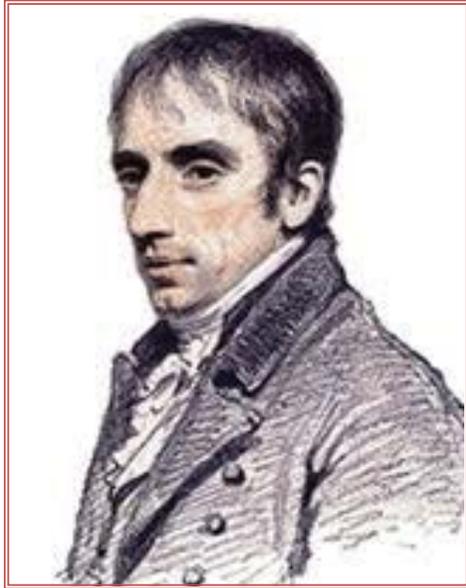


*Lyrical Ballads 1798*



William Wordsworth



Samuel Taylor Coleridge

# *Lyrical Ballads 1798*

A Critical Edition

by

William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge

---

with Introduction and Notes by Edward Dowden



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# Preface

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by Wayne K. Chapman

This book is the product of collaboration between myself and the students of Literary Editing (English 441/641) during eight of the sixteen weeks of fall semester 2011 at Clemson University. Like any critical edition, it engages with and acknowledges a number of precursor texts, the most evident being the four editions of *Lyrical Ballads* that mark the success of the once experimental verse that the poets ventured to publish, at first anonymously, in 1798, as well as the commemorative facsimiles published by David Nutt (London) and edited by prolific scholar, editor and poet Edward Dowden (1843-1913). See my introduction to *Edward Dowden: A Critical Edition of the Complete Poetry*, a Special Online Number of *The South Carolina Review* (Summer 2010) also available on CUDP's Bibliographic Studies webpage. The base text chosen for the present volume is the Dowden 3rd edition of 1898, which is to say, with a few rare exceptions noted, that of the 1798 London edition, which Dowden and Nutt originally set out to emulate "page for page and line for line . . . in old-faced type closely resembling that of the original," even so far as deliberately incorporating the textual errors and poet's errata at the end of the 1798 edition. We have followed suit but note those corrections (not always introduced in Wordsworth's 1800, 1802, and 1805 editions) in the apparatus rather than in an errata page. Dowden's endnotes have become footnotes and his preface serves as our introduction to the poems.

One of the peculiarities of Dowden's facsimile edition of 1890 is that the preliminary pages embedded the preliminary elements of the J. & A. Arch title page, the poets' "Advertisement" (famously expanded in Wordsworth's Prefaces of 1800 and 1802), and the Contents page of 1798 so that two sets of roman numerals were used, one printed in the head space over Dowden's Preface and the other over the "Advertisement." This problem remained in Dowden's 2nd edition (1891), which abandoned the "old-faced type" but otherwise remained faithful to the 1798 layout, including the replication of duplicate spreads for pp. 70-71, one not numbered and thus unnoticed and the other numbered. The layout issue in the preliminaries was rectified in Dowden's 3rd edition by moving the simulated title page and "Advertisement" to the end of the book, a precedent observed here, in the Appendix of *Lyrical Ballads 1798: A Critical Edition*.

Thomas Hutchinson's 1898 Duckworth edition of *Lyrical Ballads* acknowledges that Dowden's edition of 1890 was the "First Reprint of *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798 . . . (8vo. Half-bound in parchment: paper sides) . . . [a] beautiful book" that yielded a large-paper edition of 60 copies." After giving a bibliographic collation of the Contents of Dowden's first edition, Hutchinson exceeds Dowden in his endnotes and with "certain [additional] poems of 1798, anticipating the scholarship of R. L. Brett and A. R. Jones in their Methuen edition of 1963 and that of W. J. B. Owen (OUP, 1967; see Abbreviations, below). The successor to these is the mammoth tome in the Cornell Wordsworth series, edited by James Butler and Karen Green (1992), compared with which our humble edition will primarily facilitate instruction at the undergraduate level in computer "smart" classrooms. As a supplement, though mainly for instruction on handling variants, the digital scans of 1798, 1800, 1802, and 1805 editions of *Lyrical Ballads* on Romantic Circles' "Electronic Editions" website is highly recommended, particularly the feature called "Dynamic Collation."

# Introduction

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by Edward Dowden

This edition of *Lyrical Ballads* follows in its text the first edition of the original, published in 1798. It does not attempt to imitate the type used in that edition. Much care has been taken to ensure accuracy, yet perhaps it would be rash to assert that absolute freedom from error has been attained. [Errors introduced in 1798 and noted in an errata at the end of that book are left standing in the base text of this edition and corrected in its critical apparatus. —WKC]

In some copies, instead of the words on the title-page, "London: Printed for J. & A. Arch, Gracechurch Street," the following imprint is found: "Bristol: Printed by Biggs & Cottle, for T. N. Longman, Paternoster Row, London. 1798." It is right to remember that this remarkable volume of Poems is a Bristol book. The sale was so slow that Cottle parted with the larger number of the five hundred copies printed to Arch, a London bookseller. The copyright was purchased in a lot with other copyrights by Longman, but as it was considered of no value, Cottle begged that it might be restored to him. His request was granted, whereupon Cottle presented the copyright to Wordsworth.

In a copy—formerly Southey's—bearing the Biggs & Cottle imprint, in the British Museum Library, in the "Contents" appears Coleridge's "Lewti; or, the Circassian Love Chant," where "The Nightingale" ordinarily stands. In the text of the same copy "The Nightingale" is given; and after "The Nightingale" appear cancelled leaves (pp. 63-67) which give "Lewti" in its earlier text. Southey has written in the volume:—"The Advertisement and the Circassian Love Chant in this volume were cancelled, R.S." I cannot find that the Advertisement was cancelled; it is ordinarily given, though possibly it may be absent from some copies of the book. When "The Nightingale" was substituted for "Lewti" an additional leaf had to be inserted. The reader may notice that signature E, p. 65, is wanting, and from D to F are thirty-four pages instead of thirty-two. A leaf seems to have been inserted, and it will be seen that two pages following p. 69 are not numbered, nor counted in the pagination. In the "Contents" "The Female Vagrant" is said to begin on p. 69; in fact p. 69 gives the end of "The Nightingale." Possibly a copy of *Lyrical Ballads* containing the cancelled "Lewti" alone may hereafter come to light.

*Lyrical Ballads* cannot be said to have lived unnoticed even in its earlier years of existence. In 1800 appeared a second edition (two volumes, the first being in the main a reprint of *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798), and other editions followed in 1802 and 1805.

The origin of the book is told by Wordsworth in the note on, "We are Seven" which he dictated as an old man to Miss Fenwick. Coleridge and he agreed to defray the expenses of a tour from Nether Stowey to Lynton by writing a poem to be sent to the *New Monthly Magazine*. In the course of their walk the "Ancient Mariner" was planned. "We returned by Dulverton to Alfoxden. The 'Ancient Mariner' grew and grew, till it became too important for our first object, which was limited to the expectation of five pounds, and we began to talk of a volume, which was to consist, as Mr. Coleridge has told the world, of poems chiefly on natural subjects taken from common life, but looked at, as much as might be, through an imaginative medium. Accordingly I wrote 'The Idiot Boy,' 'Her eyes are wild,' &c., 'We are Seven,' 'The Thorn,' and some others."

Wordsworth's recollection of what Coleridge had written in his *Biographia Literaria* was not exact. Two classes of poems, according to Coleridge, were to be included in the volume of *Lyrical Ballads*: "in the one the incidents and agents were to be in part at least supernatural, and the excellence aimed at was to consist in the interesting of the affections by the dramatic truth of such emotions as would naturally accompany such situations, supposing them real. . . . For the second class, subjects were to be chosen from ordinary life." These last were to be, as we now say, naturalistic or realistic, but they were to be illuminated by the light of imagination and the significance of the incidents narrated was to be interpreted by a meditative and feeling mind.

Coleridge, as I have tried to show elsewhere (*Fortnightly Review*, 1889: "*Coleridge as a Poet*"), indicates precisely wherein lay the importance of the publication of this little volume in the history of our literature. There existed two powerful tendencies in the literature of the time, each of which was liable to excess when it operated alone, each of which needed to work in harmony with the other, and to take into itself something from the other—the tendency to realism, seen in such a poem as Crabbe's *The Village*, and the tendency towards romance, seen in its more extravagant forms in such writings as those of Matthew Gregory Lewis. Realism might easily have become hard, dry, literal, as we sometimes see it in Crabbe. Romance might easily have degenerated into a coarse revel in material horrors. English poetry needed, first, that romance should be saved and ennobled by the presence and the power of truth—truth moral and psychological; and secondly, that naturalism, without losing any of its fidelity to fact, should be saved and ennobled by the presence and the power of imagination—"the light that never was, on sea or land." This precisely was what Coleridge and Wordsworth contributed to English poetry in their joint volume of *Lyrical Ballads*, which in consequence may justly be described as marking an epoch in the history of our literature.

The germ of Wordsworth's celebrated Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*, which sets forth his theory of poetic diction, will be found in the "Advertisement" of the present volume. The Preface appeared first in the edition of 1800; it was considerably enlarged in the edition of 1802. It is worth while perhaps to compare the statements made by Wordsworth as to his object in the poems as made in 1798, 1800, and 1802:

"The majority of the following poems are to be considered as experiments. They were written chiefly with a view to ascertain how far the language of conversation in the middle and lower classes of society is adapted to the purpose of poetic pleasure."—Advertisement, 1798.

"The principal object then which I proposed to myself in these Poems was to make the incidents of common life interesting by tracing in them, truly though not ostentatiously, the primary laws of our nature: chiefly as far as regards the manner in which we associate ideas in a state of excitement."—Preface, 1800.

"The principal object, then, which I proposed to myself in these Poems was to chuse incidents and situations from common life, and to relate or describe them throughout, as far as was possible, in a selection of language really used by men; and, at the same time to throw over them a certain colouring of imagination, whereby ordinary things should be presented to the mind in an unusual way; and further, and above all, to make these incidents and situations interesting by tracing in them, truly though not ostentatiously, the primary laws of our nature; chiefly, as far as regards the manner in which we associate

ideas in a state of excitement.”—Preface, 1802.

It is evident that Wordsworth was at first only a part conscious of his deeper, instinctive tendencies in writing these poems; it is evident that he only gradually discovered his full purpose. From the first, indeed, he had a crude notion of his theory of poetic diction, but this also was modified as he reviewed his own practice. In the Preface of 1800, while maintaining that the language of simple men is suitable for poetic uses, he qualifies the statement by adding that it must be “purified from what appear to be its real defects, from all lasting and rational causes of dislike or disgust.” In the Preface of 1802 he goes farther, and admits that the language will be “modified” by a consideration that the poet “describes for a particular purpose, that of giving pleasure.” The poet makes a selection “with true taste and feeling” from “the language really spoken by men,” and he modifies this in order to conduce to pleasure. These qualifications of Wordsworth have been often forgotten by those who have discussed his theory.

The poems by Coleridge in this volume beside “The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere” are “The Foster-Mother’s Tale,” “The Nightingale,” and “The Dungeon.”

I have added of few notes on the dates and occasions of the poems, and on variations of text. My intention at first was to record the results of a complete collation of the several texts, but it became evident that such a body of notes would add too much to the bulk of the little volume. I have therefore aimed at brevity in my notes, which however were not written until I had become intimately acquainted with the various states of the poems.

The only alterations from the original which I have designedly made are (1) a comma placed after the word “Listen,” p. 20, l. 2, instead of what looks like a full stop in my copy of the edition of 1798, but what may be in fact a broken or ill-printed comma; and (2) a space inserted between the words “horse” and “behind,” p. 101, l. 2, which words are run together in some copies of the original.

I have to thank Mr. Alfred W. Pollard for information about the copies of *Lyrical Ballads* in the British Museum Library, and in particular about the copy which was once in Southey’s possession.

This most interesting volume represents Coleridge and Wordsworth in their joyous prime, in 1797-98, that happy year of companionship at Nether Stowey and Alfoxden. A volume which opens with “The Ancient Mariner” and closes with the “Lines written a few miles above Tintern Abbey” may well be considered one of the most remarkable in the whole range of English poetry.

1891.

# Abbreviations

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(as employed in the notes and collations that follow, constituting the *apparatus criticus* of this edition of the poems)

LB1798	<i>Lyrical Ballads, with a few other Poems</i> (London: J. & A. Arch, 1798)
LB1800	<i>Lyrical Ballads, with other Poems, in two Volumes, by W. Wordsworth</i> (London, 1800), vol. 1
LB1802	<i>Lyrical Ballads, with Pastoral and other Poems, in two Volumes, by W. Wordsworth</i> (London, 1802), vol. 1
LB1805	<i>Lyrical Ballads, with Pastoral and other Poems, in two Volumes, by W. Wordsworth</i> (London, 1805), vol. 1
LBD1890	<i>Lyrical Ballads, Reprinted from the First Edition of 1798</i> , edited by Edward Dowden (London: David Nutt, 1890)
LBD1891	<i>Lyrical Ballads, Reprinted from the First Edition (1798)</i> , second edition, edited by Edward Dowden (London: David Nutt, 1891)
LBD1898	<i>Lyrical Ballads, Reprinted from the First Edition of 1798</i> , third edition, edited by Edward Dowden (London: David Nutt, 1898)
WCLB	<i>Wordsworth and Coleridge Lyrical Ballads 1798</i> , second edition, edited by W. J. B. Owen (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1969 [1990 printing])

# THE RIME OF THE ANCYENT MARINERE, IN SEVEN PARTS.

## ARGUMENT.

How a Ship having passed the Line was driven by Storms to the cold Country towards the South Pole; and how from thence she made her course to the tropical Latitude of the Great Pacific Ocean; and of the strange things that befell; and in what manner the Ancyent Marinere came back to his own Country.

### I.

- 1 It is an ancyent Marinere,  
2 And he stoppeth one of three:  
3 “By thy long grey beard and thy glittering eye  
4 “Now wherefore stoppest me?  
  
5 “The Bridegroom’s doors are open’d wide  
6 “And I am next of kin;  
7 “The Guests are met, the Feast is set,—  
8 “May’st hear the merry din.  
  
9 But still he holds the wedding-guest—  
10 There was a Ship, quoth he—  
11 “Nay, if thou’st got a laughsome tale,  
12 “Marinere! come with me.”

---

*Title* The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere, In Seven Parts] The Ancient Mariner, A Poet’s Reverie *LB1800*, *LB1802*] The Ancient Mariner. A Poet’s Reverie. *LB1805*

*Argument* passed the Line] first sailed to the Equator *LB1800*; and how] how *LB1800*; from thence she made her course to the tropical Latitude of the Great Pacific Ocean] the Ancient Mariner cruelly, and in contempt of the laws of hospitality, killed a Sea-bird *LB1800*; of the strange things that befell] how he was followed by many strange Judgements *LB1800*; the Ancyent Marinere] he *LB1800*.

- 1 an ancyent Marinere] an ancient Mariner *LB1800*, *LB1802*, *LB1805*  
3 grey] gray *LB1805*  
5 open’d] opened *LB1805*  
9 wedding-guest] wedding guest *LB1800*, *LB1802*  
12 Marinere] Mariner *LB1800*, *LB1802*, *LB1805*

---

*The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere*. 1797. See *WCLB* 5. Note by ED as follows:

Written 1797. The circumstances under which it was written are described by Wordsworth in the Fenwick note to “We are Seven.” The differences between this, the earliest text, and the later version are stated in a few words by Prof. Hales: “It differs in its orthography, which is more archaic; and secondly, in its larger admission of the horrible; for instance, Death, ‘that woman’s mate’ or ‘her fleshless Phere,’ as the earlier reading runs, is described with an overflowing ghastliness, and so the movements of the defunct bodies towards the end of the voyage.” The prose gloss of later editions was first added in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817.

13 He holds him with his skinny hand,  
 14 Quoth he, there was a Ship—  
 15 “Now get thee hence, thou grey-beard Loon!  
 16 “Or my Staff shall make thee skip.

17 He holds him with his glittering eye—  
 18 The wedding guest stood still  
 19 And listens like a three year’s child;  
 20 The Marinere hath his will.

21 The wedding-guest sate on a stone,  
 22 He cannot chuse but hear:  
 23 And thus spake on that ancye[n]t man,  
 24 The bright-eyed Marinere.

25 The Ship was cheer’d, the Harbour clear’d—  
 26 Merrily did we drop  
 27 Below the Kirk, below the Hill,  
 28 Below the Light-house top.

29 The Sun came up upon the left,  
 30 Out of the Sea came he:  
 31 And he shone bright, and on the right  
 32 Went down into the Sea.

33 Higher and higher every day,  
 34 Till over the mast at noon—  
 35 The wedding-guest here beat his breast,  
 36 For he heard the loud bassoon.

37 The Bride hath pac’d into the Hall,  
 38 Red as a rose is she;  
 39 Nodding their heads before her goes  
 40 The merry Minstralsy.

14 there] There *LB1805*  
 15 grey-beard] gray-beard *LB1805*  
 18 wedding guest] wedding-guest *LB1805*  
 19 year’s] years’ *LB1805*  
 20 Marinere] Mariner *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 22 chuse] choose *LB1805*  
 23 ancye[n]t] ancient *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 24 Marinere] Mariner *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 25 cheer’d...clear’d] cheered...cleared *LB1805*  
 32 Sea] sea *LB1802, LB1805*  
 37 pac’d] paced *LB1805*  
 39 goes] go *LB1805*  
 40 Minstralsy] Minstrelsy *LB1805*

41 The wedding-guest he beat his breast,  
 42 Yet he cannot chuse but hear:  
 43 And thus spake on that ancyent Man,  
 44 The bright-eyed Marinere.

45 Listen, Stranger! Storm and Wind,  
 46 A Wind and Tempest strong!  
 47 For days and weeks it play'd us freaks—  
 48 Like Chaff we drove along.

49 Listen, Stranger! Mist and Snow,  
 50 And it grew wond'rous cauld:  
 51 And Ice mast-high came floating by  
 52 As green as Emerald.

53 And thro' the drifts the fnowy clifts  
 54 Did send a dismal sheen;  
 55 Ne shapes of men ne beasts we ken—  
 56 The Ice was all between.

57 The Ice was here, the Ice was there,  
 58 The Ice was all around:  
 59 It crack'd and growl'd, and roar'd and howl'd—  
 60 Like noises of a swound.

