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*Childe Harold's  
Pilgrimage*

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**by Lord Byron**

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## TO IANTHE<sup>1</sup>

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

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

Young Peri of the West!—'tis well for me  
My years already doubly number thine;  
My loveless eye unmoved may gaze on thee,  
And safely view thy ripening beauties shine:  
Happy, I ne'er shall see them in decline;  
Happier, that while all younger hearts shall  
bleed  
Mine shall escape the doom thine eyes assign  
To those whose admiration shall succeed,

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<sup>1</sup>Lady Charlotte Harley, daughter of the Earl of Oxford.

But mixed with pangs to Love's even loveliest  
hours decreed.

Oh! let that eye, which, wild as the gazelle's,  
Now brightly bold or beautifully shy,  
Wins as it wanders, dazzles where it dwells,  
Glance o'er this page, nor to my verse deny  
That smile for which my breast might vainly  
sigh,

Could I to thee be ever more than friend:  
This much, dear maid, accord; nor question  
why  
To one so young my strain I would commend,  
But bid me with my wreath one matchless lily  
blend.

Such is thy name with this my verse entwined;  
And long as kinder eyes a look shall cast  
On Harold's page, Ianthe's here enshrined  
Shall thus be first beheld, forgotten last:  
My days once numbered, should this homage  
past  
Attract thy fairy fingers near the lyre  
Of him who hailed thee, loveliest as thou  
wast,  
Such is the most my memory may desire;  
Though more than Hope can claim, could  
Friendship less require?

# CANTO THE FIRST

## I.

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

## II.

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

## III.

Childe Harold was he hight:—but whence his  
name  
And lineage long, it suits me not to say;  
Suffice it, that perchance they were of fame,  
And had been glorious in another day:  
But one sad losel soils a name for aye,  
However mighty in the olden time;  
Nor all that heralds rake from coffined clay,  
Nor florid prose, nor honeyed lines of rhyme,  
Can blazon evil deeds, or consecrate a crime.

## IV.

Childe Harold basked him in the noontide  
sun,  
Disporting there like any other fly,  
Nor deemed before his little day was done  
One blast might chill him into misery.  
But long ere scarce a third of his passed by,  
Worse than adversity the Childe befell;  
He felt the fulness of satiety:  
Then loathed he in his native land to dwell,  
Which seemed to him more lone than eremite's  
sad cell.

## V.

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

## VI.

And now Childe Harold was sore sick at  
heart,  
And from his fellow bacchanals would flee;  
'Tis said, at times the sullen tear would start,  
But pride congealed the drop within his e'e:  
Apart he stalked in joyless reverie,  
And from his native land resolved to go,  
And visit scorching climes beyond the sea;  
With pleasure drugged, he almost longed for  
woe,  
And e'en for change of scene would seek the  
shades below.

## VII.

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

## VIII.

Yet ofttimes in his maddest mirthful mood,  
Strange pangs would flash along Childe  
Harold's brow,  
As if the memory of some deadly feud  
Or disappointed passion lurked below:  
But this none knew, nor haply cared to know;  
For his was not that open, artless soul  
That feels relief by bidding sorrow flow;  
Nor sought he friend to counsel or condole,  
Whate'er this grief mote be, which he could not



control.

IX.

And none did love him: though to hall and  
 bower  
 He gathered revellers from far and near,  
 He knew them flatterers of the festal hour;  
 The heartless parasites of present cheer.  
 Yea, none did love him—not his lemans dear—  
 But pomp and power alone are woman's care,  
 And where these are light Eros finds a feere;  
 Maidens, like moths, are ever caught by glare,  
 And Mammon wins his way where seraphs  
 might despair.

X.

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

XI.

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

## XII.

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

## XIII.

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

Adieu, adieu! my native shore  
Fades o'er the waters blue;  
The night-winds sigh, the breakers roar,  
And shrieks the wild sea-mew.  
Yon sun that sets upon the sea  
We follow in his flight;  
Farewell awhile to him and thee,  
My Native Land—Good Night!  
A few short hours, and he will rise  
To give the morrow birth;  
And I shall hail the main and skies,

But not my mother earth.  
Deserted is my own good hall,  
Its hearth is desolate;  
Wild weeds are gathering on the wall,  
My dog howls at the gate.

'Come hither, hither, my little page:  
Why dost thou weep and wail?  
Or dost thou dread the billow's rage,  
Or tremble at the gale?  
But dash the tear-drop from thine eye,  
Our ship is swift and strong;  
Our fleetest falcon scarce can fly  
More merrily along.'

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

'My father blessed me fervently,  
Yet did not much complain;  
But sorely will my mother sigh  
Till I come back again.'—

'Enough, enough, my little lad!  
Such tears become thine eye;  
If I thy guileless bosom had,  
Mine own would not be dry.

'Come hither, hither, my staunch yeoman,  
Why dost thou look so pale?  
Or dost thou dread a French foeman,  
Or shiver at the gale?'—

'Deem'st thou I tremble for my life?  
Sir Childe, I'm not so weak;  
But thinking on an absent wife

Will blanch a faithful cheek.

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

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

And now I'm in the world alone,  
 Upon the wide, wide sea;  
 But why should I for others groan,  
 When none will sigh for me?  
 Perchance my dog will whine in vain  
 Till fed by stranger hands;  
 But long ere I come back again  
 He'd tear me where he stands.

With thee, my bark, I'll swiftly go  
 Athwart the foaming brine;  
 Nor care what land thou bear'st me to,  
 So not again to mine.  
 Welcome, welcome, ye dark blue waves!  
 And when you fail my sight,  
 Welcome, ye deserts, and ye caves!  
 My Native Land—Good Night!

XIV.

On, on the vessel flies, the land is gone,  
 And winds are rude in Biscay's sleepless bay.

Four days are sped, but with the fifth, anon,  
New shores descried make every bosom gay;  
And Cintra's mountain greets them on their  
way,  
And Tagus dashing onward to the deep,  
His fabled golden tribute bent to pay;  
And soon on board the Lusian pilots leap,  
And steer 'twixt fertile shores where yet few rus-  
tics reap.

XV.

Oh, Christ! it is a goodly sight to see  
What Heaven hath done for this delicious  
land!  
What fruits of fragrance blush on every tree!  
What goodly prospects o'er the hills expand!  
But man would mar them with an impious  
hand:  
And when the Almighty lifts his fiercest  
scourge  
'Gainst those who most transgress his high  
command,  
With treble vengeance will his hot shafts urge  
Gaul's locust host, and earth from fellest foemen  
purge.

XVI.

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

## XVII.

But whoso entereth within this town,  
That, sheening far, celestial seems to be,  
Disconsolate will wander up and down,  
Mid many things unsightly to strange e'e;  
For hut and palace show like filthily;  
The dingy denizens are reared in dirt;  
No personage of high or mean degree  
Doth care for cleanness of surtout or shirt,  
Though shent with Egypt's plague, unkempt,  
unwashed, unhurt.

## XVIII.

Poor, paltry slaves! yet born midst noblest  
scenes—  
Why, Nature, waste thy wonders on such  
men?  
Lo! Cintra's glorious Eden intervenes  
In variegated maze of mount and glen.  
Ah me! what hand can pencil guide, or pen,  
To follow half on which the eye dilates  
Through views more dazzling unto mortal  
ken  
Than those whereof such things the bard re-  
lates,  
Who to the awe-struck world unlocked Ely-  
sium's gates?

## XIX.

The horrid crags, by toppling convent  
crowned,  
The cork-trees hoar that clothe the shaggy  
steep,  
The mountain moss by scorching skies im-  
browned,  
The sunken glen, whose sunless shrubs must  
weep,  
The tender azure of the unruffled deep,

The orange tints that gild the greenest bough,  
The torrents that from cliff to valley leap,  
The vine on high, the willow branch below,  
Mixed in one mighty scene, with varied beauty  
glow.

XX.

Then slowly climb the many-winding way,  
And frequent turn to linger as you go,  
From loftier rocks new loveliness survey,  
And rest ye at 'Our Lady's House of Woe;'  
Where frugal monks their little relics show,  
And sundry legends to the stranger tell:  
Here impious men have punished been; and  
lo,  
Deep in yon cave Honorius long did dwell,  
In hope to merit Heaven by making earth a Hell.

XXI.

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

XXII.

On sloping mounds, or in the vale beneath,  
Are domes where whilom kings did make re-  
pair;

But now the wild flowers round them only  
breathe:  
Yet ruined splendour still is lingering there.  
And yonder towers the prince's palace fair:  
There thou, too, Vathek! England's wealthiest  
son,  
Once formed thy Paradise, as not aware  
When wanton Wealth her mightiest deeds  
hath done,  
Meek Peace voluptuous lures was ever wont to  
shun.

XXIII.

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

XXIV.

Behold the hall where chiefs were late con-  
vened!  
Oh! dome displeasing unto British eye!  
With diadem hight foolscap, lo! a fiend,  
A little fiend that scoffs incessantly,  
There sits in parchment robe arrayed, and by  
His side is hung a seal and sable scroll,  
Where blazoned glare names known to  
chivalry,  
And sundry signatures adorn the roll,  
Whereat the urchin points, and laughs with all  
his soul.



XXV.

Convention is the dwarfish demon styled  
That foiled the knights in Marialva's dome:  
Of brains (if brains they had) he them be-  
guiled,  
And turned a nation's shallow joy to gloom.  
Here Folly dashed to earth the victor's plume,  
And Policy regained what Arms had lost:  
For chiefs like ours in vain may laurels bloom!  
Woe to the conquering, not the conquered  
host,  
Since baffled Triumph droops on Lusitania's  
coast.

XXVI.

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

XXVII.

So deemed the Childe, as o'er the mountains  
he  
Did take his way in solitary guise:  
Sweet was the scene, yet soon he thought to  
flee,  
More restless than the swallow in the skies:  
Though here awhile he learned to moralise,  
For Meditation fixed at times on him,  
And conscious Reason whispered to despise

His early youth misspent in maddest whim;  
But as he gazed on Truth, his aching eyes grew  
dim.

XXVIII.

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

XXIX.

Yet Mafra shall one moment claim delay,  
Where dwelt of yore the Lusians' luckless  
queen;  
And church and court did mingle their array,  
And mass and revel were alternate seen;  
Lordlings and freres—ill-sorted fry, I ween!  
But here the Babylonian whore had built  
A dome, where flaunts she in such glorious  
sheen,  
That men forget the blood which she hath  
spilt,  
And bow the knee to Pomp that loves to garnish  
guilt.

XXX.

O'er vales that teem with fruits, romantic hills,  
(Oh that such hills upheld a free-born race!)  
Whereon to gaze the eye with joyaunce fills,  
Childe Harold wends through many a pleas-  
ant place.  
Though sluggards deem it but a foolish chase,

And marvel men should quit their easy chair,  
The toilsome way, and long, long league to  
trace.

Oh, there is sweetness in the mountain air  
And life, that bloated Ease can never hope to  
share.

XXXI.

More bleak to view the hills at length recede,  
And, less luxuriant, smoother vales extend:  
Immense horizon-bounded plains succeed!  
Far as the eye discerns, withouten end,  
Spain's realms appear, whereon her shep-  
herds tend

Flocks, whose rich fleece right well the trader  
knows—

Now must the pastor's arm his lambs defend:  
For Spain is compassed by unyielding foes,  
And all must shield their all, or share Subjec-  
tion's woes.

XXXII.

Where Lusitania and her Sister meet,  
Deem ye what bounds the rival realms di-  
vide?

Or e'er the jealous queens of nations greet,

Doth Tayo interpose his mighty tide?

Or dark sierras rise in craggy pride?

Or fence of art, like China's vasty wall?—

Ne barrier wall, ne river deep and wide,

Ne horrid crags, nor mountains dark and tall

Rise like the rocks that part Hispania's land from  
Gaul

XXXIII.

But these between a silver streamlet glides,  
And scarce a name distinguisheth the brook,  
Though rival kingdoms press its verdant  
sides.

Here leans the idle shepherd on his crook,  
And vacant on the rippling waves doth look,  
That peaceful still 'twixt bitterest foemen  
flow:

For proud each peasant as the noblest duke:  
Well doth the Spanish hind the difference  
know  
'Twixt him and Lusian slave, the lowest of the  
low.

## XXXIV.

But ere the mingling bounds have far been  
passed,  
Dark Guadiana rolls his power along  
In sullen billows, murmuring and vast,  
So noted ancient roundelays among.  
Whilome upon his banks did legions throng  
Of Moor and Knight, in mailed splendour  
drest;  
Here ceased the swift their race, here sunk the  
strong;  
The Paynim turban and the Christian crest  
Mixed on the bleeding stream, by floating hosts  
oppressed.

## XXXV.

Oh, lovely Spain! renowned, romantic land!  
Where is that standard which Pelagio bore,  
When Cava's traitor-sire first called the band  
That dyed thy mountain-streams with Gothic  
gore?  
Where are those bloody banners which of yore  
Waved o'er thy sons, victorious to the gale,  
And drove at last the spoilers to their shore?  
Red gleamed the cross, and waned the cres-  
cent pale,  
While Afric's echoes thrilled with Moorish ma-  
trons' wail.

## XXXVI.

Teems not each ditty with the glorious tale?  
Ah! such, alas, the hero's amplest fate!  
When granite moulders and when records  
fail,  
A peasant's plaint prolongs his dubious date.  
Pride! bend thine eye from heaven to thine  
estate,  
See how the mighty shrink into a song!  
Can volume, pillar, pile, preserve thee great?  
Or must thou trust Tradition's simple tongue,  
When Flattery sleeps with thee, and History  
does thee wrong?

## XXXVII.

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

## XXXVIII.

Hark! heard you not those hoofs of dreadful  
note?  
Sounds not the clang of conflict on the heath?  
Saw ye not whom the reeking sabre smote;  
Nor saved your brethren ere they sank be-  
neath  
Tyrants and tyrants' slaves?—the fires of death,  
The bale-fires flash on high:—from rock to rock  
Each volley tells that thousands cease to  
breathe:

Death rides upon the sulphury Siroc,  
 Red Battle stamps his foot, and nations feel the  
 shock.

XXXIX.

Lo! where the Giant on the mountain stands,  
 His blood-red tresses deepening in the sun,  
 With death-shot glowing in his fiery hands,  
 And eye that scorcheth all it glares upon;  
 Restless it rolls, now fixed, and now anon  
 Flashing afar,—and at his iron feet  
 Destruction cowers, to mark what deeds are  
 done;

For on this morn three potent nations meet,  
 To shed before his shrine the blood he deems  
 most sweet.

XL.

By Heaven! it is a splendid sight to see  
 (For one who hath no friend, no brother there)  
 Their rival scarfs of mixed embroidery,  
 Their various arms that glitter in the air!  
 What gallant war-hounds rouse them from  
 their lair,  
 And gnash their fangs, loud yelling for the  
 prey!

All join the chase, but few the triumph share:  
 The Grave shall bear the chiefest prize away,  
 And Havoc scarce for joy can cumber their array.

XLI.

Three hosts combine to offer sacrifice;  
 Three tongues prefer strange orisons on high;  
 Three gaudy standards flout the pale blue  
 skies.

The shouts are France, Spain, Albion, Victory!  
 The foe, the victim, and the fond ally  
 That fights for all, but ever fights in vain,  
 Are met—as if at home they could not die—

To feed the crow on Talavera's plain,  
 And fertilise the field that each pretends to gain.

XLII.

There shall they rot—Ambition's honoured  
 fools!

Yes, Honour decks the turf that wraps their  
 clay!

Vain Sophistry! in these behold the tools,  
 The broken tools, that tyrants cast away  
 By myriads, when they dare to pave their way  
 With human hearts—to what?—a dream alone.  
 Can despots compass aught that hails their  
 sway?

Or call with truth one span of earth their own,  
 Save that wherein at last they crumble bone by  
 bone?

XLIII.

O Albuera, glorious field of grief!

As o'er thy plain the Pilgrim pricked his steed,  
 Who could foresee thee, in a space so brief,  
 A scene where mingling foes should boast  
 and bleed.

Peace to the perished! may the warrior's  
 meed

And tears of triumph their reward prolong!  
 Till others fall where other chieftains lead,  
 Thy name shall circle round the gaping  
 throng,

And shine in worthless lays, the theme of tran-  
 sient song.

XLIV.

Enough of Battle's minions! let them play  
 Their game of lives, and barter breath for  
 fame:

Fame that will scarce reanimate their clay,

Though thousands fall to deck some single  
name.

In sooth, 'twere sad to thwart their noble aim  
Who strike, blest hirelings! for their country's  
good,

And die, that living might have proved her  
shame;

Perished, perchance, in some domestic feud,  
Or in a narrower sphere wild Rapine's path pur-  
sued.

XLV.

Full swiftly Harold wends his lonely way  
Where proud Sevilla triumphs unsubdued:  
Yet is she free—the spoiler's wished-for prey!  
Soon, soon shall Conquest's fiery foot intrude,  
Blackening her lovely domes with traces rude.

