, can hostile scenes delight  
 The warrior's bosom in the fields of fight?  
 Lo! here the christian, and the hero join  
 With mutual grace to form the man divine.  
 In H—D see with pleasure and surprize,           5  
 Where *valour* kindles, and where *virtue* lies:  
 Go, hero brave, still grace the post of fame,  
 And add new glories to thine honour'd name,  
 Still to the field, and still to virtue true:  
*Britannia* glories in no son like you.           10



To the Right Honourable WILLIAM, Earl  
of DARTMOUTH, His Majesty's Principal Secre-  
tary of State for North-America, &c.

HAIL, happy day, when, smiling like the  
morn,

Fair *Freedom* rose *New-England* to adorn :

The northern clime beneath her genial ray,

*Dartmouth*, congratulates thy blifsful sway :

Elate with hope her race no longer mourns, 5

Each soul expands, each grateful bosom burns,

While in thine hand with pleasure we behold

The filken reins, and *Freedom's* charms unfold.

Long lost to realms beneath the northern skies

She shines supreme, while hated *faction* dies : 10

Soon as appear'd the *Goddeſs* long desir'd,

Sick at the view, ſhe languish'd and expir'd ;

Thus from the ſplendors of the morning light

The owl in ſadneſs ſeeks the caves of night.

No more, *America*, in mournful strain 15 }  
 Of wrongs, and grievance unredress'd complain, }  
 No longer shall thou dread the iron chain,  
 Which wanton *Tyranny* with lawless hand  
 Had made, and with it meant t' enslave the land.

Should you, my lord, while you peruse my  
 song, 20  
 Wonder from whence my love of *Freedom* sprung,  
 Whence flow these wishes for the common good,  
 By feeling hearts alone best understood,  
 I, young in life, by seeming cruel fate  
 Was snatch'd from *Afric's* fancy'd happy seat: 25  
 What pangs excruciating must molest,  
 What sorrows labour in my parent's breast?  
 Steel'd was that soul and by no misery mov'd  
 That from a father seiz'd his babe belov'd:  
 Such, such my case. And can I then but  
 pray 30  
 Others may never feel tyrannic sway?

For

For favours past, great Sir, our thanks are due,  
 And thee we ask thy favours to renew,  
 Since in thy pow'r, as in thy will before,  
 To sooth the griefs, which thou did'st once de-  
 plore. 35

May heav'nly grace the sacred sanction give  
 To all thy works, and thou for ever live  
 Not only on the wings of fleeting *Fame*,  
 Though praise immortal crowns the patriot's  
 name,

But to conduct to heav'ns refulgent fane, 40  
 May fiery courfers sweep th' ethereal plain,  
 And bear thee upwards to that blest abode,  
 Where, like the prophet, thou shalt find thy God.

## O D E T O N E P T U N E .

On Mrs. W—'s Voyage to England.

## I.

**W**HILE raging tempests shake the shore,  
 While *Æ'lus'* thunders round us roar,  
 And sweep impetuous o'er the plain  
 Be still, O tyrant of the main;  
 Nor let thy brow contracted frowns betray,      5  
 While my *Susannah* skims the wat'ry way.

## II.

The *Pow'r* propitious hears the lay,  
 The blue-ey'd daughters of the sea  
 With sweeter cadence glide along,  
 And *Thames* responsive joins the song,      10  
 Pleas'd with their notes *Sol* sheds benign his ray,  
 And double radiance decks the face of day.

## III. To

III.

To court thee to *Britannia's* arms  
 Serene the climes and mild the sky,  
 Her region boasts unnumber'd charms, 15  
 Thy welcome smiles in ev'ry eye.  
 Thy promise, *Neptune* keep, record my pray'r,  
 Nor give my wishes to the empty air.

*Boston, October 10, 1772.*

To a LADY on her coming to North-America  
with her Son, for the Recovery of her Health.

**I**ndulgent muse! my grov'ling mind inspire,  
And fill my bosom with celestial fire.

See from *Jamaica's* fervid shore she moves,  
Like the fair mother of the blooming loves,  
When from above the *Goddeſs* with her hand 5  
Fans the soft breeze, and lights upon the land;  
Thus she on *Neptune's* wat'ry realm reclin'd  
Appear'd, and thus invites the ling'ring wind.

“ Arise, ye winds, *America* explore,  
“ Waft me, ye gales, from this malignant  
“ shore; 10  
“ The *Northern* milder climes I long to greet,  
“ There hope that health will my arrival meet.”  
Soon as she spoke in my ideal view  
The winds assented, and the vessel flew.

Madam,

Madam, your spouse bereft of wife and son, 15  
 In the grove's dark recesses pours his moan ;  
 Each branch, wide-spreading to the ambient sky,  
 Forgets its verdure, and submits to die.

