

" Poor victim ! no idle intruder has stood,  
 " With o'erweening complacence our state to compare,  
 " But one, whose first wish is the wish to be good,  
 " Is come as a brother thy sorrows to share.  
  
 " At thy name though compassion her nature resign,  
 " Though in virtue's proud mouth thy report be a  
     stain,  
 " My care, if the arm of the mighty were mine,  
 " Would plant thee where yet thou might'st blossom  
     again."

L I N E S  
 WRITTEN A FEW MILES ABOVE  
 TINTERN ABBEY,  
 ON REVISITING THE BANKS OF THE WYE DURING  
 A TOUR,  
 July 13, 1798.

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Five years have passed ; five summers, with the length  
 Of five long winters ! and again I hear  
 These waters, rolling from their mountain-springs  
 With a sweet inland murmur.\*—Once again  
 Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs,  
 Which on a wild secluded scene impress  
 Thoughts of more deep seclusion ; and connect

\* The river is not affected by the tides a few miles above Tintern.

The landscape with the quiet of the sky.  
 The day is come when I again repose  
 Here, under this dark sycamore, and view  
 These plots of cottage-ground, these orchard-tufts,  
 Which, at this season, with their unripe fruits,  
 Among the woods and copses lose themselves,  
 Nor, with their green and simple hue, disturb  
 The wild green landscape. Once again I see  
 These hedge-rows, hardly hedge-rows, little lines  
 Of sportive wood run wild ; these pastoral farms  
 Green to the very door ; and wreathes of smoke  
 Sent up, in silence, from among the trees,  
 And the low copses—coming from the trees  
 With some uncertain notice, as might seem,  
 Of vagrant dwellers in the houseless woods,  
 Or of some hermit's cave, where by his fire  
 The hermit sits alone.

Though absent long,

These forms of beauty have not been to me,

As is a landscape to a blind man's eye :  
 But oft, in lonely rooms, and mid the din  
 Of towns and cities, I have owed to them,  
 In hours of weariness, sensations sweet,  
 Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart,  
 And passing even into my purer mind  
 With tranquil restoration :—feelings too  
 Of unremembered pleasure ; such, perhaps,  
 As may have had no trivial influence  
 On that best portion of a good man's life ;  
 His little, nameless, unremembered acts  
 Of kindness and of love. Nor less, I trust,  
 To them I may have owed another gift,  
 Of aspect more sublime ; that blessed mood,  
 In which the burthen of the mystery,  
 In which the heavy and the weary weight  
 Of all this unintelligible world  
 Is lighten'd :—that serene and blessed mood,  
 In which the affections gently lead us on,

Until, the breath of this corporeal frame,  
 And even the motion of our human blood  
 Almost suspended, we are laid asleep  
 In body, and become a living soul :  
 While with an eye made quiet by the power  
 Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,  
 We see into the life of things.

If this

Be but a vain belief, yet, oh ! how oft,  
 In darkness, and amid the many shapes  
 Of joyless day-light ; when the fretful stir  
 Unprofitable, and the fever of the world,  
 Have hung upon the beatings of my heart,  
 How oft, in spirit, have I turned to thee  
 O sylvan Wye ! Thou wanderer through the woods,  
 How often has my spirit turned to thee !

And now, with gleams of half-extinguish'd thought,

With many recognitions dim and faint,  
 And somewhat of a sad perplexity,  
 The picture of the mind revives again :  
 While here I stand, not only with the sense  
 Of present pleasure, but with pleasing thoughts  
 That in this moment there is life and food  
 For future years. And so I dare to hope  
 Though changed, no doubt, from what I was, when  
 first

I came among these hills ; when like a roe  
 I bounded o'er the mountains, by the sides  
 Of the deep rivers, and the lonely streams,  
 Wherever nature led ; more like a man  
 Flying from something that he dreads, than one  
 Who sought the thing he loved. For nature then  
 (The coarser pleasures of my boyish days,  
 And their glad animal movements all gone by,)  
 To me was all in all.—I cannot paint