Inevitable hour! 'Gainst fate to strive  
Where Desolation plants her famished brood  
Is vain, or Ilium, Tyre, might yet survive,  
And Virtue vanquish all, and Murder cease to  
thrive.

XLVI.

But all unconscious of the coming doom,  
The feast, the song, the revel here abounds;  
Strange modes of merriment the hours con-  
sume,

Nor bleed these patriots with their country's  
wounds;

Nor here War's clarion, but Love's rebeck  
sounds;

Here Folly still his votaries enthralls,  
And young-eyed Lewdness walks her mid-  
night rounds:

Girt with the silent crimes of capitals,  
Still to the last kind Vice clings to the tottering  
walls.



## XLVII.

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

## XLVIII.

How carols now the lusty muleteer?  
 Of love, romance, devotion is his lay,  
 As whilome he was wont the leagues to cheer,  
 His quick bells wildly jingling on the way?  
 No! as he speeds, he chants 'Viva el Rey!'  
 And checks his song to execrate Godoy,  
 The royal wittol Charles, and curse the day  
 When first Spain's queen beheld the black-  
   eyed boy,  
 And gore-faced Treason sprung from her adul-  
   terate joy.

## XLIX.

On yon long level plain, at distance crowned  
 With crags, whereon those Moorish turrets  
   rest,  
 Wide scattered hoof-marks dint the wounded  
   ground;  
 And, scathed by fire, the greensward's dark-  
   ened vest  
 Tells that the foe was Andalusia's guest:  
 Here was the camp, the watch-flame, and the  
   host,

Here the brave peasant stormed the dragon's  
 nest;  
 Still does he mark it with triumphant boast,  
 And points to yonder cliffs, which oft were won  
 and lost.

L.

And whomso'er along the path you meet  
 Bears in his cap the badge of crimson hue,  
 Which tells you whom to shun and whom to  
 greet:  
 Woe to the man that walks in public view  
 Without of loyalty this token true:  
 Sharp is the knife, and sudden is the stroke;  
 And sorely would the Gallic foemen rue,  
 If subtle poniards, wrapt beneath the cloak,  
 Could blunt the sabre's edge, or clear the can-  
 non's smoke.

LI.

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

LII.

Portend the deeds to come:—but he whose nod  
 Has tumbled feebler despots from their sway,  
 A moment pauseth ere he lifts the rod;  
 A little moment deigneth to delay:  
 Soon will his legions sweep through these the  
 way;  
 The West must own the Scourger of the world.

Ah, Spain! how sad will be thy reckoning day,  
 When soars Gaul's Vulture, with his wings  
 unfurled,  
 And thou shalt view thy sons in crowds to  
 Hades hurled.

LIII.

And must they fall—the young, the proud, the  
 brave—  
 To swell one bloated chief's unwholesome  
 reign?  
 No step between submission and a grave?  
 The rise of rapine and the fall of Spain?  
 And doth the Power that man adores ordain  
 Their doom, nor heed the suppliant's appeal?  
 Is all that desperate Valour acts in vain?  
 And Counsel sage, and patriotic Zeal,  
 The veteran's skill, youth's fire, and manhood's  
 heart of steel?

LIV.

Is it for this the Spanish maid, aroused,  
 Hangs on the willow her unstrung guitar,  
 And, all unsexed, the anlace hath espoused,  
 Sung the loud song, and dared the deed of  
 war?  
 And she, whom once the semblance of a scar  
 Appalled, an owlet's larum chilled with  
 dread,  
 Now views the column-scattering bayonet jar,  
 The falchion flash, and o'er the yet warm dead  
 Stalks with Minerva's step where Mars might  
 quake to tread.

LV.

Ye who shall marvel when you hear her tale,  
 Oh! had you known her in her softer hour,  
 Marked her black eye that mocks her coal-  
 black veil,

Heard her light, lively tones in lady's bower,  
Seen her long locks that foil the painter's  
power,  
Her fairy form, with more than female grace,  
Scarce would you deem that Saragoza's tower  
Beheld her smile in Danger's Gorgon face,  
Thin the closed ranks, and lead in Glory's fearful  
chase.

## LVI.

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

## LVII.

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

## LVIII.

The seal Love's dimpling finger hath im-  
pressed  
Denotes how soft that chin which bears his  
touch:

Her lips, whose kisses pout to leave their nest,  
 Bid man be valiant ere he merit such:

Her glance, how wildly beautiful! how much  
 Hath Phoebus wooed in vain to spoil her  
 cheek

Which glows yet smoother from his amorous  
 clutch!

Who round the North for paler dames would  
 seek?

How poor their forms appear? how languid,  
 wan, and weak!

LIX.

Match me, ye climes! which poets love to  
 laud;

Match me, ye harems! of the land where now  
 I strike my strain, far distant, to applaud  
 Beauties that even a cynic must avow!

Match me those houris, whom ye scarce allow  
 To taste the gale lest Love should ride the  
 wind,

With Spain's dark-glancing daughters—deign  
 to know,

There your wise Prophet's paradise we find,  
 His black-eyed maids of Heaven, angelically  
 kind.

LX.

O thou, Parnassus! whom I now survey,  
 Not in the frenzy of a dreamer's eye,  
 Not in the fabled landscape of a lay,  
 But soaring snow-clad through thy native sky,  
 In the wild pomp of mountain majesty!  
 What marvel if I thus essay to sing?

The humblest of thy pilgrims passing by  
 Would gladly woo thine echoes with his  
 string,

Though from thy heights no more one muse will

wave her wing.

LXI.

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

LXII.

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

LXIII.

Of thee hereafter.—Even amidst my strain  
I turned aside to pay my homage here;  
Forgot the land, the sons, the maids of Spain;  
Her fate, to every free-born bosom dear;  
And hailed thee, not perchance without a tear.  
Now to my theme—but from thy holy haunt  
Let me some remnant, some memorial bear;

Yield me one leaf of Daphne's deathless plant,  
Nor let thy votary's hope be deemed an idle  
vaunt.

LXIV.

But ne'er didst thou, fair mount, when Greece  
was young,  
See round thy giant base a brighter choir;  
Nor e'er did Delphi, when her priestess sung  
The Pythian hymn with more than mortal fire,  
Behold a train more fitting to inspire  
The song of love than Andalusia's maids,  
Nurst in the glowing lap of soft desire:  
Ah! that to these were given such peaceful  
shades  
As Greece can still bestow, though Glory fly her  
glades.

LXV.

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

LXVI.

When Paphos fell by Time—accursed Time!  
The Queen who conquers all must yield to  
thee—  
The Pleasures fled, but sought as warm a  
clime;  
And Venus, constant to her native sea,

To nought else constant, hither deigned to  
flee,  
And fixed her shrine within these walls of  
white;  
Though not to one dome circumscribeth she  
Her worship, but, devoted to her rite,  
A thousand altars rise, for ever blazing bright.

LXVII.

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

LXVIII.

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

LXIX.

The seventh day this; the jubilee of man.



London! right well thou know'st the day of  
prayer:  
Then thy spruce citizen, washed artizan,  
And smug apprentice gulp their weekly air:  
Thy coach of hackney, whiskey, one-horse  
chair,  
And humblest gig, through sundry suburbs  
whirl;  
To Hampstead, Brentford, Harrow, make re-  
pair;  
Till the tired jade the wheel forgets to hurl,  
Provoking envious gibe from each pedestrian  
churl.

LXX.

Some o'er thy Themis row the ribboned fair,  
Others along the safer turnpike fly;  
Some Richmond Hill ascend, some scud to  
Ware,  
And many to the steep of Highgate hie.  
Ask ye, Boeotian shades, the reason why?  
'Tis to the worship of the solemn Horn,  
Grasped in the holy hand of Mystery,  
In whose dread name both men and maids are  
sworn,  
And consecrate the oath with draught and dance  
till morn.

LXXI.

All have their fooleries; not alike are thine,  
Fair Cadiz, rising o'er the dark blue sea!  
Soon as the matin bell proclaimeth nine,  
Thy saint adorers count the rosary:  
Much is the Virgin teased to shrive them free  
(Well do I ween the only virgin there)  
From crimes as numerous as her beadsmen  
be;  
Then to the crowded circus forth they fare:

Young, old, high, low, at once the same diversion share.

LXXII.

The lists are oped, the spacious area cleared,  
Thousands on thousands piled are seated  
round;

Long ere the first loud trumpet's note is heard,  
No vacant space for lated wight is found:

Here dons, grandees, but chiefly dames  
abound,

Skilled in the ogle of a roguish eye,

Yet ever well inclined to heal the wound;

None through their cold disdain are doomed  
to die,

As moon-struck bards complain, by Love's sad  
archery.

LXXIII.

Hushed is the din of tongues—on gallant  
steeds,

With milk-white crest, gold spur, and light-  
poised lance,

Four cavaliers prepare for venturous deeds,

And lowly bending to the lists advance;

Rich are their scarfs, their chargers featly  
prance:

If in the dangerous game they shine to-day,

The crowd's loud shout, and ladies' lovely  
glance,

Best prize of better acts, they bear away,

And all that kings or chiefs e'er gain their toils  
repay.

LXXIV.

In costly sheen and gaudy cloak arrayed,

But all afoot, the light-limbed matadore

Stands in the centre, eager to invade

The lord of lowing herds; but not before

The ground, with cautious tread, is traversed  
o'er,  
Lest aught unseen should lurk to thwart his  
speed:  
His arms a dart, he fights aloof, nor more  
Can man achieve without the friendly steed—  
Alas! too oft condemned for him to bear and  
bleed.

LXXV.

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

LXXVI.

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

LXXVII.

Again he comes; nor dart nor lance avail,

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

## LXXVIII.

Foiled, bleeding, breathless, furious to the  
last,  
Full in the centre stands the bull at bay,  
Mid wounds, and clinging darts, and lances  
brast,  
And foes disabled in the brutal fray:  
And now the matadores around him play,  
Shake the red cloak, and poise the ready  
brand:  
Once more through all he bursts his thunder-  
ing way—  
Vain rage! the mantle quits the conyng hand,  
Wraps his fierce eye—'tis past—he sinks upon the  
sand.

## LXXIX.

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

Hurl the dark bull along, scarce seen in dashing  
by.

LXXX.

Such the ungentle sport that oft invites  
The Spanish maid, and cheers the Spanish  
swain:

Nurtured in blood betimes, his heart delights  
In vengeance, gloating on another's pain.

What private feuds the troubled village stain!  
Though now one phalanxed host should meet  
the foe,

Enough, alas, in humble homes remain,

To meditate 'gainst friends the secret blow,

For some slight cause of wrath, whence life's  
warm stream must flow.

LXXXI.

But Jealousy has fled: his bars, his bolts,

His withered sentinel, duenna sage!

And all whereat the generous soul revolts,

Which the stern dotard deemed he could  
engage,

Have passed to darkness with the vanished  
age.

Who late so free as Spanish girls were seen

(Ere War uprose in his volcanic rage),

With braided tresses bounding o'er the green,

While on the gay dance shone Night's lover-  
loving Queen?

LXXXII.

Oh! many a time and oft had Harold loved,

Or dreamed he loved, since rapture is a  
dream;

But now his wayward bosom was unmoved,

For not yet had he drunk of Lethe's stream:

And lately had he learned with truth to deem  
Love has no gift so grateful as his wings:

How fair, how young, how soft so'er he  
seem,  
Full from the fount of joy's delicious springs  
Some bitter o'er the flowers its bubbling venom  
flings.

LXXXIII.

Yet to the beauteous form he was not blind,  
Though now it moved him as it moves the  
wise;  
Not that Philosophy on such a mind  
E'er deigned to bend her chastely-awful eyes:  
But Passion raves itself to rest, or flies;  
And Vice, that digs her own voluptuous tomb,  
Had buried long his hopes, no more to rise:  
Pleasure's palled victim! life-abhorring gloom  
Wrote on his faded brow curst Cain's unresting  
doom.

LXXXIV.

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

TO INEZ

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

And dost thou ask what secret woe  
I bear, corroding joy and youth?  
And wilt thou vainly seek to know  
A pang even thou must fail to soothe?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LXXXV.

Adieu, fair Cadiz! yea, a long adieu!

Who may forget how well thy walls have  
stood?

When all were changing, thou alone wert true,  
First to be free, and last to be subdued.

And if amidst a scene, a shock so rude,  
Some native blood was seen thy streets to dye,  
A traitor only fell beneath the feud:

Here all were noble, save nobility;

None hugged a conqueror's chain save fallen  
Chivalry!

LXXXVI.

Such be the sons of Spain, and strange her  
fate!

They fight for freedom, who were never free;  
A kingless people for a nerveless state,

Her vassals combat when their chieftains flee,  
True to the veriest slaves of Treachery;

Fond of a land which gave them nought but  
life,

Pride points the path that leads to liberty;

Back to the struggle, baffled in the strife,

War, war is still the cry, 'War even to the knife!'

LXXXVII.

Ye, who would more of Spain and Spaniards  
know,

Go, read whate'er is writ of bloodiest strife:

Whate'er keen Vengeance urged on foreign  
foe

Can act, is acting there against man's life:

From flashing scimitar to secret knife,

War mouldeth there each weapon to his need—

So may he guard the sister and the wife,

So may he make each curst oppressor bleed,

So may such foes deserve the most remorseless  
deed!

LXXXVIII.



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

LXXXIX.

Nor yet, alas, the dreadful work is done;  
 Fresh legions pour adown the Pyrenees:  
 It deepens still, the work is scarce begun,  
 Nor mortal eye the distant end foresees.  
 Fall'n nations gaze on Spain: if freed, she frees  
 More than her fell Pizarros once enchained.  
 Strange retribution! now Columbia's ease  
 Repairs the wrongs that Quito's sons sus-  
 tained,  
 While o'er the parent clime prowls Murder un-  
 restrained.

XC.

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

## XCI.

And thou, my friend! since unavailing woe  
Bursts from my heart, and mingles with the  
strain—  
Had the sword laid thee with the mighty low,  
Pride might forbid e'en Friendship to com-  
plain:  
But thus unlaurell'd to descend in vain,  
By all forgotten, save the lonely breast,  
And mix unbleeding with the boasted slain,  
While glory crowns so many a meaner crest!  
What hadst thou done, to sink so peacefully to  
rest?

## XCII.

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

## XCIII.

Here is one fytte of Harold's pilgrimage.  
Ye who of him may further seek to know,  
Shall find some tidings in a future page,  
If he that rhymeth now may scribble moe.  
Is this too much? Stern critic, say not so:  
Patience! and ye shall hear what he beheld  
In other lands, where he was doomed to go:  
Lands that contain the monuments of eld,  
Ere Greece and Grecian arts by barbarous hands  
were quelled.

# CANTO THE SECOND

## I.

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

## II.

Ancient of days! august Athena! where,  
Where are thy men of might, thy grand in  
    soul?  
Gone—glimmering through the dream of  
things that were:  
First in the race that led to Glory's goal,  
They won, and passed away—is this the  
    whole?  
A schoolboy's tale, the wonder of an hour!  
The warrior's weapon and the sophist's stole

Are sought in vain, and o'er each mouldering  
tower,  
Dim with the mist of years, grey flits the shade  
of power.

## III.

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

## IV.

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

## V.

Or burst the vanished hero's lofty mound;  
Far on the solitary shore he sleeps;  
He fell, and falling nations mourned around;  
But now not one of saddening thousands  
weeps,  
Nor warlike worshipper his vigil keeps  
Where demi-gods appeared, as records tell.

Remove yon skull from out the scattered  
heaps:

Is that a temple where a God may dwell?  
Why, e'en the worm at last disdains her shat-  
tered cell!

VI.

Look on its broken arch, its ruined wall,  
Its chambers desolate, and portals foul:  
Yes, this was once Ambition's airy hall,  
The dome of Thought, the Palace of the Soul.  
Behold through each lack-lustre, eyeless hole,  
The gay recess of Wisdom and of Wit,  
And Passion's host, that never brooked con-  
trol:

Can all saint, sage, or sophist ever writ,  
People this lonely tower, this tenement refit?

VII.

Well didst thou speak, Athena's wisest son!  
'All that we know is, nothing can be known.'  
Why should we shrink from what we cannot  
shun?

Each hath its pang, but feeble sufferers groan  
With brain-born dreams of evil all their own.  
Pursue what chance or fate proclaimeth best;  
Peace waits us on the shores of Acheron:  
There no forced banquet claims the sated  
guest,  
But Silence spreads the couch of ever welcome  
rest.

VIII.

Yet if, as holiest men have deemed, there be  
A land of souls beyond that sable shore,  
To shame the doctrine of the Sadducee  
And sophists, madly vain of dubious lore;  
How sweet it were in concert to adore

With those who made our mortal labours  
light!  
To hear each voice we feared to hear no more!  
Behold each mighty shade revealed to sight,  
The Bactrian, Samian sage, and all who taught  
the right!

