

might be done to me. Though I could contradict all the story of the ghost, I dared not do it. I knew by what had happened that it was *he himself* who had been in the club-room (perhaps recollecting that it was the night of meeting) but I hope God and the poor gentleman's friends will forgive me, and I shall die contented."

THE BIRD AT SEA.

BY MRS. HEMANS.

"Bird of the greenwood,
Oh! why art thou hear?
Leaves dance not o'er thee,
Flowers bloom not near;
All the sweet waters
Far hence are at play—
Bird of the greenwood,
Away, away!

Midst the mild billows
Thy place will not be,
As midst the wavings
Of wild rose and tree:
How shouldst thou battle
With storm and with spray?—
Bird of the greenwood,
Away, away!

Or art thou seeking
Some brighter land,
Where by the south wind
Vine-leaves are fann'd?
'Midst the wild billows,
Why then delay?—
Bird of the greenwood,
Away, away!"

"Chide not my lingering
Where waves are dark!
A hand that hath nursed me
Is in the bark—
A heart that hath cherish'd
Through winter's long day—
So I turn from the greenwood,
Away, away!"

BLIND ALICK.

There was living in 1832, at Stirling, in Scotland, a blind old beggar, known to all the country round by the name of Blind Alick, who possessed a memory of almost incredible strength. Alick was blind from his childhood. He was the son of poor parents, who could do little for him; though, indeed, at that time

wealth could not have done much for the education of one labouring under his privations. Alick was sent by his parents to a common school, to keep him out of mischief, and in order that he might learn something by hearing the lessons of the other children. The only volume then used in such establishments as a class or reading book, was the Bible; and it was customary for the scholars, as they read in rotation, to repeat not only the number of each chapter, but the number of each verse as it was read. By constantly hearing these readings, young Alick soon began to retain many of the passages of Scripture, and with them the number of the chapter and verse where they occurred. It is probable that being incapacitated by his sad privation from any useful employment, he may have remained an unusual length of time at school; and that his father, as was generally the case with the Scottish peasantry, was a great reader of the Bible at home. A constant attendance at church would also contribute to the result. However this may have been, it was observed with astonishment that when Blind Alick was a man, and obliged, by the death of his parents, to gain a livelihood by begging through the streets of his native town of Stirling, he knew the whole of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, by heart! Many persons of education have examined Alick, and have invariably been astonished at the extent of his memory. You may repeat any passage in Scripture and he will tell you the chapter and verse; or you may tell him the chapter and verse of any part of Scripture, and he will repeat to you the passage, word for word. Not long since, a gentleman, to puzzle him, read with a slight verbal alteration, a verse of the Bible. Alick hesitated a moment, and then told where it was to be found, but said it had not been correctly delivered; he then gave it as it stood in the book, correcting the slight error that had been purposely introduced. The gentleman then asked him for the nintieth verse of the seventh chapter of Numbers. Alick was again puzzled for a moment, but then said hastily, "You are fooling me, sirs! there is no such verse—that chapter 'has but eighty-nine verses." Several other experiments of the sort were tried upon him with the same success. He has often been ques-