

When the forefathers of these vagrant hordes  
 Knew every charm that civil life affords;  
 Now may they rove, expell'd by wayward fate,  
 By mutual warfare or tyrannic hate; 100  
 The offspring *once*, of nations far renown'd,  
 Whom Genius cherish'd or whom Glory crown'd;  
 Perchance—(for whence could superstition claim  
 E'en yet in these wild forests her domain)  
 The spirit, *now* the object of their dread 105  
 When nature's thunders echo round their head,  
 The plank impending o'er the gulf beneath,  
 Pass'd by each trembling stranger after death,  
 Are but the phantoms of a purer creed  
 That worships Heav'n in *spirit* as in deed; 110  
 Perchance at last—when their meridian blaze  
 Had beam'd around on man's astonish'd gaze;  
 In *nature's course*, and time's declining date,  
 Perfection yielded to the hand of fate,  
 Their Sun of Science set beneath the clouds, 115  
 And bade the night arise, that still their glory shrouds!  
 Yet wherefore still?—as when, of late, around  
 Canadia's shores a darken'd Sabbath frown'd,  
 The fearful crowds with awful doubt forlorn,  
 Watch'd—and (transported) hail'd th' ensuing morn; 120  
 So—willing Hope perceives returning beams  
 Bursting from nature's long-bewilder'd dreams,  
 So now she feels again th' expanding rays  
 And looks beyond to life's maturer blaze!  
  
 How sweet the vales with many a hamlet crown'd 125  
 Where Sabbath bells proclaim their welcome sound!  
 Are these the spots where erst the savage race  
 With endless bloodshed fill'd the desert place?  
 Are these the spots where o'er the piling fire,  
 The Indian watch'd his victim foes expire? 130  
~~How chan'd the scene? now naught but mutual love~~  
~~Descends in Seraph features from above;~~ The

## NOTES.

Ver. 105. The ancients, unable to account for the mixture of evil with good, in the dispensations of Providence, imagined two principles of Divinity---one good, the other evil---hence the Indian doctrine of two distinct *Spirits*.

Ver. 107. Many tribes imagine that after death they are destined to pass plank impending over a fiery gulph into which they fall if meriting punishment---They have been known at the death of their children to destroy themselves in order to assist them over the plank into the Elyrium beyond.

Ver. 118. The dark Sunday at Quebec, October 17, 1785.