

For fitful was the lustre, pale and wan,
As watchlight by the bed of some departing man.

XVIII

But soon, within that mirror huge and high, 275
Was seen a self-emitted light to gleam;
And forms upon its breast the Earl 'gan spy,
Cloudy and indistinct, as feverish dream;
Till, slow arranging, and defined, they seem 280
To form a lordly and a lofty room,
Part lighted by a lamp with silver beam,
Placed by a couch of Agra's¹ silken loom,
And part by moonshine pale, and part was hid in
gloom.

XIX

Fair all the pageant — but how passing fair
The slender form, which lay on couch of Ind! 285
O'er her white bosom stray'd her hazel hair,
Pale her dear cheek, as if for love she pined;
All in her night-robe loose she lay reclined,
And, pensive, read from tablet eburnine,² 290
Some strain that seem'd her inmost soul to find:
That favour'd strain was Surrey's raptur'd line,
That fair and lovely form, the Lady Geraldine.

XX

Slow roll'd the clouds upon the lovely form,
And swept the goodly vision all away —
So royal envy roll'd the murky storm 295
O'er my belovèd Master's glorious day.

¹ *Agra*—In India, noted for its silk.

² *Eburnine*—Of ivory.