

PREFACE.

IN the composition of the Poems constituting this small volume, containing quite a number of small original pieces, the writer has endeavoured studiously to govern his thoughts and pen by the three leading principles of purity of sentiment, originality, and conciseness. In the first, that no mind, however delicate or susceptible of impression, shall not be in the smallest degree impaired by expressions or suggestions carelessly dropped, that shall have a tendency to divert it from the channel of social or moral rectitude, an error that may be thoughtlessly committed on the part of even the most judicious writer, without constant and untiring vigilance; and as the good of his fellow-man in general, and of the juvenile portion of mankind in particular, is ever held in view by the writer, and by whom, he presumes, his lines will be perused in some degree, he flatters himself that an opposite tendency will be effected; and if he could persuade himself in the belief that the attention and reflections, should, by the reading of his unpretending lines, be directed to Nature, as an inexhaustible source of meditation, thence, as a reasonable conclusion, to the great, the glorious and most adorable Author: then, for the labor and care bestowed on the preparation of his work, he could have a most enduring compensation.

With respect to originality, he has (after carefully accrediting the few direct quotations made use of, or verbatim phrases which he believes to be due to any other pen), endeavored to avoid the tiresome similarity too often to be endured in reading very much of the poetical matter in circulation, especially when the same or similar subjects are frequently written on; yet, he does not arrogate to himself the credit of unswerving originality of action, wishing to pay all due respect to the style of ages; perhaps in some few instances at most, transcribing phrases used in common by almost every writer of the language, and acknowledging his inability to originate a phraseology or expression of language entirely his own;