IX.

There, thou!—whose love and life together  
fled,  
Have left me here to love and live in vain—  
Twined with my heart, and can I deem thee  
dead,  
When busy memory flashes on my brain?  
Well—I will dream that we may meet again,  
And woo the vision to my vacant breast:  
If aught of young Remembrance then remain,  
Be as it may Futurity's behest,  
For me 'twere bliss enough to know thy spirit  
blest!

X.

Here let me sit upon this mossy stone,  
The marble column's yet unshaken base!  
Here, son of Saturn, was thy favourite throne!  
Mightiest of many such! Hence let me trace  
The latent grandeur of thy dwelling-place.  
It may not be: nor even can Fancy's eye  
Restore what time hath laboured to deface.  
Yet these proud pillars claim no passing sigh;  
Unmoved the Moslem sits, the light Greek carols  
by.

XI.

But who, of all the plunderers of yon fane  
On high, where Pallas lingered, loth to flee  
The latest relic of her ancient reign—  
The last, the worst, dull spoiler, who was he?  
Blush, Caledonia! such thy son could be!

England! I joy no child he was of thine:  
Thy free-born men should spare what once  
was free;  
Yet they could violate each saddening shrine,  
And bear these altars o'er the long reluctant  
brine.

## XII.

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

## XIII.

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

## XIV.

Where was thine aegis, Pallas, that appalled  
Stern Alaric and Havoc on their way?

Where Peleus' son? whom Hell in vain en-  
thralled,  
His shade from Hades upon that dread day  
Bursting to light in terrible array!  
What! could not Pluto spare the chief once  
more,  
To scare a second robber from his prey?  
Idly he wandered on the Stygian shore,  
Nor now preserved the walls he loved to shield  
before.

XV.

Cold is the heart, fair Greece, that looks on  
thee,  
Nor feels as lovers o'er the dust they loved;  
Dull is the eye that will not weep to see  
Thy walls defaced, thy mouldering shrines re-  
moved  
By British hands, which it had best behoved  
To guard those relics ne'er to be restored.  
Curst be the hour when from their isle they  
roved,  
And once again thy hapless bosom gored,  
And snatched thy shrinking gods to northern  
climes abhorred!

XVI.

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



crimes.

## XVII.

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

## XVIII.

And oh, the little warlike world within!  
The well-reeved guns, the netted canopy,  
The hoarse command, the busy humming din,  
When, at a word, the tops are manned on  
high:  
Hark to the boatswain's call, the cheering cry,  
While through the seaman's hand the tackle  
glides  
Or schoolboy midshipman that, standing by,  
Strains his shrill pipe, as good or ill betides,  
And well the docile crew that skilful urchin  
guides.

## XIX.

White is the glassy deck, without a stain,  
Where on the watch the staid lieutenant  
walks:  
Look on that part which sacred doth remain  
For the lone chieftain, who majestic stalks,  
Silent and feared by all: not oft he talks  
With aught beneath him, if he would preserve  
That strict restraint, which broken, ever  
baulks

Conquest and Fame: but Britons rarely  
swerve  
From law, however stern, which tends their  
strength to nerve.

XX.

Blow, swiftly blow, thou keel-compelling gale,  
Till the broad sun withdraws his lessening  
ray;  
Then must the pennant-bearer slacken sail,  
That lagging barks may make their lazy way.  
Ah! grievance sore, and listless dull delay,  
To waste on sluggish hulks the sweetest  
breeze!  
What leagues are lost before the dawn of day,  
Thus loitering pensive on the willing seas,  
The flapping sails hauled down to halt for logs  
like these!

XXI.

The moon is up; by Heaven, a lovely eve!  
Long streams of light o'er dancing waves ex-  
pand!  
Now lads on shore may sigh, and maids be-  
lieve:  
Such be our fate when we return to land!  
Meantime some rude Arion's restless hand  
Wakes the brisk harmony that sailors love:  
A circle there of merry listeners stand,  
Or to some well-known measure featly move,  
Thoughtless, as if on shore they still were free to  
rove.

XXII.

Through Calpe's straits survey the steepy  
shore;  
Europe and Afric, on each other gaze!  
Lands of the dark-eyed maid and dusky  
Moor,

Alike beheld beneath pale Hecate's blaze:  
How softly on the Spanish shore she plays,  
Disclosing rock, and slope, and forest brown,  
Distinct, though darkening with her waning  
phase:

But Mauritania's giant-shadows frown,  
From mountain-cliff to coast descending sombre  
down.

XXIII.

'Tis night, when Meditation bids us feel  
We once have loved, though love is at an end:  
The heart, lone mourner of its baffled zeal,  
Though friendless now, will dream it had a  
friend.

Who with the weight of years would wish to  
bend,  
When Youth itself survives young Love and  
Joy?

Alas! when mingling souls forget to blend,  
Death hath but little left him to destroy!  
Ah, happy years! once more who would not be  
a boy?

XXIV.

Thus bending o'er the vessel's laving side,  
To gaze on Dian's wave-reflected sphere,  
The soul forgets her schemes of Hope and  
Pride,  
And flies unconscious o'er each backward  
year.

None are so desolate but something dear,  
Dearer than self, possesses or possessed  
A thought, and claims the homage of a tear;  
A flashing pang! of which the weary breast  
Would still, albeit in vain, the heavy heart divest.

XXV.

To sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood and fell,

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

XXVI.

But midst the crowd, the hum, the shock of  
    men,  
To hear, to see, to feel, and to possess,  
And roam along, the world's tired denizen,  
With none who bless us, none whom we can  
    bless;  
Minions of splendour shrinking from distress!  
None that, with kindred consciousness en-  
    dued,  
If we were not, would seem to smile the less  
Of all that flattered, followed, sought, and  
    sued:  
This is to be alone; this, this is solitude!

XXVII.

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

XXVIII.

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

XXIX.

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

XXX.

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

mine.

XXXI.

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

XXXII.

Fair Florence found, in sooth with some  
amaze,  
One who, 'twas said, still sighed to all he saw,  
Withstand, unmoved, the lustre of her gaze,  
Which others hailed with real or mimic awe,  
Their hope, their doom, their punishment,  
their law:  
All that gay Beauty from her bondsmen  
claims:  
And much she marvelled that a youth so raw  
Nor felt, nor feigned at least, the oft-told  
flames,  
Which, though sometimes they frown, yet rarely  
anger dames.

XXXIII.

Little knew she that seeming marble heart,  
Now masked by silence or withheld by pride,  
Was not unskilful in the spoiler's art,  
And spread its snares licentious far and wide;  
Nor from the base pursuit had turned aside,  
As long as aught was worthy to pursue:  
But Harold on such arts no more relied;

And had he doted on those eyes so blue,  
Yet never would he join the lover's whining  
crew.

XXXIV.

Not much he kens, I ween, of woman's breast,  
Who thinks that wanton thing is won by sighs;  
What careth she for hearts when once pos-  
sessed?

Do proper homage to thine idol's eyes,  
But not too humbly, or she will despise  
Thee and thy suit, though told in moving  
tropes;

Disguise e'en tenderness, if thou art wise;  
Brisk Confidence still best with woman copes;  
Pique her and soothe in turn, soon Passion  
crowns thy hopes.

XXXV.

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

XXXVI.

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

If that corrupted thing could ever such be  
taught.

XXXVII.

Dear Nature is the kindest mother still;  
Though always changing, in her aspect mild:  
From her bare bosom let me take my fill,  
Her never-weaned, though not her favoured  
child.

Oh! she is fairest in her features wild,  
Where nothing polished dares pollute her  
path:

To me by day or night she ever smiled,  
Though I have marked her when none other  
hath,

And sought her more and more, and loved her  
best in wrath.

XXXVIII.

Land of Albania! where Iskander rose;  
Theme of the young, and beacon of the wise,  
And he his namesake, whose oft-baffled foes,  
Shrunk from his deeds of chivalrous emprise:

Land of Albania! let me bend mine eyes  
On thee, thou rugged nurse of savage men!

The cross descends, thy minarets arise,  
And the pale crescent sparkles in the glen,

Through many a cypress grove within each  
city's ken.

XXXIX.

Childe Harold sailed, and passed the barren  
spot

Where sad Penelope o'erlooked the wave;  
And onward viewed the mount, not yet for-  
got,

The lover's refuge, and the Lesbian's grave.

Dark Sappho! could not verse immortal save  
That breast imbued with such immortal fire?



Could she not live who life eternal gave?  
If life eternal may await the lyre,  
That only Heaven to which Earth's children may  
aspire.

XL.

'Twas on a Grecian autumn's gentle eve,  
Childe Harold hailed Leucadia's cape afar;  
A spot he longed to see, nor cared to leave:  
Oft did he mark the scenes of vanished war,  
Actium, Lepanto, fatal Trafalgar:  
Mark them unmoved, for he would not de-  
light  
(Born beneath some remote inglorious star)  
In themes of bloody fray, or gallant fight,  
But loathed the bravo's trade, and laughed at  
martial wight.

XLI.

But when he saw the evening star above  
Leucadia's far-projecting rock of woe,  
And hailed the last resort of fruitless love,  
He felt, or deemed he felt, no common glow:  
And as the stately vessel glided slow  
Beneath the shadow of that ancient mount,  
He watched the billows' melancholy flow,  
And, sunk albeit in thought as he was wont,  
More placid seemed his eye, and smooth his pal-  
lid front.

XLII.

Morn dawns; and with it stern Albania's hills,  
Dark Suli's rocks, and Pindus' inland peak,  
Robed half in mist, bedewed with snowy rills,  
Arrayed in many a dun and purple streak,  
Arise; and, as the clouds along them break,  
Disclose the dwelling of the mountaineer;  
Here roams the wolf, the eagle whets his beak,  
Birds, beasts of prey, and wilder men appear,

And gathering storms around convulse the closing year.

XLIII.

Now Harold felt himself at length alone,  
And bade to Christian tongues a long adieu:  
Now he adventured on a shore unknown,  
Which all admire, but many dread to view:  
His breast was armed 'gainst fate, his wants  
were few:

Peril he sought not, but ne'er shrank to meet:  
The scene was savage, but the scene was new;  
This made the ceaseless toil of travel sweet,  
Beat back keen winter's blast; and welcomed  
summer's heat.

XLIV.

Here the red cross, for still the cross is here,  
Though sadly scoffed at by the circumcised,  
Forgets that pride to pampered priesthood  
dear;

Churchman and votary alike despised.  
Foul Superstition! howsoe'er disguised,  
Idol, saint, virgin, prophet, crescent, cross,  
For whatsoever symbol thou art prized,  
Thou sacerdotal gain, but general loss!

Who from true worship's gold can separate thy  
dross.

XLV.

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

Imperial anarchs, doubling human woes!

God! was thy globe ordained for such to win  
and lose?

XLVI.

From the dark barriers of that rugged clime,  
E'en to the centre of Illyria's vales,  
Childe Harold passed o'er many a mount sub-  
lime,  
Through lands scarce noticed in historic tales:  
Yet in famed Attica such lovely dales  
Are rarely seen; nor can fair Tempe boast  
A charm they know not; loved Parnassus fails,  
Though classic ground, and consecrated most,  
To match some spots that lurk within this lower-  
ing coast.

XLVII.

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

XLVIII.

Monastic Zitza! from thy shady brow,  
Thou small, but favoured spot of holy ground!  
Where'er we gaze, around, above, below,  
What rainbow tints, what magic charms are  
found!  
Rock, river, forest, mountain all abound,  
And bluest skies that harmonise the whole:  
Beneath, the distant torrent's rushing sound  
Tells where the volumed cataract doth roll

Between those hanging rocks, that shock yet  
please the soul.

XLIX.

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

L.

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

LI.

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

Close shaded Elysium's gates, my shade shall  
seek for none.

LII.

No city's towers pollute the lovely view;  
Unseen is Yanina, though not remote,  
Veiled by the screen of hills: here men are few,  
Scanty the hamlet, rare the lonely cot;  
But, peering down each precipice, the goat  
Browseth: and, pensive o'er his scattered  
flock,  
The little shepherd in his white capote  
Doth lean his boyish form along the rock,  
Or in his cave awaits the tempest's short-lived  
shock.

LIII.

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

LIV.

Epirus' bounds recede, and mountains fail;  
Tired of up-gazing still, the wearied eye  
Reposes gladly on as smooth a vale  
As ever Spring yclad in grassy dye:  
E'en on a plain no humble beauties lie,  
Where some bold river breaks the long ex-  
panse,  
And woods along the banks are waving high,  
Whose shadows in the glassy waters dance,

Or with the moonbeam sleep in Midnight's  
solemn trance.

LV.

The sun had sunk behind vast Tomerit,  
The Laos wide and fierce came roaring by;  
The shades of wonted night were gathering  
yet,  
When, down the steep banks winding wearily  
Childe Harold saw, like meteors in the sky,  
The glittering minarets of Tepalen,  
Whose walls o'erlook the stream; and draw-  
ing nigh,  
He heard the busy hum of warrior-men  
Swelling the breeze that sighed along the length-  
ening glen.

LVI.

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

LVII.

Richly caparisoned, a ready row  
Of armed horse, and many a warlike store,  
Circled the wide-extending court below;  
Above, strange groups adorned the corridor;  
And ofttimes through the area's echoing door,  
Some high-capped Tartar spurred his steed  
away;  
The Turk, the Greek, the Albanian, and the  
Moor,

Here mingled in their many-hued array,  
While the deep war-drum's sound announced  
the close of day.

LVIII.

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

LIX.

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

LX.

Just at this season Ramazani's fast  
Through the long day its penance did main-  
tain.  
But when the lingering twilight hour was  
past,  
Revel and feast assumed the rule again:  
Now all was bustle, and the menial train

Prepared and spread the plenteous board  
within;  
The vacant gallery now seemed made in vain,  
But from the chambers came the mingling din,  
As page and slave anon were passing out and in.

LXI.

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

LXII.

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

LXIII.

It is not that yon hoary lengthening beard  
Ill suits the passions which belong to youth:  
Love conquers age—so Hafiz hath averred,  
So sings the Teian, and he sings in sooth—  
But crimes that scorn the tender voice of ruth,  
Beseeming all men ill, but most the man



In years, have marked him with a tiger's  
tooth:  
Blood follows blood, and through their mortal  
span,  
In bloodier acts conclude those who with blood  
began.

LXIV.

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

LXV.

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

LXVI.

Childe Harold saw them in their chieftain's  
tower,  
Thronging to war in splendour and success;  
And after viewed them, when, within their  
power,  
Himself awhile the victim of distress;

That saddening hour when bad men hotlier  
press:  
But these did shelter him beneath their roof,  
When less barbarians would have cheered  
him less,  
And fellow-countrymen have stood aloof—  
In aught that tries the heart how few withstand  
the proof!

## LXVII.

It chanced that adverse winds once drove his  
bark  
Full on the coast of Suli's shaggy shore,  
When all around was desolate and dark;  
To land was perilous, to sojourn more;  
Yet for awhile the mariners forbore,  
Dubious to trust where treachery might lurk:  
At length they ventured forth, though doubt-  
ing sore  
That those who loathe alike the Frank and  
Turk  
Might once again renew their ancient butcher-  
work.

## LXVIII.

Vain fear! the Suliotes stretched the welcome  
hand,  
Led them o'er rocks and past the dangerous  
swamp,  
Kinder than polished slaves, though not so  
bland,  
And piled the hearth, and wrung their gar-  
ments damp,  
And filled the bowl, and trimmed the cheerful  
lamp,  
And spread their fare: though homely, all they  
had:  
Such conduct bears Philanthropy's rare

stamp—  
To rest the weary and to soothe the sad,  
Doth lesson happier men, and shames at least  
the bad.

LXIX.

It came to pass, that when he did address  
Himself to quit at length this mountain land,  
Combined marauders half-way barred egress,  
And wasted far and near with glaive and  
brand;  
And therefore did he take a trusty band  
To traverse Acarnania forest wide,  
In war well-seasoned, and with labours  
tanned,  
Till he did greet white Achelous' tide,  
And from his farther bank AEtolia's wolds es-  
pied.

LXX.

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

LXXI.

On the smooth shore the night-fires brightly  
blazed,  
The feast was done, the red wine circling fast,  
And he that unawares had there gazed

With gaping wonderment had stared aghast;  
For ere night's midmost, stillest hour was  
past,  
The native revels of the troop began;  
Each palikar his sabre from him cast,  
And bounding hand in hand, man linked to  
man,  
Yelling their uncouth dirge, long danced the kir-  
tled clan.

LXXII.

Childe Harold at a little distance stood,  
And viewed, but not displeased, the revelrie,  
Nor hated harmless mirth, however rude:  
In sooth, it was no vulgar sight to see  
Their barbarous, yet their not indecent, glee:  
And as the flames along their faces gleamed,  
Their gestures nimble, dark eyes flashing free,  
The long wild locks that to their girdles  
streamed,  
While thus in concert they this lay half sang, half  
screamed:

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

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

Shall the sons of Chimari, who never forgive  
The fault of a friend, bid an enemy live?  
Let those guns so unerring such vengeance  
forego?  
What mark is so fair as the breast of a foe?