From thence I turn, and leave the fultry plain,  
 And swift pursue thy passage o'er the main : 20  
 The ship arrives before the fav'ring wind,  
 And makes the *Philadelphian* port assign'd,  
 Thence I attend you to *Bostonia's* arms,  
 Where gen'rous friendship ev'ry bosom warms :  
 Thrice welcome here ! may health revive again, 25  
 Bloom on thy cheek, and bound in ev'ry vein !  
 Then back return to gladden ev'ry heart,  
 And give your spouse his soul's far dearer part,  
 Receiv'd again with what a sweet surprize,  
 The tear in transport starting from his eyes ! 30  
 While his attendant son with blooming grace  
 Springs to his father's ever dear embrace.  
 With shouts of joy *Jamaica's* rocks resound,  
 With shouts of joy the country rings around.

To

To a LADY on her remarkable Preservation  
in an Hurricane in *North-Carolina*.

**T**HOUGH thou did'st hear the tempest from  
afar,  
And felt'st the horrors of the wat'ry war,  
To me unknown, yet on this peaceful shore  
Methinks I hear the storm tumultuous roar,  
And how stern *Boreas* with impetuous hand 5  
Compell'd the *Nereids* to usurp the land.  
Reluctant rose the daughters of the main,  
And slow ascending glided o'er the plain,  
Till *Æolus* in his rapid chariot drove  
In gloomy grandeur from the vault above: 10  
Furious he comes. His winged sons obey  
Their frantic fire, and madden all the sea.  
The billows rave, the wind's fierce tyrant roars,  
And with his thund'ring terrors shakes the shores:  
Broken by waves the vessel's frame is rent, 15  
And strows with planks the wat'ry element.

But



But thee, *Maria*, a kind *Nereid's* shield  
 Preserv'd from sinking, and thy form upheld :  
 And sure some heav'nly oracle design'd  
 At that dread crisis to instruct thy mind      20  
 Things of eternal consequence to weigh,  
 And to thine heart just feelings to convey  
 Of things above, and of the future doom,  
 And what the births of the dread world to come.

From tossing seas I welcome thee to land.      25  
 "Resign her, *Nereid*," 'twas thy God's command.  
 Thy spouse late buried, as thy fears conceiv'd,  
 Again returns, thy fears are all reliev'd :  
 Thy daughter blooming with superior grace  
 Again thou see'st, again thine arms embrace ;      30  
 O come, and joyful show thy spouse his heir,  
 And what the blessings of maternal care !

To a LADY and her Children, on the Death  
of her Son and their Brother.

O'erwhelming sorrow now demands my song:  
From death the overwhelming sorrow sprung.  
What flowing tears? What hearts with grief opprest?

What sighs on sighs heave the fond parent's  
breast?

The brother weeps, the hapless sisters join 5  
Th' increasing woe, and swell the crystal brine;  
The poor, who once his gen'rous bounty fed,  
Droop, and bewail their benefactor dead.  
In death the friend, the kind companion lies,  
And in one death what various comfort dies! 10

Th' unhappy mother sees the sanguine rill  
Forget to flow, and nature's wheels stand still,  
But see from earth his spirit far remov'd,  
And know no grief recalls your best-belov'd:

He,

He, upon pinions swifter than the wind, 15  
 Has left mortality's sad scenes behind  
 For joys to this terrestrial state unknown,  
 And glories richer than the monarch's crown.  
 Of virtue's steady course the prize behold!  
 What blissful wonders to his mind unfold! 20  
 But of celestial joys I sing in vain:  
 Attempt not, muse, the too advent'rous strain.

No more in briny show'rs, ye friends around,  
 Or bathe his clay, or waste them on the ground:  
 Still do you weep, still wish for his return? 25  
 How cruel thus to wish, and thus to mourn?  
 No more for him the streams of sorrow pour,  
 But haste to join him on the heav'nly shore,  
 On harps of gold to tune immortal lays,  
 And to your God immortal anthems raise. 30

To a GENTLEMAN and LADY on the Death of  
the Lady's Brother and Sister, and a Child  
of the Name *Avis*, aged one Year.

O N *Death's* domain intent I fix my eyes,  
Where human nature in vast ruin lies :  
With pensive mind I search the drear abode,  
Where the great conqu'ror has his spoils bestow'd ;  
There there the offspring of six thousand years 5  
In endless numbers to my view appears :  
Whole kingdoms in his gloomy den are thrust,  
And nations mix with their primeval dust :  
Insatiate still he gluts the ample tomb ;  
His is the present, his the age to come. 10  
See here a brother, here a sister spread,  
And a sweet daughter mingled with the dead.

But, *Madam*, let your grief be laid aside,  
And let the fountain of your tears be dry'd,  
In vain they flow to wet the dusty plain, 15  
Your sighs are waisted to the skies in vain,

Your

Your pains they witness, but they can no more,  
While *Death* reigns tyrant o'er this mortal shore.

The glowing stars and silver queen of light  
At last must perish in the gloom of night: 20  
Resign thy friends to that Almighty hand,  
Which gave them life, and bow to his command;  
Thine *Avis* give without a murm'ring heart,  
Though half thy soul be fated to depart.  
To shining guards consign thine infant care 25  
To waft triumphant through the seas of air:  
Her soul enlarg'd to heav'nly pleasure springs,  
She feeds on truth and uncreated things.  
Methinks I hear her in the realms above,  
And leaning forward with a filial love, 30  
Invite you there to share immortal bliss  
Unknown, untasted in a state like this.  
With tow'ring hopes, and growing grace arise,  
And seek beatitude beyond the skies.