61 At length did cross an Albatross,  
 62 Thorough the Fog it came;  
 63 And an it were a Christian Soul,  
 64 We hail'd it in God's name.

---

42 chuse] choose *LB1805*

44 Marinere] Mariner *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

45-46 Listen, Stranger! Storm and Wind, / A Wind and] But now the Northwind came more fierce, / There came a *LB1800, LB1802*] But now the North wind came more fierce, / There came a *LB1805*

47 For days and weeks it play'd us freaks—] And Southward still for days and weeks *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

49 Listen, Stranger!] And now there came both *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

50 wond'rous cauld] wond'rous cold *LB1800, LB1802*; / wondrous cold *LB1805*

52 Emerald] Emerald *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

53 thro'] through *LB1805*

55 Ne shapes of men ne beasts we ken] Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

59 It crack'd and growl'd, and roar'd and howl'd] It cracked and growled, and roared and howled *LB1805*

60 Like noises of a swound] A wild and ceaseless sound *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

63 And an it were] As if it had been *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

64 hail'd] hailed *LB1805*

65 The Mariners gave it biscuit-worms,  
 66 And round and round it flew:  
 67 The Ice did split with a Thunder-fit;  
 68 The Helmsman steer'd us thro'.

69 And a good south wind sprung up behind,  
 70 The Albatross did follow;  
 71 And every day for food or play  
 72 Came to the Marinere's hollo!

73 In mist or cloud on mast or shroud  
 74 It perch'd for vespers nine,  
 75 Whiles all the night thro' fog smoke-white  
 76 Glimmer'd the white moon-shine.

77 "God save thee, ancient Marinere!  
 78 "From the fiends that plague thee thus—  
 79 "Why look'st thou so?"—with my cross bow  
 80 I shot the Albatross.

## II.

1 The Sun came up upon the right,  
 2 Out of the Sea came he;  
 3 And broad as a weft upon the left  
 4 Went down into the Sea.

5 And the good south wind still blew behind,  
 6 But no sweet Bird did follow  
 7 Ne any day for food or play  
 8 Came to the Marinere's hollo!

---

65 Mariners] Mariners *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

68 steer'd us thro'] steered us through *LB1805*

69 south] South *LB1805*

72 Marinere's] Mariner's *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

74 perch'd] perched *LB1805*

75a In Errata: "for 'fog smoke-white,' read 'fog-smoke white'" *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

75b thro'] through *LB1805*

76 Glimmer'd] Glimmered *LB1805*

77 ancient Marinere!] ancient Mariner *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

78 thus—] thus!— *LB1805*

79-80 "Why look'st thou so?"—with my cross bow / I shot the Albatross.] Why Look'st thou so?"—"With my cross bow / I shot the Albatross." *LB1805*

1 came up] now rose *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

3 And broad as a weft upon] Still hid in the mist; and on *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

7 Ne] Nor *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

8 Marinere's] Mariner's *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

9 And I had done an hellish thing  
 10 And it would work 'em woe:  
 11 For all averr'd, I had kill'd the Bird  
 12 That made the Breeze to blow.  
  
 13 Ne dim ne red, like God's own head,  
 14 The glorious Sun uprist:  
 15 Then all averr'd, I had kill'd the Bird  
 16 That brought the fog and mist.  
 17 'Twas right, said they, such birds to slay  
 18 That bring the fog and mist.  
  
 19 The breezes blew, the white foam flew,  
 20 The furrow follow'd free:  
 21 We were the first that ever burst  
 22 Into that silent Sea.  
  
 23 Down dropt the breeze, the Sails dropt down,  
 24 'Twas sad as sad could be  
 25 And we did speak only to break  
 26 The silence of the Sea.  
  
 27 All in a hot and copper sky  
 28 The bloody sun at noon,  
 29 Right up above the mast did stand,  
 30 No bigger than the moon.  
  
 31 Day after day, day after day,  
 32 We stuck, ne breath ne motion,  
 33 As idle as a painted Ship  
 34 Upon a painted Ocean.  
  
 35 Water, water, every where  
 36 And all the boards did shrink;  
 37 Water, water, every where,  
 38 Ne any drop to drink.

---

10 'em] e'm *LB1800*

11 averr'd] averred *LB1805*. kill'd] killed *LB1805*

13 Ne dim ne red, like God's own] Nor dim nor red, like an Angel's *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

20 follow'd] followed *LB1805*

22 Sea] sea *LB1802*

32 ne breath ne motion] nor breath nor motion *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

38 Ne] Nor *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

39 The very deeps did rot: O Christ!  
 40 That ever this should be!  
 41 Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs  
 42 Upon the slimy Sea.

43 About, about, in reel and rout  
 44 The Death-fires danc'd at night;  
 45 The water, like a witch's oils,  
 46 Burnt green and blue and white.

47 And some in dreams assured were  
 48 Of the Spirit that plagued us so:  
 49 Nine fathom deep he had follow'd us  
 50 From the Land of Mist and Snow.

51 And every tongue thro' utter drouth  
 52 Was wither'd at the root;  
 53 We could not speak no more than if  
 54 We had been choked with soot.

55 Ah wel-a-day! what evil looks  
 56 Had I from old and young;  
 57 Instead of the Cross the Albatross  
 58 About my neck was hung.

## III.

1 I saw a something in the Sky  
 2 No bigger than my fist;  
 3 At first it seem'd a little speck  
 4 And then it seem'd a mist:  
 5 It mov'd and mov'd, and took at last  
 6 A certain shape, I wist.

---

39 O Chrif[!] O Christ! *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805, LBD1890, LBD1891, LBD1898, WCLB*

44 danc'd] danced *LB1805*

49 follow'd] followed *LB1805*

51 thro'] through *LB1805*

52 wither'd] withered *LB1805*

55 wel-a-day] well-a-day *LB1802, LB1805*

1a-d So past a weary time ; each throat / Was parch'd, and glaz'd each eye, / When, looking westward, I beheld  
 / A something in the sky. *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

1-2 Missing *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

3 seem'd] seemed *LB1805*

4 seem'd] seemed *LB1805*

5 It mov'd and mov'd] It moved and moved *LB1805*

7 A speck, a mist, a shape, I wist!  
 8 And still it ner'd and ner'd;  
 9 And, an it dodg'd a water-sprite,  
 10 It plung'd and tack'd and veer'd.

11 With throat unslack'd, with black lips bak'd  
 12 Ne could we laugh, ne wail:  
 13 Then while thro' drouth all dumb they stood  
 14 I bit my arm and suck'd the blood  
 15 And cry'd, A sail! a sail!

16 With throat unslack'd, with black lips bak'd  
 17 Agape they hear'd me call:  
 18 Gramercy! they for joy did grin  
 19 And all at once their breath drew in  
 20 As they were drinking all.

21 She doth not tack from side to side—  
 22 Hither to work us weal  
 23 Withouten wind, withouten tide  
 24 She steddies with upright keel.

25 The western wave was all a flame,  
 26 The day was well nigh done!  
 27 Almost upon the western wave  
 28 Rested the broad bright Sun;  
 29 When that strange shape drove suddenly  
 30 Betwixt us and the Sun.

---

9 an it] as if *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; dodg'd] dodged *LB1805*

10 It plung'd and tack'd and veer'd] It plunged and tacked and veered *LB1805*

11 unslack'd] unslaked *LB1805*; bak'd] baked *LB1805*

12 Ne could we laugh, ne wail] We could nor laugh nor wail *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

13 Then while thro' drouth all dumb they stood] Thro' utter drouth all dumb we stood *LB1800, LB1802*;  
 Through utter drouth all dumb we stood *LB1805*

14 I bit my arm] Till I bit my arm *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; suck'd] sucked *LB1805*

15 cry'd] cried *LB180*

16 unslack'd] unslaked *LB1805*; bak'd] baked *LB1805*

17 hear'd] heard *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

21 She doth not tack from side to side—] See! See! (I cry'd) she tacks no more! *LB1800, LB1802*; See! See!  
 (I cried) she tacks no more! *LB1805*

23 Withouten wind] Without a breeze *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; withouten tide] without a tide  
*LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

31 And strait the Sun was fleck'd with bars  
 32 (Heaven's mother send us grace)  
 33 As if thro' a dungeon grate he peer'd  
 34 With broad and burning face.

35 Alas! (thought I, and my heart beat loud)  
 36 How fast she neres and neres!  
 37 Are those *her* Sails that glance in the Sun  
 38 Like restless gossamers?

39 Are those *her* naked ribs, which fleck'd  
 40 The sun that did behind them peer?  
 41 And are those two all, all the crew,  
 42 That woman and her fleshless Pheere?

43 *His* bones were black with many a crack,  
 44 All black and bare, I ween;  
 45 Jet-black and bare, save where with rust  
 46 Of mouldy damp and charnel crust  
 47 They're patch'd with purple and green.

48 *Her* lips are red, *her* looks are free,  
 49 *Her* locks are yellow as gold:  
 50 Her skin is as white as leprosy,  
 51 And she is far liker Death than he;  
 52 Her flesh makes the still air cold.

---

31 And strait] And straight *LB1805*; fleck'd] flecked *LB1805*  
 32 mother] Mother *LB1802, LB1805*; grace)] grace! *LB1805*  
 33 thro')] through *LB1805*; peer'd] peered *LB1805*  
 39 Are those her naked ribs, which fleck'd] Are those her Ribs, thro' which the Sun *LB1800, LB1802*; Are those her Ribs, through which the Sun *LB1805* (  
 40 The sun that did behind them peer] Did peer, as thro' a grate *LB1800, LB1802*; Did peer, as through a grate *LB1805*  
 41 the] her *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 42 woman] Woman *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; fleshless Pheere] Mate *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 47 They're patch'd] They were patch'd *LB1800, LB1802*; They were patched *LB1805*  
 48 lips are red] lips were red *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; looks are free] looks were free *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 49 are] were *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 50 is] was *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 51 is] was *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 52 makes] made *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

53 The naked Hulk alongside came  
 54 And the Twain were playing dice;  
 55 “The Game is done! I’ve won, I’ve won!”  
 56 Quoth she, and whistled thrice.

57 A gust of wind sterte up behind  
 58 And whistled thro’ his bones;  
 59 Thro’ the holes of his eyes and the hole of his mouth  
 60 Half-whistles and half-groans.

61 With never a whisper in the Sea  
 62 Off darts the Spectre-ship;  
 63 While clombe above the Eastern bar  
 64 The horned Moon, with one bright Star  
 65 Almost atween the tips.

66 One after one by the horned Moon  
 67 (Listen, O Stranger! to me)  
 68 Each turn’d his face with a ghastly pang  
 69 And curs’d me with his ee.

70 Four times fifty living men,  
 71 With never a sigh or groan,  
 72 With heavy thump, a lifeless lump  
 73 They dropp’d down one by one.

74 Their souls did from their bodies fly,—  
 75 They fled to bliss or woe;  
 76 And every soul it pass’d me by,  
 77 Like the whiz of my Cross-bow.

---

58 thro’] through *LB1805*

59 holes] hole *LB1802, LB1805*

60 Half-whistles] Half whistles *LB1802*

62 Of] Off *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

65 atween] between *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

68 turn’d] turned *LB1805*

69 curs’d] cursed *LB1805*

73 dropp’d] dropped *LB1805*

76 pass’d] passed *LB1805*

## IV.

1 "I fear thee, ancient Marinere!  
 2 "I fear thy skinny hand;  
 3 "And thou art long and lank and brown  
 4 "As is the ribb'd Sea-sand.

5 "I fear thee and thy glittering eye  
 6 "And thy skinny hand so brown—  
 7 Fear not, fear not, thou wedding guest!  
 8 This body dropt not down.

9 Alone, alone, all all alone  
 10 Alone on the wide wide Sea;  
 11 And Christ would take no pity on  
 12 My soul in agony.

13 The many men so beautiful,  
 14 And they all dead did lie!  
 15 And a million million slimy things  
 16 Liv'd on—and so did I.

17 I look'd upon the rotting Sea,  
 18 And drew my eyes away;  
 19 I look'd upon the eldritch deck,  
 20 And there the dead men lay.

21 I look'd to Heaven, and try'd to pray;  
 22 But or ever a prayer had gusht,  
 23 A wicked whisper came and made  
 24 My heart as dry as dust.

---

1 ancient Marinere] ancient Mariner *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

4 ribb'd] ribbed *LB1805*

7 wedding guest] wedding-guest *LB1805*

16 Liv'd] Lived *LB1805*

17 look'd] looked *LB1805*

19 look'd] looked *LB1805*; eldritch] ghastly *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

21 look'd] looked *LB1805*; try'd] tried *LB1805*

25 I clos'd my lids and kept them close,  
 26 Till the balls like pulses beat;  
 27 For the sky and the sea, and the sea and the sky  
 28 Lay like a load on my weary eye,  
 29 And the dead were at my feet.

30 The cold sweat melted from their limbs,  
 31 Ne rot, ne reek did they;  
 32 The look with which they look'd on me,  
 33 Had never pass'd away.

34 An orphan's curse would drag to Hell  
 35 A spirit from on high:  
 36 But O! more horrible than that  
 37 Is the curse in a dead man's eye!  
 38 Seven days, seven nights I saw that curse,  
 39 And yet I could not die.

40 The moving Moon went up the sky  
 41 And no where did abide:  
 42 Softly she was going up  
 43 And a star or two beside—

44 Her beams bemock'd the sultry main  
 45 Like morning frosts yspread;  
 46 But where the ship's huge shadow lay,  
 47 The charmed water burnt alway  
 48 A still and awful red.

---

25 clos'd] closed *LB1805*

31 Ne rot, ne reek] Nor rot, nor reek *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

32 look'd] looked *LB1805*

33 pass'd] passed *LB1805*

44 bemock'd] bemocked *LB1805*

45 morning frosts yspread] April hoar-frost spread *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

46 ship's] Ship's *LB1802, LB1805*

49 Beyond the shadow of the ship  
 50 I watch'd the water-snakes:  
 51 They mov'd in tracks of shining white;  
 52 And when they rear'd, the elfish light  
 53 Fell off in hoary flakes.

54 Within the shadow of the ship  
 55 I watch'd their rich attire:  
 56 Blue, glossy green, and velvet black  
 57 They coil'd and swam; and every track  
 58 Was a flash of golden fire.

59 O happy living things! no tongue  
 60 Their beauty might declare:  
 61 A spring of love gusht from my heart,  
 62 And I bless'd them unaware!  
 63 Sure my kind saint took pity on me,  
 64 And I bless'd them unaware.

65 The self-same moment I could pray;  
 66 And from my neck so free  
 67 The Albatross fell off, and sank  
 68 Like lead into the sea.

## V.

1 O sleep, it is a gentle thing  
 2 Belov'd from pole to pole!  
 3 To Mary-queen the praise be yeven  
 4 She sent the gentle sleep from heaven  
 5 That slid into my soul.

---

50 watch'd] watched *LB1805*

51 mov'd] moved *LB1805*

52 rear'd] reared *LB1805*

55 watch'd] watched *LB1805*

57 coil'd] coiled *LB1805*

62 bless'd] blessed *LB1805*

64 bless'd] blessed *LB1805*

2 Belov'd] Beloved *LB1805*

3 yeven] given *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

6 The silly buckets on the deck  
 7 That had so long remain'd,  
 8 I dreamt that they were fill'd with dew  
 9 And when I awoke it rain'd.

10 My lips were wet, my throat was cold,  
 11 My garments all were dank;  
 12 Sure I had drunken in my dreams  
 13 And still my body drank.

14 I mov'd and could not feel my limbs,  
 15 I was so light, almost  
 16 I thought that I had died in sleep,  
 17 And was a blessed Ghost.

18 The roaring wind! it roar'd far off,  
 19 It did not come anear;  
 20 But with its sound it shook the sails  
 21 That were so thin and sere.

22 The upper air bursts into life,  
 23 And a hundred fire-flags sheen  
 24 To and fro they are hurried about;  
 25 And to and fro, and in and out  
 26 The stars dance on between.

27 The coming wind doth roar more loud;  
 28 The sails do sigh, like sedge:  
 29 The rain pours down from one black cloud  
 30 And the Moon is at its edge.

---

7 remain'd] remained *LB1805*

8 fill'd] filled *LB1805*

9 rain'd] rained *LB1805*

14 mov'd] moved *LB1805*

18 The roaring wind! it roar'd far off] And soon I heard a roaring wind *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

22 bursts] burst *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

24 are] were *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

26 stars dance on] wan stars danc'd *LB1800, LB1802*; wan stars danced *LB1805*

27 The] And the *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*. doth] did *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

28 The sails do sigh] And the sails did sigh *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

29 The rain pours down] And the rain pour'd down *LB1800, LB1802*; And the rain poured down *LB1805*

30 And the Moon is at its edge] The moon was at its edge *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

31 Hark! hark! the thick black cloud is cleft,  
 32 And the Moon is at its side:  
 33 Like waters shot from some high crag,  
 34 The lightning falls with never a jag  
 35 A river steep and wide.

36 The strong wind reach'd the ship: it roar'd  
 37 And dropp'd down, like a stone!  
 38 Beneath the lightning and the moon  
 39 The dead men gave a groan.

40 They groan'd, they stirr'd, they all uprose,  
 41 Ne spake, ne mov'd their eyes:  
 42 It had been strange, even in a dream  
 43 To have seen those dead men rise.

44 The helmsman steer'd, the ship mov'd on;  
 45 Yet never a breeze up-blew;  
 46 The Mariners all 'gan work the ropes,  
 47 Where they were wont to do:

48 They rais'd their limbs like lifeless tools—  
 49 We were a ghastly crew.

50 The body of my brother's son  
 51 Stood by me knee to knee:  
 52 The body and I pull'd at one rope,  
 53 But he said nought to me—  
 54 And I quak'd to think of my own voice  
 55 How frightful it would be!

31 Hark! Hark! the thick black cloud is cleft] The thick black cloud was cleft, and still *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

32 And the Moon is at its side] The Moon was at its side *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

34 falls] fell *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

36 The strong wind reach'd the ship: it roar'd] The loud wind never reach'd the Ship *LB1800, LB1802*;  
 The loud wind never reached the Ship *LB1805*

37 And dropp'd down, like a stone] Yet now the Ship mov'd on *LB1800, LB1802*; Yet now the Ship  
 moved on *LB1805*

40 groan'd] groaned *LB1805*; stirr'd] stirred *LB1805*

41 Ne] Nor *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; ne mov'd] nor mov'd *LB1802, LB1802*; nor moved *LB1805*

44 steer'd] steerd *LB1802*; steered *LB1805*; mov'd] moved *LB1805*

46 Mariners] Mariners *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

48 rais'd] raised *LB1805*

52 pull'd] pulled *LB1805*

54-55 Missing *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

- 56 The day-light dawn'd—they dropp'd their arms,  
 57 And cluster'd round the mast:  
 58 Sweet sounds rose slowly thro' their mouths  
 59 And from their bodies pass'd.  
  