What then I was. The sounding cataract  
 Haunted me like a passion : the tall rock,  
 The mountain, and the deep and gloomy wood,  
 Their colours and their forms, were then to me  
 An appetite: a feeling and a love,  
 That had no need of a remoter charm,  
 By thought supplied, or any interest  
 Unborrowed from the eye. — That time is  
 past,  
 And all its aching joys are now no more,  
 And all its dizzy raptures. Not for this  
 Faint I, nor mourn nor murmur: other gifts  
 Have followed, for such loss, I would believe,  
 Abundant recompence. For I have learned  
 To look on nature, not as in the hour  
 Of thoughtless youth, but hearing oftentimes  
 The still, sad music of humanity,  
 Not harsh nor grating, though of ample power

To chasten and subdue. And I have felt  
 A presence that disturbs me with the joy  
 Of elevated thoughts ; a sense sublime  
 Of something far more deeply interfused,  
 Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,  
 • And the round ocean, and the living air,  
 And the blue sky, and in the mind of man,  
 A motion and a spirit, that impels  
 All thinking things, all objects of all thought,  
 And rolls through all things. Therefore am I still  
 A lover of the meadows and the woods,  
 And mountains ; and of all that we behold  
 From this green earth ; of all the mighty world  
 Of eye and ear, both what they half-create,\*

\* This line has a close resemblance to an admirable line of Young, the exact expression of which I cannot recollect.

And what perceive ; well pleased to recognize  
 In nature and the language of the sense,  
 The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,  
 The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul  
 Of all my moral being.

Nor, perchance,  
 If I were not thus taught, should I the more  
 Suffer my genial spirits to decay :  
 For thou art with me, here, upon the banks  
 Of this fair river ; thou, my dearest Friend,  
 My dear, dear Friend, and in thy voice I catch  
 The language of my former heart, and read  
 My former pleasures in the shooting lights  
 Of thy wild eyes. Oh ! yet a little while  
 May I behold in thee what I was once,  
 My dear, dear Sister ! And this prayer I make,  
 Knowing that Nature never did betray

The heart that loved her ; 'tis her privilege,  
 Through all the years of this our life, to lead  
 From joy to joy : for she can so inform  
 The mind that is within us, so impress  
 With quietness and beauty, and so feed  
 With lofty thoughts, that neither evil tongues,  
 Rash judgments, nor the sneers of selfish men,  
 Nor greetings where no kindness is, nor all  
 The dreary intercourse of daily life,  
 Shall e'er prevail against us, or disturb  
 Our cheerful faith that all which we behold  
 Is full of blessings. Therefore let the moon  
 Shine on thee in thy solitary walk ;  
 And let the misty mountain winds be free  
 To blow against thee : and in after years,  
 When these wild ecstasies shall be matured  
 Into a sober pleasure, when thy mind  
 Shall be a mansion for all lovely forms,  
 Thy memory be as a dwelling-place

For all sweet sounds and harmonies ; Oh ! then,  
 If solitude, or fear, or pain, or grief,  
 Should be thy portion, with what healing thoughts  
 Of tender joy wilt thou remember me,  
 And these my exhortations ! Nor, perchance,  
 If I should be, where I no more can hear  
 Thy voice, nor catch from thy wild eyes these gleams  
 Of past existence, wilt thou then forget  
 That on the banks of this delightful stream  
 We stood together ; and that I, so long  
 A worshipper of Nature, hither came,  
 Unwearied in that service : rather say  
 With warmer love, oh ! with far deeper zeal  
 Of holier love. Nor wilt thou then forget,  
 That after many wanderings, many years  
 Of absence, these steep woods and lofty cliffs,  
 And this green pastoral landscape, were to me  
 More dear, both for themselves, and for thy sake.

## ERRATA.

## Page

10 for "fog smoke-white," read "fog-smoke white."  
 18 "those," read "these."  
 50 Omit the comma after "loveth well."  
 140 after "clanking hour," place a comma.  
 202 omit the sixth line from the bottom,  
     " And the low copses coming from the trees,"