## On the Death of Dr. SAMUEL MARSHALL.

1771.

**T**HROUGH thickest glooms look back,  
 immortal shade,  
 On that confusion which thy death has made ;  
 Or from *Olympus'* height look down, and see  
 A *Town* involv'd in grief bereft of thee.  
 Thy *Lucy* sees thee mingle with the dead,                   5  
 And rends the graceful tresses from her head,  
 Wild in her woe, with grief unknown oppress'd  
 Sigh follows sigh deep heaving from her breast.

Too quickly fled, ah ! whither art thou gone ?  
 Ah ! lost for ever to thy wife and son !                   10  
 The hapless child, thine only hope and heir,  
 Clings round his mother's neck, and weeps his  
 sorrows there.

The loss of thee on *Tyler's* soul returns,  
 And *Boston* for her dear physician mourns.

When

When sickness call'd for *Marshall's* healing  
hand, 15

With what compassion did his soul expand?  
In him we found the father and the friend:  
In life how lov'd! how honour'd in his end!

And must not then our *Æsculapius* stay  
To bring his ling'ring infant into day? 20  
The babe unborn in the dark womb is tost,  
And seems in anguish for its father lost.

Gone is *Apollo* from his house of earth,  
But leaves the sweet memorials of his worth:  
The common parent, whom we all deplore, 25  
From yonder world unseen must come no more,  
Yet 'midst our woes immortal hopes attend  
The spouse, the sire, the universal friend.

To a GENTLEMAN on his Voyage to *Great-Britain*  
for the Recovery of his Health.

WHILE others chant of gay *Elysian* scenes,  
Of balmy zephyrs, and of flow'ry plains,  
My song more happy speaks a greater name,  
Feels higher motives and a nobler flame.  
For thee, O R—, the muse attunes her strings, 5  
And mounts sublime above inferior things.

I sing not now of green embow'ring woods,  
I sing not now the daughters of the floods,  
I sing not of the storms o'er ocean driv'n,  
And how they howl'd along the waste of heav'n, 10  
But I to R— would paint the *British* shore,  
And vast *Atlantic*, not untry'd before :  
Thy life impair'd commands thee to arise,  
Leave these bleak regions, and inclement skies,  
Where chilling winds return the winter past, 15  
And nature shudders at the furious blast.

O thou



O thou stupendous, earth-enclosing main  
 Exert thy wonders to the world again !  
 If ere thy pow'r prolong'd the fleeting breath,  
 Turn'd back the shafts, and mock'd the gates of  
 death, 20

If ere thine air dispens'd an healing pow'r,  
 Or snatch'd the victim from the fatal hour,  
 This equal case demands thine equal care,  
 And equal wonders may this patient share.  
 But unavailing, frantic is the dream 25  
 To hope thine aid without the aid of him  
 Who gave thee birth, and taught thee where to  
 flow,

And in thy waves his various blessings show.

May R— return to view his native shore  
 Replete with vigour not his own before, 30  
 Then shall we see with pleasure and surprize,  
 And own thy work, great Ruler of the skies !

To the Rev. DR. THOMAS AMORY  
 on reading his Sermons on DAILY DEVOTION,  
 in which that Duty is recommended and assisted.

**T**O cultivate in ev'ry noble mind  
 Habitual grace, and sentiments refin'd,  
 Thus while you strive to mend the human heart,  
 Thus while the heav'nly precepts you impart,  
 O may each bosom catch the sacred fire, 5  
 And youthful minds to *Virtue's* throne aspire!

When God's eternal ways you set in sight,  
 And *Virtue* shines in all her native light,  
 In vain would *Vice* her works in night conceal,  
 For *Wisdom's* eye pervades the fable veil. 10

Artists may paint the sun's effulgent rays,  
 But *Amory's* pen the brighter God displays:  
 While his great works in *Amory's* pages shine,  
 And while he proves his essence all divine,

The

The Atheist sure no more can boast aloud 15  
 Of chance, or nature, and exclude the God ;  
 As if the clay without the potter's aid  
 Should rise in various forms, and shapes self-made,  
 Or worlds above with orb o'er orb profound  
 Self-mov'd could run the everlasting round. 20  
 It cannot be — unerring *Wisdom* guides  
 With eye propitious, and o'er all presides.

Still prosper, *Amory* ! still may'st thou receive  
 The warmest blessings which a muse can give,  
 And when this transitory state is o'er, 25  
 When kingdoms fall, and fleeting *Fame's* no more,  
 May *Amory* triumph in immortal fame,  
 A nobler title, and superior name !

## On the Death of J. C. an Infant.

**N**O more the flow'ry scenes of pleasure rise,  
 Nor charming prospects greet the mental  
 eyes,  
 No more with joy we view that lovely face  
 Smiling, disportive, flush'd with ev'ry grace.