 60 Around, around, flew each sweet sound,  
 61 Then darted to the sun:  
 62 Slowly the sounds came back again  
 63 Now mix'd, now one by one.  
  
 64 Sometimes a dropping from the sky  
 65 I heard the Lavrock sing;  
 66 Sometimes all little birds that are  
 67 How they seem'd to fill the sea and air  
 68 With their sweet jargoning,  
  
 69 And now 'twas like all instruments,  
 70 Now like a lonely flute;  
 71 And now it is an angel's song  
 72 That makes the heavens be mute.  
  
 73 It ceas'd: yet still the sails made on  
 74 A pleasant noise till noon,  
 75 A noise like of a hidden brook  
 76 In the leafy month of June,  
 77 That to the sleeping woods all night  
 78 Singeth a quiet tune.  
  
 79 Listen, O listen, thou Wedding-guest!  
 80 "Marinere! thou hast thy will:  
 81 "For that, which comes out of thine eye, doth make  
 82 "My body and soul to be still."

---

56 The day-light dawn'd] For when it dawn'd *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; For when it  
 dawned *LB1805*; dropp'd] dropped *LB1805*  
 57 cluster'd] clustered *LB1805*  
 58 thro'] through *LB1805*  
 59 pass'd] passed *LB1805*  
 63 mix'd] mixed *LB1805*  
 64 a dropping] a-dropping *LB1805*  
 65 Lavrock] Sky-lark *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 67 seem'd] seemed *LB1805*  
 73 ceas'd] ceased *LB1805*  
 79-82 lacking *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

83 Never sadder tale was told  
 84 To a man of woman born:  
 85 Sadder and wiser thou wedding-guest!  
 86 Thou'lt rise to morrow morn.

87 Never sadder tale was heard  
 88 By a man of woman born:  
 89 The Mariners all return'd to work  
 90 As silent as beforne.

91 The Mariners all 'gan pull the ropes,  
 92 But look at me they nold:  
 93 Thought I, I am as thin as air—  
 94 They cannot me behold.

95 Till noon we silently sail'd on  
 96 Yet never a breeze did breathe:  
 97 Slowly and smoothly went the ship  
 98 Mov'd onward from beneath.

99 Under the keel nine fathom deep  
 100 From the land of mist and snow  
 101 The spirit slid: and it was He  
 102 That made the Ship to go.  
 103 The sails at noon left off their tune  
 104 And the Ship stood still also.

105 The sun right up above the mast  
 106 Had fix'd her to the ocean:  
 107 But in a minute she 'gan stir  
 108 With a short uneasy motion—  
 109 Backwards and forwards half her length  
 110 With a short uneasy motion.

111 Then, like a pawing horse let go,  
 112 She made a sudden bound:  
 113 It flung the blood into my head,  
 114 And I fell into a swoond.

---

83-94 *lacking* LB1800, LB1802, LB1805

95 sail'd] sailed LB1805

97 ship] Ship LB1800, LB1802, LB1805

98 Mov'd] Moved LB1805

101 spirit] Spirit LB1805

106 fix'd] fixed LB1805

115 How long in that same fit I lay,  
116 I have not to declare;  
117 But ere my living life return'd,  
118 I heard and in my soul discern'd  
119 Two voices in the air,

120 "Is it he? quoth one, "Is this the man?  
121 "By him who died on cross,  
122 "With his cruel bow he lay'd full low  
123 "The harmless Albatross.

124 "The spirit who bideth by himself  
125 "In the land of mist and snow,  
126 "He lov'd the bird that lov'd the man  
127 "Who shot him with his bow.

128 The other was a softer voice,  
129 As soft as honey-dew:  
130 Quoth he the man hath penance done,  
131 And penance more will do.

---

117 return'd] returned *LB1805*

118 discern'd] discerned *LB1805*

122 lay'd] laid *LB1805*

124 spirit] Spirit *LB1805*. 'bideth] bideth *LB1805*

## VI.

**First Voice.**

- 1 "But tell me, tell me! speak again,  
 2 "Thy soft response renewing—  
 3 "What makes that ship drive on so fast?  
 4 "What is the Ocean doing?

**Second Voice.**

- 5 "Still as a Slave before his Lord,  
 6 "The Ocean hath no blast:  
 7 "His great bright eye most silently  
 8 "Up to the moon is cast—  
 9 "If he may know which way to go,  
 10 "For she guides him smooth or grim.  
 11 "See, brother, see! how graciously  
 12 "She looketh down on him.

**First Voice.**

- 13 "But why drives on that ship so fast  
 14 "Withouten wave or wind?

**Second Voice.**

- 15 "The air is cut away before,  
 16 "And closes from behind.  
 17 "Fly, brother, fly! more high, more high,  
 18 "Or we shall be belated:  
 19 "For slow and slow that ship will go,  
 20 "When the Marinere's trance is abated."  
 21 I woke, and we were sailing on  
 22 As in a gentle weather:  
 23 'Twas night, calm night, the moon was high;  
 24 The dead men stood together.

- 25 All stood together on the deck,  
 26 For a charnel-dungeon fitter:  
 27 All fix'd on me their stony eyes  
 28 That in the moon did glitter.
- 29 The pang, the curse, with which they died,  
 30 Had never pass'd away:  
 31 I could not draw my een from theirs  
 32 Ne turn them up to pray.
- 33 And in its time the spell was snapt,  
 34 And I could move my een:  
 35 I look'd far-forth, but little saw  
 36 Of what might else be seen.
- 37 Like one, that on a lonely road  
 38 Doth walk in fear and dread,  
 39 And having once turn'd round, walks on  
 40 And turns no more his head:  
 41 Because he knows, a frightful fiend  
 42 Doth close behind him tread.
- 43 But soon there breath'd a wind on me,  
 44 Ne sound ne motion made:  
 45 Its path was not upon the sea  
 46 In ripple or in shade.
- 47 It rais'd my hair, it fann'd my cheek,  
 48 Like a meadow-gale of spring—  
 49 It mingled strangely with my fears,  
 50 Yet it felt like a welcoming.

---

27 fix'd] fixed *LB1805*

30 pass'd] passed *LB1805*

31 een] eyes *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

32 Ne] Nor *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

33 in its time the] now this *LB1800, LB1802, LB 1805* snapt,] snapt: once more *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*;

34 And I could move my een:] I view'd the ocean green, *LB1800, LB1802* I viewed the ocean green, *LB1805*

35 I look'd far-forth, but] And look'd far forth, yet *LB1800, LB1802* And looked far forth, yet *LB1805*

36 might else be] had else been *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

37 lonely] lonesome in *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

39 turn'd] turned *LB1805*

43 breath'd] breathed *LB1805*

44 Ne sound ne] Nor sound nor *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

47 rais'd] raised *LB1805*; fann'd] fanned *LB1805*

49 ftrangely] strangely *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

51 Swiftly, swiftly flew the ship,  
 52 Yet she sail'd softly too:  
 53 Sweetly, sweetly blew the breeze—  
 54 On me alone it blew.

55 O dream of joy! is this indeed  
 56 The light-house top I see?  
 57 Is this the Hill? Is this the Kirk?  
 58 Is this mine own countrée?

59 We drifted o'er the Harbour-bar,  
 60 And I with sobs did pray—  
 61 “O let me be awake, my God!  
 62 “Or let me sleep away!”

63 The harbour-bay was clear as glass,  
 64 So smoothly it was strewn!  
 65 And on the bay the moon light lay,  
 66 And the shadow of the moon.

67 The moonlight bay was white all o'er,  
 68 Till rising from the same,  
 69 Full many shapes, that shadows were,  
 70 Like as of torches came.

---

52 sail'd] sailed *LB1805*

62 fleep] sleep *LB1800, LB1802, 1805*

65 moon light] moonlight *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

67-70 lacking *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

- 71 A little distance from the prow  
 72 Those dark-red shadows were;  
 73 But soon I saw that my own flesh  
 74 Was red as in a glare.
- 75 I turn'd my head in fear and dread,  
 76 And by the holy rood,  
 77 The bodies had advanc'd, and now  
 78 Before the mast they stood.
- 79 They lifted up their stiff right arms,  
 80 They held them strait and tight;  
 81 And each right-arm burnt like a torch,  
 82 A torch that's borne upright.  
 83 Their stony eye-balls glitter'd on  
 84 In the red and smoky light.
- 85 I pray'd and turn'd my head away  
 86 Forth looking as before.  
 87 There was no breeze upon the bay,  
 88 No wave against the shore.
- 89 The rock shone bright, the kirk no less  
 90 That stands above the rock:  
 91 The moonlight steep'd in silentness  
 92 The steady weathercock.
- 93 And the bay was white with silent light,  
 94 Till rising from the same  
 95 Full many shapes, that shadows were,  
 96 In crimson colours came.

---

71-74 *lacking* LB1800, LB1802, LB1805

75-78 *lacking* LB1800, LB1802, LB1805

79-84 *lacking* LB1800, LB1802, LB1805

85-88 *lacking* missing LB1800, LB1802, LB1805

89 [hone] shone LB1800, LB1802, LB1805

91 steep'd] steeped LB1805

97 A little distance from the prow  
 98 Those crimson shadows were:  
 99 I turn'd my eyes upon the deck—  
 100 O Christ! what saw I there?  
  
 101 Each corse lay flat, lifeless and flat;  
 102 And by the Holy rood  
 103 A man all light, a seraph-man,  
 104 On every corse there stood.  
  
 105 This seraph-band, each wav'd his hand:  
 106 It was a heavenly sight:  
 107 They stood as signals to the land,  
 108 Each one a lovely light:  
  
 109 This seraph-band, each wav'd his hand,  
 110 No voice did they impart—  
 111 No voice; but O! the silence sank,  
 112 Like music on my heart.  
  
 113 Eftsones I heard the dash of oars,  
 114 I heard the pilot's cheer:  
 115 My head was turn'd perforce away  
 116 And I saw a boat appear.  
  
 117 Then vanish'd all the lovely lights;  
 118 The bodies rose anew:  
 119 With silent pace, each to his place,  
 120 Came back the ghastly crew.  
 121 The wind, that shade nor motion made,  
 122 On me alone it blew.

---

99 turn'd] turned *LB1805*

100 Chrift] Christ *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

101 lifelefs] lifeless *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

105 wav'd] waved *LB1805*

109 wav'd] waved *LB1805*

113 Eftsones] But soon *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

115 turn'd] turned *LB1805*

123 The pilot, and the pilot's boy  
 124 I heard them coming fast:  
 125 Dear Lord in Heaven! it was a joy,  
 126 The dead men could not blast.  
  
 127 I saw a third—I heard his voice:  
 128 It is the Hermit good!  
 129 He singeth loud his godly hymns  
 130 That he makes in the wood.  
 131 He'll shrive my soul, he'll wash away  
 132 The Albatross's blood.

## VII.

1 This Hermit good lives in that wood  
 2 Which slopes down to the Sea.  
 3 How loudly his sweet voice he rears!  
 4 He loves to talk with Marineres  
 5 That come from a far Contrée.  
  
 6 He kneels at morn and noon and eve—  
 7 He hath a cushion plump:  
 8 It is the moss, that wholly hides  
 9 The rotted old Oak-stump.  
  
 10 The Skiff-boat ne'rd: I heard them talk,  
 11 "Why, this is strange, I trow!  
 12 "Where are those lights so many and fair  
 13 "That signal made but now?  
  
 14 "Strange, by my faith! the Hermit said—  
 15 "And they answer'd not our cheer.  
 16 "The planks look warp'd, and see those sails  
 17 "How thin they are and sere!  
 18 "I never saw aught like to them  
 19 "Unless perchance it were

---

126 *lacking LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

129 *ingeth] singeth LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

4 *Marineres] Mariners LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

5 *Contrée] countrée LB1800, LB1802, LB1805; countrée LB1805*

10 *ne'rd] ner'd LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

15 *answer'd ] answered LB1805*

20 “The skeletons of leaves that lag  
 21 “My forest brook along:  
 22 “When the Ivy-tod is heavy with snow,  
 23 “And the Owlet whoops to the wolf below  
 24 “That eats the she-wolf’s young.

25 “Dear Lord! it has a fiendish look—  
 26 (The Pilot made reply)  
 27 “I am a-fear’d.—”Push on, push on!  
 28 “Said the Hermit cheerily.

29 The Boat came closer to the Ship,  
 30 But I ne spake ne stirr’d!  
 31 The Boat came close beneath the Ship,  
 32 And strait a sound was heard!

33 Under the water it rumbled on,  
 34 Still louder and more dread:  
 35 It reach’d the Ship, it split the bay;  
 36 The Ship went down like lead.

37 Stunn’d by that loud and dreadful sound,  
 38 Which sky and ocean smote:  
 39 Like one that hath been seven days drown’d  
 40 My body lay afloat:

41 But, swift as dreams, myself I found  
 42 Within the Pilot’s boat.

43 Upon the whirl, where sank the Ship,  
 44 The boat spun round and round:  
 45 And all was still, save that the hill  
 46 Was telling of the sound.

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26 Pilot] pilot *LB 1805*

27 a-fear’d] a-feared *LB1805*

30 ne spake ne stirr’d] nor spake nor stirr’d *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805* nor spake nor stirred *LB1805*

32 strait] straight *LB1805*

35 reach’d the Ship] reached the ship *LB1805*

36 Ship] ship *LB1805*

37 stunn’d] stunned *LB1805*

- 47 I mov'd my lips: the Pilot shriek'd  
 48 And fell down in a fit.  
 49 The Holy Hermit rais'd his eyes  
 50 And pray'd where he did sit.  
  
 51 I took the oars: the Pilot's boy,  
 52 Who now doth crazy go,  
 53 Laugh'd loud and long, and all the while  
 54 His eyes went to and fro,  
 55 "Ha! ha!" quoth he—"full plain I see,  
 56 "The devil knows how to row."  
  
 57 And now all in mine own Countrée  
 58 I stood on the firm land!  
 59 The Hermit stepp'd forth from the boat,  
 60 And scarcely he could stand.  
  
 61 "O shrieve me, shrieve me, holy Man!  
 62 The Hermit cross'd his brow—  
 63 "Say quick," quoth he, "I bid thee say  
 64 "What manner man art thou?  
  
 65 Forthwith this frame of mine was wrench'd  
 66 With a woeful agony,  
 67 Which forc'd me to begin my tale  
 68 And then it left me free.  
  
 69 Since then at an uncertain hour,  
 70 Now oftimes and now fewer,  
 71 That anguish comes and makes me tell  
 72 My ghastly aventure.

---

47 mov'd] shriek'd]; *LB1800, LB 1802*; moved shrieked *LB1805*

49 rais'd] raised *LB1805*

50 pray'd] prayed *LB1805*

53 Laugh'd] laughed *LB1805*

57 Countrée] countrée *LB1805*

59 stepp'd] stepped *LB1805*

62 cross'd] crossed *LB1805*

65 mine] mind *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; wrench'd] wrenched *LB1805*

67 forc'd] forced *LB1805*

70 Now oftimes and now fewer, / That anguish comes and makes me tell / My ghastly aventure]  
 That agency returns; / And till my ghastly tale is told / This heart within me burns. *LB1800*;  
 agency] agony *LB1802, LB1805*

73 I pass, like night, from land to land;  
 74 I have strange power of speech;  
 75 The moment that his face I see  
 76 I know the man that must hear me;  
 77 To him my tale I teach.

78 What loud uproar bursts from that door!  
 79 The Wedding-guests are there;  
 80 But in the Garden-bower the Bride  
 81 And Bride-maids singing are:  
 82 And hark the little Vesper-bell  
 83 Which biddeth me to prayer.

84 O Wedding-guest! this soul hath been  
 85 Alone on a wide wide sea:  
 86 So lonely 'twas, that God himself  
 87 Scarce seemed there to be.

88 O sweeter than the Marriage-feast,  
 89 'Tis sweeter far to me  
 90 To walk together to the Kirk  
 91 With a goodly company.

92 To walk together to the Kirk  
 93 And all together pray,  
 94 While each to his great father bends,  
 95 Old men, and babes, and loving friends,  
 96 And Youths, and Maidens gay.

97 Farewell, farewell! but this I tell  
 98 To thee, thou wedding-guest!  
 99 He prayeth well who loveth well,  
 100 Both man and bird and beast.

---

84 Wedding] wedding *LB1805*

80 Garden] garden *LB1805*

81 Bride] bride *LB1805* [Bride] bride *LB1805*

82 Vesper] vesper *LB1805*

84 Wedding] wedding *LB1805*

88 Marriage] marriage *LB1805*

91 company] company.— *LB1805*

94 father] Father *LB1805*

96 Youths] youths *LB1805* Maidens] maidens *LB1805*

97 but] But *LB1805*

99 In errata: "Omit comma after 'loveth well,'" loveth well,] loveth well *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805, WCLB*

101 He prayeth best who loveth best,  
 102 All things both great and small:  
 103 For the dear God, who loveth us,  
 104 He made and loveth all.

105 The Marinere, whose eye is bright,  
 106 Whose beard with age is hoar,  
 107 Is gone; and now the wedding-guest  
 108 Turn'd from the bridegroom's door.

109 He went, like one that hath been stunn'd  
 110 And is of sense forlorn:  
 111 A sadder and a wiser man  
 112 He rose the morrow morn.

---

105 Marinere] Mariner *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

108 Turn'd] Turned *LB1805*

109 stunn'd] stunned *LB1805*

THE FOSTER-MOTHER'S TALE,  
A DRAMATIC FRAGMENT

FOSTER-MOTHER.

1 I never saw the man whom you describe.

MARIA.

2 'Tis strange! he spake of you familiarly  
3 As mine and Albert's common Foster-mother.

FOSTER-MOTHER.

4 Now blessings on the man, whoe'er he be,  
5 That joined your names with mine! O my sweet lady,  
6 As often as I think of those dear times  
7 When you two little ones would stand at eve  
8 On each side of my chair, and make me learn  
9 All you had learnt in the day; and how to talk  
10 In gentle phrase, then bid me sing to you---  
11 'Tis more like heaven to come than what has been.