Macedonia sends forth her invincible race;  
For a time they abandon the cave and the chase:  
But those scarves of blood-red shall be redder,  
before

The sabre is sheathed and the battle is o'er.

Then the pirates of Parga that dwell by the  
waves,

And teach the pale Franks what it is to be slaves,  
Shall leave on the beach the long galley and oar,  
And track to his covert the captive on shore.

I ask not the pleasure that riches supply,  
My sabre shall win what the feeble must buy:  
Shall win the young bride with her long flowing  
hair,

And many a maid from her mother shall tear.

I love the fair face of the maid in her youth;  
Her caresses shall lull me, her music shall  
soothe:

Let her bring from her chamber the many-toned  
lyre,

And sing us a song on the fall of her sire.

Remember the moment when Previsa fell,  
The shrieks of the conquered, the conqueror's  
yell;

The roofs that we fired, and the plunder we  
shared,

The wealthy we slaughtered, the lovely we  
spared.

I talk not of mercy, I talk not of fear;  
He neither must know who would serve the  
Vizier;

Since the days of our prophet, the crescent ne'er  
saw

A chief ever glorious like Ali Pasha.

Dark Muchtar his son to the Danube is sped,

Let the yellow-haired Giaours view his horsetail  
with dread;  
When his Delhis come dashing in blood o'er the  
banks,  
How few shall escape from the Muscovite ranks!  
Selictar! unsheath then our chief's scimitar:  
Tambourgi! thy larum gives promise of war.  
Ye mountains that see us descend to the shore,  
Shall view us as victors, or view us no more!

LXXIII.

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

LXXIV.

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

LXXV.

In all save form alone, how changed! and who  
That marks the fire still sparkling in each eye,  
Who would but deem their bosom burned  
    anew  
With thy unquenched beam, lost Liberty!  
And many dream withal the hour is nigh  
That gives them back their fathers' heritage:  
For foreign arms and aid they fondly sigh,  
Nor solely dare encounter hostile rage,  
Or tear their name defiled from Slavery's  
    mournful page.

LXXVI.

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

LXXVII.

The city won for Allah from the Giaour,  
The Giaour from Othman's race again may  
    wrest;  
And the Serai's impenetrable tower  
Receive the fiery Frank, her former guest;  
Or Wahab's rebel brood, who dared divest  
The Prophet's tomb of all its pious spoil,  
May wind their path of blood along the West;  
But ne'er will Freedom seek this fated soil,  
But slave succeed to slave through years of end-

less toil.

LXXVIII.

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

LXXIX.

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

LXXX.

Loud was the lightsome tumult on the shore;  
Oft Music changed, but never ceased her tone,  
And timely echoed back the measured oar,  
And rippling waters made a pleasant moan:  
The Queen of tides on high consenting shone;  
And when a transient breeze swept o'er the  
wave,  
'Twas as if, darting from her heavenly throne,  
A brighter glance her form reflected gave,



Till sparkling billows seemed to light the banks  
they lave.

LXXXI.

Glanced many a light caique along the foam,  
Danced on the shore the daughters of the  
land,  
No thought had man or maid of rest or home,  
While many a languid eye and thrilling hand  
Exchanged the look few bosoms may with-  
stand,  
Or gently pressed, returned the pressure still:  
Oh Love! young Love! bound in thy rosy  
band,  
Let sage or cynic prattle as he will,  
These hours, and only these, redeemed Life's  
years of ill!

LXXXII.

But, midst the throng in merry masquerade,  
Lurk there no hearts that throb with secret  
pain,  
E'en through the closest searment half-  
betrayed?  
To such the gentle murmurs of the main  
Seem to re-echo all they mourn in vain;  
To such the gladness of the gamesome crowd  
Is source of wayward thought and stern dis-  
dain:  
How do they loathe the laughter idly loud,  
And long to change the robe of revel for the  
shroud!

LXXXIII.

This must he feel, the true-born son of Greece,  
If Greece one true-born patriot can boast:  
Not such as prate of war but skulk in peace,  
The bondsman's peace, who sighs for all he  
lost,

Yet with smooth smile his tyrant can accost,  
And wield the slavish sickle, not the sword:  
Ah, Greece! they love thee least who owe thee  
most—  
Their birth, their blood, and that sublime  
record  
Of hero sires, who shame thy now degenerate  
horde!

LXXXIV.

When riseth Lacedaemon's hardihood,  
When Thebes Epaminondas rears again,  
When Athens' children are with hearts en-  
dued,  
When Grecian mothers shall give birth to  
men,  
Then mayst thou be restored; but not till then.  
A thousand years scarce serve to form a state;  
An hour may lay it in the dust: and when  
Can man its shattered splendour renovate,  
Recall its virtues back, and vanquish Time and  
Fate?

LXXXV.

And yet how lovely in thine age of woe,  
Land of lost gods and godlike men, art thou!  
Thy vales of evergreen, thy hills of snow,  
Proclaim thee Nature's varied favourite now;  
Thy fanes, thy temples to the surface bow,  
Commingling slowly with heroic earth,  
Broke by the share of every rustic plough:  
So perish monuments of mortal birth,  
So perish all in turn, save well-recorded worth;

LXXXVI.

Save where some solitary column mourns  
Above its prostrate brethren of the cave;  
Save where Tritonia's airy shrine adorns  
Colonna's cliff, and gleams along the wave;

Save o'er some warrior's half-forgotten grave,  
Where the grey stones and unmolested grass  
Ages, but not oblivion, feebly brave,  
While strangers only not regardless pass,  
Lingering like me, perchance, to gaze, and sigh  
'Alas!'

LXXXVII.

Yet are thy skies as blue, thy crags as wild:  
Sweet are thy groves, and verdant are thy  
fields,  
Thine olives ripe as when Minerva smiled,  
And still his honeyed wealth Hymettus  
yields;  
There the blithe bee his fragrant fortress  
builds,  
The freeborn wanderer of thy mountain air;  
Apollo still thy long, long summer gilds,  
Still in his beam Mendeli's marbles glare;  
Art, Glory, Freedom fail, but Nature still is fair.

LXXXVIII.

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

LXXXIX.

The sun, the soil, but not the slave, the same;  
Unchanged in all except its foreign lord—

Preserves alike its bounds and boundless  
fame;  
The battle-field, where Persia's victim horde  
First bowed beneath the brunt of Hellas'  
sword,  
As on the morn to distant Glory dear,  
When Marathon became a magic word;  
Which uttered, to the hearer's eye appear  
The camp, the host, the fight, the conqueror's  
career.

XC.

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

XCI.

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

XCII.

The parted bosom clings to wonted home,  
If aught that's kindred cheer the welcome  
hearth;  
He that is lonely, hither let him roam,  
And gaze complacent on congenial earth.  
Greece is no lightsome land of social mirth;  
But he whom Sadness sootheth may abide,  
And scarce regret the region of his birth,  
When wandering slow by Delphi's sacred  
side,  
Or gazing o'er the plains where Greek and Per-  
sian died.

## XCIII.

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

## XCIV.

For thee, who thus in too protracted song  
Hath soothed thine idlesse with inglorious  
lays,  
Soon shall thy voice be lost amid the throng  
Of louder minstrels in these later days:  
To such resign the strife for fading bays—  
Ill may such contest now the spirit move  
Which heeds nor keen reproach nor partial  
praise,  
Since cold each kinder heart that might ap-  
prove,  
And none are left to please where none are left

to love.

XCV.

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

XCVI.

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

XCVII.

Then must I plunge again into the crowd,  
And follow all that Peace disdains to seek?  
Where Revel calls, and Laughter, vainly loud,  
False to the heart, distorts the hollow cheek,  
To leave the flagging spirit doubly weak!

Still o'er the features, which perforce they  
cheer,  
To feign the pleasure or conceal the pique;  
Smiles form the channel of a future tear,  
Or raise the writhing lip with ill-dissembled  
sneer.

XCVIII.

What is the worst of woes that wait on age?  
What stamps the wrinkle deeper on the brow?  
To view each loved one blotted from life's  
page,  
And be alone on earth, as I am now.  
Before the Chastener humbly let me bow,  
O'er hearts divided and o'er hopes destroyed:  
Roll on, vain days! full reckless may ye flow,  
Since Time hath reft whate'er my soul en-  
joyed,  
And with the ills of eld mine earlier years al-  
loyed.

## CANTO THE THIRD

### I.

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

    Awaking with a start,  
The waters heave around me; and on high  
The winds lift up their voices: I depart,  
Whither I know not; but the hour's gone by,  
When Albion's lessening shores could grieve or  
    glad mine eye.

### II.

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



Where'er the surge may sweep, the tempest's  
breath prevail.

III.

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

IV.

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

V.

He who, grown aged in this world of woe,  
In deeds, not years, piercing the depths of life,  
So that no wonder waits him; nor below  
Can love or sorrow, fame, ambition, strife,  
Cut to his heart again with the keen knife  
Of silent, sharp endurance: he can tell  
Why thought seeks refuge in lone caves, yet  
rife  
With airy images, and shapes which dwell

Still unimpaired, though old, in the soul's  
haunted cell.

VI.

'Tis to create, and in creating live  
A being more intense, that we endow  
With form our fancy, gaining as we give  
The life we image, even as I do now.  
What am I? Nothing: but not so art thou,  
Soul of my thought! with whom I traverse  
earth,  
Invisible but gazing, as I glow  
Mixed with thy spirit, blended with thy birth,  
And feeling still with thee in my crushed feel-  
ings' dearth.

VII.

Yet must I think less wildly: I HAVE thought  
Too long and darkly, till my brain became,  
In its own eddy boiling and o'erwrought,  
A whirling gulf of phantasy and flame:  
And thus, untaught in youth my heart to  
tame,  
My springs of life were poisoned. 'Tis too late!  
Yet am I changed; though still enough the  
same  
In strength to bear what time cannot abate,  
And feed on bitter fruits without accusing fate.

VIII.

Something too much of this: but now 'tis past,  
And the spell closes with its silent seal.  
Long-absent Harold reappears at last;  
He of the breast which fain no more would  
feel,  
Wrung with the wounds which kill not, but  
ne'er heal;  
Yet Time, who changes all, had altered him  
In soul and aspect as in age: years steal

Fire from the mind as vigour from the limb;  
And life's enchanted cup but sparkles near the  
brim.

IX.

His had been quaffed too quickly, and he  
found  
The dregs were wormwood; but he filled  
again,  
And from a purer fount, on holier ground,  
And deemed its spring perpetual; but in vain!  
Still round him clung invisibly a chain  
Which galled for ever, fettering though un-  
seen,  
And heavy though it clanked not; worn with  
pain,  
Which pined although it spoke not, and grew  
keen,  
Entering with every step he took through many  
a scene.

X.

Secure in guarded coldness, he had mixed  
Again in fancied safety with his kind,  
And deemed his spirit now so firmly fixed  
And sheathed with an invulnerable mind,  
That, if no joy, no sorrow lurked behind;  
And he, as one, might midst the many stand  
Unheeded, searching through the crowd to  
find  
Fit speculation; such as in strange land  
He found in wonder-works of God and Nature's  
hand.

XI.

But who can view the ripened rose, nor seek  
To wear it? who can curiously behold  
The smoothness and the sheen of beauty's  
cheek,

Nor feel the heart can never all grow old?  
Who can contemplate fame through clouds  
unfold  
The star which rises o'er her steep, nor climb?  
Harold, once more within the vortex rolled  
On with the giddy circle, chasing Time,  
Yet with a nobler aim than in his youth's fond  
prime.

XII.

But soon he knew himself the most unfit  
Of men to herd with Man; with whom he held  
Little in common; untaught to submit  
His thoughts to others, though his soul was  
quelled,  
In youth by his own thoughts; still uncom-  
pelled,  
He would not yield dominion of his mind  
To spirits against whom his own rebelled;  
Proud though in desolation; which could find  
A life within itself, to breathe without mankind.

XIII.

Where rose the mountains, there to him were  
friends;  
Where rolled the ocean, thereon was his  
home;  
Where a blue sky, and glowing clime, extends,  
He had the passion and the power to roam;  
The desert, forest, cavern, breaker's foam,  
Were unto him companionship; they spake  
A mutual language, clearer than the tome  
Of his land's tongue, which he would oft for-  
sake  
For nature's pages glassed by sunbeams on the  
lake.

XIV.

Like the Chaldean, he could watch the stars,

Till he had peopled them with beings bright  
As their own beams; and earth, and earth-  
born jars,  
And human frailties, were forgotten quite:  
Could he have kept his spirit to that flight,  
He had been happy; but this clay will sink  
Its spark immortal, envying it the light  
To which it mounts, as if to break the link  
That keeps us from yon heaven which woos us  
to its brink.

XV.

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

XVI.

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

check.

XVII.

Stop! for thy tread is on an empire's dust!  
An earthquake's spoil is sepulchred below!  
Is the spot marked with no colossal bust?  
Nor column trophied for triumphal show?  
None; but the moral's truth tells simpler so,  
As the ground was before, thus let it be;—  
How that red rain hath made the harvest  
grow!

And is this all the world has gained by thee,  
Thou first and last of fields! king-making Vic-  
tory?

XVIII.

And Harold stands upon this place of skulls,  
The grave of France, the deadly Waterloo!  
How in an hour the power which gave annuls  
Its gifts, transferring fame as fleeting too!  
In 'pride of place' here last the eagle flew,  
Then tore with bloody talon the rent plain,  
Pierced by the shaft of banded nations  
through:

Ambition's life and labours all were vain;  
He wears the shattered links of the world's bro-  
ken chain.

XIX.

Fit retribution! Gaul may champ the bit,  
And foam in fetters, but is Earth more free?  
Did nations combat to make ONE submit;  
Or league to teach all kings true sovereignty?  
What! shall reviving thraldom again be  
The patched-up idol of enlightened days?  
Shall we, who struck the Lion down, shall we  
Pay the Wolf homage? proffering lowly gaze  
And servile knees to thrones? No; PROVE be-  
fore ye praise!

XX.

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

XXI.

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

XXII.

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

## XXIII.

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

## XXIV.

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

## XXV.

And there was mounting in hot haste: the  
steed,  
The mustering squadron, and the clattering  
car,  
Went pouring forward with impetuous speed,  
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war;



And the deep thunder peal on peal afar;  
And near, the beat of the alarming drum  
Roused up the soldier ere the morning star;  
While thronged the citizens with terror dumb,  
Or whispering, with white lips—'The foe! They  
come! they come!'

XXVI.

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

XXVII.

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

XXVIII.

Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,  
Last eve in Beauty's circle proudly gay,

The midnight brought the signal-sound of  
strife,  
The morn the marshalling in arms,—the day  
Battle's magnificently stern array!  
The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which when  
rent  
The earth is covered thick with other clay,  
Which her own clay shall cover, heaped and  
pent,  
Rider and horse,—friend, foe,—in one red burial  
blent!

XXIX.

Their praise is hymned by loftier harps than  
mine;  
Yet one I would select from that proud throng,  
Partly because they blend me with his line,  
And partly that I did his sire some wrong,  
And partly that bright names will hallow  
song;  
And his was of the bravest, and when show-  
ered  
The death-bolts deadliest the thinned files  
along,  
Even where the thickest of war's tempest low-  
ered,  
They reached no nobler breast than thine,  
young, gallant Howard!

XXX.

There have been tears and breaking hearts for  
thee,  
And mine were nothing, had I such to give;  
But when I stood beneath the fresh green tree,  
Which living waves where thou didst cease to  
live,  
And saw around me the wild field revive  
With fruits and fertile promise, and the Spring

Come forth her work of gladness to contrive,  
With all her reckless birds upon the wing,  
I turned from all she brought to those she could  
not bring.

XXXI.

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

XXXII.

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

XXXIII.

E'en as a broken mirror, which the glass  
In every fragment multiplies; and makes  
A thousand images of one that was,

The same, and still the more, the more it  
breaks;  
And thus the heart will do which not forsakes,  
Living in shattered guise, and still, and cold,  
And bloodless, with its sleepless sorrow  
aches,  
Yet withers on till all without is old,  
Showing no visible sign, for such things are un-  
told.

XXXIV.

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

XXXV.

The Psalmist numbered out the years of man:  
They are enough: and if thy tale be TRUE,  
Thou, who didst grudge him e'en that fleeting  
span,  
More than enough, thou fatal Waterloo!  
Millions of tongues record thee, and anew  
Their children's lips shall echo them, and say,  
'Here, where the sword united nations drew,  
Our countrymen were warring on that day!'  
And this is much, and all which will not pass  
away.

XXXVI.

