

VIII.

“ There was a time when harmony and love
Shed their soft halo round our cheerful hearth ;
Those heavenly charms descending from above,
Our cottage seemed a paradise on earth.
There was a time when innocence and mirth
Chased the big gloom from winter’s sullen eve,
And all was sweet—as when at Nature’s birth
The happy pair knew nought for which to grieve,
Ere that thrice envious fiend was suffered to deceive.

IX.

“ But oh, how changed ! now, famine’s chilling
damp
Is gathering fast around this wearied brow,
While nought remains to cheer—not e’en a lamp
To dissipate the gloom around me now.
O, Edward ! call to mind that broken vow
Which promised ne’er to leave me thus again ;
Heaven will be kind if mortals but allow—
Heaven loves to soothe each agonizing pain ;
Come, Edward, come, my love, nor will I more
complain.