MARIA.

12 O my dear Mother! this strange man has left me  
13 Troubled with wilder fancies, than the moon  
14 Breeds in the love-sick maid who gazes at it,  
15 Till lost in inward vision, with wet eye  
16 She gazes idly!—But that entrance, Mother!

*Subtitle* Dramatic Fragment] Narration in Dramatic Blank Verse *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
1-16 (as far as "idly!—" ) *lacking LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

*The Foster-Mother's Tale, A Dramatic Fragment.* Extracted from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's play *Osorio* (1797). See *WCLB* 126. Note by ED as follows:

This is a fragment from the fourth act of Coleridge's *Osorio*, afterwards acted and printed in its revised form as *Remorse*. The author considered the scene unfit for the stage, and printed it in the Appendix to *Remorse*. A version from a MS. is given by Cottle in his *Early Recollections of Coleridge*, 1837, vol. i. pp. 235-238. The opening lines are omitted from the later editions of *Lyrical Ballads*, where the scene begins with—

"But that entrance, Mother!"

The line—

"And once as he was working in the cellar."

Becomes in *Lyrical Ballads*, 1802 and 1805—

"And once he was working near the cell."

In *Remorse*—

"And once as he was working near this dungeon."

FOSTER-MOTHER.

17 Can no one hear? It is a perilous tale!

MARIA.

18 No one.

FOSTER-MOTHER.

18 My husband's father told it me,  
 19 Poor old Leoni!—Angels rest his soul!  
 20 He was a woodman, and could fell and saw  
 21 With lusty arm. You know that huge round beam  
 22 Which props the hanging wall of the old chapel?  
 23 Beneath that tree, while yet it was a tree  
 24 He found a baby wrapt in mosses, lined  
 25 With thistle-beards, and such small locks of wool  
 26 As hang on brambles. Well, he brought him home,  
 27 And reared him at the then Lord Velez' cost.  
 28 And so the babe grew up a pretty boy,  
 29 A pretty boy, but most unteachable—  
 30 And never learnt a prayer, nor told a bead,  
 31 But knew the names of birds, and mocked their notes,  
 32 And whistled, as he were a bird himself:  
 33 And all the autumn 'twas his only play  
 34 To get the seeds of wild flowers, and to plant them  
 35 With earth and water, on the stumps of trees.  
 36 A Friar, who gathered simples in the wood,  
 37 A grey-haired man—he loved this little boy,  
 38 The boy loved him—and, when the Friar taught him,  
 39 He soon could write with the pen: and from that time,  
 40 Lived chiefly at the Convent or the Castle.  
 41 So he became a very learned youth.  
 42 But Oh! poor wretch!—he read, and read, and read,  
 43 'Till his brain turned—and ere his twentieth year,  
 44 He had unlawful thoughts of many things:  
 45 And though he prayed, he never loved to pray  
 46 With holy men, nor in a holy place—  
 47 But yet his speech, it was so soft and sweet,  
 48 The late Lord Velez ne'er was wearied with him.

---

25 thistle-beards] thistle beards *LB1800, LB1802*

34 get the] gather *LB1802, LB1805*

36 gathered] sought for *LB1802, LB1805*

37 grey] gray *LB1805*

42 wretch!] wretch *LB1802, LB1805*

43 'Till] Till *LB1805*

49 And once, as by the north side of the Chapel  
 50 They stood together, chained in deep discourse,  
 51 The earth heaved under them with such a groan,  
 52 That the wall tottered, and had well-nigh fallen  
 53 Right on their heads. My Lord was sorely frightened;  
 54 A fever seized him, and he made confession  
 55 Of all the heretical and lawless talk  
 56 Which brought this judgment: so the youth was seized  
 57 And cast into that hole. My husband's father  
 58 Sobbed like a child—it almost broke his heart:  
 59 And once as he was working in the cellar,  
 60 He heard a voice distinctly; 'twas the youth's,  
 61 Who sung a doleful song about green fields,  
 62 How sweet it were on lake or wild savannah,  
 63 To hunt for food, and be a naked man,  
 64 And wander up and down at liberty.  
 65 He always doted on the youth, and now  
 66 His love grew desperate; and defying death,  
 67 He made that cunning entrance I described:  
 68 And the young man escaped.

MARIA.

68 'Tis a sweet tale:  
 69 Such as would lull a listening child to sleep,  
 70 His rosy face besoiled with unwiped tears.—  
 71 And what became of him?

FOSTER-MOTHER.

71 He went on ship-board  
 72 With those bold voyagers, who made discovery  
 73 Of golden lands. Leoni's younger brother  
 74 Went likewise, and when he returned to Spain,  
 75 He told Leoni, that the poor mad youth,  
 76 Soon after they arrived in that new world,  
 77 In spite of his dissuasion, seized a boat,  
 78 And all alone, set sail by silent moonlight  
 79 Up a great river, great as any sea,  
 80 And ne'er was heard of more: but 'tis supposed,  
 81 He lived and died among the savage men.

---

57 hole] cell *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 59 in the cellar] near the cellar *LB1802, LB1805*  
 61 sung] sang *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 65 He always] Leoni *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 69-70 lacking *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

LINES LEFT UPON A SEAT IN A YEW-TREE  
WHICH STANDS NEAR THE LAKE OF ESTHWAITE, ON A DESOLATE PART OF THE  
SHORE, YET COMMANDING A BEAUTIFUL PROSPECT.

- 1 —Nay, Traveller! rest. This lonely yew-tree stands  
2 Far from all human dwelling : what if here  
3 No sparkling rivulet spread the verdant herb;  
4 What if these barren boughs the bee not loves;  
5 Yet, if the wind breathe soft, the curling waves,  
6 That break against the shore, shall lull thy mind  
7 By one soft impulse saved from vacancy.

---

1 —Nay] Nay *LB1805*; yew-tree] Yew-tree *LB1805*

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*Lines left upon a Seat in a Yew-tree*.... 1795–1797. See *WCLB* 127. Note by ED as follows:

The date of this poem is 1795, but it was in part written by Wordsworth when at school at Hawkshead. The alterations in the later texts are not many. The following is the most considerable:

“In youth by science nursed  
And led by nature into a wild scene  
Of lofty hopes, he to the world went forth,  
A favored being, knowing no desire  
Which genius did not hallow, ‘gainst the taint  
Of dissolute tongues, and jealousy, and hate  
And scorn, against all enemies prepared,  
All but neglect. The word, for so I thought,  
Owed him no service: he was like a plant

Fair to the sun, the darling of the winds,  
But hung with fruit which no one, that passed by,  
Regarded, and, his spirit damped at once,  
With indignation did he turn away  
And with,” &c. 1800.

In 1802 Wordsworth omitted the image of the plant fruitful but unregarded, reading—

“Owed him no service: wherefore he at once  
With indignation turn’d himself away.”

“The individual whose habits and character are here given, was a gentleman of the neighbourhood, a man of talent and learning, who had been educated at one of our Universities, and returned to pass his time in seclusion on his own estate. He died a bachelor in middle age.” —Wordsworth: Fenwick note.

8 —————Who he was  
 9 That piled these stones, and with the mossy sod  
 10 First covered o'er, and taught this aged tree,  
 11 Now wild, to bend its arms in circling shade,  
 12 I well remember.—He was one who own'd  
 13 No common soul. In youth, by genius nurs'd,  
 14 And big with lofty views, he to the world  
 15 Went forth, pure in his heart, against the taint  
 16 Of dissolute tongues, 'gainst jealousy, and hate,  
 17 And scorn, against all enemies prepared,  
 18 All but neglect: and so, his spirit damped  
 19 At once, with rash disdain he turned away,  
 20 And with the food of pride sustained his soul  
 21 In solitude.—Stranger! these gloomy boughs  
 22 Had charms for him; and here he loved to sit,  
 23 His only visitants a straggling sheep,  
 24 The stone-chat, or the glancing sand-piper;  
 25 And on these barren rocks, with juniper,  
 26 And heath, and thistle, thinly sprinkled o'er,  
 27 Fixing his downward eye, he many an hour  
 28 A morbid pleasure nourished, tracing here  
 29 An emblem of his own unfruitful life:  
 30 And lifting up his head, he then would gaze  
 31 On the more distant scene; how lovely 'tis  
 32 Thou seest, and he would gaze till it became  
 33 Far lovelier, and his heart could not sustain  
 34 The beauty still more beauteous. Nor, that time,

---

10 tree] Tree *LB1802, LB1805*  
 11 Now wild, to bend its arms in...shade] With its dark arms to form a...bower *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 12 own'd] owned *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 13 genius nurs'd] science nursed *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 14 big with lofty views, he to the world] led by nature into a wild scene *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 14a Of lofty hopes, he to the world went forth *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 14b A favored being, knowing no desire *LB1800, LB1802*; favoured *LB1805*  
 15 Went forth, pure in his heart, against] Which genius did not hallow, 'gainst *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 16 'gainst] and *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 18 and so his spirit damned] The world, for so it thought, *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 18a Owed him now service: he was like a plant *LB1800*  
 18b Fair to the sun, the darling of the winds, *LB1800*  
 18c But hung with fruit wick no one, that passed by *LB1800*  
 18d Regarded, and, his spirit damped at once, *LB1800*  
 19 rash disdain he turned] indignation did he turn *LB1800*; indignation turn'd himself *LB1802*; indignation  
 turned himself *LB1805*  
 27 downward] downcast *LB1800*; down-cast *LB1802, LB1805*  
 31 ;how] ,—how *LB1805*  
 32 seest, and ] seest, —and *LB1805*  
 34a When Nature had subdued him to herself *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

35 Would he forget those beings, to whose minds,  
 36 Warm from the labours of benevolence,  
 37 The world, and man himself, appeared a scene  
 38 Of kindred loveliness: then he would sigh  
 39 With mournful joy, to think that others felt  
 40 What he must never feel: and so, lost man!  
 41 On visionary views would fancy feed,  
 42 Till his eye streamed with tears. In this deep vale  
 43 He died, this seat his only monument.

44 If thou be one whose heart the holy forms  
 45 Of young imagination have kept pure,  
 46 Stranger! henceforth be warned; and know, that pride,  
 47 Howe'er disguised in its own majesty,  
 48 Is littleness; that he, who feels contempt  
 49 For any living thing, hath faculties  
 50 Which he has never used; that thought with him  
 51 Is in its infancy. The man, whose eye  
 52 Is ever on himself, doth look on one,  
 54 The least of nature's works, one who might move  
 55 The wise man to that scorn which wisdom holds  
 56 Unlawful, ever. O, be wiser thou!  
 57 Instructed that true knowledge leads to love,  
 58 True dignity abides with him alone  
 59 Who, in the silent hour of inward thought,  
 60 Can still suspect, and still revere himself,  
 61 In lowliness of heart.

---

40 man] Man *LB1802, LB1805*

43 died, this] died, —this *LB1805*

44 thou] Thou *LB1802, LB1805*

54 nature's] Nature's *LB1802, LB1805*

56 thou!] Thou! *LB1802, LB1805*

THE NIGHTINGALE;  
A CONVERSATIONAL POEM, WRITTEN IN APRIL, 1798.

1 No cloud, no relique of the sunken day  
 2 Distinguishes the West, no long thin slip  
 3 Of sullen Light, no obscure trembling hues.  
 4 Come, we will rest on this old mossy Bridge!  
 5 You see the glimmer of the stream beneath,  
 6 But hear no murmuring: it flows silently  
 7 O'er its soft bed of verdure. All is still,  
 8 A balmy night! and tho' the stars be dim  
 9 Yet let us think upon the vernal showers  
 10 That gladden the green earth, and we shall find  
 11 A pleasure in the dimness of the stars.  
 12. And hark! the Nightingale begins its song,  
 13 "Most musical, most melancholy"\* Bird!  
 14 A melancholy Bird? O idle thought!  
 15 In nature there is nothing melancholy.  
 16 —But some night-wandering Man, whose heart was pierc'd  
 17 With the remembrance of a grievous wrong,  
 18 Or slow distemper or neglected love,  
 19 (And so, poor Wretch! fill'd all things with himself  
 20 And made all gentle sounds tell back the tale  
 21 Of his own sorrows) and he such as he  
 22 First nam'd these notes a melancholy strain;  
 23 And many a poet echoes the conceit,

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*Title* A CONVERSATIONAL POEM, *lacking* LB1800, LB1802, LB1805

8 tho'] though LB1805  
 16 pierc'd] pierced LB 1805  
 19 Wretch! fill'd] wretch! fill'd LB1800; wretch! filled LB1805  
 22 nam'd] named LB1800, LB1805

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*The Nightingale.* April 1798. See WCLB 216. Note by ED as follows:

The lines from "On moonlight bushes" to "love-torch" were omitted in *Lyrical Ballads*, 1800, 1802, 1805. But they reappear in the poem as printed in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817. The words "My Friend and my Friend's sister" [Dorothy Wordsworth] were changed in *Sibylline Leaves* to "My Friend, and thou, our Sister."

13 Wordsworth's footnote: "'Most musical, most melancholy.' This passage in Milton possesses an excellence far superior to that or mere description: it is spoken in the character of the melancholy Man, and has therefore a *dramatic* propriety. The Author makes this remark, to rescue himself from the charge of having alluded with levity to a line in Milton: a charge than which none could be more painful to him, except perhaps that of having ridiculed his Bible."

24 Poet, who hath been building up the rhyme  
 25 When he had better far have stretch'd his limbs  
 26 Beside a brook in mossy forest-dell  
 27 By sun or moonlight, to the influxes  
 28 Of shapes and sounds and shifting elements  
 29 Surrendering his whole spirit, of his song  
 30 And of his fame forgetful! so his fame  
 31 Should share in nature's immortality,  
 32 A venerable thing! and so his song  
 33 Should make all nature lovelier, and itself  
 34 Be lov'd, like nature!—But 'twill not be so;  
 35 And youths and maidens most poetical  
 36 Who lose the deep'ning twilights of the spring  
 37 In ball-rooms and hot theatres, they still  
 38 Full of meek sympathy must heave their sighs  
 39 O'er Philomela's pity-pleading strains.  
 40 My Friend, and my Friend's Sister! we have learnt  
 41 A different lore: we may not thus profane  
 42 Nature's sweet voices always full of love  
 43 And joyance! 'Tis the merry Nightingale  
 44 That crowds, and hurries, and precipitates  
 45 With fast thick warble his delicious notes,  
 46 As he were fearful, that an April night  
 47 Would be too short for him to utter forth  
 48 His love-chant, and disburthen his full soul  
 49 Of all its music! And I know a grove  
 50 Of large extent, hard by a castle huge  
 51 Which the great lord inhabits not: and so  
 52 This grove is wild with tangling underwood,  
 53 And the trim walks are broken up, and grass,  
 54 Thin grass and king-cups grow within the paths.  
 55 But never elsewhere in one play I knew  
 56 So many Nightingales: and far and near  
 57 In wood and thicket over the wide grove  
 58 They answer and provoke each other's songs—  
 59 With skirmish and capricious passagings,  
 60 And murmurs musical and swift jug jug  
 61 And one low piping sound more sweet than all—

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25 stretch'd] stretched *LB1802, LB1805*

27 sun or moonlight] sun or moon-light *LB1802*; sun- or moon-light *LB1805*

34 lov'd] loved *LB1805*



87 Farewell, O Warbler! till to morrow eve,  
 88 And you, my friends! farewell, a short farewell!  
 89 We have been loitering long and pleasantly,  
 90 And now for our dear homes.—That strain again!  
 91 Full fain it would delay me!—My dear Babe,  
 92 Who, capable of no articulate sound,  
 93 Mars all things with his imitative lisp,  
 94 How he would place his hand beside his ear,  
 95 His little hand, the small forefinger up,  
 96 And bid us listen! And I deem it wise  
 97 To make him Nature's playmate. He knows well  
 98 The evening star: and once when we awoke  
 99 In the most distressful mood (some inward pain  
 100 Had made up that strange thing, an infant's dream)  
 101 I hurried with him to our orchard plot,  
 102 And he beholds the moon, and hush'd at once  
 103 Suspends his sobs, and laughs most silently,  
 104 While his fair eyes that swam with undropt tears  
 105 Did glitter in the yellow moon-beam! Well—  
 106 It is a father's tale. But if that Heaven  
 107 Should give me life, his childhood shall grow up  
 108 Familiar with these songs, that with the night  
 109 He may associate Joy! Once more farewell,  
 110 Sweet Nightingale! once more, my friends! farewell.

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91 —My] My *LB1802, LB1805*

102 hush'd] hushed *LB1805*

## THE FEMALE VAGRANT

- 1    By Derwent's side my Father's cottage stood,  
 2    (The Woman thus her artless story told)  
 3    One field, a flock, and what the neighbouring flood  
 4    Supplied, to him were more than mines of gold.  
 5    Light was my sleep; my days in transport roll'd:  
 6    With thoughtless joy I stretch'd along the shore  
 7    My father's nets, or watched, when from the fold  
 8    High o'er the cliffs I led my fleecy store,  
 9    A dizzy depth below! his boat and twinkling oar.
- 10   My father was a good and pious man,  
 11   An honest man by honest parents bred,  
 12   And I believe that, soon as I began  
 13   To lisp, he made me kneel beside my bed,  
 14   And in his hearing there my prayers I said:  
 15   And afterwards, by my good father taught,  
 16   I read, and loved the books in which I read;  
 17   For books in every neighbouring house I sought,  
 18   And nothing to my mind a sweeter pleasure brought.

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1-9    *lacking LB1802, LB1805*

10    *father] Father LB1802, LB1805*

15    *father] Father LB1802, LB1805*

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*The Female Vagrant.* 1798. See *WCLB* 130. Note by ED as follows:

This is an extract from the poem first published in full—seventy-four stanzas—in 1842 with the title “Guiltand Sorrow; or, incidents upon Salisbury Plain.” The date assigned is 1793-94, though it should be observed that in the Fenwick note Wordsworth says, “In fact, much of the Female Vagrant’s story was composed at least two years before.” In the summer of 1793 he spent two days in wandering on foot over Salisbury Plain. The war with France filled his heart with melancholy forebodings. “The monuments and traces of antiquity, scattered in abundance over that region, led me unavoidably to compare what we know or guess of those remote times with certain aspects of modern society, and with calamities, principally those consequent upon war, to which, more than other classes of men, the poor are subject. In these reflections, joined with particular facts that had come to my knowledge, the following stanzas originated.”—Advertisement, 1842. “All that relates to her [the Female Vagrant’s] sufferings as a soldier’s wife in America, and her condition of mind during her voyage home, were faithfully taken from the report made to me of her own case by a friend who had been subjected to the same trials and affected in the same way.”—Fenwick note. The alterations of text are many and important, and will well repay study. Beside those made by Wordsworth from the point of view of poetic art, there are others the object of which seems to be to moderate the force of indictment of society. In its first form the whole poem must have given expression to much of the writer’s youthful Revolutionary sentiment.

