

XVII.

But whoso entereth within this town, 225
That, sheening far, celestial seems to be,
Disconsolate will wander up and down,
'Mid many things unsightly to strange ee ;
For hut and palace show like filthily :
The dingy denizens are reared in dirt ; 230
Ne personage of high or mean degree
Doth care for cleanness of surtoat or shirt ;
Though shent with Egypt's plague, unkempt, unwashed, unhurt.

XVIII.

Poor, paltry slaves ! yet born 'midst noblest scenes—
Why, Nature, waste thy wonders on such men ? 235
Lo ! Cintra's glorious Eden intervenes
In variegated maze of mount and glen.
Ah me ! what hand can pencil guide or pen,
To follow half on which the eye dilates
Through views more dazzling unto mortal ken 240
Than those whereof such things the bard relates,
Who to the awe-struck world unlocked Elysium's gates ;

XIX.

The horrid crags, by topping convent crowned,
The cork-trees hoar that clothe the shaggy steep,
The mountain-moss by scorching skies imbrown'd, 245
The sunken glen, whose sunless shrubs must weep,
The tender azure of the unruffled deep,
The orange tints that gild the greenest bough,
The torrents that from cliff to valley leap,
The vine on high, the willow branch below, 250
Mixed in one mighty scene, with varied beauty glow.

XX.

Then slowly climb the many-winding way,
And frequent turn to linger as you go.

233. SHENT WITH EGYPT'S PLAGUE, spoiled or defaced with leprosy, a disease common among the Egyptians : and mostly engendered through unclean personal and national habits.

241, 242. The reference here is probably to Dante's *Paradiso* although the classical term Elysium is used.

243-250. Note the effect of the alliteration and accumulation of epithets rapidly following each other in this stanza.