

III.

Childe Harold was he hight :—but whence his name
 And lineage long, it suits me not to say ; 20
 Suffice it, that perchance they were of fame,
 And had been glorious in another day :
 But one sad losel soils a name for aye,
 However mighty in the olden time ;
 Nor all that heralds rake from coffined clay, 25
 Nor florid prose, nor honeyed lies of rhyme,
 Can blazon evil deeds, or consecrate a crime.

IV.

Childe Harold basked him in the noontide sun,
 Disporting there like any other fly ;
 Nor deemed before his little day was done 30
 One blast might chill him into misery.
 But long ere scarce a third of his passed by,
 Worse than adversity the Childe befeil ;
 He felt the fullness of satiety :
 Then loathed he in his native land to dwell, 35
 Which seemed to him more lone than Eremite's sad cell.

V.

For he through Sin's long labyrinth had run,
 Nor made atonement when he did amiss,
 Had sighed to many though he loved but one,
 And that loved one, alas ! could ne'er be his. 40
 Ah, happy she ! to 'scape from him whose kiss
 Had been pollution unto aught so chaste ;
 Who soon had left her charms for vulgar bliss,
 And spoiled her goodly lands to gild his waste,
 Nor calm domestic peace had ever deigned to taste. 45

19. CHILDE, A.S. *cild*, child, a young knight or squire.—HAROLD, a Norman name. Byron's first English ancestor is said to have come over with the Conqueror.—HIGHT, was called.

20. LOSEL, loose, wasteful fellow.

27. BLAZON, heraldic term, here used for make illustrious.

32. A THIRD OF HIS ; that is, the third part of his day, or life ; he was now twenty-four.

36. EREMIT, poetical rendering of hermit.

40. THAT LOVED ONE, Mary Anne Chaworth, afterwards Mrs. Musters. To her rejection of his addresses the poet attributes his quitting England.