19 Can I forget what charms did once adorn  
 20 My garden, stored with pease, and mint, and thyme,  
 21 And rose and lilly for the sabbath morn?  
 22 The sabbath bells, and their delightful chime;  
 23 The gambols and wild freaks at shearing time;  
 24 My hen's rich nest through long grass scarce espied;  
 25 The cowslip-gathering at May's dewy prime;  
 26 The swans, that, when I sought the water-side,  
 27 From far to meet me came, spreading their snowy pride.

28 The staff I yet remember which upbore  
 29 The bending body of my active sire;  
 30 His seat beneath the honeyed sycamore  
 31 When the bees hummed, and chair by winter fire;  
 32 When market-morning came, the neat attire  
 33 With which, though bent on haste, myself I deck'd;  
 34 My watchful dog, whose starts of furious ire,  
 35 When stranger passed, so often I have check'd;  
 36 The red-breast known for years, which at my casement peck'd.

37 The suns of twenty summers danced along,—  
 38 Ah! little marked, how fast they rolled away:  
 39 Then rose a mansion proud our woods among,  
 40 And cottage after cottage owned its sway,  
 41 No joy to see a neighbouring house, or stray  
 42 Through pastures not his own, the master took;  
 43 My Father dared his greedy wish gainsay;  
 44 He loved his old hereditary nook,  
 45 And ill could I the thought of such sad parting brook.

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19-27 *lacking* LB1802, LB1805

28-36 *lacking* LB1802, LB1805

39 mansion proud] stately hall LB1800; stately Hall LB1802, LB1805

41 house] House LB1802, LB1805

46 But, when he had refused the proffered gold,  
 47 To cruel injuries he became a prey,  
 48 Sore traversed in whatever he bought and sold:  
 49 His troubles grew upon him day by day,  
 50 Till all his substance fell into decay.  
 51 His little range of water was denied;<sup>\*</sup>  
 52 All but the bed where his old body lay,  
 53 All, all was seized, and weeping, side by side,  
 54 We sought a home where we uninjured might abide.

55 Can I forget that miserable hour,  
 56 When from the last hill-top, my sire surveyed,  
 57 Peering above the trees, the steeple tower,  
 58 That on his marriage-day sweet music made?  
 59 Till then he hoped his bones might there be laid,  
 60 Close by my mother in their native bowers:  
 61 Bidding me trust in God, he stood and prayed,—  
 62 I could not pray:—through tears that fell in showers,  
 63 Glimmer'd our dear-loved home, alas! no longer ours!

64 There was a youth whom I had loved so long,  
 65 That when I loved him not I cannot say.  
 66 'Mid the green mountains many and many a song  
 67 We two had sung, like little birds in May.  
 68 When we began to tire of childish play  
 69 We seemed still more and more to prize each other:  
 70 We talked of marriage and our marriage day;  
 71 And I in truth did love him like a brother,  
 72 For never could I hope to meet with such another.

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50 Till] And *LB1802, LB1805*

51 His little range of water was denied;] They dealt most hardly with him, and he tried *LB1802, LB1805*

52 All but the bed where his old body lay,] To move their hearts—but it was vain—for they *LB1802, LB1805*

53 All, all was seized,] Seized all he had *LB1802, LB1805*

55 Can I forget that miserable] It was in truth a lamentable *LB1802, LB1805*

56 sire] Sire *LB1802, LB1805*

60 mother] Mother *LB1802, LB1805*

63 Glimmer'd our dear-loved home, alas!] I saw our own dear home, that was *LB1802, LB1805*

64 youth] Youth *LB1802, LB1805*

67 little] gladsome *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

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51 Wordworth's footnote: "Several of the Lakes in the north of English are let to different fishermen in parcels marked out by imaginary lines drawn from rock to rock."

73 His father said, that to a distant town  
 74 He must repair, to ply the artist's trade.  
 75 What tears of bitter grief till then unknown!  
 76 What tender vows our last sad kiss delayed!  
 77 To him we turned:—we had no other aid.  
 78 Like one revived, upon his neck I wept,  
 79 And her whom he had loved in joy, he said  
 80 He well could love in grief: his faith he kept;  
 81 And in a quiet home once more my father slept.

82 Four years each day with daily bread was blest,  
 83 By constant toil and constant prayer supplied.  
 84 Three lovely infants lay upon my breast;  
 85 And often, viewing their sweet smiles, I sighed,  
 86 And knew not why. My happy father died  
 87 When sad distress reduced the children's meal:  
 88 Thrice happy! that from him the grave did hide  
 89 The empty loom, cold hearth, and silent wheel,  
 90 And tears that flowed for ills which patience could not heal.

91 'Twas a hard change, an evil time was come;  
 92 We had no hope, and no relief could gain.  
 93 But soon, with proud parade, the noisy drum  
 94 Beat round, to sweep the streets of want and pain.  
 95 My husband's arms now only served to strain  
 96 Me and his children hungering in his view:  
 97 In such dismay my prayers and tears were vain:  
 98 To join those miserable men he flew;  
 99 And now to the sea-coast, with numbers more, we drew.

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73 His father said, that] Two years were pass'd, since *LB1802, LB1805*

74 Must repair,] had repair'd *LB1802, LB1805*

81 house] home *LB1800*; Home *LB1802, LB1805*; father] Father *LB1802, LB1805*

82 Four years each day with daily bread was] We lived in peace and comfort; and were *LB1802, LB1805*

83 By constant toil and constant prayer] With daily bread, by constant toil *LB1802, LB1805*

84 infants] Infants *LB1802, LB1805*

86 father] Father *LB1802, LB1805*

87 children's] Children's *LB1802, LB1805*

93 with proud parade] day after day *LB1802, LB1805*

100 There foul neglect for months and months we bore,  
 101 Nor yet the crowded fleet its anchor stirred.  
 102 Green fields before us and our native shore,  
 103 By fever, from polluted air incurred,  
 104 Ravage was made, for which no knell was heard.  
 105 Fondly we wished, and wished away, nor knew,  
 106 Mid that long sickness, and those hopes deferr'd,  
 107 That happier days we never more must view:  
 108 The parting signal streamed, at last the land withdrew,

109 But from delay the summer calms were past.  
 110 On as we drove, the equinoctial deep  
 111 Ran mountains-high before the howling blast.  
 112 We gazed with terror on the gloomy sleep  
 113 Of them that perished in the whirlwind's sweep,  
 114 Untaught that soon such anguish must ensue,  
 115 Our hopes such harvest of affliction reap,  
 116 That we the mercy of the waves should rue.  
 117 We reached the western world, a poor, devoted crew.

118 Oh! dreadful price of being to resign  
 119 All that is dear *in* being! better far  
 120 In Wants most lonely cave till death to pine,  
 121 Unseen, unheard, unwatched by any star;  
 122 Or in the streets and walks where proud men are,  
 123 Better our dying bodies to obtrude,  
 124 Than dog-like, wading at the heels of war,  
 125 Protract a curst existence, with the brood  
 126 That lap (their very nourishment!) their brother's blood.

100 foul neglect for months and months] long were we neglected, and *LB1802, LB1805*  
 101 Nor yet the crowded fleet its anchor stirred.] Much sorrow ere the fleet its anchor weigh'd; *LB1802, LB1805*  
 103 By fever, from polluted air incurred,] We breath'd a pestilential air that made *LB1802, LB1805*  
 104 was made, for which no knell was heard.] for which no knell was heard. We pray'd *LB1802, LB1805*  
 105 Fondly we wished, and wished away,] For our departure; wished and wished— *LB1802, LB1805*  
 106 deferr'd] delay'd *LB1802, LB1805*  
 109 from delay the summer calms were] the calm summer season now was *LB1802, LB1805*  
 110 deep] Deep *LB1802, LB1805*  
 112 We gazed with terror on the gloomy sleep] And many perish'd in the whirlwind's sweep] *LB1802* perished *LB1805*  
 113 Of them that perished in the whirlwind's sweep] We gazed with terror on their gloomy sleep *LB1802, LB1805*  
 117 reached the western world] reach'd the Western World *LB1802, LB1805*  
 118-126 *lacking LB1802, LB1805*

127 The pains and plagues that on our heads came down,  
 128 Disease and famine, agony and fear,  
 129 In wood or wilderness, in camp or town,  
 130 It would thy brain unsettle even to hear.  
 131 All perished—all, in one remorseless year,  
 132 Husband and children! one by one, by sword  
 133 And ravenous plague, all perished: every tear  
 134 Dried up, despairing, desolate, on board  
 135 A British ship I waked, as from a trance restored.

136 Peaceful as some immeasurable plain  
 137 By the first beams of dawning light impress'd,  
 138 In the calm sunshine slept the glittering main.  
 139 The very ocean has its hour of rest,  
 140 That comes not to the human mourner's breast.  
 141 Remote from man, and storms of mortal care,  
 142 A heavenly silence did the waves invest;  
 143 I looked and looked along the silent air,  
 144 Until it seemed to bring a joy to my despair.

145 Ah! how unlike those late terrific sleeps!  
 146 And groans, that rage of racking famine spoke,  
 147 Where looks inhuman dwelt on festering heaps!  
 148 The breathing pestilence that rose like smoke!  
 149 The shriek that from the distant battle broke!  
 150 The mine's dire earthquake, and the pallid host  
 151 Driven by the bombs incessant thunder-stroke  
 152 To loathsome vaults, where heart-sick anguish toss'd,  
 153 Hope died, and fear itself in agony was lost!

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132 children] Children *LB1802, LB1805*

138 sunshine] Sunshine *LB1802, LB1805*

140 That comes not to the human mourner's breast.] I was too calm, though heavily distress'd! *LB1802, LB1805*

141 Remote from man, and storms of mortal care,] Oh me, how quiet sky and ocean were! *LB1802, LB1805*

142 A heavenly silence did the eaves invest;] My heart was healed within me. I was bless'd, *LB1802, LB1805*

143 I] And *LB1802, LB1805*

147 Where looks inhuman dwelt on]The unburied dead that lay in *LB1800*

154 Yet does that burst of woe congeal my frame,  
 155 When the dark streets appeared to heave and gape,  
 156 While like a sea the storming army came,  
 157 And Fire from Hell reared his gigantic shape,  
 158 And Murder, by the ghastly gleam, and Rape  
 159 Seized their joint prey, the mother and the child!  
 160 But from these crazing thoughts my brain, escape!  
 161 —For weeks the balmy air breathed soft and mild,  
 162 And on the gliding vessel Heaven and Ocean smiled.

163 Some mighty gulph of separation past,  
 164 I seemed transported to another world:—  
 165 A thought resigned with pain, when from the mast  
 166 The impatient mariner the sail unfurl'd,  
 167 And whistling, called the wind that hardly curled  
 168 The silent sea. From the sweet thoughts of home,  
 169 And from all hope I was forever hurled.  
 170 For me—farthest from earthly port to roam  
 171 Was best, could I but shun the spot where man might come.

172 And oft, robb'd of my perfect mind, I thought  
 173 At last my feet a resting-place had found:  
 174 Here will I weep in peace, (so fancy wrought,)  
 175 Roaming the illimitable waters round;  
 176 Here watch, of every human friend disowned,  
 177 All day, my ready tomb the ocean-flood—  
 178 To break my dream the vessel reached its bound:  
 179 And homeless near a thousand homes I stood,  
 180 And near a thousand tables pined, and wanted food.

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154 Yet does the burst of woe congeal my frame,] At midnight once the storming Army came, *LB1802, LB1805*  
 155 When the dark streets appeared to heave and gape,] Yet do I see the miserable sight, *LB1802, LB1805*  
 156 While like a sea the storming army came,] The Bayonet, the Soldier, and the Flame *LB1802, LB1805*  
 157 And Fire from Hell reared his gigantic shape,] hell *LB1800*; That followed us and faced us in our flight:  
*LB1802, LB1805*

158 And Murder, by ghastly gleam, and Rape,] When Rape and Murder by the ghastly light *LB1802, LB1805*  
 159 mother and the child] Mother and the Child *LB1802, LB1805*  
 160 from these crazing thoughts my brain, escape!] I must leave these thoughts.—From night to night,  
*LB1802, LB1805*

161 —For weeks the balmy] From day to day, the *LB1802, LB1805*  
 172 robb'd of my perfect mind, I thought] I thought (my fancy was so strong) *LB1802, LB1805*  
 173 At last my feet] There I at last *LB1802, LB1805*  
 174 weep in peace, (so fancy wrought,) dwell, said I, my whole life-long, *LB1802, LB1805*  
 176 watch, of every human] will I live :—of every *LB1802, LB1805*  
 177 All day, my ready tomb] Here will I roam about *LB1802, LB1805*  
 180 pined] pin'd *LB1802, LB1805*

181 By grief enfeebled was I turned adrift,  
 182 Helpless as sailor cast on desert rock;  
 183 Nor morsel to my mouth that day did lift,  
 184 Nor dared my hand at any door to knock.  
 185 I lay, where with his drowsy mates, the cock  
 186 From the cross timber of an out-house hung;  
 187 How dismal tolled, that night, the city clock!  
 188 At morn my sick heart hunger scarcely stung,  
 189 Nor to the beggar's language could I frame my tongue.

190 So passed another day, and so the third:  
 191 Then did I try, in vain, the crowd's resort,  
 192 In deep despair by frightful wishes stirr'd,  
 193 Near the sea-side I reached a ruined fort:  
 194 There, pains which nature could no more support,  
 195 With blindness linked, did on my vitals fall;  
 196 Dizzy my brain, with interruption short  
 197 Of hideous sense; I sunk, nor step could crawl,  
 198 And thence was borne away to neighbouring hospital.

199 Recovery came with food: but still, my brain  
 200 Was weak, nor of the past had memory.  
 201 I heard my neighbours, in their beds, complain  
 202 Of many things which never troubled me;  
 203 Of feet still bustling round with busy glee,  
 204 Of looks where common kindness had no part,  
 205 Of service done with careless cruelty,  
 206 Fretting the fever round the languid heart,  
 207 And groans, which, as they said, would make a dead man start.

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182 desert] desert *LB1805*

185 mates, the cock] Mates, the Cock *LB1802, LB1805*

187 How dismal] Dismally *LB1802, LB1805*

190 passed] pass'd *LB1802, LB1805*

193 fort] Fort: *LB1802, LB1805*

195 linked,] link'd *LB1802, LB1805*

196 Dizzy my brain, with interruption] And I had many interruptions *LB1802, LB1805*

197 sunk,] sank, *LB1802, LB1805*

198 borne away to neighbouring hospital.] carried to a neighboring Hospital. *LB1802, LB1805*

208 These things just served to stir the torpid sense,  
 209 Nor pain nor pity in my bosom raised.  
 210 Memory, though slow, returned with strength; and thence  
 211 Dismissed, again on open day I gazed,  
 212 At houses, men, and common light, amazed.  
 213 The lanes I sought, and as the sun retired,  
 214 Came, where beneath the trees a faggot blazed;  
 215 The wild brood saw me weep, my fate enquired,  
 216 And gave me food, and rest, more welcome, more desired.

217 My heart is touched to think that men like these,  
 218 The rude earth's tenants, were my first relief:  
 219 How kindly did they paint their vagrant ease!  
 220 And their long holiday that feared not grief,  
 221 For all belonged to all, and each was chief.  
 222 No plough their sinews strained; on grating road  
 223 No wain they drove, and yet, the yellow sheaf  
 224 In every vale for their delight was stowed:  
 225 For them, in nature's meads, the milky udder flowed.

226 Semblance, with straw and panniered ass, they made  
 227 Of potters wandering on from door to door:  
 228 But life of happier sort to me pourtrayed,  
 229 And other joys my fancy to allure;  
 230 The bag-pipe dinning on the midnight moor  
 231 In barn uplighted, and companions boon  
 232 Well met from far with revelry secure,  
 233 In depth of forest glade, when jocund June  
 234 Rolled fast along the sky his warm and genial moon.

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210 Memory, though slow, returned with strength;] My memory and strength returned; *LB1802, LB1805*

215 wild brood] Travellers *LB1802*; enquired] inquired *LB1805*

216 and] —and *LB1805*

218 The rude earth's tenant] Wild houseless Wanderers *LB1802, LB1805*

224 stowed:] stow'd; *LB1802, LB1805*

225 For them, in nature's meads, the milky udder flowed] In every field, wil milk their dairy overflow'd *LB1802, LB1805*

226 Semblance, with straw and panniered ass, they] They with their pannier'd Asses semblance *LB1802, LB1805*

227 potters] Potters *LB1802, LB1805*

228 pourtrayed] pourtray'd *LB1802, LB1805*

231 companions] Companions *LB1802, LB1805*

233 In depth of forest glad] Among the forest glades *LB1802, LB1805*

235 But ill it suited me, in journey dark  
 236 O'er moor and mountain, midnight theft to hatch;  
 237 To charm the surly house-dog's faithful bark,  
 238 Or hang on tiptoe at the lifted latch;  
 239 The gloomy lantern, and the dim blue match,  
 240 The black disguise, the warning whistle shrill,  
 241 And ear still busy on its nightly watch,  
 242 Were not for me, brought up in nothing ill;  
 243 Besides, on griefs so fresh my thoughts were brooding still.

244 What could I do, unaided and unblest?  
 245 Poor Father! gone was every friend of thine:  
 246 And kindred of dead husband are at best  
 247 Small help, and, after marriage such as mine,  
 248 With little kindness would to me incline.  
 249 Ill was I then for toil or service fit:  
 250 With tears whose course no effort could confine,  
 251 By high-way side forgetful would I sit  
 252 Whole hours, my idle arms in moping sorrow knit.

253 I lived upon the mercy of the fields,  
 254 And oft of cruelty the sky accused;  
 255 On hazard, or what general bounty yields,  
 256 Now coldly given, now utterly refused.  
 257 The fields I for my bed have often used:  
 258 But, what afflicts my peace with keenest ruth  
 259 Is, that I have my inner self abused,  
 260 Foregone the home delight of constant truth,  
 261 And clear and open soul, so prized in fearless youth.