The tear of sorrow flows from ev'ry eye,      5  
 Groans answer groans, and sighs to sighs reply ;  
 What sudden pangs shot thro' each aching heart,  
 When, *Death*, thy messenger dispatch'd his dart ?  
 Thy dread attendants, all-destroying *Pow'r*,  
 Hurried the infant to his mortal hour.      10  
 Could'st thou unpitying close those radiant  
 eyes ?

Or fail'd his artless beauties to surprize ?  
 Could not his innocence thy stroke controul,  
 Thy purpose shake, and soften all thy soul ?

The blooming babe, with shades of *Death* o'er-  
 spread, 15  
 No more shall smile, no more shall raise its  
 head,

But, like a branch that from the tree is torn,  
 Falls prostrate, wither'd, languid, and forlorn.

“Where flies my *James*?” ’tis thus I seem to  
 hear

The parent ask, “Some angel tell me where 20

“He wings his passage thro’ the yielding air?”

Methinks a cherub bending from the skies

Observes the question, and serene replies,

“In heav’n’s high palaces your babe appears :

“Prepare to meet him, and dismiss your tears.” 25

Shall not th’ intelligence your grief restrain,

And turn the mournful to the chearful strain ?

Cease your complaints, suspend each rising sigh,

Cease to accuse the Ruler of the sky.

Parents, no more indulge the falling tear : 30

Let *Faith* to heav’n’s refulgent domes repair,

There see your infant, like a seraph glow :

What charms celestial in his numbers flow

Melodious,

Melodious, while the soul-enchancing strain  
 Dwells on his tongue, and fills th' ethereal plain? 35  
 Enough-- for ever cease your murm'ring breath;  
 Not as a foe, but friend converse with *Death*,  
 Since to the port of happiness unknown  
 He brought that treasure which you call your own.  
 The gift of heav'n intrusted to your hand 40  
 Cheerful resign at the divine command:  
 Not at your bar must sov'reign *Wisdom* stand.

An H Y M N to H U M A N I T Y.

To S. P. G. Esq;

I.

**L**O! for this dark terrestrial ball  
Forfakes his azure-paved hall

A prince of heav'nly birth!

Divine *Humanity* behold.

What wonders rise, what charms unfold 5

At his descent to earth!

II.

The bosoms of the great and good

With wonder and delight he view'd,

And fix'd his empire there:

Him, close compressing to his breast, 10

The fire of gods and men address'd,

“ My son, my heav'nly fair!

III. “ Descend

## III.

“ Descend to earth, there place thy throne ;

“ To succour man’s afflicted son

“ Each human heart inspire :

15

“ To act in bounties unconfin’d

“ Enlarge the close contracted mind,

“ And fill it with thy fire.”

## IV.

Quick as the word, with swift career

He wings his course from star to star,

20

And leaves the bright abode.

The *Virtue* did his charms impart ;

Their G — y ! then thy raptur’d heart

Perceiv’d the rushing God :

## V.

For when thy pitying eye did see

25

The languid muse in low degree,

Then, then at thy desire

Descended the celestial nine ;

O’er me methought they deign’d to shine,

And deign’d to string my lyre.

30

VI. Can



VI.

Can *Afric's* muse forgetful prove?  
 Or can such friendship fail to move  
 A tender human heart?

Immortal *Friendship* laurel-crown'd  
 The smiling *Graces* all surround  
 With ev'ry heav'nly *Art*.

35

To the Honourable T. H. Esq; on the Death  
of his Daughter.

**W**HILE deep you mourn beneath the  
 cypress-shade  
 The hand of Death, and your dear daughter laid  
 In dust, whose absence gives your tears to flow,  
 And racks your bosom with incessant woe,  
 Let *Recollection* take a tender part, 5  
 Assuage the raging tortures of your heart,  
 Still the wild tempest of tumultuous grief,  
 And pour the heav'nly nectar of relief:  
 Suspend the sigh, dear Sir, and check the groan,  
 Divinely bright your daughter's *Virtues* shone: 10  
 How free from scornful pride her gentle mind,  
 Which ne'er its aid to indigence declin'd!  
 Expanding free, it sought the means to prove  
 Unfailing charity, unbounded love!

She unreluctant flies to see no more 15  
 Her dear-lov'd parents on earth's dusky shore:  
 Impatient

Impatient heav'n's resplendent goal to gain,  
 She with swift progress cuts the azure plain,  
 Where grief subsides, where changes are no more,  
 And life's tumultuous billows cease to roar; 20  
 She leaves her earthly mansion for the skies,  
 Where new creations feast her wond'ring eyes.

To heav'n's high mandate cheerfully resign'd  
 She mounts, and leaves the rolling globe behind;  
 She, who late wish'd that *Leonard* might return, 25  
 Has ceas'd to languish, and forgot to mourn;  
 To the same high empyreal mansions come,  
 She joins her spouse, and smiles upon the tomb:  
 And thus I hear her from the realms above:

“ Lo! this the kingdom of celestial love! 30

“ Could ye, fond parents, see our present bliss,

“ How soon would you each sigh, each fear dis-

“ miss?