There sunk the greatest, nor the worst of men,  
Whose spirit anithetically mixed

One moment of the mightiest, and again  
On little objects with like firmness fixed;  
Extreme in all things! hadst thou been be-  
twixt,  
Thy throne had still been thine, or never been;  
For daring made thy rise as fall: thou seek'st  
Even now to reassume the imperial mien,  
And shake again the world, the Thunderer of the  
scene!

XXXVII.

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

XXXVIII.

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

XXXIX.

Yet well thy soul hath brooked the turning  
tide  
With that untaught innate philosophy,  
Which, be it wisdom, coldness, or deep pride,  
Is gall and wormwood to an enemy.  
When the whole host of hatred stood hard by,  
To watch and mock thee shrinking, thou hast  
smiled  
With a sedate and all-enduring eye;  
When Fortune fled her spoiled and favourite  
child,  
He stood unbowed beneath the ills upon him  
piled.

XL.

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

XLI.

If, like a tower upon a headland rock,  
Thou hadst been made to stand or fall alone,  
Such scorn of man had helped to brave the  
shock;  
But men's thoughts were the steps which  
paved thy throne,  
THEIR admiration thy best weapon shone;  
The part of Philip's son was thine, not then  
(Unless aside thy purple had been thrown)  
Like stern Diogenes to mock at men;

For sceptred cynics earth were far too wide a  
den.

XLII.

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

XLIII.

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

XLIV.

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

## XLV.

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

## XLVI.

Away with these; true Wisdom's world will be  
Within its own creation, or in thine,  
Maternal Nature! for who teems like thee,  
Thus on the banks of thy majestic Rhine?  
There Harold gazes on a work divine,  
A blending of all beauties; streams and dells,  
Fruit, foliage, crag, wood, corn-field, moun-  
tain, vine,  
And chiefless castles breathing stern farewells  
From grey but leafy walls, where Ruin greenly  
dwells.

## XLVII.

And there they stand, as stands a lofty mind,  
Worn, but unstooping to the baser crowd,  
All tenantless, save to the crannying wind,  
Or holding dark communion with the cloud.  
There was a day when they were young and  
proud,  
Banners on high, and battles passed below;  
But they who fought are in a bloody shroud,  
And those which waved are shredless dust ere  
now,



And the bleak battlements shall bear no future  
blow.

XLVIII.

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

XLIX.

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

L.

But thou, exulting and abounding river!  
Making thy waves a blessing as they flow  
Through banks whose beauty would endure  
for ever,  
Could man but leave thy bright creation so,  
Nor its fair promise from the surface mow

With the sharp scythe of conflict,—then to see  
Thy valley of sweet waters, were to know  
Earth paved like Heaven; and to seem such to  
me  
Even now what wants thy stream?—that it  
should Lethe be.

LI.

A thousand battles have assailed thy banks,  
But these and half their fame have passed  
away,  
And Slaughter heaped on high his weltering  
ranks:  
Their very graves are gone, and what are  
they?  
Thy tide washed down the blood of yesterday,  
And all was stainless, and on thy clear stream  
Glassed with its dancing light the sunny ray;  
But o'er the blackened memory's blighting  
dream  
Thy waves would vainly roll, all sweeping as  
they seem.

LII.

Thus Harold inly said, and passed along,  
Yet not insensible to all which here  
Awoke the jocund birds to early song  
In glens which might have made e'en exile  
dear:  
Though on his brow were graven lines aus-  
tere,  
And tranquil sternness which had ta'en the  
place  
Of feelings fierier far but less severe,  
Joy was not always absent from his face,  
But o'er it in such scenes would steal with tran-  
sient trace.

LIII.

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

LIV.

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

LV.

And there was one soft breast, as hath been  
 said,  
 Which unto his was bound by stronger ties  
 Than the church links withal; and, though un-  
 wed,  
 THAT love was pure, and, far above disguise,  
 Had stood the test of mortal enmities  
 Still undivided, and cemented more

By peril, dreaded most in female eyes;  
But this was firm, and from a foreign shore  
Well to that heart might his these absent greet-  
ings pour!

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

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

I send the lilies given to me;  
Though long before thy hand they touch,  
I know that they must withered be,  
But yet reject them not as such;  
For I have cherished them as dear,  
Because they yet may meet thine eye,  
And guide thy soul to mine e'en here,  
When thou behold'st them drooping nigh,  
And know'st them gathered by the Rhine,  
And offered from my heart to thine!

The river nobly foams and flows,  
The charm of this enchanted ground,

And all its thousand turns disclose  
 Some fresher beauty varying round;  
 The haughtiest breast its wish might bound  
 Through life to dwell delighted here;  
 Nor could on earth a spot be found  
 To Nature and to me so dear,  
 Could thy dear eyes in following mine  
 Still sweeten more these banks of Rhine!

LVI.

By Coblentz, on a rise of gentle ground,  
 There is a small and simple pyramid,  
 Crowning the summit of the verdant mound;  
 Beneath its base are heroes' ashes hid,  
 Our enemy's,—but let not that forbid  
 Honour to Marceau! o'er whose early tomb  
 Tears, big tears, gushed from the rough sol-  
 dier's lid,  
 Lamenting and yet envying such a doom,  
 Falling for France, whose rights he battled to re-  
 sume.

LVI.

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

LVIII.

Here Ehrenbreitstein, with her shattered wall  
 Black with the miner's blast, upon her height

Yet shows of what she was, when shell and  
 ball  
 Rebounding idly on her strength did light;  
 A tower of victory! from whence the flight  
 Of baffled foes was watched along the plain;  
 But Peace destroyed what War could never  
 blight,  
 And laid those proud roofs bare to Summer's  
 rain—  
 On which the iron shower for years had poured  
 in vain.

LIX.

Adieu to thee, fair Rhine! How long, de-  
 lighted,  
 The stranger fain would linger on his way;  
 Thine is a scene alike where souls united  
 Or lonely Contemplation thus might stray;  
 And could the ceaseless vultures cease to prey  
 On self-condemning bosoms, it were here,  
 Where Nature, not too sombre nor too gay,  
 Wild but not rude, awful yet not austere,  
 Is to the mellow earth as autumn to the year.

LX.

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

LXI.

The negligently grand, the fruitful bloom

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

LXII.

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

LXIII.

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

## LXIV.

While Waterloo with Cannae's carnage vies,  
Morat and Marathon twin names shall stand;  
They were true Glory's stainless victories,  
Won by the unambitious heart and hand  
Of a proud, brotherly, and civic band,  
All unbought champions in no princely cause  
Of vice-entailed Corruption; they no land  
Doomed to bewail the blasphemy of laws  
Making king's rights divine, by some Draconic  
clause.

## LXV.

By a lone wall a lonelier column rears  
A grey and grief-worn aspect of old days  
'Tis the last remnant of the wreck of years,  
And looks as with the wild bewildered gaze  
Of one to stone converted by amaze,  
Yet still with consciousness; and there it  
stands,  
Making a marvel that it not decays,  
When the coeval pride of human hands,  
Levelled Aventicum, hath strewed her subject  
lands.

## LXVI.

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



And held within their urn one mind, one heart,  
one dust.

LXVII.

But these are deeds which should not pass  
away,  
And names that must not wither, though the  
earth  
Forgets her empires with a just decay,  
The enslavers and the enslaved, their death  
and birth;  
The high, the mountain-majesty of worth,  
Should be, and shall, survivor of its woe,  
And from its immortality look forth  
In the sun's face, like yonder Alpine snow,  
Imperishably pure beyond all things below.

LXVIII.

Lake Lemman woos me with its crystal face,  
The mirror where the stars and mountains  
view  
The stillness of their aspect in each trace  
Its clear depth yields of their far height and  
hue:  
There is too much of man here, to look  
through  
With a fit mind the might which I behold;  
But soon in me shall Loneliness renew  
Thoughts hid, but not less cherished than of  
old,  
Ere mingling with the herd had penned me in  
their fold.

LXIX.

To fly from, need not be to hate, mankind;  
All are not fit with them to stir and toil,  
Nor is it discontent to keep the mind  
Deep in its fountain, lest it overboil  
In one hot throng, where we become the spoil

Of our infection, till too late and long  
We may deplore and struggle with the coil,  
In wretched interchange of wrong for wrong  
Midst a contentious world, striving where none  
are strong.

LXX.

There, in a moment, we may plunge our years  
In fatal penitence, and in the blight  
Of our own soul, turn all our blood to tears,  
And colour things to come with hues of Night;  
The race of life becomes a hopeless flight  
To those that walk in darkness: on the sea,  
The boldest steer but where their ports invite,  
But there are wanderers o'er Eternity  
Whose bark drives on and on, and anchored  
ne'er shall be.

LXXI.

Is it not better, then, to be alone,  
And love Earth only for its earthly sake?  
By the blue rushing of the arrowy Rhone,  
Or the pure bosom of its nursing lake,  
Which feeds it as a mother who doth make  
A fair but froward infant her own care,  
Kissing its cries away as these awake;-  
Is it not better thus our lives to wear,  
Than join the crushing crowd, doomed to inflict  
or bear?

LXXII.

I live not in myself, but I become  
Portion of that around me; and to me,  
High mountains are a feeling, but the hum  
Of human cities torture: I can see  
Nothing to loathe in Nature, save to be  
A link reluctant in a fleshly chain,  
Classed among creatures, when the soul can  
flee,

And with the sky, the peak, the heaving plain  
Of ocean, or the stars, mingle, and not in vain.

LXXIII.

And thus I am absorbed, and this is life:  
I look upon the peopled desert Past,  
As on a place of agony and strife,  
Where, for some sin, to Sorrow I was cast,  
To act and suffer, but remount at last  
With a fresh pinion; which I felt to spring,  
Though young, yet waxing vigorous as the  
blast

Which it would cope with, on delighted wing,  
Spurning the clay-cold bonds which round our  
being cling.

LXXIV.

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

LXXV.

Are not the mountains, waves, and skies a  
part  
Of me and of my soul, as I of them?  
Is not the love of these deep in my heart  
With a pure passion? should I not condemn  
All objects, if compared with these? and stem  
A tide of suffering, rather than forego  
Such feelings for the hard and worldly  
phlegm  
Of those whose eyes are only turned below,

Gazing upon the ground, with thoughts which  
dare not glow?

LXXVI.

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

LXXVII.

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

LXXVIII.

His love was passion's essence—as a tree  
On fire by lightning; with ethereal flame  
Kindled he was, and blasted; for to be  
Thus, and enamoured, were in him the same.  
But his was not the love of living dame,  
Nor of the dead who rise upon our dreams,  
But of Ideal beauty, which became  
In him existence, and o'erflowing teems

Along his burning page, distempered though it  
seems.

LXXIX.

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

LXXX.

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

LXXXI.

For then he was inspired, and from him came,  
As from the Pythian's mystic cave of yore,  
Those oracles which set the world in flame,

Nor ceased to burn till kingdoms were no  
more:  
Did he not this for France, which lay before  
Bowed to the inborn tyranny of years?  
Broken and trembling to the yoke she bore,  
Till by the voice of him and his compeers  
Roused up to too much wrath, which follows  
o'ergrown fears?

LXXXII.

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

LXXXIII.

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

LXXXIV.

What deep wounds ever closed without a  
scar?

The heart's bleed longest, and but heal to wear  
That which disfigures it; and they who war  
With their own hopes, and have been van-  
quished, bear

Silence, but not submission: in his lair  
Fixed Passion holds his breath, until the hour  
Which shall atone for years; none need de-  
spair:

It came, it cometh, and will come,—the power  
To punish or forgive—in ONE we shall be slower.

LXXXV.

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

LXXXVI.

It is the hush of night, and all between  
Thy margin and the mountains, dusk, yet  
clear,  
Mellowed and mingling, yet distinctly seen.  
Save darkened Jura, whose capt heights ap-  
pear  
Precipitously steep; and drawing near,  
There breathes a living fragrance from the  
shore,  
Of flowers yet fresh with childhood; on the  
ear  
Drops the light drip of the suspended oar,  
Or chirps the grasshopper one good-night carol  
more;

LXXXVII.

He is an evening reveller, who makes  
His life an infancy, and sings his fill;  
At intervals, some bird from out the brakes  
Starts into voice a moment, then is still.  
There seems a floating whisper on the hill,  
But that is fancy, for the starlight dews  
All silently their tears of love instil,  
Weeping themselves away, till they infuse  
Deep into Nature's breast the spirit of her hues.

LXXXVIII.

Ye stars! which are the poetry of heaven,  
If in your bright leaves we would read the fate  
Of men and empires,—'tis to be forgiven,  
That in our aspirations to be great,  
Our destinies o'erleap their mortal state,  
And claim a kindred with you; for ye are  
A beauty and a mystery, and create  
In us such love and reverence from afar,  
That fortune, fame, power, life, have named  
themselves a star.

LXXXIX.

All heaven and earth are still—though not in  
sleep,  
But breathless, as we grow when feeling most;  
And silent, as we stand in thoughts too deep:  
—  
All heaven and earth are still: from the high  
host  
Of stars, to the lulled lake and mountain-  
coast,  
All is centered in a life intense,  
Where not a beam, nor air, nor leaf is lost,  
But hath a part of being, and a sense  
Of that which is of all Creator and defence.

XC.



Then stirs the feeling infinite, so felt  
In solitude, where we are LEAST alone;  
A truth, which through our being then doth  
melt,  
And purifies from self: it is a tone,  
The soul and source of music, which makes  
known  
Eternal harmony, and sheds a charm,  
Like to the fabled Cytherea's zone,  
Binding all things with beauty;—'twould dis-  
arm  
The spectre Death, had he substantial power to  
harm.

XCI.

Nor vainly did the early Persian make  
His altar the high places and the peak  
Of earth-o'ergazing mountains, and thus take  
A fit and unwalled temple, there to seek  
The Spirit, in whose honour shrines are weak,  
Upreared of human hands. Come, and com-  
pare  
Columns and idol-dwellings, Goth or Greek,  
With Nature's realms of worship, earth and  
air,  
Nor fix on fond abodes to circumscribe thy  
prayer!

XCII.

The sky is changed!—and such a change! O  
night,  
And storm, and darkness, ye are wondrous  
strong,  
Yet lovely in your strength, as is the light  
Of a dark eye in woman! Far along,  
From peak to peak, the rattling crags among,  
Leaps the live thunder! Not from one lone  
cloud,

But every mountain now hath found a tongue;  
And Jura answers, through her misty shroud,  
Back to the joyous Alps, who call to her aloud!

XCIII.

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

XCIV.

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

XCV.

Now, where the quick Rhone thus hath cleft  
his way,  
The mightiest of the storms hath ta'en his  
stand;

For here, not one, but many, make their play,  
And fling their thunderbolts from hand to  
hand,  
Flashing and cast around: of all the band,  
The brightest through these parted hills hath  
forked  
His lightnings, as if he did understand  
That in such gaps as desolation worked,  
There the hot shaft should blast whatever  
therein lurked.

XCVI.

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

XCVII.

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

But as it is, I live and die unheard,  
With a most voiceless thought, sheathing it as a  
sword.

## XCVIII.

The morn is up again, the dewy morn,  
With breath all incense, and with cheek all  
bloom,  
Laughing the clouds away with playful scorn,  
And living as if earth contained no tomb,—  
And glowing into day: we may resume  
The march of our existence: and thus I,  
Still on thy shores, fair Lemn! may find room  
And food for meditation, nor pass by  
Much, that may give us pause, if pondered fit-  
tingly.

## XCIX.

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

## C.

Clarens! by heavenly feet thy paths are trod,—  
Undying Love's, who here ascends a throne  
To which the steps are mountains; where the  
god  
Is a pervading life and light,—so shown  
Not on those summits solely, nor alone

In the still cave and forest; o'er the flower  
His eye is sparkling, and his breath hath  
blown,  
His soft and summer breath, whose tender  
power  
Passes the strength of storms in their most deso-  
late hour.

CI.

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

CII.

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

CIII.

He who hath loved not, here would learn that  
 lore,  
 And make his heart a spirit: he who knows  
 That tender mystery, will love the more,  
 For this is Love's recess, where vain men's  
 woes,  
 And the world's waste, have driven him far  
 from those,  
 For 'tis his nature to advance or die;  
 He stands not still, but or decays, or grows  
 Into a boundless blessing, which may vie  
 With the immortal lights, in its eternity!

## CIV.

'Twas not for fiction chose Rousseau this spot,  
 Peopling it with affections; but he found  
 It was the scene which passion must allot  
 To the mind's purified beings; 'twas the  
 ground  
 Where early Love his Psyche's zone unbound,  
 And hallowed it with loveliness: 'tis lone,  
 And wonderful, and deep, and hath a sound,  
 And sense, and sight of sweetness; here the  
 Rhone  
 Hath spread himself a couch, the Alps have  
 reared a throne.

## CV.

Lausanne! and Ferney! ye have been the  
 abodes  
 Of names which unto you bequeathed a  
 name;  
 Mortals, who sought and found, by danger-  
 ous roads,  
 A path to perpetuity of fame:  
 They were gigantic minds, and their steep aim  
 Was, Titan-like, on daring doubts to pile  
 Thoughts which should call down thunder,

and the flame  
Of Heaven, again assailed, if Heaven the  
while  
On man and man's research could deign do  
more than smile.

