

THE SPIRIT OF PERSECUTION.

There is a spirit abroad who hates the truth,
And all who walk by faith and not by sight :
'Twas he who with the hemlock did requite
The noblest soul who taught the Athenian youth :
He slew Savonarola without ruth ;
And in the Oxford meadows made the light
Which startled England in the sullen night.
But burn and slaughter as he will, forsooth,
With bitter pain he sees new witness rise
For righteousness ; yet still he doth devise
New plots, and takes new weapons of offence,
And, often, with the smooth and poison'd dart
Of calumny, he smites the true of heart.
May God arise, and drive his malice hence !