“ Amidst unutter'd pleasures whilst I play

“ In the fair sunshine of celestial day,

“ As far as grief affects an happy soul 35

“ So far doth grief my better mind controul,

“ To see on earth my aged parents mourn,  
 “ And secret wish for T——l to return :  
 “ Let brighter scenes your ev’ning-hours em-  
 “ ploy :  
 “ Converse with heav’n, and taste the promis’d  
 “ joy.”

NIOBE in Distress for her Children slain by  
 APOLLO, from *Ovid's* *Metamorphoses*, Book VI.  
 and from a view of the Painting of Mr. *Richard*  
*Wilson*.

A P O L L O's wrath to man the dreadful  
 spring  
 Of ills innum'rous, tuneful goddess, sing!  
 Thou who did'st first th' ideal pencil give,  
 And taught'st the painter in his works to live,  
 Inspire with glowing energy of thought, 5  
 What *Wilson* painted, and what *Ovid* wrote.  
 Muse! lend thy aid, nor let me sue in vain,  
 Tho' last and meanest of the rhyming train!  
 O guide my pen in lofty strains to show  
 The *Phrygian* queen, all beautiful in woe. 10

'Twas where *Mæonia* spreads her wide domain  
*Niobe* dwelt, and held her potent reign:  
 See in her hand the regal sceptre shine,  
 The wealthy heir of *Tantalus* divine,

He

He most distinguish'd by *Dodonean Jove*, 15  
 To approach the tables of the gods above :  
 Her grandfire *Atlas*, who with mighty pains  
 Th' ethereal axis on his neck sustains :  
 Her other gran fire on the throne on high  
 Rolls the loud-pealing thunder thro' the sky. 20

Her spouse, *Amphion*, who from *Jove* too springs,  
 Divinely taught to sweep the sounding strings.

Seven sprightly sons the royal bed adorn,  
 Seven daughters beauteous as the op'ning morn,  
 As when *Aurora* fills the ravish'd sight, 25  
 And decks the orient realms with rosy light  
 From their bright eyes the living splendors play,  
 Nor can beholders bear the flashing ray.

Wherever, *Niobe*, thou turn'st thine eyes,  
 New beauties kindle, and new joys arise ! 30  
 But thou had'st far the happier mother prov'd,  
 If this fair offspring had been less belov'd :

What

What if their charms exceed *Aurora's* teint,  
 No words could tell them, and no pencil paint,  
 Thy love too vehement hastens to destroy 35  
 Each blooming maid, and each celestial boy.

Now *Manto* comes, endu'd with mighty skill,  
 The past to explore, the future to reveal.  
 Thro' *Thebes'* wide streets *Tiresia's* daughter came,  
 Divine *Latona's* mandate to proclaim: 40  
 The Theban maids to hear the orders ran,  
 When thus *Mæonia's* prophets began:

“Go, *Thebans!* great *Latona's* will obey,  
 “And pious tribute at her altars pay:  
 “With rights divine, the goddesses be implor'd, 45  
 “Nor be her sacred offspring unador'd.”

Thus *Manto* spoke. The *Theban* maids obey,  
 And pious tribute to the goddesses pay.  
 The rich perfumes ascend in waving spires,  
 And altars blaze with consecrated fires; 50  
 The fair assembly moves with graceful air,  
 And leaves of laurel bind the flowing hair.

*Niobe*

*Niobe* comes with all her royal race,  
 With charms unnumber'd, and superior grace :  
 Her *Phrygian* garments of delightful hue, 55  
 Inwove with gold, refulgent to the view,  
 Beyond description beautiful she moves  
 Like heav'nly *Venus*, 'midst her smiles and loves :  
 She views around the supplicating train,  
 And shakes her graceful head with stern dis-  
     dain, 60  
 Proudly she turns around her lofty eyes,  
 And thus reviles celestial deities :  
 " What madness drives the *Theban* ladies fair  
 " To give their incense to surrounding air ?  
 " Say why this new sprung deity preferr'd ? 65  
 " Why vainly fancy your petitions heard ?  
 " Or say why *Cæus*' offspring is obey'd,  
 " While to my goddessship no tribute's paid ?  
 " For me no altars blaze with living fires,  
 " No bullock bleeds, no frankincense transpires, 70  
 " Tho' *Cadmus*' palace, not unknown to fame,  
 " And *Phrygian* nations all revere my name.  
     " Where'er



“ Where’er I turn my eyes vast wealth I find.  
 “ Lo! here an emprefs with a goddefs join’d.  
 “ What, shall a *Titaness* be deify’d, 75  
 “ To whom the spacious earth a couch deny’d?  
 “ Nor heav’n, nor earth, nor sea receiv’d your  
     “ queen,  
 “ ’Till pitying *Delos* took the wand’rer in.  
 “ Round me what a large progeny is spread!  
 “ No frowns of fortune has my soul to dread. 80  
 “ What if indignant she decrease my train  
 “ More than *Latona’s* number will remain?  
 “ Then hence, ye *Theban* dames, hence haste  
     “ away,  
 “ Nor longer off’rings to *Latona* pay?  
 “ Regard the orders of *Amphion’s* spouse, 85  
 “ And take the leaves of laurel from your brows.”  
*Niobe* spoke. The *Theban* maids obey’d,  
 Their brows unbound, and left the rights un-  
     paid.

