

TO INEZ.

1.

Nay, smile not at my sullen brow,
 Alas ! I cannot smile again :
 Yet Heaven avert that ever thou
 Should'st weep, and haply weep in vain. 840

2.

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

3.

It is not love, it is not hate, 845
 Nor low Ambition's honors lost,
 That bids me loathe my present state,
 And fly from all I prized the most :

4.

It is that weariness which springs
 From all I meet, or hear, or see : 850
 To me no pleasure Beauty brings ;
 Thine eyes have scarce a charm for me.

5.

It is that settled, ceaseless gloom
 The fabled Hebrew wanderer bore ;
 That will not look beyond the tomb, 855
 But cannot hope for rest before.

6.

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. 860

854. THE FABLED HEBREW WANDERER. refers to the legend of the Wandering Jew, which has formed the subject of much poetical and prose literature. Ahasuerus, a shoemaker of Jerusalem, refusing to allow Christ to rest before his house when bearing the cross to Golgotha, is condemned to wander over the face of the earth till the judgment-day.