

THE HERO OF THE DRAMA OF GENESIS.

AN EPIC OF SACRED STORY.

CANTO THE FIRST.

I.

IN time primeval ere abodes of men,
Were harassed with the surging of the throngs,
That now press hard upon each fair retreat,
That fill the world with passion, strife, and toil,
There dwelt in sacred Canaan, Israel.
'Midst scenes of nature in themselves adorned
With all the art of God, and hallowed by
His footprints and His presence oft, revealed ;
The Patriarch revered and served the Lord.
His was the land, to him bequeathed by Heaven,
By Heaven reserved for his posterity.
The heritage with milk and honey flowed,
And nourished on its bosom Israel's sons,
Who, stalwart, roving shepherds soon became,
And in their flocks and herds were much increased.