

the principal one, the *Witch of the Westcot*, occupies 113, and is divided into three Cantos.

The fable, or story of this poem, is rather meagre and improbable. It is as follows.

On the eastern shore of Chebucto bay, an old lady lived, in a Cottage surrounded by stunted trees. She is reputed a witch by her neighbours, chiefly on account of her retired habits, and superior manners. Ellen Grhame, a resident near Dartmouth, and the heroine of the poem, hears this report; and having a little love affair pressing on her mind, resolves to consult the Witch respecting her future prospects. An interview is obtained, and although the old lady protests against being thought a *Wit-h*, in very plain language, Ellen appears to pay no attention to her protestations, but urges a trial of her skill. At length, unaccountably, the insulted old woman favours the deception, and gives her visitor two presents of mysterious signification; taking from her a brooch, as a pledge, that she will visit her again on the following New Year's Eve.

The tokens received by Ellen, are, a slip from a monthly rose, which is to be planted and watched with care, and a bible, which is to be read daily while the rose plant continues growing. The departure of Ellen towards home, concludes the first Canto.

Ellen is represented as having been, previous to this time, a mere "Tom-boy." We are told that she played top and bowl with the boys, mingled in the mimic wars of the captive sailors, could scull a flat, range the forest with her dog and carbine, and was an excellent marks-woman, and knew how to sponge or spike a great gun. These extraordinary, and not very lady-like accomplishments, were neglected, when love, and the visit to the Witch, gave softer occupations to her mind. Ellen's Mother noticed the change, and became anxious to ascertain its cause.

Ellen goes to a juvenile party on Christmas evening, and her rose, being neglected, dies. Next morning while sitting reproaching herself, and poring over the meaning of the old woman's presents, her mother discovers her agitation, and requests to be informed what presses on her mind. Ellen parries this request, by saying, that her Mother was not communicative with her, and that her Father's fate was still a secret, although she often wished to be informed on the subject.

Mrs. Grhame proceeds to remove this objection, by commencing a narrative of her life. The good lady describes the loss of her own father, and her Marriage; the departure of her husband on a warlike mission, and her capture by the Indians during his absence. She further relates, that after her return from captivity,