

TO JOHN O'CONNELL, ESQ., M. P.

Sir,

To the Illustrious Liberator of Ireland—the rescuer of the slave, the untiring champion of civil and religious liberty—I intended to inscribe the following trifling production, when the world-wept death of the Great Leader obliged me to change my purpose. But though the fates have denied to me the wished for privilege, the honor is still left to me of dedicating it to you, the inheritor of his talents, the participator of his triumphs; to you who, through weal and woe, followed the dictates of his wisdom, and who, even now, in the midst of death and desolation, preserve in its integrality a distracted country's nationality.

I am fully conscious of the demerits of this work. In it there is no exhibition of those mental coruscations which should flash upon the pages dedicated to the gifted son of the laurel-crowned Agitator; but though it be deficient in intellectual attributes, I trust it shall not be found wanting in sincerity and patriotism. Were my abilities as uncircumscribed as my wishes, this unpretending effort of my inexperienced muse would be worthy of him to whom it is offered, as an humble tribute of respect and admiration, by

His very obedient servant,

THE AUTHOR.