

POEMS.

THE CONVICT SHIP.

SUGGESTED BY THE TALE OF THE "NEGLECTED CHILD," IN CHAMBERS' JOURNAL, FOR OCTOBER 26, 1844.

I.

ON the broad bosom of the mighty flood

Which wafts the wealth of nations to our shores [1]

A vessel swiftly glides, though deeply lade

With sin and misery, with guilt and woe,

And all the passions fierce which blacken man below.

II.

"A CONVICT SHIP!" no pleasing freight is hers,

But gloom and wretchedness beyond compare;

And He, who the heart's secrets only knows,

Can tell the depth of anguish and despair

Which each dark bosom owns, and which to him is bare.