

of *Soondal malam*, or “mistress of the night,”\* from the Hindoos, who compare it to “a frail fair, visiting her lover in the dark, sweetly perfumed and highly dressed.”

Thee, sweetest mistress of the night,  
The Indian likens to his fair,  
The willing vot'ress of delight,  
With flowing locks, and bosom bare.

Sweetly perfumed, and highly dress'd,  
Yet elegant in loose attire,  
She softly seeks her lover's breast,  
A frail, accomplish'd, fierce, desire.

In the sly shades of darkness hid,  
No blush is seen to tinge her face,  
Whilst love's perfected raptures shed  
The balmy fragrance round the place.

When the first raptures of their meeting had subsided, Zeida informed him that her union had turned out most unfortunate; that in hopes of happier days she had hitherto forborne from complaining, but, seeing no amendment, she had seized an opportunity of repairing to the durbar, in hopes of regaining that affection which had formerly constituted her happiness. Fearful of a cool reception, she had previously consulted the most celebrated *cunning woman* in the city, who had prepared a box of ointment which she was to apply by stealth, as near as possible to the heart of the object beloved, and if she succeeded so far, she might be assured of accomplishing her wishes. She was indebted to a far more powerful charm for that felicity. Zeida accompanied the youth to England, where they were married, and where they now live and have several children.

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\* *Soondal malam* is translated by Pennant, “mistress of the night,” by Barrow, “wanton of the night,” and by Forbes, “intriguer of the night.” The *Polianthes tuberosa* was introduced into England in 1664, and is mentioned by Evelyn by the name of *Tuberose hyacinth*.