## THE ANTE-MUNDANE STATE.

11.

Was immatured and unsubstantiated; A baseless, boundless, bottomless profound, An unideal void intangible, Unseen, unfelt, unknowing and unknown, Save by the Omniscience of the Mind Supreme. Baseless abyss of being unbegun ! O could I comprehend or near express The backward march of an Eternity, The unborn essence of the Evermore, Beginningless, foundationless expanse Of that which was ere anything could be, I'd call my verse a curiosity— The monster of poetic pictures rare.

Could numbers paint in lineless colours cold The Map of Nothing, or that shoreless sea From whence this continent of being rose Obedient to the voice Omnipotent, What miracle could emulate the Muse Which thus sings nothing on a stringless lyre ? Though no harmonic numbers can express The negative of being, or give sound To the dumb echoes of the primal void Of Non-existence, yet the well-toned wires Of measured song may cheer the quivering wings

8\*

89