## CVI.

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

## CVII.

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

## CVIII.

Yet, peace be with their ashes,—for by them,  
If merited, the penalty is paid;  
It is not ours to judge, far less condemn;  
The hour must come when such things shall  
be made  
Known unto all,—or hope and dread allayed  
By slumber on one pillow, in the dust,

Which, thus much we are sure, must lie de-  
cayed;  
And when it shall revive, as is our trust,  
'Twill be to be forgiven, or suffer what is just.

CIX.

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

CX.

Italia! too, Italia! looking on thee  
Full flashes on the soul the light of ages,  
Since the fierce Carthaginian almost won thee,  
To the last halo of the chiefs and sages  
Who glorify thy consecrated pages;  
Thou wert the throne and grave of empires;  
still,  
The fount at which the panting mind assuages  
Her thirst of knowledge, quaffing there her  
fill,  
Flows from the eternal source of Rome's impe-  
rial hill.

CXI.

Thus far have I proceeded in a theme  
Renewed with no kind auspices:—to feel  
We are not what we have been, and to deem  
We are not what we should be, and to steel  
The heart against itself; and to conceal,  
With a proud caution, love or hate, or aught,—  
Passion or feeling, purpose, grief, or zeal,—



Which is the tyrant spirit of our thought,  
Is a stern task of soul:—No matter,—it is taught.

CXII.

And for these words, thus woven into song,  
It may be that they are a harmless wile,—  
The colouring of the scenes which fleet along,  
Which I would seize, in passing, to beguile  
My breast, or that of others, for a while.  
Fame is the thirst of youth,—but I am not  
So young as to regard men's frown or smile  
As loss or guerdon of a glorious lot;  
I stood and stand alone,—remembered or forgot.

CXIII.

I have not loved the world, nor the world me;  
I have not flattered its rank breath, nor bowed  
To its idolatries a patient knee,—  
Nor coined my cheek to smiles, nor cried  
aloud  
In worship of an echo; in the crowd  
They could not deem me one of such; I stood  
Among them, but not of them; in a shroud  
Of thoughts which were not their thoughts,  
and still could,  
Had I not filed my mind, which thus itself sub-  
dued.

CXIV.

I have not loved the world, nor the world me,—  
But let us part fair foes; I do believe,  
Though I have found them not, that there may  
be  
Words which are things,—hopes which will not  
deceive,  
And virtues which are merciful, nor weave  
Snares for the falling: I would also deem  
O'er others' griefs that some sincerely grieve;  
That two, or one, are almost what they seem,—

That goodness is no name, and happiness no  
dream.

CXV.

My daughter! with thy name this song  
begun—  
My daughter! with thy name this much shall  
end—  
I see thee not, I hear thee not,—but none  
Can be so wrapt in thee; thou art the friend  
To whom the shadows of far years extend:  
Albeit my brow thou never shouldst behold,  
My voice shall with thy future visions blend,  
And reach into thy heart, when mine is cold,—  
A token and a tone, even from thy father's  
mould.

CXVI.

To aid thy mind's development,—to watch  
Thy dawn of little joys,—to sit and see  
Almost thy very growth,—to view thee catch  
Knowledge of objects, wonders yet to thee!  
To hold thee lightly on a gentle knee,  
And print on thy soft cheek a parent's kiss,—  
This, it should seem, was not reserved for me  
Yet this was in my nature:—As it is,  
I know not what is there, yet something like to  
this.

CXVII.

Yet, though dull Hate as duty should be  
taught,  
I know that thou wilt love me; though my  
name  
Should be shut from thee, as a spell still  
fraught  
With desolation, and a broken claim:  
Though the grave closed between us,—'twere  
the same,

I know that thou wilt love me: though to drain  
MY blood from out thy being were an aim,  
And an attainment,—all would be in vain,—  
Still thou wouldst love me, still that more than  
life retain.

## CXVIII.

The child of love,—though born in bitterness,  
And nurtured in convulsion. Of thy sire  
These were the elements, and thine no less.  
As yet such are around thee; but thy fire  
Shall be more tempered, and thy hope far  
higher.  
Sweet be thy cradled slumbers! O'er the sea,  
And from the mountains where I now respire,  
Fain would I waft such blessing upon thee,  
As, with a sigh, I deem thou mightst have been  
to me!

# CANTO THE FOURTH

## I.

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

## II.

She looks a sea Cybele, fresh from ocean,  
Rising with her tiara of proud towers  
At airy distance, with majestic motion,  
A ruler of the waters and their powers:  
And such she was; her daughters had their dowers  
From spoils of nations, and the exhaustless East  
Poured in her lap all gems in sparkling showers.  
In purple was she robed, and of her feast

Monarchs partook, and deemed their dignity increased.

III.

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

IV.

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

V.

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

## VI.

Such is the refuge of our youth and age,  
The first from Hope, the last from Vacancy;  
And this worn feeling peoples many a page,  
And, may be, that which grows beneath mine  
eye:

Yet there are things whose strong reality  
Outshines our fairy-land; in shape and hues  
More beautiful than our fantastic sky,  
And the strange constellations which the  
Muse

O'er her wild universe is skilful to diffuse:

## VII.

I saw or dreamed of such,—but let them go—  
They came like truth, and disappeared like  
dreams;

And whatso'er they were—are now but so;  
I could replace them if I would: still teems  
My mind with many a form which aptly  
seems

Such as I sought for, and at moments found;  
Let these too go—for waking reason deems  
Such overweening phantasies unsound,  
And other voices speak, and other sights sur-  
round.

## VIII.

I've taught me other tongues, and in strange  
eyes

Have made me not a stranger; to the mind

Which is itself, no changes bring surprise;

Nor is it harsh to make, nor hard to find

A country with—ay, or without mankind;

Yet was I born where men are proud to be,

Not without cause; and should I leave behind

The inviolate island of the sage and free,

And seek me out a home by a remoter sea,

## IX.

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

## X.

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

## XI.

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

## XII.

The Suabian sued, and now the Austrian

reigns—  
An Emperor tramples where an Emperor  
knelt;  
Kingdoms are shrunk to provinces, and  
chains  
Clank over sceptred cities; nations melt  
From power's high pinnacle, when they have  
felt  
The sunshine for a while, and downward go  
Like lauwine loosened from the mountain's  
belt:  
Oh for one hour of blind old Dandolo!  
The octogenarian chief, Byzantium's conquering  
foe.

## XIII.

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

## XIV.

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



XV.

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

XVI.

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

XVII.

Thus, Venice, if no stronger claim were thine,  
Were all thy proud historic deeds forgot,  
Thy choral memory of the bard divine,  
Thy love of Tasso, should have cut the knot  
Which ties thee to thy tyrants; and thy lot  
Is shameful to the nations,—most of all,  
Albion! to thee: the Ocean Queen should not  
Abandon Ocean's children; in the fall  
Of Venice think of thine, despite thy watery  
wall.

XVIII.

I loved her from my boyhood: she to me  
Was as a fairy city of the heart,  
Rising like water-columns from the sea,  
Of joy the sojourn, and of wealth the mart  
And Otway, Radcliffe, Schiller, Shakspeare's  
art,  
Had stamped her image in me, and e'en so,  
Although I found her thus, we did not part,  
Perchance e'en dearer in her day of woe,  
Than when she was a boast, a marvel, and a  
show.

XIX.

I can repeople with the past—and of  
The present there is still for eye and thought,  
And meditation chastened down, enough;  
And more, it may be, than I hoped or sought;  
And of the happiest moments which were  
wrought  
Within the web of my existence, some  
From thee, fair Venice! have their colours  
caught:  
There are some feelings Time cannot benumb,  
Nor torture shake, or mine would now be cold  
and dumb.

XX.

But from their nature will the tannen grow  
Loftiest on loftiest and least sheltered rocks,  
Rooted in barrenness, where nought below  
Of soil supports them 'gainst the Alpine  
shocks  
Of eddy storms; yet springs the trunk, and  
mocks  
The howling tempest, till its height and frame  
Are worthy of the mountains from whose  
blocks  
Of bleak, grey granite, into life it came,

And grew a giant tree;—the mind may grow the same.

XXI.

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

XXII.

All suffering doth destroy, or is destroyed,  
Even by the sufferer; and, in each event,  
Ends:—Some, with hope replenished and re-  
buoyed,  
Return to whence they came—with like intent,  
And weave their web again; some, bowed and  
bent,  
Wax grey and ghastly, withering ere their  
time,  
And perish with the reed on which they leant;  
Some seek devotion, toil, war, good or crime,  
According as their souls were formed to sink or  
climb.

XXIII.

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

A flower—the wind—the ocean—which shall  
wound,  
Striking the electric chain wherewith we are  
darkly bound.

XXIV.

And how and why we know not, nor can trace  
Home to its cloud this lightning of the mind,  
But feel the shock renewed, nor can efface  
The blight and blackening which it leaves be-  
hind,  
Which out of things familiar, undesigned,  
When least we deem of such, calls up to view  
The spectres whom no exorcism can bind,—  
The cold—the changed—perchance the dead—  
anew,  
The mourned, the loved, the lost—too many!—yet  
how few!

XXV.

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

XXVI.

The commonwealth of kings, the men of  
Rome!  
And even since, and now, fair Italy!  
Thou art the garden of the world, the home  
Of all Art yields, and Nature can decree;  
Even in thy desert, what is like to thee?  
Thy very weeds are beautiful, thy waste

More rich than other climes' fertility;  
Thy wreck a glory, and thy ruin graced  
With an immaculate charm which cannot be de-  
faced.

XXVII.

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

XXVIII.

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

XXIX.

Filled with the face of heaven, which, from  
afar,  
Comes down upon the waters; all its hues,  
From the rich sunset to the rising star,  
Their magical variety diffuse:  
And now they change; a paler shadow strews  
Its mantle o'er the mountains; parting day  
Dies like the dolphin, whom each pang im-  
bues

With a new colour as it gasps away,  
The last still loveliest, till-'tis gone—and all is  
grey.

XXX.

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

XXXI.

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

XXXII.

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

XXXIII.

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

XXXIV.

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

XXXV.

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

XXXVI.

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

XXXVII.

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

XXXVIII.

THOU! formed to eat, and be despised, and  
die,  
Even as the beasts that perish, save that thou  
Hadst a more splendid trough, and wider sty:  
HE! with a glory round his furrowed brow,  
Which emanated then, and dazzles now  
In face of all his foes, the Cruscan quire,  
And Boileau, whose rash envy could allow  
No strain which shamed his country's creak-  
ing lyre,  
That whetstone of the teeth—monotony in wire!

XXXIX.



Peace to Torquato's injured shade! 'twas his  
In life and death to be the mark where Wrong  
Aimed with their poisoned arrows—but to  
miss.

Oh, victor unsurpassed in modern song!  
Each year brings forth its millions; but how  
long

The tide of generations shall roll on,  
And not the whole combined and countless  
throng

Compose a mind like thine? Though all in one  
Condensed their scattered rays, they would not  
form a sun.

XL.

Great as thou art, yet paralleled by those  
Thy countrymen, before thee born to shine,  
The bards of Hell and Chivalry: first rose  
The Tuscan father's comedy divine;  
Then, not unequal to the Florentine,  
The Southern Scott, the minstrel who called  
forth

A new creation with his magic line,  
And, like the Ariosto of the North,  
Sang ladye-love and war, romance and knightly  
worth.

XLI.

The lightning rent from Ariosto's bust  
The iron crown of laurel's mimicked leaves;  
Nor was the ominous element unjust,  
For the true laurel-wreath which Glory  
weaves

Is of the tree no bolt of thunder cleaves,  
And the false semblance but disgraced his  
brow;

Yet still, if fondly Superstition grieves,  
Know that the lightning sanctifies below

Whate'er it strikes;—yon head is doubly sacred  
now.

XLII.

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

XLIII.

Then mightst thou more appal; or, less de-  
sired,  
Be homely and be peaceful, undeplord  
For thy destructive charms; then, still untired,  
Would not be seen the armed torrents poured  
Down the deep Alps; nor would the hostile  
horde  
Of many-nationed spoilers from the Po  
Quaff blood and water; nor the stranger's  
sword  
Be thy sad weapon of defence, and so,  
Victor or vanquished, thou the slave of friend or  
foe.

XLIV.

Wandering in youth, I traced the path of him,  
The Roman friend of Rome's least mortal  
mind,  
The friend of Tully: as my bark did skim  
The bright blue waters with a fanning wind,

Came Megara before me, and behind  
Aegina lay, Piraeus on the right,  
And Corinth on the left; I lay reclined  
Along the prow, and saw all these unite  
In ruin, even as he had seen the desolate sight;

XLV.

For time hath not rebuilt them, but upreared  
Barbaric dwellings on their shattered site,  
Which only make more mourned and more  
endeared

The few last rays of their far-scattered light,  
And the crushed relics of their vanished  
might.

The Roman saw these tombs in his own age,  
These sepulchres of cities, which excite  
Sad wonder, and his yet surviving page  
The moral lesson bears, drawn from such pil-  
grimage.

XLVI.

That page is now before me, and on mine  
HIS country's ruin added to the mass  
Of perished states he mourned in their de-  
cline,

And I in desolation: all that WAS  
Of then destruction IS; and now, alas!  
Rome—Rome imperial, bows her to the storm,  
In the same dust and blackness, and we pass  
The skeleton of her Titanic form,

Wrecks of another world, whose ashes still are  
warm.

XLVII.

Yet, Italy! through every other land  
Thy wrongs should ring, and shall, from side  
to side;

Mother of Arts! as once of Arms; thy hand  
Was then our Guardian, and is still our guide;

Parent of our religion! whom the wide  
Nations have knelt to for the keys of heaven!  
Europe, repentant of her parricide,  
Shall yet redeem thee, and, all backward  
driven,  
Roll the barbarian tide, and sue to be forgiven.

XLVIII.

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

XLIX.

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

L.

We gaze and turn away, and know not where,  
Dazzled and drunk with beauty, till the heart  
Reels with its fulness; there—for ever there—  
Chained to the chariot of triumphal Art,  
We stand as captives, and would not depart.

Away!—there need no words, nor terms precise,  
The paltry jargon of the marble mart,  
Where Pedantry gulls Folly—we have eyes:  
Blood, pulse, and breast, confirm the Dardan  
Shepherd's prize.

LI.

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

LII.

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

LIII.

I leave to learned fingers, and wise hands,  
The artist and his ape, to teach and tell  
How well his connoisseurship understands  
The graceful bend, and the voluptuous swell:  
Let these describe the undescribable:

I would not their vile breath should crisp the  
stream  
Wherein that image shall for ever dwell;  
The unruffled mirror of the loveliest dream  
That ever left the sky on the deep soul to beam.

LIV.

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

LV.

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

LVI.

But where repose the all Etruscan three—  
Dante, and Petrarch, and, scarce less than  
they,  
The Bard of Prose, creative spirit! he  
Of the Hundred Tales of love—where did they  
lay

Their bones, distinguished from our common  
clay

In death as life? Are they resolved to dust,  
And have their country's marbles nought to  
say?

Could not her quarries furnish forth one bust?  
Did they not to her breast their filial earth en-  
trust?

LVII.

Ungrateful Florence! Dante sleeps afar,  
Like Scipio, buried by the upbraiding shore;  
Thy factions, in their worse than civil war,  
Proscribed the bard whose name for evermore  
Their children's children would in vain adore  
With the remorse of ages; and the crown  
Which Petrarch's laureate brow supremely  
wore,

Upon a far and foreign soil had grown,  
His life, his fame, his grave, though rifled—not  
thine own.

LVIII.

Boccaccio to his parent earth bequeathed  
His dust,—and lies it not her great among,  
With many a sweet and solemn requiem  
breathed

O'er him who formed the Tuscan's siren  
tongue?

That music in itself, whose sounds are song,  
The poetry of speech? No;—even his tomb

Uptorn, must bear the hyaena bigots' wrong,  
No more amidst the meaner dead find room,  
Nor claim a passing sigh, because it told for  
WHOM?

LIX.

And Santa Croce wants their mighty dust;  
Yet for this want more noted, as of yore

The Caesar's pageant, shorn of Brutus' bust,  
Did but of Rome's best son remind her more:  
Happier Ravenna! on thy hoary shore,  
Fortress of falling empire! honoured sleeps  
The immortal exile;—Arqua, too, her store  
Of tuneful relics proudly claims and keeps,  
While Florence vainly begs her banished dead,  
and weeps.

LX.

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

LXI.

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

LXII.

Is of another temper, and I roam  
By Thrasimene's lake, in the defiles  
Fatal to Roman rashness, more at home;



For there the Carthaginian's warlike wiles  
Come back before me, as his skill beguiles  
The host between the mountains and the  
shore,  
Where Courage falls in her despairing files,  
And torrents, swoll'n to rivers with their gore,  
Reek through the sultry plain, with legions scat-  
tered o'er,

LXIII.

