

'The first couplet of this, as it seems to us, is not rhyme; the second is not reason; the third is incomprehensible; the fourth is in a zone unknown to geography, of which zones the book is very rife; the fifth in many cases is according to truth, but we trust not in the present.

By these selections, made from about one fifth part of the book, and which are surrounded by similar passages, we may see what kind of composition the "Witch" consists of. Certainly it required no poetic Wizard, to call such a spirit from the vasty deep; and it would destroy the reputation of one for ever, to acknowledge such an effort, if his reputation rested not on some other grounds; and if his abortion was not considered as the result of some luckless aberration from his wonted power and spirit.

We proceed now to a more pleasing duty, and taking a wider range, will select a few of the better passages from the same poem. At the opening of the book, in an address to the Muse, the following pretty and poetic lines occur.

" I come to glean, in vesper hours,
Amongst thy long neglected flow'rs;
Who knows but still, where bards have been,
Some slips, unculled, are waving green;
Who knows, but, ev'n in frozen vales,
Some leaves, unwither'd, brave the gales;
And tho' but one—O! let it be
Glen-malcom's flower, supplied from thee.
Tho' counted small beside the boughs
That rustle round more classic brows,
Still friendship, love, and even fame,
On such a symbol holds a claim,
And prodigal enough of joy
And jewels, for a truant boy."

If the 113 pages devoted to the Witch of the Westco., were filled with lines like these, how pleasing would be the work, and how honourable to the poet, and the Province which produced it. The following description is also good, although not faultless.

" She knew not Love is like the oak,
That grows amidst the tempest shock—
A seed, a plant, a sapling slim,
Of feeble root and feebler limb,
Ere giant bough and kingly form
Exult above the wrathful storm;
And tho' there be no earthly eye
To mark that thing of treachery,
Still there is many a talisman
To note its least and largest span."