The angry goddefs heard, then silence broke  
 On *Cynthus’* summit, and indignant spoke; 90

O

“ *Phæbus!*”

“ *Phæbus!* behold, thy mother in disgrace,  
 “ Who to no goddess yields the prior place  
 “ Except to *Juno’s* self, who reigns above,  
 “ The spouse and sister of the thund’ring *Jove*.  
 “ *Niobe* sprung from *Tantalus* inspires 95  
 “ Each *Theban* bosom with rebellious fires ;  
 “ No reason her imperious temper quells,  
 “ But all her father in her tongue rebels ;  
 “ Wrap her own sons for her blaspheming breath,  
 “ *Apollo!* wrap them in the shades of death.” 100  
*Latona* ceas’d, and ardent thus replies,  
 The God, whose glory decks th’ expanded skies.

“ Cease thy complaints, mine be the task as-  
 “ sign’d  
 “ To punish pride, and scourge the rebel mind.”  
 This *Phæbe* join’d.—They wing their instant  
 flight ; 105  
*Thebes* trembled as th’ immortal pow’rs alight.

With clouds incompass’d glorious *Phæbus*  
 stands ;  
 The feather’d vengeance quiv’ring in his hands.  
 Near

Near *Cadmus*' walls a plain extended lay,  
 Where *Thebes*' young princes pass'd in sport the  
 day : 110

There the bold courfers bounded o'er the plains,  
 While their great masters held the golden reins.

*Ismenus* first the racing pastime led,  
 And rul'd the fury of his flying steed.

"Ah me," he sudden cries, with shrieking  
 breath, 115

While in his breast he feels the shaft of death ;

He drops the bridle on his courser's mane,

Before his eyes in shadows swims the plain,

He, the first-born of great *Amphion*'s bed,

Was struck the first, first mingled with the  
 dead. 120

Then didst thou, *Sipyhus*, the language hear  
 Of fate portentous whistling in the air :

As when th' impending storm the sailor sees

He spreads his canvas to the fav'ring breeze,

O 2 So

So to thine horse thou gav'st the golden reins, 125  
 Gav'st him to rush impetuous o'er the plains :  
 But ah ! a fatal shaft from *Phæbus*' hand  
 Smites through thy neck, and sinks thee on the  
 sand.

Two other brothers were at *wrestling* found,  
 And in their pastime claspt each other round : 130  
 A shaft that instant from *Apollo*'s hand  
 Transfixt them both, and stretcht them on the  
 sand :

Together they their cruel fate bemoan'd,  
 Together languish'd, and together groan'd :  
 Together too th' unbodied spirits fled, 135  
 And sought the gloomy mansions of the dead.

*Alphenor* saw, and trembling at the view,  
 Beat his torn breast, that chang'd its snowy hue.  
 He flies to raise them in a kind embrace ;  
 A brother's fondness triumphs in his face : 140  
*Alphenor* fails in this fraternal deed,  
 A dart dispatch'd him (so the fates decreed :)  
 Soon

Soon as the arrow left the deadly wound,  
His issuing entrails smoak'd upon the ground.

What woes on blooming *Damafichon* wait! 145  
His sighs portend his near impending fate.  
Just where the well-made leg begins to be,  
And the soft sinews form the supple knee,  
The youth sore wounded by the *Delian* god  
Attempts t' extract the crime-avenging rod, 150  
But, whilst he strives the will of fate t' avert,  
Divine *Apollo* sends a second dart;  
Swift thro' his throat the feather'd mischief flies,  
Bereft of sense, he drops his head, and dies.

Young *Ilioneus*, the last, directs his pray'r, 155  
And cries, "My life, ye gods celestial! spare."  
*Apollo* heard, and pity touch'd his heart,  
But ah! too late, for he had sent the dart:  
Thou too, O *Ilioneus*, are doom'd to fall,  
The fates refuse that arrow to recal. 160

On

On the swift wings of ever-flying *Fame*  
 To *Cadmus*' palace soon the tidings came :  
*Niobe* heard, and with indignant eyes  
 She thus express'd her anger and surprize :  
 " Why is such privilege to them allow'd ?      165  
 " Why thus insulted by the *Delian* god ?  
 " Dwells there such mischief in the pow'rs above ?  
 " Why sleeps the vengeance of immortal *Jove* ?"  
 For now *Amphion* too, with grief oppress'd,  
 Had plung'd the deadly dagger in his breast.      170  
*Niobe* now, less haughty than before,  
 With lofty head directs her steps no more.  
 She, who late told her pedigree divine,  
 And drove the *Thebans* from *Latona*'s shrine,  
 How strangely chang'd !——yet beautiful in  
     woe,      175  
 She weeps, nor weeps unpity'd by the foe.  
 On each pale corse the wretched mother spread  
 Lay overwhelm'd with grief, and kiss'd her dead,  
 Then rais'd her arms, and thus, in accents slow,  
 " Be fated cruel *Goddeſs* ! with my woe ;      180  
     " If

“ If I’ve offended, let these streaming eyes,  
 “ And let this sev’nfold funeral suffice :  
 “ Ah ! take this wretched life you deign’d to save,  
 “ With them I too am carried to the grave.  
 “ Rejoice triumphant, my victorious foe, 185  
 “ But show the cause from whence your triumphs  
 “ flow ?

