

pirated ideas, coming from such a source, lend value and validity to one of the accusations I prefer against England, viz., her advocacy of a religious ascendancy : I acknowledge I have borrowed some sentiments from one of Ireland's most impassioned orators, the eloquent Phillips ; one whom as an ardent advocate I admire, whom as a renegade I detest.

There is a portion of this poem—that in which certain deceased personages, of infamous notoriety when in this world, are represented as enjoying the bounty of his Satanic Majesty,—the idea of which many may consider I took from Ward. Such, however, is not the case. Immediately after that had been written, I was reading it to a friend, when he informed me that that Poet exhibited some of his *dramatis personæ* in the unenviable situation of inhabitants of the infernal regions. I was not aware of the circumstances before, for the simple reason that I never read a line of Ward's works in my life.

To my warm-hearted countrymen I appeal for sympathy and approval ; and who, possessed of honest intentions, ever appealed to them fruitlessly ? If this trifling essay should make but one proselyte to the hallowed cause of Freedom, or incite to increased exertions those who are so nobly endeavouring to achieve it, then "*The Spirit's Lament*" shall not have been breathed in vain ; and, if my fellow countrymen should deem me undeserving of the bays of the Poet, I shall be more than fully recompensed if they award to me the wreath of the Patriot.