

79. He appeals to the feelings of his readers, who are moved by the same passions now as in the past.

80-4. These ruins are Earth's returns, the only result of centuries of folly, noise and sin. In contrast with this is Love, which endures.

THE ISLES OF GREECE.

This poem appears in Byron's *Don Juan*. It is supposed to be sung by a wandering Greek minstrel during the marriage feast of the hero and heroine of the story; but it is a direct expression of Byron's own feelings on the subject of Greek freedom.

2. Sappho. A lyric poetess who was born on the island of Lesbos about 625 B.C.

burning. In reference to the passion in her poems and songs.

4. According to myth, Leda, who had supplanted Juno in the affections of Jupiter, was forced to flee from heaven to escape the wrath of Juno. Neptune took pity on her and raised the Island of Delos out of the sea in order to afford her a shelter. Here Phoebus and Diana, the twin children of Jupiter and Leda, were born.

7. The Scian and the Teian muse. The island of Chios (Scio) was said to be the birthplace of Homer, and the town of Teos, in Asia Minor, was the birthplace of the poet Anacreon.

11. farther west. In America.

12. In Greek mythology the "Islands of the Blest" were situated somewhere far in the western ocean.

13. Mount Pentelicus and Mount Parnes overlook the plain of Marathon, where in 490 B.C. a great battle was fought between the Persians under Darius, and the Greeks, led by Miltiades.

21. Ten years after the battle of Marathon, Xerxes, the son of Darius, invaded Greece with a vast army. The Persian fleet was defeated at Salamis, by the Greeks under Themistocles. Xerxes watched the progress of the fight from the mainland.

31. in the dearth of fame. Though the Greeks are no longer famed for their poets.

32. a fetter'd race. Since 1715 Greece had been in the hands of the Turks. The War of Independence which began in 1821, resulted in the establishment of the Greek kingdom in 1832.

37-8. we. Italicized to bring out the contrast with *fathers*.