“ Tho’ I unhappy mourn these children slain,  
 “ Yet greater numbers to my lot remain.”

She ceas’d, the bow-string twang’d with awful  
 found,

Which struck with terror all th’ assembly round,  
 Except the queen, who stood unmov’d alone,  
 By her distresses more presumptuous grown.

Near the pale corpses stood their sisters fair  
 In sable vestures and dishevell’d hair ;

One, while she draws the fatal shaft away, 195  
 Faints, falls, and sickens at the light of day.

To sooth her mother, lo ! another flies,  
 And blames the fury of inclement skies,

And, while her words a filial pity show,

Struck dumb — — indignant seeks the shades  
 below. 200

Now

Now from the fatal place another flies,  
 Falls in her flight, and languishes, and dies.  
 Another on her sister drops in death ;  
 A fifth in trembling terrors yields her breath ;  
 While the sixth seeks some gloomy cave in  
 vain, 205  
 Struck with the rest, and mingl'd with the slain.

One only daughter lives, and she the least ;  
 The queen close clasp'd the daughter to her breast :  
 " Ye heav'nly pow'rs, ah spare me one," she cry'd,  
 " Ah ! spare me one," the vocal hills reply'd : 210  
 In vain she begs, the Fates her suit deny,  
 In her embrace she sees her daughter die.

\* " The queen of all her family bereft,  
 " Without or husband, son, or daughter left,  
 " Grew stupid at the shock. The passing air 215  
 " Made no impression on her stiff'ning hair.

\* This Verse to the End is the Work of another Hand.

" The



“ The blood forsook her face : amidst the flood  
 “ Pour’d from her cheeks, quite fix’d her eye-balls  
   “ stood.  
 “ Her tongue, her palate both obdurate grew,  
 “ Her curdled veins no longer motion knew ; 220  
 “ The use of neck, and arms, and feet was gone,  
 “ And ev’n her bowels hard’ned into stone:  
 “ A marble statue now the queen appears,  
 “ But from the marble steal the silent tears.”

To S. M. a young *African* Painter, on seeing  
his Works.

**T**O show the lab'ring bosom's deep intent,  
 And thought in living characters to paint,  
 When first thy pencil did those beauties give,  
 And breathing figures learnt from thee to live,  
 How did those prospects give my soul delight, 5  
 A new creation rushing on my sight?  
 Still, wond'rous youth! each noble path pursue,  
 On deathless glories fix thine ardent view:  
 Still may the painter's and the poet's fire  
 To aid thy pencil, and thy verse conspire! 10  
 And may the charms of each seraphic theme  
 Conduct thy footsteps to immortal fame!  
 High to the blissful wonders of the skies  
 Elate thy soul, and raise thy wishful eyes.  
 Thrice happy, when exalted to survey 15  
 That splendid city, crown'd with endless day,  
 Whose twice six gates on radiant hinges ring:  
 Celestial *Salem* blooms in endless spring.

Calm

Calm and serene thy moments glide along,  
 And may the muse inspire each future song ! 20  
 Still, with the sweets of contemplation blest'd,  
 May peace with balmy wings your soul invest !  
 But when these shades of time are chas'd away,  
 And darkness ends in everlasting day,  
 On what seraphic pinions shall we move, 25  
 And view the landscapes in the realms above ?  
 There shall thy tongue in heav'nly murmurs flow,  
 And there my muse with heav'nly transport glow :  
 No more to tell of *Damon's* tender sighs,  
 Or rising radiance of *Aurora's* eyes, 30  
 For nobler themes demand a nobler strain,  
 And purer language on th' ethereal plain.  
 Cease, gentle muse ! the solemn gloom of night  
 Now seals the fair creation from my sight.

To His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, on the  
Death of his Lady. *March 24, 1773.*

**A**LL-conquering Death! by thy resistless  
pow'r,  
Hope's tow'ring plumage falls to rise no more!  
Of scenes terrestrial how the glories fly,  
Forget their splendors, and submit to die!  
Who ere escap'd thee, but the saint \* of old 5  
Beyond the flood in sacred annals told,  
And the great sage, † whom fiery courses drew  
To heav'n's bright portals from *Elisha's* view;  
Wond'ring he gaz'd at the refulgent car,  
Then snatch'd the mantle floating on the air. 10  
From *Death* these only could exemption boast,  
And without dying gain'd th' immortal coast.  
Not falling millions fate the tyrant's mind,  
Nor can the victor's progress be confin'd.  
But cease thy strife with *Death*, fond *Nature*,  
cease: 15  
He leads the *virtuous* to the realms of peace;

\* Enoch. † Elijah.

His to conduct to the immortal plains,  
Where heav'n's Supreme in blifs and glory reigns.

There fits, illustrious Sir, thy beauteous spouse;  
A gem-blaz'd circle beaming on her brows. 20  
Hail'd with acclaim among the heav'nly choirs,  
Her soul new-kindling with seraphic fires,  
To notes divine she tunes the vocal strings,  
While heav'n's high concave with the music rings.

