

"More soluble is this knor,
Like almost all the rest if men were wise,
 By gentleness than war. I want her love.
 What were I nigher this altho' I dash'd
 Your cities into shards with catapults,
And dusted down your domes with mangonels."

From the reply of the Princess to Lady Blanche, some twenty-five lines of vigorous satire have been omitted. The character of the heroine clearly gains in dignity by this revision. In the third edition, that of 1850, the Prologue and Conclusion were re-written, and the fine passage of eighteen lines,

"So Lilia sang: we thought her half posses'd,
 She struck such warbling fury thro' the words,"

appeared for the first time. There were also numerous slight alterations, omissions, and additions in other parts of the poem. The subtle references to the "weird seizures" of the Prince, which stir the imagination so deeply, were all added in the edition of 1851.

These examples of *limæ labor*, be it remembered, are all drawn from what, for the time being, was a completed product of a master of literary form, and which he had given to the world. Could we inspect the revisions which The Princess underwent before it was published in 1847, the patient labor of the poet would command even more fully our admiration.

The six intercalary songs in The Princess were first published in the third edition. These lyrics are even more widely known than the poem of which they now form so essential a part. They are among the most beautiful in the English language, whose linked sweetness they have borne to every civilized people under heaven. Although these lyrics have not undergone any revision since their first publication, their wonderful delicacy and perfection of structure and form bear witness that they are

"All perfect, finished to the finger-nail."

A year ago through the generosity of a valued friend it was my good fortune to come into possession of an autograph copy of five of these lyrics,—a copy made by the Poet Laureate before their publication. This manuscript copy contains the well-nigh perfected text, yet it will be seen that the work of revision did not reach its completion until publication was made in The Princess. The following is a fac-simile reproduction of the MS.