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235 it suited me, in journey] they suited me; those journies *LB1802, LB1805*

237 house-dog's] House-dog's *LB1802, LB1805*

238 tiptoe] tip-toe *LB1802, LB1805*

245 Poor] My *LB1802, LB1805*

251 high-way side] the road-side *LB1802, LB1805*

253 lived upon the mercy of the fields] led a wandering life among the *LB1802, LB1805*

254 And oft of cruelty the sky accused] Contentedly, yet sometimes self-accused *LB1802, LB1805*

255 On hazard, or what general] I liv'd upon what casual *LB1802*; lived *LB 1805*

257 fields] ground *LB1802, LB1805*

260 Foregone] Forgone *LB1802, LB1805*

262 Three years a wanderer, often have I view'd,  
263 In tears, the sun towards that country tend  
264 Where my poor heart lost all its fortitude:  
265 And now across this moor my steps I bend—  
266 Oh! tell me whither—for no earthly friend  
267 Have I.—She ceased, and weeping turned away,  
268 As if because her tale was at an end  
269 She wept;—because she had no more to say  
270 Of that perpetual weight which on her spirit lay.

GOODY BLAKE, AND HARRY GILL,  
*A TRUE STORY.*

1 Oh! what's the matter? what's the matter?  
 2 What is't that ails young Harry Gill?  
 3 That evermore his teeth they chatter,  
 4 Chatter, chatter, chatter still.  
 5 Of waistcoats Harry has no lack,  
 6 Good duffle grey, and flannel fine;  
 7 He has a blanket on his back,  
 8 And coats enough to smother nine.

9 In March, December, and in July,  
 10 'Tis all the same with Harry Gill;  
 11 The neighbours tell, and tell you truly,  
 12 His teeth they chatter, chatter still.  
 13 At night, at morning, and at noon,  
 14 'Tis all the same with Harry Gill;  
 15 Beneath the sun, beneath the moon,  
 16 His teeth they chatter, chatter still.

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7 grey] gray *LB1805*

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*Goody Blake and Harry Gill, a True Story.* 1798. See *WCLB131*. Note by ED as follows:

Composed, 1798, at Alfoxden. The story was taken from Erasmus Darwin's *Zoonomia* (vol.iv.pp. 68-69. Ed. 1801), where we read as follows: The story was taken from Erasmus Darwin's *Zoonomia* (vol.iv.pp. 68-69. Ed. 1801), where we read as follows: "I received good information of the truth of the following case, which was published a few years ago in the newspapers. A young farmer in Warwickshire, finding his hedges broke, and the sticks carried away during a frosty season, determined to watch for the thief. He lay many cold hours under a haystack, and at length an old woman, like a witch in a play, approached, and began to pull up the hedge; he waited till she had tied up her bottle of sticks, and was carrying them off, that he might convict her of the theft, and then springing from his concealment, he seized his prey with violent threats. After some altercation, in which her load was left upon the ground, she kneeled upon her bottle of sticks, and, raising her arms to Heaven beneath the bright moon then at the full, spoke to the farmer already shivering with cold, 'Heaven grant, that thou mayest never know again the blessing to be warm.' He complained of cold all the next day, and wrote an upper coat, and in a few days another, and in a fortnight took to his bed, always saying nothing made him warm, he covered himself with many blankets, and had a sieve over his face, as he lay; and from this one insane idea he kept this bed above twenty years for fear of the cold air, till at length he died." The changes of text in Wordsworth's poems are few. For the last four lines of the fourth stanza he substituted the following—

"Remote from sheltered village-green,  
 On a hill's northern side she dwelt,  
 Where from sea-blasts the hawthorns lean,  
 And hoary dews are slow to melt."

17 Young Harry was a lusty drover,  
 18 And who so stout of limb as he?  
 19 His cheeks were red as ruddy clover,  
 20 His voice was like the voice of three.  
 21 Auld Goody Blake was old and poor,  
 22 Ill fed she was, and thinly clad;  
 23 And any man who pass'd her door,  
 24 Might see how poor a hut she had.

25 All day she spun in her poor dwelling,  
 26 And then her three hours' work at night!  
 27 Alas! 'twas hardly worth the telling,  
 28 It would not pay for candle-light.  
 29 —This woman dwelt in Dorsetshire,  
 30 Her hut was on a cold hill-side,  
 31 And in that country coals are dear,  
 32 For they come far by wind and tide.

33 By the same fire to boil their pottage,  
 34 Two poor old dames, as I have known,  
 35 Will often live in one small cottage,  
 36 But she, poor woman, dwelt alone.  
 37 'Twas well enough when summer came,  
 38 The long, warm, lightsome summer-day,  
 39 Then at her door the *canty* dame  
 40 Would sit, as any linnet gay.

41 But when the ice our streams did fetter,  
 42 Oh! then how her old bones would shake!  
 43 You would have said, if you had met her,  
 44 'Twas a hard time for Goody Blake.  
 45 Her evenings then were dull and dead;  
 46 Sad case it was, as you may think,  
 47 For very cold to go to bed,  
 48 And then for cold not sleep a wink.

---

21 Auld] Old *LB1802, LB1805*

28 candle-light] candle light *LB1802*

30 hill-side] hill side *LB1802, LB1805*

34 dames] Dames *LB1802, LB1805*

36 woman] Woman *LB1802, LB1805*

39 dame] Dame *LB1802, LB1805*

49 Oh joy for her! when e'er in winter  
 50 The winds at night had made a rout,  
 51 And scatter'd many a lusty splinter,  
 52 And many a rotten bough about.  
 53 Yet never had she, well or sick,  
 54 As every man who knew her says,  
 55 A pile before-hand, wood or stick,  
 56 Enough to warm her for three days.

57 Now, when the frost was past enduring,  
 58 And made her poor old bones to ache,  
 59 Could any thing be more alluring,  
 60 Than an old hedge to Goody Blake?  
 61 And now and then, it must be said,  
 62 When her old bones were cold and chill,  
 63 She left her fire, or left her bed,  
 64 To seek the hedge of Harry Gill.

65 Now Harry he had long suspected  
 66 This trespass of old Goody Blake,  
 67 And vow'd that she should be detected,  
 68 And he on her would vengeance take.  
 69 And oft from his warm fire he'd go,  
 70 And to the fields his road would take,  
 71 And there, at night, in frost and snow,  
 72 He watch'd to seize old Goody Blake.

73 And once, behind a rick of barley,  
 74 Thus looking out did Harry stand;  
 75 The moon was full and shining clearly,  
 76 And crisp with frost the stubble-land.  
 77 —He hears a noise—he's all awake—  
 78 Again?—on tip-toe down the hill  
 79 He softly creeps—'Tis Goody Blake,  
 80 She's at the hedge of Harry Gill.

---

49 when e'er] whene'er *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 55 before-hand] before hand *LB1800, LB1802 LB1805*  
 76 stubble-land] stubble land *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

81 Right glad was he when he beheld her:  
 82 Stick after stick did Goody pull,  
 83 He stood behind a bush of elder,  
 84 Till she had filled her apron full.  
 85 When with her load she turned about,  
 86 The bye-road back again to take,  
 87 He started forward with a shout,  
 88 And sprang upon poor Goody Blake.

89 And fiercely by the arm he took her,  
 90 And by the arm he held her fast,  
 91 And fiercely by the arm he shook her,  
 92 And cried, "I've caught you then at last!"  
 93 Then Goody, who had nothing said,  
 94 Her bundle from her lap let fall;  
 95 And kneeling on the sticks, she pray'd  
 96 To God that is the judge of all.

97 She pray'd, her wither'd hand uprearing,  
 98 While Harry held her by the arm—  
 99 "God! who art never out of hearing,  
 100 "O may he never more be warm!"  
 101 The cold, cold moon above her head,  
 102 Thus on her knees did Goody pray,  
 103 Young Harry heard what she had said,  
 104 And icy-cold he turned away.

105 He went complaining all the morrow  
 106 That he was cold and very chill:  
 107 His face was gloom, his heart was sorrow,  
 108 Alas! that day for Harry Gill!  
 109 That day he wore a riding-coat,  
 110 But not a whit the warmer he:  
 111 Another was on Thursday brought,  
 112 And ere the Sabbath he had three.

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104 icy-cold] icy cold *LB1802, LB1805*

109 riding-coat] riding coat *LB1802*

113 'Twas all in vain, a useless matter,  
114 And blankets were about him pinn'd;  
115 Yet still his jaws and teeth they clatter,  
116 Like a loose casement in the wind.  
117 And Harry's flesh it fell away;  
118 And all who see him say 'tis plain,  
119 That, live as long as live he may,  
120 He never will be warm again.

121 No word to any man he utters,  
122 A-bed or up, to young or old;  
123 But ever to himself he mutters,  
124 "Poor Harry Gill is very cold."  
125 A-bed or up, by night or day;  
126 His teeth they chatter, chatter still.  
127 Now think, ye farmers all, I pray,  
128 Of Goody Blake and Harry Gill.

## LINES

WRITTEN AT A SMALL DISTANCE FROM MY HOUSE,  
 AND SENT BY MY LITTLE BOY TO THE  
 PERSON TO WHOM THEY ARE  
 ADDRESSED

- 1 It is the first mild day of March:  
 2 Each minute sweeter than before,  
 3 The red-breast sings from the tall larch  
 4 That stands beside our door.
- 5 There is a blessing in the air,  
 6 Which seems a sense of joy to yield  
 7 To the bare trees, and mountains bare,  
 8 And grass in the green field.
- 9 My Sister! ('tis a wish of mine)  
 10 Now that our morning meal is done,  
 11 Make haste, your morning task resign;  
 12 Come forth and feel the sun.
- 13 Edward will come with you, and pray,  
 14 Put on with speed your woodland dress,  
 15 And bring no book, for this one day  
 16 We'll give to idleness.
- 17 No joyless forms shall regulate  
 18 Our living Calendar:  
 19 We from to-day, my friend, will date  
 20 The opening of the year.

---

3 red-breast...larch] Red-breast...Larch *LB1802, LB1805*

19 to-day...friend] to-day...Friend *LB1802*; today...Friend *LB1805*

---

*Lines written at a small distance from my House....* 1798. See *WCLB* 132. Note by ED as follows:

Composed, 1798, in front of Alfoxden House. Afterwards named "To my Sister." The little boy was the son of Basil Montagu. The text was scarcely altered. In the seventh stanza the second line became—

"Than years of toiling reason."

21 Love, now an universal birth,  
22 From heart to heart is stealing,  
23 From earth to man, from man to earth,  
24 —It is the hour of feeling.

25 One moment now may give us more  
26 Than fifty years of reason;  
27 Our minds shall drink at every pore  
28 The spirit of the season.

29 Some silent laws our hearts may make,  
30 Which they shall long obey;  
31 We for the year to come may take  
32 Our temper from to-day.

33 And from the blessed power that rolls  
34 About, below, above;  
35 We'll frame the measure of our souls,  
36 They shall be tuned to love.

37 Then come, my sister! come, I pray,  
38 With speed put on your woodland dress,  
39 And bring no book; for this one day  
40 We'll give to idleness.

---

37 sister] Sister *LB 1805*

39 And] —And *LB1802, LB1805*

SIMON LEE, *THE OLD HUNTSMAN*,  
WITH AN INCIDENT IN WHICH HE WAS CONCERNED.

- 1    In the sweet shire of Cardigan,  
2    Not far from pleasant Ivor-hall,  
3    An old man dwells, a little man,  
4    I've heard he once was tall.  
5    Of years he has upon his back,  
6    No doubt, a burthen weighty;  
7    He says he is three score and ten,  
8    But others say he's eighty.
- 9    A long blue livery-coat has he,  
10  That's fair behind, and fair before;  
11  Yet, meet him where you will, you see  
12  At once that he is poor.  
13  Full five and twenty years he lived  
14  A running huntsman merry;  
15  And, though he has but one eye left,  
16  His cheek is like a cherry.
- 17  No man like him the horn could sound,  
18  And no man was so full of glee;  
19  To say the least, four counties round  
20  Had heard of Simon Lee;  
21  His master's dead, and no one now  
22  Dwells in the hall of Ivor;  
23  Men, dogs, and horses, all are dead;  
24  He is the sole survivor.

---

3    old man] Old Man *LB1802, LB1805*

13  five and twenty] five-and-twenty *LB1805*

14  huntsman] Huntsman *LB1802, LB1805*

21  master's] Master's *LB1802, LB1805*

23  dogs, and horses] Dogs, and Horses *LB1802, LB1805*

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*Simon Lee, the Old Huntsman.* 1798. See *WCLB* 133. Note by ED as follows:

Composed, 1798. "This old man had been huntsman to the squires of Alfoxden." His cottage stood a little way from the entrance to Alfoxden Park. "The expressions when the hounds were out 'I dearly love their voices' was word for word from his own lips."—Fenwick note. The alterations of text are very numerous. They are chiefly directed to attaining a better sequence in the stanzas which describe Simon Lee, and in making that description less grotesque in its details.

25 His hunting feats have him bereft  
 26 Of his right eye, as you may see:  
 27 And then, what limbs those feats have left  
 28 To poor old Simon Lee!  
 29 He has no son, he has no child,  
 30 His wife, an aged woman,  
 31 Lives with him, near the waterfall,  
 32 Upon the village common.

33 And he is lean and he is sick,  
 34 His little body's half awry  
 35 His ancles they are swoln and thick;  
 36 His legs are thin and dry.  
 37 When he was young he little knew  
 38 Of husbandry or tillage;  
 39 And now he's forced to work, though weak,  
 40 —The weakest in the village.

41 He all the country could outrun,  
 42 Could leave both man and horse behind;  
 43 And often, ere the race was done,  
 44 He reeled and was stone-blind.  
 45 And still there's something in the world  
 46 At which his heart rejoices;  
 47 For when the chiming hounds are out,  
 48 He dearly loves their voices!

49 Old Ruth works out of doors with him,  
 50 And does what Simon cannot do;  
 51 For she, not over stout of limb,  
 52 Is stouter of the two.  
 53 And though you with your utmost skill  
 54 From labour could not wean them,  
 55 Alas! 'tis very little, all  
 56 Which they can do between them.

---

25-32 *lacking in LB1802, LB1805*

34 *little] dwindled LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

48a-48h *same as 25-32 LB1802, LB1805 (though in 30/48f wife] Wife LB1802, LB1805; and in 32/48h common] Common LB1802, LB1805)*

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25-32 (with slight revisions noted) are transposed with fifth and sixth stanzas (33-40 and 41-48)

57 Beside their moss-grown hut of clay,  
 58 Not twenty paces from the door,  
 59 A scrap of land they have, but they  
 60 Are poorest of the poor.  
 61 This scrap of land he from the heath  
 62 Enclosed when he was stronger;  
 63 But what avails the land to them,  
 64 Which they can till no longer?

65 Few months of life has he in store,  
 66 As he to you will tell,  
 67 For still, the more he works, the more  
 68 His poor old ancles swell.  
 69 My gentle reader, I perceive,  
 70 How patiently you've waited,  
 71 And I'm afraid that you expect  
 72 Some tale will be related.

73 O reader! had you in your mind  
 74 Such stores as silent thought can bring,  
 75 O gentle reader! you would find  
 76 A tale in every thing.  
 77 What more I have to say is short,  
 78 I hope you'll kindly take it;  
 79 It is no tale; but should you think,  
 80 Perhaps a tale you'll make it.

81 One summer-day I chanced to see  
 82 This old man doing all he could  
 83 About the root of an old tree,  
 84 A stump of rotten wood.  
 85 The mattock totter'd in his hand;  
 86 So vain was his endeavour  
 87 That at the root of the old tree  
 88 He might have worked for ever.

---

69 reader] Reader *LB1802, LB1805*

73 reader] Reader *LB1802, LB1805*

75 reader] Reader *LB1802, LB1805*

82 old man] Old Man *LB1802, LB1805*

85 totter'd] tottered *LB1805*

89 “You’re overtasked, good Simon Lee,  
 90 Give me your tool” to him I said;  
 91 And at the word right gladly he  
 92 Received my proffer’d aid.  
 93 I struck, and with a single blow  
 94 The tangled root I sever’d,  
 95 At which the poor old man so long  
 96 And vainly had endeavour’d.  
  
 97 The tears into his eyes were brought,  
 98 And thanks and praises seemed to run  
 99 So fast out of his heart, I thought  
 100 They never would have done.  
 101 —I’ve heard of hearts unkind, kind deeds  
 102 With coldness still returning.  
 103 Alas! the gratitude of men  
 104 Has oftner left me mourning.

---

92 proffer’d] proffered *LB1805*  
 94 sever’d] severed *LB1805*  
 95 old man] Old Man *LB1802, LB1805*  
 96 endeavour’d] endeavoured *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 104 oftner] oftener *LB1805*

ANECDOTE FOR FATHERS,  
 SHEWING HOW THE ART OF LYING MAY BE TAUGHT.

- 1 I have a boy of five years old,  
 2 His face is fair and fresh to see;  
 3 His limbs are cast in beauty's mould,  
 4 And dearly he loves me.
- 5 One morn we stroll'd on our dry walk,  
 6 Our quiet house all full in view,  
 7 And held such intermitted talk  
 8 As we are wont to do.
- 9 My thoughts on former pleasures ran;  
 10 I thought of Kilve's delightful shore,  
 11 My pleasant home, when spring began,  
 12 A long, long year before.

---

*Title* ANECDOTE FOR FATHERS, SHEWING HOW THE ART OF LYING MAY BE TAUGHT] ANECDOTE for FATHERS, SHEWING HOW THE PRACTICE OF LYING MAY BE TAUGHT. *LB1800, LB1802*; ANEDTOTE...Showing... taught. *LB1805*

1 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB 1805*

6 house] Home *LB1802, LB1805*

11 My] Our *LB1802, LB1805*; spring] Spring *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

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*Anecdote for Fathers, Showing how the art of lying may be taught.* 1798. See *WCLB* 134. Note by ED as follows: Composed, 1798. The scene is in front of Alfoxden; the boy, a son of Basil Montagu. Kilve is a village on the Bristol Channel, near Alfoxden. The name of Liswyn Farm was taken from a spot on the Wye, where Coleridge, Wordsworth, and Wordsworth's sister had visited John Thelwall. In later texts there are several changes, and the order of some stanzas is altered. In place of the one stanza beginning "The young lambs ran a pretty race" the two following appear (1827) :—

"The green earth echoed to the feet  
 Of lambs that bounded through the glade,  
 From shade to sunshine, and as fleet  
 From sunshine back to shade.