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

LXIV.

The Earth to them was as a rolling bark  
Which bore them to Eternity; they saw  
The Ocean round, but had no time to mark  
The motions of their vessel: Nature's law,  
In them suspended, recked not of the awe  
Which reigns when mountains tremble, and  
the birds  
Plunge in the clouds for refuge, and withdraw  
From their down-toppling nests; and bellow-  
ing herds  
Stumble o'er heaving plains, and man's dread  
hath no words.

LXV.

Far other scene is Thrasimene now;  
Her lake a sheet of silver, and her plain  
Rent by no ravage save the gentle plough;

Her aged trees rise thick as once the slain  
Lay where their roots are; but a brook hath  
ta'en—  
A little rill of scanty stream and bed—  
A name of blood from that day's sanguine  
rain;  
And Sanguinetto tells ye where the dead  
Made the earth wet, and turned the unwilling  
waters red.

LXVI.

But thou, Clitumnus! in thy sweetest wave  
Of the most living crystal that was e'er  
The haunt of river nymph, to gaze and lave  
Her limbs where nothing hid them, thou dost  
rear  
Thy grassy banks whereon the milk-white  
steer  
Grazes; the purest god of gentle waters!  
And most serene of aspect, and most clear:  
Surely that stream was unprofaned by slaugh-  
ters,  
A mirror and a bath for Beauty's youngest  
daughters!

LXVII.

And on thy happy shore a temple still,  
Of small and delicate proportion, keeps,  
Upon a mild declivity of hill,  
Its memory of thee; beneath it sweeps  
Thy current's calmness; oft from out it leaps  
The finny darter with the glittering scales,  
Who dwells and revels in thy glassy deeps;  
While, chance, some scattered water-lily sails  
Down where the shallower wave still tells its  
bubbling tales.

LXVIII.

Pass not unblest the genius of the place!

If through the air a zephyr more serene  
Win to the brow, 'tis his; and if ye trace  
Along his margin a more eloquent green,  
If on the heart the freshness of the scene  
Sprinkle its coolness, and from the dry dust  
Of weary life a moment lave it clean  
With Nature's baptism,—'tis to him ye must  
Pay orisons for this suspension of disgust.

LXIX.

The roar of waters!—from the headlong height  
Velino cleaves the wave-worn precipice;  
The fall of waters! rapid as the light  
The flashing mass foams shaking the abyss;  
The hell of waters! where they howl and hiss,  
And boil in endless torture; while the sweat  
Of their great agony, wrung out from this  
Their Phlegethon, curls round the rocks of jet  
That gird the gulf around, in pitiless horror set,

LXX.

And mounts in spray the skies, and thence  
again  
Returns in an unceasing shower, which  
round,  
With its unemptied cloud of gentle rain,  
Is an eternal April to the ground,  
Making it all one emerald. How profound  
The gulf! and how the giant element  
From rock to rock leaps with delirious bound,  
Crushing the cliffs, which, downward worn  
and rent  
With his fierce footsteps, yield in chasms a fear-  
ful vent

LXXI.

To the broad column which rolls on, and  
shows  
More like the fountain of an infant sea

Torn from the womb of mountains by the throes

Of a new world, than only thus to be  
Parent of rivers, which flow gushingly,  
With many windings through the vale:—Look  
back!

Lo! where it comes like an eternity,  
As if to sweep down all things in its track,  
Charming the eye with dread,—a matchless  
cataract,

LXXII.

Horribly beautiful! but on the verge,  
From side to side, beneath the glittering morn,  
An Iris sits, amidst the infernal surge,  
Like Hope upon a deathbed, and, unworn  
Its steady dyes, while all around is torn  
By the distracted waters, bears serene  
Its brilliant hues with all their beams unshorn:  
Resembling, mid the torture of the scene,  
Love watching Madness with unalterable mien.

LXXIII.

Once more upon the woody Apennine,  
The infant Alps, which—had I not before  
Gazed on their mightier parents, where the  
pine  
Sits on more shaggy summits, and where roar  
The thundering lauwine—might be wor-  
shipped more;  
But I have seen the soaring Jungfrau rear  
Her never-trodden snow, and seen the hoar  
Glaciers of bleak Mont Blanc both far and  
near,  
And in Chimari heard the thunder-hills of fear,

LXXIV.

The Acroceraunian mountains of old name;  
And on Parnassus seen the eagles fly

Like spirits of the spot, as 'twere for fame,  
For still they soared unutterably high:  
I've looked on Ida with a Trojan's eye;  
Athos, Olympus, AEtna, Atlas, made  
These hills seem things of lesser dignity,  
All, save the lone Soracte's height displayed,  
Not NOW in snow, which asks the lyric Roman's  
aid

LXXV.

For our remembrance, and from out the plain  
Heaves like a long-swept wave about to  
break,  
And on the curl hangs pausing: not in vain  
May he who will his recollections rake,  
And quote in classic raptures, and awake  
The hills with Latian echoes; I abhorred  
Too much, to conquer for the poet's sake,  
The drilled dull lesson, forced down word by  
word

In my repugnant youth, with pleasure to record

LXXVI.

Aught that recalls the daily drug which  
turned  
My sickening memory; and, though Time  
hath taught  
My mind to meditate what then it learned,  
Yet such the fixed inveteracy wrought  
By the impatience of my early thought,  
That, with the freshness wearing out before  
My mind could relish what it might have  
sought,  
If free to choose, I cannot now restore  
Its health; but what it then detested, still abhor.

LXXVII.

Then farewell, Horace; whom I hated so,  
Not for thy faults, but mine; it is a curse

To understand, not feel, thy lyric flow,  
To comprehend, but never love thy verse,  
Although no deeper moralist rehearse  
Our little life, nor bard prescribe his art,  
Nor livelier satirist the conscience pierce,  
Awakening without wounding the touched  
heart,  
Yet fare thee well—upon Soracte's ridge we part.

LXXVIII.

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

LXXIX.

The Niobe of nations! there she stands,  
Childless and crownless, in her voiceless woe;  
An empty urn within her withered hands,  
Whose holy dust was scattered long ago;  
The Scipios' tomb contains no ashes now;  
The very sepulchres lie tenantless  
Of their heroic dwellers: dost thou flow,  
Old Tiber! through a marble wilderness?  
Rise, with thy yellow waves, and mantle her dis-  
tress!

LXXX.

The Goth, the Christian, Time, War, Flood,  
and Fire,  
Have dwelt upon the seven-hilled city's pride:  
She saw her glories star by star expire,  
And up the steep barbarian monarchs ride,

Where the car climbed the Capitol; far and wide  
Temple and tower went down, nor left a site;—  
Chaos of ruins! who shall trace the void,  
O'er the dim fragments cast a lunar light,  
And say, 'Here was, or is,' where all is doubly  
night?

LXXXI.

The double night of ages, and of her,  
Night's daughter, Ignorance, hath wrapt, and  
wrap  
All round us; we but feel our way to err:  
The ocean hath its chart, the stars their map;  
And knowledge spreads them on her ample  
lap;  
But Rome is as the desert, where we steer  
Stumbling o'er recollections: now we clap  
Our hands, and cry, 'Eureka!' it is clear—  
When but some false mirage of ruin rises near.

LXXXII.

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

LXXXIII.

O thou, whose chariot rolled on Fortune's  
wheel,  
Triumphant Sylla! Thou, who didst subdue  
Thy country's foes ere thou wouldst pause to  
feel

The wrath of thy own wrongs, or reap the due  
Of hoarded vengeance till thine eagles flew  
O'er prostrate Asia;—thou, who with thy  
frown  
Annihilated senates—Roman, too,  
With all thy vices, for thou didst lay down  
With an atoning smile a more than earthly  
crown—

LXXXIV.

The dictatorial wreath,—couldst thou divine  
To what would one day dwindle that which  
made  
Thee more than mortal? and that so supine  
By aught than Romans Rome should thus be  
laid?  
She who was named eternal, and arrayed  
Her warriors but to conquer—she who veiled  
Earth with her haughty shadow, and dis-  
played  
Until the o'er-canopied horizon failed,  
Her rushing wings—Oh! she who was almighty  
hailed!

LXXXV.

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

LXXXVI.



The third of the same moon whose former  
course  
Had all but crowned him, on the self-same  
day  
Deposed him gently from his throne of force,  
And laid him with the earth's preceding clay.  
And showed not Fortune thus how fame and  
sway,  
And all we deem delightful, and consume  
Our souls to compass through each arduous  
way,  
Are in her eyes less happy than the tomb?  
Were they but so in man's, how different were  
his doom!

LXXXVII.

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

LXXXVIII.

And thou, the thunder-stricken nurse of  
Rome!  
She-wolf! whose brazen-imaged dugs impart  
The milk of conquest yet within the dome  
Where, as a monument of antique art,  
Thou standest:—Mother of the mighty heart,  
Which the great founder sucked from thy wild  
teat,  
Scorched by the Roman Jove's ethereal dart,  
And thy limbs blacked with lightning—dost  
thou yet

Guard thine immortal cubs, nor thy fond charge  
forget?

LXXXIX.

Thou dost;—but all thy foster-babes are dead—  
The men of iron; and the world hath reared  
Cities from out their sepulchres: men bled  
In imitation of the things they feared,  
And fought and conquered, and the same  
course steered,  
At apish distance; but as yet none have,  
Nor could, the same supremacy have neared,  
Save one vain man, who is not in the grave,  
But, vanquished by himself, to his own slaves a  
slave,

XC.

The fool of false dominion—and a kind  
Of bastard Caesar, following him of old  
With steps unequal; for the Roman's mind  
Was modelled in a less terrestrial mould,  
With passions fiercer, yet a judgment cold,  
And an immortal instinct which redeemed  
The frailties of a heart so soft, yet bold.  
Alcides with the distaff now he seemed  
At Cleopatra's feet, and now himself he beamed.

XCI.

And came, and saw, and conquered. But the  
man  
Who would have tamed his eagles down to  
flee,  
Like a trained falcon, in the Gallic van,  
Which he, in sooth, long led to victory,  
With a deaf heart which never seemed to be  
A listener to itself, was strangely framed;  
With but one weakest weakness—vanity:  
Coquettish in ambition, still he aimed

At what? Can he avouch, or answer what he  
claimed?

XCII.

And would be all or nothing—nor could wait  
For the sure grave to level him; few years  
Had fixed him with the Caesars in his fate,  
On whom we tread: For THIS the conqueror  
rears  
The arch of triumph! and for this the tears  
And blood of earth flow on as they have  
flowed,  
An universal deluge, which appears  
Without an ark for wretched man's abode,  
And ebbs but to reflow!—Renew thy rainbow,  
God!

XCIII.

What from this barren being do we reap?  
Our senses narrow, and our reason frail,  
Life short, and truth a gem which loves the  
deep,  
And all things weighed in custom's falsest  
scale;  
Opinion an omnipotence, whose veil  
Mantles the earth with darkness, until right  
And wrong are accidents, and men grow pale  
Lest their own judgments should become too  
bright,  
And their free thoughts be crimes, and earth  
have too much light.

XCIV.

And thus they plod in sluggish misery,  
Rotting from sire to son, and age to age,  
Proud of their trampled nature, and so die,  
Bequeathing their hereditary rage  
To the new race of inborn slaves, who wage  
War for their chains, and rather than be free,

Bleed gladiator-like, and still engage  
Within the same arena where they see  
Their fellows fall before, like leaves of the same  
tree.

XCV.

I speak not of men's creeds—they rest between  
Man and his Maker—but of things allowed,  
Averred, and known,—and daily, hourly seen—  
The yoke that is upon us doubly bowed,  
And the intent of tyranny avowed,  
The edict of Earth's rulers, who are grown  
The apes of him who humbled once the  
proud,  
And shook them from their slumbers on the  
throne;  
Too glorious, were this all his mighty arm had  
done.

XCVI.

Can tyrants but by tyrants conquered be,  
And Freedom find no champion and no child  
Such as Columbia saw arise when she  
Sprung forth a Pallas, armed and undefiled?  
Or must such minds be nourished in the wild,  
Deep in the unpruned forest, midst the roar  
Of cataracts, where nursing nature smiled  
On infant Washington? Has Earth no more  
Such seeds within her breast, or Europe no such  
shore?

XCVII.

But France got drunk with blood to vomit  
crime,  
And fatal have her Saturnalia been  
To Freedom's cause, in every age and clime;  
Because the deadly days which we have seen,  
And vile Ambition, that built up between  
Man and his hopes an adamant wall,

And the base pageant last upon the scene,  
 Are grown the pretext for the eternal thrall  
 Which nips Life's tree, and dooms man's worst-  
 his second fall.

XCVIII.

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

XCIX.

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

C.

But who was she, the lady of the dead,  
 Tombed in a palace? Was she chaste and fair?  
 Worthy a king's—or more—a Roman's bed?  
 What race of chiefs and heroes did she bear?  
 What daughter of her beauties was the heir?

How lived—how loved—how died she? Was  
she not  
So honoured—and conspicuously there,  
Where meaner relics must not dare to rot,  
Placed to commemorate a more than mortal lot?

CI.

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

CII.

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

CIII.

Perchance she died in age—surviving all,  
Charms, kindred, children—with the silver  
grey  
On her long tresses, which might yet recall,  
It may be, still a something of the day

When they were braided, and her proud array  
And lovely form were envied, praised, and eyed

By Rome—But whither would Conjecture  
stray?

Thus much alone we know—Metella died,  
The wealthiest Roman's wife: Behold his love or  
pride!

## CIV.

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

## CV.

And from the planks, far shattered o'er the  
rocks,  
Built me a little bark of hope, once more  
To battle with the ocean and the shocks  
Of the loud breakers, and the ceaseless roar  
Which rushes on the solitary shore  
Where all lies foundered that was ever dear:  
But could I gather from the wave-worn store  
Enough for my rude boat, where should I  
steer?

There woos no home, nor hope, nor life, save  
what is here.

## CVI.

Then let the winds howl on! their harmony  
Shall henceforth be my music, and the night  
The sound shall temper with the owlet's cry,

As I now hear them, in the fading light  
Dim o'er the bird of darkness' native site,  
Answer each other on the Palatine,  
With their large eyes, all glistening grey and  
bright,  
And sailing pinions.—Upon such a shrine  
What are our petty griefs?—let me not number  
mine.

## CVII.

Cypress and ivy, weed and wallflower grown  
Matted and massed together, hillocks heaped  
On what were chambers, arch crushed, col-  
umn strown  
In fragments, choked-up vaults, and frescoes  
steeped  
In subterranean damp, where the owl  
peeped,  
Deeming it midnight:—Temples, baths, or  
halls?  
Pronounce who can; for all that Learning  
reaped  
From her research hath been, that these are  
walls—  
Behold the Imperial Mount! 'tis thus the mighty  
falls.

## CVIII.

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



words! draw near,

CIX.

Admire, exult—despise—laugh, weep—for here  
There is such matter for all feeling:—Man!  
Thou pendulum betwixt a smile and tear,  
Ages and realms are crowded in this span,  
This mountain, whose obliterated plan  
The pyramid of empires pinnacled,  
Of Glory's gewgaws shining in the van  
Till the sun's rays with added flame were  
filled!

Where are its golden roofs? where those who  
dared to build?

CX.

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

CXI.

Buried in air, the deep blue sky of Rome,  
And looking to the stars; they had contained  
A spirit which with these would find a home,  
The last of those who o'er the whole earth  
reigned,  
The Roman globe, for after none sustained  
But yielded back his conquests:—he was more  
Than a mere Alexander, and unstained  
With household blood and wine, serenely  
wore

His sovereign virtues—still we Trajan's name  
adore.

## CXII.

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

## CXIII.

The field of freedom, faction, fame, and blood:  
Here a proud people's passions were exhaled,  
From the first hour of empire in the bud  
To that when further worlds to conquer failed;  
But long before had Freedom's face been  
veiled,  
And Anarchy assumed her attributes:  
Till every lawless soldier who assailed  
Trode on the trembling Senate's slavish mutes,  
Or raised the venal voice of baser prostitutes.

## CXIV.

Then turn we to our latest tribune's name,  
From her ten thousand tyrants turn to thee,  
Redeemer of dark centuries of shame—  
The friend of Petrarch—hope of Italy—  
Rienzi! last of Romans! While the tree  
Of freedom's withered trunk puts forth a leaf,  
Even for thy tomb a garland let it be—  
The forum's champion, and the people's  
chief—

Her new-born Numa thou, with reign, alas! too  
brief.

CXV.

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

CXVI.

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

CXVII.

Fantastically tangled; the green hills  
Are clothed with early blossoms, through the  
grass  
The quick-eyed lizard rustles, and the bills  
Of summer birds sing welcome as ye pass;  
Flowers fresh in hue, and many in their class,  
Implore the pausing step, and with their dyes  
Dance in the soft breeze in a fairy mass;  
The sweetness of the violet's deep blue eyes,

Kissed by the breath of heaven, seems coloured  
by its skies.

