

point of time when Haman falls before Esther to make request for his life, and the King, returning from the palace garden, exclaims, "Will he force the Queen before me also in the House"! The engraving is a beautiful specimen of the Gems alluded to in a prefatory poem, alluding to the originals it says,

" From the Gravers hand I bring  
Not less rich an offering.  
Sculptured on these plates there shine,  
Form for form, and line for line,  
Light for light, and shade for shade  
In those picture-gems display'd.  
Thus may all their beauties own,  
Kept before by one alone ;  
Living on each lasting plate,  
Though the models yield to fate."

It is a noble banquet scene, the architecture of the hall is splendidly delineated, and through the ample opening into the gardens, the distant city and the evening sky appear, and give fine scope for graphic effect. The Queen starting from her canopied couch, the group of beauties which attend her, the white marble pillars, and the streaks of the evening rays—form the lights of the picture : while its shadows are beautifully introduced in the figures of the attendants, and the King, in a group of massive columns, in the groves of the garden, and the lofty piles of the distant city. In the picture there is a beautiful junction of scenery, each part heightening the other. The scene within the palace is complete in itself, and is one of magnificence and excitement ; while beyond, the beautiful slopes of the garden, its reservoir of water, and groves, the splendid colonade which surrounds the grounds, and the city, pile above pile, traced vividly against the bright sky—would form, alone, a delightful sketch : connected, they have an exquisitely fine effect. Two distant figures, walking in the garden, are well introduced, to aid the perspective, and to remind of the delights of the retreat ; and a little behind the King as he enters the hall, two closely robed figures, gazing in, intently, on the important scene, are a happy idea of the artist. A Poem illustrative of the engraving follows, but is very vague, although smooth, and in some parts spirited. The lines which more immediately apply to the picture, we subjoin :

" Standing by the royal board,  
In the cup the wine she pour'd,  
Then with eyes to heaven upthrown,  
Hush'd within her heart the groan :  
' By thy diadem and ring  
Pledge thy bride, of kings thou king !'  
On the monarch's wondering gaze  
Flash'd her eye's supernal blaze :  
Never, in her bridal hour,  
Struck so deep that dark eye's power ;  
Never passion's breathing stole  
On his ear such chains of soul.