"Birds warbled round me—and each trace  
 Of inward sadness had its charm;  
 Kilve, though I, was a favoured place,  
 And so is Liswyn farm."

13 A day it was when I could bear  
 14 To think, and think, and think again;  
 15 With so much happiness to spare,  
 16 I could not feel a pain.

17 My boy was by my side, so slim  
 18 And graceful in his rustic dress!  
 19 And oftentimes I talked to him,  
 20 In very idleness.

21 The young lambs ran a pretty race;  
 22 The morning sun shone bright and warm;  
 23 "Kilve," said I, "was a pleasant place,  
 24 "And so is Liswyn farm.

25 "My little boy, which like you more,"  
 26 I said and took him by the arm—  
 27 "Our home by Kilve's delightful shore,  
 28 "Or here at Liswyn farm?"

29 "And tell me, had you rather be,"  
 30 I said and held him by the arm,  
 31 "At Kilve's smooth shore by the green sea,  
 32 "Or here at Liswyn farm?"

33 In careless mood he looked at me,  
 34 While still I held him by the arm,  
 35 And said, "At Kilve I'd rather be  
 36 "Than here at Liswyn farm."

37 "Now, little Edward, say why so;  
 38 My little Edward, tell me why,"  
 39 "I cannot tell, I do not know."  
 40 "Why this is strange," said I.

---

17 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

25 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

38 why;] why; — *LB1802, LB1805*

39 know.] know. — *LB1805*

41 “For, here are woods and green-hills warm;  
 42 “There surely must some reason be  
 43 “Why you would change sweet Liswyn farm  
 44 “For Kilve by the green sea.”

45 At this, my boy, so fair and slim,  
 46 Hung down his head, nor made reply;  
 47 And five times did I say to him,  
 48 “Why? Edward, tell me why?”

49 His head he raised—there was in sight,  
 50 It caught his eye, he saw it plain—  
 51 Upon the house-top, glittering bright,  
 52 A broad and gilded vane.

53 Then did the boy his tongue unlock,  
 54 And thus to me he made reply;  
 55 “At Kilve there was no weather-cock,  
 56 “And that’s the reason why.”

57 Oh dearest, dearest boy! my heart  
 58 For better lore would seldom yearn,  
 59 Could I but teach the hundredth part  
 60 Of what from thee I learn.

---

41 green-hills] green hills *LB1800*

45 boy, so fair and slim] boy hung down his head *LB1800*; Boy...head *LB1802, LB1805*

46 Hung down his head] He blush'd with shame *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

47 did I say to him] to the child I said *LB 1800*; to the Child I said *LB1802, LB1805*

53 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

57 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

## WE ARE SEVEN

- 1 A simple child, dear brother Jim,  
 2 That lightly draws its breath,  
 3 And feels its life in every limb,  
 4 What should it know of death?
- 5 I met a little cottage girl,  
 6 She was eight years old, she said;  
 7 Her hair was thick with many a curl  
 8 That cluster'd round her head.
- 9 She had a rustic, woodland air,  
 10 And she was wildly clad;  
 11 Her eyes were fair, and very fair,  
 12 ---Her beauty made me glad.
- 13 "Sisters and brothers, little maid,  
 14 "How many may you be?"  
 15 "How many? seven in all," she said,  
 16 And wondering looked at me.
- 17 "And where are they, I pray you tell?"  
 18 She answered, "Seven are we,  
 19 "And two of us at Conway dwell,  
 20 "And two are gone to sea.

- 
- 5 girl,] Girl: *LB1802, LB1805*  
 8 cluster'd] clustered *LB1805*  
 13 maid] Maid *LB1802, LB1805*  
 15 seven] Seven *LB1805*
- 

*We Are Seven.* 1798. See *WCLB* 135. Note by ED as follows:

Composed while walking in the grove at Alfoxden, spring of 1798. Wordsworth met the little girl within the area of Goodrich Castle, 1793. The last stanza was composed first, Wordsworth having begun with the last line. Coleridge threw off the first stanza on Wordsworth's mentioning the substance of what he wished to be expressed. "I objected to the rhyme 'dear brother Jim' as being ludicrous; but we all enjoyed the joke of hitching in our friend James T—'s name,"—Fenwick note. The poem was hardly at all altered in the later texts, except that "dear brother Jim" was omitted from the first line, which remains imperfect and rhymeless—

"—A simple child."

- 21 "Two of us in the church-yard lie,  
 22 "My sister and my brother,  
 23 "And in the church-yard cottage, I  
 24 "Dwell near them with my mother."
- 25 "You say that two at Conway dwell,  
 26 "And two are gone to sea,  
 27 "Yet you are seven; I pray you tell  
 28 "Sweet Maid, how this may be?"
- 29 Then did the little Maid reply,  
 30 "Seven boys and girls are we;  
 31 "Two of us in the church-yard lie,  
 32 "Beneath the church-yard tree."
- 33 "You run about, my little maid,  
 34 "Your limbs they are alive;  
 35 "If two are in the church-yard laid,  
 36 "Then ye are only five."
- 37 "Their graves are green, they may be seen,"  
 38 The little Maid replied,  
 39 "Twelve steps or more from my mother's door,  
 40 "And they are side by side.
- 41 "My stockings there I often knit,  
 42 "My 'kerchief there I hem;  
 43 "And there upon the ground I sit---  
 44 "I sit and sing to them.
- 45 "And often after sunset, Sir,  
 46 "When it is light and fair,  
 47 "I take my little porringer,  
 48 "And eat my supper there.
- 49 "The first that died was little Jane;  
 50 "In bed she moaning lay,  
 51 "Till God released her of her pain,  
 52 "And then she went away.

---

33 maid] Maid *LB1802, LB1805*

39 my mother's] mother's *LB1805*

45 sunset] sun-set *LB1802, LB 1805*

53 "So in the church-yard she was laid,  
54 "And all the summer dry,  
55 "Together round her grave we played,  
56 "My brother John and I.

57 "And when the ground was white with snow,  
58 "And I could run and slide,  
59 "My brother John was forced to go,  
60 "And he lies by her side."

61 "How many are you then," said I,  
62 "If they two are in Heaven?"  
63 The little Maiden did reply,  
64 "O Master! we are seven."

65 "But they are dead; those two are dead!  
66 "Their spirits are in heaven!"  
67 'Twas throwing words away; for still  
68 The little Maid would have her will,  
69 And said, "Nay, we are seven!"

## LINES WRITTEN IN EARLY SPRING.

- 1 I heard a thousand blended notes,  
 2 While in a grove I sate reclined,  
 3 In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts  
 4 Bring sad thoughts to the mind.
- 5 To her fair works did nature link  
 6 The human soul that through me ran;  
 7 And much it griev'd my heart to think  
 8 What man has made of man.
- 9 Through primrose-tufts, in that sweet bower,  
 10 The periwinkle trail'd its wreathes;  
 11 And 'tis my faith that every flower  
 12 Enjoys the air it breathes.
- 13 The birds around me hopp'd and play'd:  
 14 Their thoughts I cannot measure,  
 15 But the least motion which they made,  
 16 It seem'd a thrill of pleasure.
- 17 The budding twigs spread out their fan,  
 18 To catch the breezy air;  
 19 And I must think, do all I can,  
 20 That there was pleasure there.
- 21 If I these thoughts may not prevent,  
 22 If such be of my creed the plan,  
 23 Have I not reason to lament  
 24 What man has made of man?

---

5 nature] Nature *LB1802, LB1805*

9 primrose-tufts] primrose tufts *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

10 trail'd...wreathes;] trailed...wreaths; *LB1805*

14 measure,] measure:— *LB1802, LB1805*

16 seem'd] seemed *LB1805*

---

*Lines written in Early Spring.* 1798. See *WCLB* 138. Note by ED as follows:

“Actually composed [1798] while I was sitting by the side of the brook that runs down from the Comb, in which stands the village of Alford, through the grounds of Alfoxden.”—Fenwick note. The only change of importance is in the last stanza, where the awkward first and second lines are replaced by—

“If this belief from heaven be sent.  
 If such be Nature's holy plan.”

## THE THORN.

## I.

- 1 There is a thorn; it looks so old,  
 2 In truth you'd find it hard to say,  
 3 How it could ever have been young,  
 4 It looks so old and grey.  
 5 Not higher than a two-years' child,  
 6 It stands erect this aged thorn;  
 7 No leaves it has, no thorny points;  
 8 It is a mass of knotted joints,  
 9 A wretched thing forlorn.  
 10 67It stands erect, and like a stone  
 11 With lichens it is overgrown.

## II.

- 12 Like rock or stone, it is o'ergrown  
 13 With lichens to the very top,  
 14 And hung with heavy tufts of moss,  
 15 A melancholy crop:  
 16 Up from the earth these mosses creep,

---

1 thorn;] Thorn— *LB1802*

3 young;] young— *LB1802*

4 grey] gray *LB1805*

5 two-years] two years *LB1800*

6 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

---

*The Thorn.* March 1798. See *WCLB* 138. Note by ED as follows:

Written at Alfoxden, 1798. "Arose out of my observing on the ridge of Quantock Hill, on a stormy day, a thorn which I had often past in calm and bright weather, without noticing it. I said to myself 'Cannot I by some invention, do as much to make this Thorn permanently an impressive object as the storm has made it to my eyes at this moment.'"—Fenwick note. Several changes of text were made. The lines—

"I've measured it from side to side:

"Tis three feet long, and two feet wide."

were retained until 1815, but in 1820 Wordsworth substituted from them the following—

"Though but of compass small, and bare

To thirsty suns, and parching air."

The lines "Nay rack your brain" (stanza x) to "I'll tell you all I know" (stanza xi) were omitted. The close of stanza xii was made more dignified. "Old Farmer Simpson" became "Grey-haired Wilfred of the Glen."

17 And this poor thorn they clasp it round  
 18 So close, you'd say that they were bent  
 19 With plain and manifest intent,  
 20 To drag it to the ground;  
 21 And all had joined in one endeavour  
 22 To bury this poor thorn for ever.

## III.

23 High on a mountain's highest ridge,  
 24 Where oft the stormy winter gale  
 25 Cuts like a scythe, while through the clouds  
 26 It sweeps from vale to vale;  
 27 Not five yards from the mountain-path,  
 28 This thorn you on your left espy;  
 29 And to the left, three yards beyond,  
 30 You see a little muddy pond  
 31 Of water, never dry;  
 32 I've measured it from side to side:  
 33 'Tis three feet long, and two feet wide.

## IV.

34 And close beside this aged thorn,  
 35 There is a fresh and lovely sight,  
 36 A beauteous heap, a hill of moss,  
 37 Just half a foot in height.  
 38 All lovely colours there you see,  
 39 All colours that were ever seen,  
 40 And mossy network too is there,  
 41 As if by hand of lady fair  
 42 The work had woven been,  
 43 And cups, the darlings of the eye,  
 44 So deep is their vermilion dye.

---

17 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

21 joined] join'd *LB1800, LB1802*

22 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

27 mountain-path] mountain path *LB1805*

28 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

30 pond] Pond *LB1802*

34 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

36 hill] Hill *LB1802*

40 network] net-work *LB1805*

## V.

45 Ah me! what lovely tints are there!  
 46 Of olive-green and scarlet bright,  
 47 In spikes, in branches, and in stars,  
 48 Green, red, and pearly white.  
 49 This heap of earth o'ergrown with moss,  
 50 Which close beside the thorn you see,  
 51 So fresh in all its beauteous dyes,  
 52 Is like an infant's grave in size  
 53 As like as like can be:  
 54 But never, never any where,  
 55 An infant's grave was half so fair.

## VI.

56 Now would you see this aged thorn,  
 57 This pond and beauteous hill of moss,  
 58 You must take care and chuse your time  
 59 The mountain when to cross.  
 60 For oft there sits, between the heap  
 61 That's like an infant's grave in size,  
 62 And that same pond of which I spoke,  
 63 A woman in a scarlet cloak,  
 64 And to herself she cries,  
 65 "Oh misery! oh misery!  
 66 "Oh woe is me! oh misery!"

## VII.

67 At all times of the day and night  
 68 This wretched woman thither goes,  
 69 And she is known to every star,  
 70 And every wind that blows;  
 71 And there beside the thorn she sits

---

46 olive-green] olive green *LB1800*

50 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

56 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

57 pond and beauteous hill] Pond, and beauteous Hill *LB1802*

58 chuse] choose *LB1805*

60 heap] Heap *LB1802*

62 pond] Pond *LB1802*

63 woman] Woman *LB1802*

68 woman] Woman *LB1802*

71 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

72 When the blue day-light's in the skies,  
 73 And when the whirlwind's on the hill,  
 74 Or frosty air is keen and still,  
 75 And to herself she cries,  
 76 "Oh misery! oh misery!  
 77 "Oh woe is me! oh misery!"

## VIII.

78 "Now wherefore thus, by day and night,  
 79 "In rain, in tempest, and in snow,  
 80 "Thus to the dreary mountain-top  
 81 "Does this poor woman go?  
 82 "And why sits she beside the thorn  
 83 "When the blue day-light's in the sky,  
 84 "Or when the whirlwind's on the hill,  
 85 "Or frosty air is keen and still,  
 86 "And wherefore does she cry?—  
 87 "Oh wherefore? wherefore? tell me why  
 88 "Does she repeat that doleful cry?"

## IX.

89 I cannot tell; I wish I could;  
 90 For the true reason no one knows,  
 91 But if you'd gladly view the spot,  
 92 The spot to which she goes;  
 93 The heap that's like an infant's grave,  
 94 The pond—and thorn, so old and grey,  
 95 Pass by her door—'tis seldom shut—  
 96 And if you see her in her hut,  
 97 Then to the spot away!—  
 98 I never heard of such as dare  
 99 Approach the spot when she is there.

---

81 woman] Woman *LB1802*

82 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

93 heap] Heap *LB1802*

94 pond—and thorn] Pond—and Thorn *LB1802*; grey] gray *LB1805*

95 tis] 'tis *LB1802*

## X.

100 "But wherefore to the mountain-top  
 101 "Can this unhappy woman go,  
 102 "Whatever star is in the skies,  
 103 "Whatever wind may blow?"  
 104 Nay rack your brain—'tis all in vain,  
 105 I'll tell you every thing I know;  
 106 But to the thorn, and to the pond  
 107 Which is a little step beyond,  
 108 I wish that you would go:  
 109 Perhaps when you are at the place  
 110 You something of her tale may trace.

## XI.

111 I'll give you the best help I can:  
 112 Before you up the mountain go,  
 113 Up to the dreary mountain-top,  
 114 I'll tell you all I know.  
 115 'Tis now some two and twenty years,  
 116 Since she (her name is Martha Ray)  
 117 Gave with a maiden's true good will  
 118 Her company to Stephen Hill;  
 119 And she was blithe and gay,  
 120 And she was happy, happy still  
 121 Whene'er she thought of Stephen Hill.

## XII.

122 And they had fix'd the wedding-day,  
 123 The morning that must wed them both;  
 124 But Stephen to another maid  
 125 Had sworn another oath;  
 126 And with this other maid to church  
 127 Unthinking Stephen went—  
 128 Poor Martha! on that woful day

---

101 woman] Woman *LB1802*

106 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*; pond] Pond *LB1802*

115 two and twenty] two-and-twenty *LB1805*

124 maid] Maid *LB1802*

126 maid] Maid *LB1802*

128 woful] woeful *LB1805*

129 A cruel, cruel fire, they say,  
 130 Into her bones was sent:  
 131 It dried her body like a cinder,  
 132 And almost turn'd her brain to tinder.

## XIII.

133 They say, full six months after this,  
 134 While yet the summer-leaves were green,  
 135 She to the mountain-top would go,  
 136 And there was often seen.  
 137 'Tis said, a child was in her womb,  
 138 As now to any eye was plain;  
 139 She was with child, and she was mad,  
 140 Yet often she was sober sad  
 141 From her exceeding pain.  
 142 Oh me! ten thousand times I'd rather  
 143 That he had died, that cruel father!

## XIV.

144 Sad case for such a brain to hold  
 145 Communion with a stirring child!  
 146 Sad case, as you may think, for one  
 147 Who had a brain so wild!  
 148 Last Christmas when we talked of this,  
 149 Old Farmer Simpson did maintain,  
 150 That in her womb the infant wrought  
 151 About its mother's heart, and brought  
 152 Her senses back again:  
 153 And when at last her time drew near,  
 154 Her looks were calm, her senses clear.

## XV.

155 No more I know, I wish I did,  
 156 And I would tell it all to you;  
 157 For what became of this poor child  
 158 There's none that ever knew:  
 159 And if a child was born or no,  
 160 There's no one that could ever tell;

161 And if 'twas born alive or dead,  
 162 There's no one knows, as I have said,  
 163 But some remember well,  
 164 That Martha Ray about this time  
 165 Would up the mountain often climb.

## XVI.

166 And all that winter, when at night  
 167 The wind blew from the mountain-peak,  
 168 'Twas worth your while, though in the dark,  
 169 The church-yard path to seek:  
 170 For many a time and oft were heard  
 171 Cries coming from the mountain-head,  
 172 Some plainly living voices were,  
 173 And others, I've heard many swear,  
 174 Were voices of the dead:  
 175 I cannot think, whate'er they say,  
 176 They had to do with Martha Ray.

## XVII.

177 But that she goes to this old thorn,  
 178 The thorn which I've described to you,  
 179 And there sits in a scarlet cloak,  
 180 I will be sworn is true.  
 181 For one day with my telescope,  
 182 To view the ocean wide and bright,  
 183 When to this country first I came,  
 184 Ere I had heard of Martha's name,  
 185 I climbed the mountain's height:  
 186 A storm came on, and I could see  
 187 No object higher than my knee.

## XVIII.

188 'Twas mist and rain, and storm and rain,  
 189 No screen, no fence could I discover,  
 190 And then the wind! in faith, it was

191 A wind full ten times over.  
 192 I looked around, I thought I saw  
 193 A jutting crag, and off I ran,  
 194 Head-foremost, through the driving rain,  
 195 The shelter of the crag to gain,  
 196 And, as I am a man,  
 197 Instead of jutting crag, I found  
 198 A woman seated on the ground.

## XIX.

199 I did not speak—I saw her face,  
 200 Her face it was enough for me;  
 201 I turned about and heard her cry,  
 202 “O misery! O misery!”  
 203 And there she sits, until the moon  
 204 Through half the clear blue sky will go,  
 205 And when the little breezes make  
 206 The waters of the pond to shake,  
 207 As all the country know,  
 208 She shudders and you hear her cry,  
 209 “Oh misery! oh misery!”

