

And what—are days—that I should now deplore?—

A sun—a sun, an hour—another hour;—

The coming like the one that's ta'en its flight

This bears away what on the other came—

Labour, repose and sorrow—oft a dream,

Such is the day—then comes the night—

Oh ! bid whose hands around the wreck of years

Ivy-like, eager, cling—bid him shed tears—

Whose hope's consumed by the first gaze of Death :—

But I who 've not been rooted in this clay

All-unresisting, I am swept away—

Like the light leaf by Evening's breath—

The poet's like the wild birds of the main

Who build not in the rock nor on the plain

Nor mid the leaves their dwellings ever poise,

But still from wave to wave unheeding hurld,

Far from the shore they singing :—ss—the world

Nought knowing of them save their voice—

My novice hand no artful guide e'er led

As on this chord in playfulness it strayed

Man teaches not what the kind heavens instil:

The rivulet learns not its wave to pour,

The eagle above the black'ning clouds to soar

Her sweets the wild bee to distil—

'Neath stroke of powerful hammer, 'mid the gales,

Yon Holy bell vibrating, weeps and wails ;

Alternate—publishing death, hymen, birth,

Like was I to that bronze made pure by flame :

When smote by passion from my soul there came

A sound that seemed nought of earth—

Thus in the night th' Eolian harp its plaint

With noise of murmuring waters mingling faint,

Sounds by the breath of breeze o'er earth that flies,

In wonder starts the traveller—lends his ear—

Admires and cannot him bethink from where

Are wafted those celestial sighs—

Oft did my tears my plaintive harp imbrue—

But for us mortals tears are heavenly dew—

The heart ne'er ripens 'neath a cloudless sky ;—

The grape when crush'd, its nectar juice pours forth,

And by a rude foot trampled to the earth

The balm its fragrance sends on high—

My soul th' Eternal formed with breath of fire

To all it near'd its flame it did inspire :—

O fatal gift ! I die by love o'er power'd :—

All I touched into dust all moulder'd fast :—

Thus fire from Heaven upon the heather cast

Expires when all around's devour'd—