

TO THE MAY FLY.

Thou art a frail and lovely thing,
Engender'd by the sun :
A moment only on the wing,
And thy career is done.

Thou sportest in the evening beam,
An hour—an age to thee—
In gaiety, above the stream,
Which soon thy grave must be.

Although thy life is like to thee—
An atom—art thou not
Far happier than thou e'er could'st be
If long life were thy lot ?

For then deep pangs might wound thy breast,
And make thee wish for death ;
But as it is, thou'rt soon at rest,
Thou creature of a breath !

And man's life passeth thus away,
A thing of joy and sorrow—
The earth he treads upon to-day
Shall cover him to-morrow.

KING RICHARD'S WELL.

This well is situate on the spot where the celebrated battle of Bosworth Field was fought, by which, the long-existing animosities between the rival houses of York and Lancaster were finally closed. The King is said, during the heat of the engagement, to have refreshed himself with water from this spring. A few years ago a subscription was entered into, for the purpose of erecting some memorial of this circumstance, and the late learned Dr. Parr being applied to, furnished an inscription, of which the following is a copy :—

AQUA . EX . HOC . FVTEO . HAVSTA
SITIM . SEDAVIT
RICARDVS . TERTIVS . REX . ANGLIÆ
CVM . HENRICO . COMITE . DE . RICHMONDIA
ACERRIME . ATQVE . INFENSISSE
PRAELIANS
ET . VITA . PARITER . AC . SCEPTRO
AVITE . NOCTEM . CARITVVS
XI KAL . SEPT . A . D . MCCCCLXXXV.

TRANSLATION.

Richard III. King of England, most eagerly and hotly contending with Henry, Earl of Richmond, and about to lose, before night, both his sceptre and his life, quenched his thirst with water drawn from this well, August 22, 1485.

The Roman month was divided into kalends, nones, and ides, all of which were reckoned backwards. The kalends are the first day of the month. Thus, the first of September being the kalends of September, the thirty-first of August would be *pridie kalendarii*, or the second of the kalends of September; the thirtieth of August would then be the third of the kalends of September. Pursuing this train, the twenty-second of August and the xi. of the kalends of September will be found to correspond.

The battle of Bosworth field was fought on the 22d of August, 1485, "on a large flat spacious ground," says Burton, "three miles distant from this town." Richmond, afterwards Henry VII., landed at Milford-haven on the sixth of August, and arrived at Tamworth on the eighteenth. On the nineteenth he had an interview with his father-in-law, Lord Stanley, when measures were concerted for their further operations. On the twentieth, he camped at Atherstone, and on the twenty-first, both armies were in sight of

each other the whole day. Richard entered Leicester, with his army, on the sixteenth, having the royal crown on his head; he slept at Elmesthorpe on the night of the seventeenth. On the eighteenth he arrived at Stapleton, where he continued till Sunday, the twenty-first. The number of his forces exceeded sixteen thousand—those of Richmond did not amount to five thousand. On each side the leader addressed his troops with a splendid oration, "which was scarcely finished," says an old historian, "but the one army espied the other. Lord! how hastily the soldiers buckled their helmets! how quickly the archers bent their bows and brushed their feathers! how readily the billmen shook their bills and proved their staves, ready to approach and join when the terrible trumpet should sound the bloody blast to victory or death!" The first conflict of the archers being over, the armies met fiercely with sword and bills, and at this period Richmond was joined by Lord Stanley, which determined the fortune of the day.

In this battle, which lasted little more than two hours, above one thousand persons were slain on the side of Richard. Of Richmond's army, scarcely one hundred were killed, amongst whom the principal person was Sir William Brandon, his standard-bearer. Richard is thought to have despised his enemy too much, and to have been too dilatory in his motions. He is universally allowed to have performed prodigies of valour, and is said to have fallen at last by treachery, in consequence of a blow from one of his followers. His body was thrown across a horse, and carried, for interment, to the Greyfriars at Leicester. He was the only English monarch, since the conquest, that fell in battle, and the second who fought in his crown. Henry V. appeared in his at Agincourt, which was the means of saving his life, (though, probably, it might provoke the attack,) by sustaining a stroke with a battle-axe, which cleft it. Richard's falling off in the engagement, was taken up and secreted in a bush, where it was discovered by Sir Reginald Bray and placed upon Henry's head. Hence arises the device of a crown in a hawthorn bush, at each end of Henry's tomb in Westminster-abbey.

In 1644, Bosworth field became again the scene of warfare; an engagement, or rather skirmish, taking place between parliamentary and royal forces, in which the former were victorious without the loss of a single individual.

SONG.

Flower of Beauty! in thy halls
All is pomp and pleasure now;
Music echoes round thy walls,
Jewelled Nobles round thee bow;
Yet the one who dies for thee,
Wanders on the lowly sea!

Come, sweet lute! and bid the wind
Whisper in my Lady's ear,
How her image was enshrined
In my bosom's hope and fear.

So, her stately breast may prove
Some sad memory of thy love!

Yet, he blush'd! my Lady's cheek
Ne'er shall lose the rose for me;
Heavy heart! in silence break,
Rather than her sorrow see.
Rather pine in cold disdain,
Than be happy—in her pain.

Princes for thy beauty sighed,
But I scorned with them to sigh;
True love has a lion's pride,
It can only love—and die!
Lady sweet! thy struggling slave
Finds his freedom in the grave.