## CXVIII.

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

## CXIX.

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

## CXX.

Alas! our young affections run to waste,  
Or water but the desert: whence arise  
But weeds of dark luxuriance, tares of haste,  
Rank at the core, though tempting to the eyes,  
Flowers whose wild odours breathe but ago-  
nies,

And trees whose gums are poison; such the  
plants  
Which spring beneath her steps as Passion  
flies

O'er the world's wilderness, and vainly pants  
For some celestial fruit forbidden to our wants.

CXXI.

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

CXXII.

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

CXXIII.

Who loves, raves—'tis youth's frenzy—but the  
cure  
Is bitterer still; as charm by charm unwinds  
Which robed our idols, and we see too sure

Nor worth nor beauty dwells from out the  
mind's  
Ideal shape of such; yet still it binds  
The fatal spell, and still it draws us on,  
Reaping the whirlwind from the oft-sown  
winds;  
The stubborn heart, its alchemy begun,  
Seems ever near the prize—wealthiest when most  
undone.

## CXXIV.

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

## CXXV.

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

## CXXVI.

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

## CXXVII.

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

## CXXVIII.

Arches on arches! as it were that Rome,  
Collecting the chief trophies of her line,  
Would build up all her triumphs in one dome,  
Her Coliseum stands; the moonbeams shine  
As 'twere its natural torches, for divine  
Should be the light which streams here, to il-  
lume  
This long explored but still exhaustless mine  
Of contemplation; and the azure gloom

Of an Italian night, where the deep skies assume  
CXXIX.

Hues which have words, and speak to ye of  
heaven,  
Floats o'er this vast and wondrous monu-  
ment,  
And shadows forth its glory. There is given  
Unto the things of earth, which Time hath  
bent,  
A spirit's feeling, and where he hath leant  
His hand, but broke his scythe, there is a  
power  
And magic in the ruined battlement,  
For which the palace of the present hour  
Must yield its pomp, and wait till ages are its  
dower.

CXXX.

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

CXXXI.

Amidst this wreck, where thou hast made a  
shrine  
And temple more divinely desolate,  
Among thy mightier offerings here are mine,  
Ruins of years—though few, yet full of fate:  
If thou hast ever seen me too elate,  
Hear me not; but if calmly I have borne  
Good, and reserved my pride against the hate



Which shall not overwhelm me, let me not have  
worn  
This iron in my soul in vain—shall THEY not  
mourn?

CXXXII.

And thou, who never yet of human wrong  
Left the unbalanced scale, great Nemesis!  
Here, where the ancients paid thee homage  
long—  
Thou, who didst call the Furies from the  
abyss,  
And round Orestes bade them howl and hiss  
For that unnatural retribution—just,  
Had it but been from hands less near—in this  
Thy former realm, I call thee from the dust!  
Dost thou not hear my heart?—Awake! thou  
shalt, and must.

CXXXIII.

It is not that I may not have incurred  
For my ancestral faults or mine the wound  
I bleed withal, and had it been conferred  
With a just weapon, it had flowed unbound.  
But now my blood shall not sink in the  
ground;  
To thee I do devote it—THOU shalt take  
The vengeance, which shall yet be sought and  
found,  
Which if *I* have not taken for the sake—  
But let that pass—I sleep, but thou shalt yet  
awake.

CXXXIV.

And if my voice break forth, 'tis not that now  
I shrink from what is suffered: let him speak  
Who hath beheld decline upon my brow,  
Or seen my mind's convulsion leave it weak;  
But in this page a record will I seek.

Not in the air shall these my words disperse,  
Though I be ashes; a far hour shall wreak  
The deep prophetic fulness of this verse,  
And pile on human heads the mountain of my  
curse!

CXXXV.

That curse shall be forgiveness.—Have I not—  
Hear me, my mother Earth! behold it,  
Heaven!—  
Have I not had to wrestle with my lot?  
Have I not suffered things to be forgiven?  
Have I not had my brain seared, my heart  
riven,  
Hopes sapped, name blighted, Life's life lied  
away?  
And only not to desperation driven,  
Because not altogether of such clay  
As rots into the souls of those whom I survey.

CXXXVI.

From mighty wrongs to petty perfidy  
Have I not seen what human things could do?  
From the loud roar of foaming calumny  
To the small whisper of the as paltry few  
And subtler venom of the reptile crew,  
The Janus glance of whose significant eye,  
Learning to lie with silence, would SEEM true,  
And without utterance, save the shrug or sigh,  
Deal round to happy fools its speechless oblo-  
quy.

CXXXVII.

But I have lived, and have not lived in vain:  
My mind may lose its force, my blood its fire,  
And my frame perish even in conquering  
pain,  
But there is that within me which shall tire  
Torture and Time, and breathe when I expire:

Something unearthly, which they deem not of,  
Like the remembered tone of a mute lyre,  
Shall on their softened spirits sink, and move  
In hearts all rocky now the late remorse of love.

CXXXVIII.

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

CXXXIX.

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

CXL.

I see before me the Gladiator lie:  
He leans upon his hand—his manly brow  
Consents to death, but conquers agony,  
And his drooped head sinks gradually low—  
And through his side the last drops, ebbing  
slow  
From the red gash, fall heavy, one by one,  
Like the first of a thunder-shower; and now  
The arena swims around him: he is gone,

Ere ceased the inhuman shout which hailed the  
wretch who won.

## CXLI.

He heard it, but he heeded not—his eyes  
Were with his heart, and that was far away;  
He recked not of the life he lost nor prize,  
But where his rude hut by the Danube lay,  
THERE were his young barbarians all at play,  
THERE was their Dacian mother—he, their  
sire,  
Butchered to make a Roman holiday—  
All this rushed with his blood—Shall he expire,  
And unavenged?—Arise! ye Goths, and glut  
your ire!

## CXLI.

But here, where murder breathed her bloody  
steam;  
And here, where buzzing nations choked the  
ways,  
And roared or murmured like a mountain-  
stream  
Dashing or winding as its torrent strays;  
Here, where the Roman million's blame or  
praise  
Was death or life, the playthings of a crowd,  
My voice sounds much—and fall the stars'  
faint rays  
On the arena void—seats crushed, walls  
bowed,  
And galleries, where my steps seem echoes  
strangely loud.

## CXLI.

A ruin—yet what ruin! from its mass  
Walls, palaces, half-cities, have been reared;  
Yet off the enormous skeleton ye pass,

And marvel where the spoil could have appeared.

Hath it indeed been plundered, or but cleared?

Alas! developed, opens the decay,

When the colossal fabric's form is neared:

It will not bear the brightness of the day,  
Which streams too much on all, years, man,  
have reft away.

CXLIV.

But when the rising moon begins to climb  
Its topmost arch, and gently pauses there;  
When the stars twinkle through the loops of  
time,

And the low night-breeze waves along the air,  
The garland-forest, which the grey walls wear,  
Like laurels on the bald first Caesar's head;  
When the light shines serene, but doth not  
glare,

Then in this magic circle raise the dead:  
Heroes have trod this spot-'tis on their dust ye  
tread.

CXLV.

'While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand;  
When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall;  
And when Rome falls—the World.' From our  
own land

Thus spake the pilgrims o'er this mighty wall  
In Saxon times, which we are wont to call  
Ancient; and these three mortal things are still  
On their foundations, and unaltered all;  
Rome and her Ruin past Redemption's skill,  
The World, the same wide den—of thieves, or  
what ye will.

CXLVI.

Simple, erect, severe, austere, sublime—

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

CXLVII.

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

CXLVIII.

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

CXLIX.

Full swells the deep pure fountain of young  
life,

Where ON the heart and FROM the heart we  
took

Our first and sweetest nurture, when the wife,  
Blest into mother, in the innocent look,  
Or even the piping cry of lips that brook  
No pain and small suspense, a joy perceives  
Man knows not, when from out its cradled  
nook

She sees her little bud put forth its leaves—  
What may the fruit be yet?—I know not—Cain  
was Eve's.

CL.

But here youth offers to old age the food,  
The milk of his own gift:—it is her sire  
To whom she renders back the debt of blood  
Born with her birth. No; he shall not expire  
While in those warm and lovely veins the fire  
Of health and holy feeling can provide  
Great Nature's Nile, whose deep stream rises  
higher

Than Egypt's river:—from that gentle side  
Drink, drink and live, old man! heaven's realm  
holds no such tide.

CLI.

The starry fable of the milky way  
Has not thy story's purity; it is  
A constellation of a sweeter ray,  
And sacred Nature triumphs more in this  
Reverse of her decree, than in the abyss  
Where sparkle distant worlds:—Oh, holiest  
nurse!

No drop of that clear stream its way shall miss  
To thy sire's heart, replenishing its source  
With life, as our freed souls rejoin the universe.

CLII.

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

## CLIII.

But lo! the dome—the vast and wondrous  
 dome,  
 To which Diana's marvel was a cell—  
 Christ's mighty shrine above his martyr's  
 tomb!  
 I have beheld the Ephesian's miracle—  
 Its columns strew the wilderness, and dwell  
 The hyaena and the jackal in their shade;  
 I have beheld Sophia's bright roofs swell  
 Their glittering mass i' the sun, and have sur-  
 veyed  
 Its sanctuary the while the usurping Moslem  
 prayed;

## CLIV.

But thou, of temples old, or altars new,  
 Standest alone—with nothing like to thee—  
 Worthiest of God, the holy and the true,  
 Since Zion's desolation, when that he  
 Forsook his former city, what could be,  
 Of earthly structures, in his honour piled,  
 Of a sublimer aspect? Majesty,  
 Power, Glory, Strength, and Beauty, all are  
 aisled



In this eternal ark of worship undefiled.

CLV.

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

CLVI.

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

CLVII.

Thou seest not all; but piecemeal thou must  
 break  
 To separate contemplation, the great whole;  
 And as the ocean many bays will make,  
 That ask the eye—so here condense thy soul  
 To more immediate objects, and control  
 Thy thoughts until thy mind hath got by heart  
 Its eloquent proportions, and unroll

In mighty graduations, part by part,  
The glory which at once upon thee did not dart.

CLVIII.

Not by its fault—but thine: Our outward sense  
Is but of gradual grasp—and as it is  
That what we have of feeling most intense  
Outstrips our faint expression; e'en so this  
Outshining and o'erwhelming edifice  
Fools our fond gaze, and greatest of the great  
Defies at first our nature's littleness,  
Till, growing with its growth, we thus dilate  
Our spirits to the size of that they contemplate.

CLIX.

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

CLX.

Or, turning to the Vatican, go see  
Laocoon's torture dignifying pain—  
A father's love and mortal's agony  
With an immortal's patience blending:—Vain  
The struggle; vain, against the coiling strain  
And gripe, and deepening of the dragon's  
grasp,  
The old man's clench; the long envenomed  
chain

Rivets the living links,—the enormous asp  
Enforces pang on pang, and stifles gasp on gasp.

CLXI.

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

CLXII.

But in his delicate form—a dream of Love,  
Shaped by some solitary nymph, whose  
    breast  
Longed for a deathless lover from above,  
And maddened in that vision—are expressed  
All that ideal beauty ever blessed  
The mind within its most unearthly mood,  
When each conception was a heavenly guest—  
A ray of immortality—and stood  
Starlike, around, until they gathered to a god?

CLXIII.

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

CLXIV.

But where is he, the pilgrim of my song,  
The being who upheld it through the past?  
Methinks he cometh late and tarries long.  
He is no more—these breathings are his last;  
His wanderings done, his visions ebbing fast,  
And he himself as nothing:—if he was  
Aught but a phantasy, and could be classed  
With forms which live and suffer—let that  
pass—

His shadow fades away into Destruction's mass,  
CLXV.

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

CLXVI.

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

CLXVII.

Hark! forth from the abyss a voice proceeds,

A long, low distant murmur of dread sound,  
Such as arises when a nation bleeds  
With some deep and immedicable wound;  
Through storm and darkness yawns the rend-  
ing ground.

The gulf is thick with phantoms, but the chief  
Seems royal still, though with her head dis-  
crowned,  
And pale, but lovely, with maternal grief  
She clasps a babe, to whom her breast yields no  
relief.

CLXVIII.

Scion of chiefs and monarchs, where art thou?  
Fond hope of many nations, art thou dead?  
Could not the grave forget thee, and lay low  
Some less majestic, less beloved head?  
In the sad midnight, while thy heart still bled,  
The mother of a moment, o'er thy boy,  
Death hushed that pang for ever: with thee  
fled

The present happiness and promised joy  
Which filled the imperial isles so full it seemed  
to cloy.

CLXIX.

Peasants bring forth in safety.—Can it be,  
O thou that wert so happy, so adored!  
Those who weep not for kings shall weep for  
thee,  
And Freedom's heart, grown heavy, cease to  
hoard

Her many griefs for One; for she had poured  
Her orisons for thee, and o'er thy head  
Beheld her Iris.—Thou, too, lonely lord,  
And desolate consort—vainly wert thou wed!  
The husband of a year! the father of the dead!

CLXX.

Of sackcloth was thy wedding garment made:  
Thy bridal's fruit is ashes; in the dust  
The fair-haired Daughter of the Isles is laid,  
The love of millions! How we did entrust  
Futurity to her! and, though it must  
Darken above our bones, yet fondly deemed  
Our children should obey her child, and  
blessed  
Her and her hoped-for seed, whose promise  
seemed  
Like star to shepherd's eyes; 'twas but a meteor  
beamed.

## CLXXI.

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

## CLXXII.

These might have been her destiny; but no,  
Our hearts deny it: and so young, so fair,  
Good without effort, great without a foe;  
But now a bride and mother—and now  
THERE!  
How many ties did that stern moment tear!  
From thy Sire's to his humblest subject's  
breast  
Is linked the electric chain of that despair,  
Whose shock was as an earthquake's, and op-

pressed  
The land which loved thee so, that none could  
love thee best.

## CLXXIII.

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

## CLXXIV.

And near Albano's scarce divided waves  
Shine from a sister valley;—and afar  
The Tiber winds, and the broad ocean laves  
The Latian coast where sprung the Epic war,  
'Arms and the Man,' whose reascending star  
Rose o'er an empire,—but beneath thy right  
Tully reposed from Rome;—and where yon bar  
Of girdling mountains intercepts the sight,  
The Sabine farm was tilled, the weary bard's de-  
light.

## CLXXV.

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

Those waves, we followed on till the dark Eux-  
ine rolled

CLXXVI.

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

CLXXVII.

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

CLXXVIII.

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,  
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,  
There is society where none intrudes,  
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:  
I love not Man the less, but Nature more,  
From these our interviews, in which I steal  
From all I may be, or have been before,  
To mingle with the Universe, and feel  
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

CLXXIX.



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

CLXXX.

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

CLXXXI.

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

CLXXXII.

Thy shores are empires, changed in all save  
thee—

Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, what are they?

Thy waters washed them power while they were free

And many a tyrant since: their shores obey  
The stranger, slave, or savage; their decay  
Has dried up realms to deserts: not so thou,  
Unchangeable save to thy wild waves' play—  
Time writes no wrinkle on thine azure brow—  
Such as creation's dawn beheld, thou rollest  
now.

CLXXXIII.

Thou glorious mirror, where the Almighty's form

Glasses itself in tempests; in all time,  
Calm or convulsed—in breeze, or gale, or storm,

Icing the pole, or in the torrid clime  
Dark-heaving;—boundless, endless, and  
sublime—

The image of Eternity—the throne

Of the Invisible; even from out thy slime

The monsters of the deep are made; each zone  
Obeys thee: thou goest forth, dread, fathomless,  
alone.

CLXXXIV.

And I have loved thee, Ocean! and my joy  
Of youthful sports was on thy breast to be  
Borne like thy bubbles, onward: from a boy

I wantoned with thy breakers—they to me  
Were a delight; and if the freshening sea  
Made them a terror—'twas a pleasing fear,  
For I was as it were a child of thee,

And trusted to thy billows far and near,  
And laid my hand upon thy mane—as I do here.

CLXXXV.

My task is done—my song hath ceased—my  
theme

Has died into an echo; it is fit

The spell should break of this protracted  
dream.

The torch shall be extinguished which hath lit

My midnight lamp—and what is writ, is writ—

Would it were worthier! but I am not now

That which I have been—and my visions flit

Less palpably before me—and the glow

Which in my spirit dwelt is fluttering, faint, and  
low.

CLXXXVI.

Farewell! a word that must be, and hath been—

A sound which makes us linger; yet, farewell!

Ye, who have traced the Pilgrim to the scene

Which is his last, if in your memories dwell

A thought which once was his, if on ye swell

A single recollection, not in vain

He wore his sandal-shoon and scallop shell;

Farewell! with HIM alone may rest the pain,

If such there were—with YOU, the moral of his  
strain.