*Virtue's* rewards can mortal pencil paint? 25  
No—all descriptive arts, and eloquence are faint;  
Nor canst thou, *Oliver*, assent refuse  
To heav'nly tidings from the *Afric* muse.

As soon may change thy laws, eternal *fate*,  
As the faint miss the glories I relate; 30  
Or her *Benevolence* forgotten lie,  
Which wip'd the trick'ling tear from *Mis'ry's* eye.  
Whene'er the adverse winds were known to blow,  
When loss to loss \* ensu'd, and woe to woe,

\* Three amiable Daughters who died when just arrived to  
Womens Estate.

Calm and serene beneath her father's hand 35  
She sat resign'd to the divine command.

No longer then, great Sir, her death deplore,  
And let us hear the mournful sigh no more,  
Restrain the sorrow streaming from thine eye,  
Be all thy future moments crown'd with joy! 40  
Nor let thy wishes be to earth confin'd,  
But soaring high pursue th' unbodied mind.  
Forgive the muse, forgive th' advent'rous lays,  
That fain thy soul to heav'nly scenes would raise.

A Farewel to AMERICA. To Mrs. S. W.

I.

**A** DIEU, *New-England's* smiling meads,  
 Adieu, the flow'ry plain:  
 I leave thine op'ning charms, O spring,  
 And tempt the roaring main.

II.

In vain for me the flow'rets rise, 5  
 And boast their gaudy pride,  
 While here beneath the northern skies  
 I mourn for *health* deny'd.

III.

Celestial maid of rosy hue,  
 O let me feel thy reign! 10  
 I languish till thy face I view,  
 Thy vanish'd joys regain.

IV. *Susanna*

## IV.

*Susannah* mourns, nor can I bear

To see the crystal show'r,

Or mark the tender falling tear

15

At sad departure's hour ;

## V.

Not unregarding can I see

Her soul with grief opprest :

But let no sighs, no groans for me,

Steal from her pensive breast.

20

## VI.

In vain the feather'd warblers sing,

In vain the garden blooms,

And on the bosom of the spring

Breathes out her sweet perfumes,

## VII.

While for *Britannia's* distant shore

25

We sweep the liquid plain,

And with astonish'd eyes explore

The wide-extended main.

VIII. Lo!



VIII.

Lo! *Health* appears! celestial dame!  
 Complacent and serene,  
 With *Hebe's* mantle o'er her Frame,  
 With soul-delighting mein.

30

IX.

To mark the vale where *London* lies  
 With misty vapours crown'd,  
 Which cloud *Aurora's* thousand dyes,  
 And veil her charms around,

35

X.

Why, *Phæbus*, moves thy car so slow?  
 So slow thy rising ray?  
 Give us the famous town to view,  
 Thou glorious king of day!

40

XI.

For thee, *Britannia*, I resign  
*New-England's* smiling fields;  
 To view again her charms divine,  
 What joy the prospect yields!

Q

XII. But

## XII.

But thou! Temptation hence away, 45  
 With all thy fatal train  
 Nor once seduce my soul away,  
 By thine enchanting strain.

## XIII.

Thrice happy they, whose heav'nly shield  
 Secures their souls from harms, 50  
 And fell *Temptation* on the field  
 Of all its pow'r disarms!

*Boston, May 7, 1773.*

**A REBUS,**

A REBUS, by I. B.

I.

A BIRD delicious to the taste,  
 On which an army once did feast,  
 Sent by an hand unseen;  
 A creature of the horned race,  
 Which *Britain's* royal standards grace; 5  
 A gem of vivid green;

II.

A town of gaiety and sport,  
 Where beaux and beauteous nymphs resort,  
 And gallantry doth reign;  
 A *Dardan* hero fam'd of old 10  
 For youth and beauty, as we're told,  
 And by a monarch slain;

III.

A peer of popular applause,  
 Who doth our violated laws,  
 And grievances proclaim. 15  
 Th' initials show a vanquish'd town,  
 That adds fresh glory and renown  
 To old *Britannia's* fame.

AN ANSWER to the *Rebus*, by the Author of these  
P O E M S.

**T**H E poet asks, and *Phillis* can't refuse  
To shew th'obedience of the Infant muse.  
She knows the *Quail* of most inviting taste  
Fed *Israel's* army in the dreary waste;  
And what's on *Britain's* royal standard borne, 5  
But the tall, graceful, rampant *Unicorn*?  
The *Emerald* with a vivid verdure glows  
Among the gems which regal crowns compose;  
*Boston's* a town, polite and debonair,  
To which the beaux and beauteous nymphs repair,  
Each *Helen* strikes the mind with sweet surprize,  
While living lightning flashes from her eyes.  
See young *Euphorbus* of the *Dardan* line  
By *Menelaus'* hand to death resign:  
The well known peer of popular applause  
Is C—m zealous to support our laws.  
*Quebec* now vanquish'd must obey,  
She too must annual tribute pay  
To *Britain* of immortal fame,  
And add new glory to her name.





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