## XX.

210 “But what’s the thorn? and what’s the pond?  
 211 “And what’s the hill of moss to her?  
 212 “And what’s the creeping breeze that comes  
 213 “The little pond to stir?”  
 214 I cannot tell; but some will say  
 215 She hanged her baby on the tree,  
 216 Some say she drowned it in the pond,  
 217 Which is a little step beyond,  
 218 But all and each agree,  
 219 The little babe was buried there,  
 220 Beneath that hill of moss so fair.

---

198 woman] Woman *LB1802*

200 Her face] In truth *LB1800*

206 pond] Pond *LB1802*

210 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*; pond] Pond *LB1802*

211 hill] Hill *LB1802*

213 pond] Pond *LB1802*

220 hill] Hill *LB1802*

## XXI.

221 I've heard the scarlet moss is red  
 222 With drops of that poor infant's blood;  
 223 But kill a new-born infant thus!  
 224 I do not think she could.  
 225 Some say, if to the pond you go,  
 226 And fix on it a steady view,  
 227 The shadow of a babe you trace,  
 228 A baby and a baby's face,  
 229 And that it looks at you;  
 230 Whene'er you look on it, 'tis plain  
 231 The baby looks at you again.

## XXII.

232 And some had sworn an oath that she  
 233 Should be to public justice brought;  
 234 And for the little infant's bones  
 235 With spades they would have sought.  
 236 But then the beauteous hill of moss  
 237 Before their eyes began to stir;  
 238 And for full fifty yards around,  
 239 The grass it shook upon the ground;  
 240 But all do still aver  
 241 The little babe is buried there,  
 242 Beneath that hill of moss so fair.

---

221 scarlet moss it] moss is spotted *LB1800*

225 pond] Pond *LB1802*

236 hill] Hill *LB1802*

242 hill] Hill *LB1802*

244 thorn] Thorn *LB1802*

253 O] Oh *LB1805*

## XXIII.

243 I cannot tell how this may be,  
244 But plain it is, the thorn is bound  
245 With heavy tufts of moss, that strive  
246 To drag it to the ground.  
247 And this I know, full many a time,  
248 When she was on the mountain high,  
249 By day, and in the silent night,  
250 When all the stars shone clear and bright,  
251 That I have heard her cry,  
252 "Oh misery! oh misery!  
253 "O woe is me! oh misery!"

## THE LAST OF THE FLOCK

## I

1 In distant countries have I been,  
 2 And yet I have not often seen  
 3 A healthy man, a man full grown,  
 4 Weep in the public roads, alone.  
 5 But such a one, on English ground,  
 6 And in the broad highway, I met;  
 7 Along the broad highway he came,  
 8 His cheeks with tears were wet:  
 9 Sturdy he seemed, though he was sad;  
 10 And in his arms a Lamb he had.

## II

11 He saw me, and he turned aside,  
 12 As if he wished himself to hide:  
 13 And with his coat did then essay  
 14 To wipe those briny tears away.  
 15 I followed him, and said, "My friend,  
 16 What ails you? wherefore weep you so?"  
 17 —"Shame on me, Sir! this lusty Lamb,  
 18 He makes my tears to flow.  
 19 To-day I fetched him from the rock:  
 20 He is the last of all my flock.

---

3 man...man] Man...Man *LB1802, LB1805*

10 l amb] Lamb *LB1802, LB1805*

15 follow'd] followed *LB1802, LB1805*; friend] Friend *LB1802, LB1805*

17 lamb] Lamb *LB1802, LB1805*

19 To-day] Today *LB1805*

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*The Last of the Flock.* 1798. See *WCLB* 141. Note by ED as follows:

Composed, 1798. "The incident," says Wordsworth, "occurred in the village of Holford, close by Alfoxden." The only change of text which need be noted is that the recurring last line of stanzas 6, 7, 8, "For me it was a woeful day," is given only once (in st. 6). The close of st. 7 in the later text is—

"Reckless of what might come at last  
 Were but the bitter struggle past;"

And that of st. 8—

"And oft was moved to flee from home,  
 And hide my head where wild beasts roam."

## III

21 When I was young, a single man,  
 22 And after youthful follies ran,  
 23 Though little given to care and thought,  
 24 Yet, so it was, an ewe I bought;  
 25 And other sheep from her I raised,  
 26 As healthy sheep as you might see;  
 27 And then I married, and was rich  
 28 As I could wish to be;  
 29 Of sheep I numbered a full score,  
 30 And every year increased my store.

## IV

31 Year after year my stock it grew;  
 32 And from this one, this single ewe,  
 33 Full fifty comely sheep I raised,  
 34 As fine a flock as ever grazed!  
 35 Upon the Quantock hills they fed;  
 36 They throve, and we at home did thrive:  
 37 —This lusty Lamb of all my store  
 38 Is all that is alive;  
 39 And now I care not if we die,  
 40 And perish all of poverty.

## V

41 Six Children, Sir! had I to feed;  
 42 Hard labour in a time of need!  
 43 My pride was tamed, and in our grief  
 44 I of the Parish asked relief.  
 45 They said, I was a wealthy man;  
 46 My sheep upon the uplands fed,  
 47 And it was fit that thence I took  
 48 Whereof to buy us bread.  
 49 'Do this: how can we give to you,'  
 50 They cried, 'what to the poor is due?'

---

21 man] Man *LB1802, LB1805*

24 ewe] Ewe *LB1802, LB1805*

29 number'd] numbered *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

30 increas'd] increas'd *LB1800, LB1802*; increased *LB1805*

32 ewe] Ewe *LB1802, LB1805*

37 lamb] Lamb *LB1802, LB1805*

41 Ten children] Six Children *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

44 parish] Parish *LB1802, LB1805*

## VI

51 I sold a sheep, as they had said,  
 52 And bought my little children bread,  
 53 And they were healthy with their food;  
 54 For me—it never did me good.  
 55 A woeful time it was for me,  
 56 To see the end of all my gains,  
 57 The pretty flock which I had reared  
 58 With all my care and pains,  
 59 To see it melt like snow away—  
 60 For me it was a woeful day.

## VII

61 Another still! and still another!  
 62 A little lamb, and then its mother!  
 63 It was a vein that never stopped—  
 64 Like blood-drops from my heart they dropped.  
 65 'Till thirty were not left alive  
 66 They dwindled, dwindled, one by one;  
 67 And I may say, that many a time  
 68 I wished they all were gone—  
 69 Reckless of what might come at last  
 70 Were but the bitter struggle past.

## VIII

71 To wicked deeds I was inclined,  
 72 And wicked fancies crossed my mind;  
 73 And every man I chanced to see,  
 74 I thought he knew some ill of me:  
 75 No peace, no comfort could I find,  
 76 No ease, within doors or without;  
 77 And, crazily and wearily  
 78 I went my work about;  
 79 And oft was moved to flee from home,  
 80 And hide my head where wild beasts roam.

---

54 me] me— *LB1805*

63 stopp'd] stopp'd— *LB1802, LB1805*

73 chanc'd] chanced *LB1805*

## IX

81 Sir! 'twas a precious flock to me,  
 82 As dear as my own children be;  
 83 For daily with my growing store  
 84 I loved my children more and more.  
 85 Alas! it was an evil time;  
 86 God cursed me in my sore distress;  
 87 I prayed, yet every day I thought  
 88 I loved my children less;  
 89 And every week, and every day,  
 90 My flock it seemed to melt away.

## X

91 They dwindled, Sir, sad sight to see!  
 92 From ten to five, from five to three,  
 93 A lamb, a wether, and a ewe;—  
 94 And then at last from three to two;  
 95 And, of my fifty, yesterday  
 96 I had but only one:  
 97 And here it lies upon my arm,  
 98 Alas! and I have none;—  
 99 To-day I fetched it from the rock;  
 100 It is the last of all my flock."

---

82 children] Children *LB1802, LB1805*

84 children] Children *LB1802, LB1805*

88 children] Children *LB1805*

93 weather] wether *LB1805*; ewe;] ewe;— *LB1802, LB1805*

98 none;] none;— *LB1802, LB1805*

99 To-day] Today *LB1805*

## THE DUNGEON

1 And this place our forefathers made for man!  
 2 This is the process of our love and wisdom,  
 3 To each poor brother who offends against us—  
 4 Most innocent, perhaps—and what if guilty?  
 5 Is this the only cure? Merciful God!  
 6 Each pore and natural outlet shrivell'd up  
 7 By ignorance and parching poverty,  
 8 His energies roll back upon his heart,  
 9 And stagnate and corrupt; till changed to poison,  
 10 They break out on him, like a loathsome plague-spot;  
 11 Then we call in our pamper'd mountebanks—  
 12 And this is their best cure! uncomforted

13 And friendless solitude, groaning and tears,  
 14 And savage faces, at the clanking hour  
 15 Seen through the steams and vapour of his dungeon,  
 16 By the lamp's dismal twilight! So he lies  
 17 Circled with evil, till his very soul  
 18 Unmoulds its essence, hopelessly deformed  
 19 By sights of ever more deformity!

20 With other ministrations thou, O nature!  
 21 Healest thy wandering and distempered child:  
 22 Thou pourest on him thy soft influences,  
 23 Thy sunny hues, fair forms, and breathing sweets,  
 24 Thy melodies of woods, and winds, and waters,  
 25 Till he relent, and can no more endure  
 26 To be a jarring and a dissonant thing,  
 27 Amid this general dance and minstrelsy;  
 28 But, bursting into tears, wins back his way,  
 29 His angry spirit healed and harmonized  
 30 By the benignant touch of love and beauty.

---

10 plague-spot] plague spot *LB1800*

14 hour] hour, *LB1800*, *LB1802*, *LB1805*, *WCLB*; correction given in Errata *LB1798*, *LBD1890*, *LBD1891*, *LBD1898*

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*The Dungeon*, composed by Samuel Coleridge, 1798. Note by ED as follows:

This, like *The Foster-Mother's Tale*, is a fragment from Coleridge's *Osorio*. It is retained in *Remorse*, where the soliloquy opens the fifth act of the play.

This poem was omitted from the third edition of 1802 and the fourth edition of 1805.

## THE MAD MOTHER.

1     Her eyes are wild, her head is bare,  
 2     The sun has burnt her coal-black hair,  
 3     Her eye-brows have a rusty stain,  
 4     And she came far from over the main.  
 5     She has a baby on her arm,  
 6     Or else she were alone;  
 7     And underneath the hay-stack warm,  
 8     And on the green-wood stone,  
 9     She talked and sung the woods among;  
 10    And it was in the English tongue.

11    “Sweet babe! they say that I am mad,  
 12    But nay, my heart is far too glad;  
 13    And I am happy when I sing  
 14    Full many a sad and doleful thing:  
 15    Then, lovely baby, do not fear!  
 16    I pray thee have no fear of me,  
 17    But, safe as in a cradle, here  
 18    My lovely baby! thou shalt be,  
 19    To thee I know too much I owe;  
 20    I cannot work thee any woe.

21    A fire was once within my brain;  
 22    And in my head a dull, dull pain;  
 23    And fiendish faces, one, two, three,  
 24    Hung at my breasts, and pulled at me.  
 25    But then there came a sight of joy;  
 26    It came at once to do me good;  
 27    I waked, and saw my little boy,  
 28    My little boy of flesh and blood;  
 29    Oh joy for me that sight to see!  
 30    For he was here, and only he.

---

11    babe!] Babe! *LB1802, LB1805*  
 15    baby,] Baby, *LB1802*; Babe *LB1805*  
 18    baby!] Baby! *LB1802, LB1805*  
 23    faces,] faces *LBD1898*  
 27    boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 28    boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

---

*The Mad Mother.* 1798. See *WCLB* 142. Note by ED as follows:

Written at Alfoxden, 1798. “The subject was reported to me by a lady of Bristol, who had seen the poor creature.”—Fenwick note. The title was changed to “Her Eyes are Wild.” The text remained almost unaltered.

31 Suck, little babe, oh suck again!  
 32 It cools my blood; it cools my brain;  
 33 Thy lips I feel them, baby! they  
 34 Draw from my heart the pain away.  
 35 Oh! press me with thy little hand;  
 36 It loosens something at my chest;  
 37 About that tight and deadly band  
 38 I feel thy little fingers press'd.  
 39 The breeze I see is in the tree;  
 40 It comes to cool my babe and me.

41 Oh! love me, love me, little boy!  
 42 Thou art thy mother's only joy;  
 43 And do not dread the waves below,  
 44 When o'er the sea-rock's edge we go;  
 45 The high crag cannot work me harm,  
 46 Nor leaping torrents when they howl;  
 47 The babe I carry on my arm,  
 48 He saves for me my precious soul;  
 49 Then happy lie, for blest am I;  
 50 Without me my sweet babe would die.

51 Then do not fear, my boy! for thee  
 52 Bold as a lion I will be;  
 53 And I will always be thy guide,  
 54 Through hollow snows and rivers wide.  
 55 I'll build an Indian bower; I know  
 56 The leaves that make the softest bed:  
 57 And if from me thou wilt not go,  
 58 But still be true 'till I am dead,  
 59 My pretty thing! then thou shalt sing,  
 60 As merry as the birds in spring.

---

31 babe] Babe *LB1802, LB1805*

33 baby] Baby *LB1802, LB1805*

38 press'd] prest *LB1805*

40 babe] Babe *LB1802, LB1805*

41 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

42 mother's] Mother's *LB1802, LB1805*

47 babe] Babe *LB1802, LB1805*

50 babe] Babe *LB1802, LB1805*

51 boy!] boy! *LB1800, Boy! LB1802, LB1805*

58 'till] till *LB1805*

61 Thy father cares not for my breast,  
 62 'Tis thine, sweet baby, there to rest:  
 63 'Tis all thine own! and if its hue  
 64 Be changed, that was so fair to view,  
 65 'Tis fair enough for thee, my dove!  
 66 My beauty, little child, is flown;  
 67 But thou wilt live with me in love,  
 68 And what if my poor cheek be brown?  
 69 'Tis well for me; thou canst not see  
 70 How pale and wan it else would be.

71 Dread not their taunts, my little life!  
 72 I am thy father's wedded wife;  
 73 And underneath the spreading tree  
 74 We two will live in honesty.  
 75 If his sweet boy he could forsake,  
 76 With me he never would have stay'd:  
 77 From him no harm my babe can take,  
 78 But he, poor man! is wretched made,  
 79 And every day we two will pray  
 80 For him that's gone and far away.

81 I'll teach my boy the sweetest things;  
 82 I'll teach him how the owlet sings.  
 83 My little babe! thy lips are still,  
 84 And thou hast almost suck'd thy fill.  
 85 —Where art thou gone my own dear child?  
 86 What wicked looks are those I see?  
 87 Alas! alas! that look so wild,  
 88 It never, never came from me:  
 89 If thou art mad, my pretty lad,  
 90 Then I must be for ever sad.

---

61 father] Father *LB1802, LB1805*  
 62 baby] Baby *LB1802, LB1805*  
 66 child] Child *LB1802, LB1805*  
 72 father's, wife] Father's, Wife *LB1802, LB1805*  
 75 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 76 stay's] stayed *LB1805*  
 77 babe] Babe *LB1802, LB1805*  
 78 man] Man *LB1802, LB1805*  
 81 teach] teah *LB1800*; boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 83 babe] Babe *LB1802, LB1805*  
 84 suck'd] sucked *LB1805*  
 85 child] Child *LB1802, LB1805*

91 Oh! smile on me, my little lamb!  
 92 For I thy own dear mother am.  
 93 My love for thee has well been tried:  
 94 I've sought thy father far and wide.  
 95 I know the poisons of the shade,  
 96 I know the earth-nuts fit for food;  
 97 Then, pretty dear, be not afraid;  
 98 We'll find thy father in the wood.  
 99 Now laugh and be gay, to the woods away!  
 100 And there, my babe; we'll live for aye.

---

92 mother] Mother *LB1802, LB1805*

94 father] Father *LB1802, LB1805*

98 father] Father *LB1802, LB1805*

100 aye.] aye." *LB1805*

## THE IDIOT BOY

1      'Tis eight o'clock,—a clear March night,  
 2      The moon is up—the sky is blue,  
 3      The owlet in the moonlight air,  
 4      He shouts from nobody knows where;  
 5      He lengthens out his lonely shout,  
 6      Halloo! halloo! a long halloo!

7      —Why bustle thus about your door,  
 8      What means this bustle, Betty Foy?  
 9      Why are you in this mighty fret?  
 10     And why on horseback have you set  
 11     Him whom you love, your idiot boy?

12     Beneath the moon that shines so bright,  
 13     Till she is tired, let Betty Foy  
 14     With girt and stirrup fiddle-faddle;  
 15     But wherefore set upon a saddle  
 16     Him whom she loves, her idiot boy?

17     There's scarce a soul that's out of bed;  
 18     Good Betty! put him down again;  
 19     His lips with joy they burr at you,  
 20     But, Betty! what has he to do  
 21     With stirrup, saddle, or with rein?

---

2      moon is up — the sky] Moon is up — the Sky *LB1802, LB1805*

3      owlet] Owllet *LB1802, LB1805*

11     idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

12     moon] Moon *LB1802, LB1805*

16     idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

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*The Idiot Boy.* 1798. See *WCLB* 143. Note by ED as follows:

Composed almost extempore in the groves at Alfoxden, 1798. Wordsworth says that he never wrote anything with so much glee. "The last stanza, 'The cocks did crow to-whoo, to-whoo, and the sun did shine so cold,' was the foundation of the whole. The words were reported to me by my dear friend Thomas Poole."—Fenwick note. The changes of text are not important. Stanza 3, beginning—

"Beneath the moon that shines so bright,"

and stanza 5—

"The world will say 'tis very idle,"

are omitted after 1820.

22 The world will say 'tis very idle,  
 23 Bethink you of the time of night;  
 24 There's not a mother, no not one,  
 25 But when she hears what you have done,  
 26 Oh! Betty she'll be in a fright.

27 But Betty's bent on her intent,  
 28 For her good neighbour, Susan Gale,  
 29 Old Susan, she who dwells alone,  
 30 Is sick, and makes a piteous moan,  
 31 As if her very life would fail.

32 There's not a house within a mile,  
 33 No hand to help them in distress:  
 34 Old Susan lies a bed in pain,  
 35 And sorely puzzled are the twain,  
 36 For what she ails they cannot guess.

37 And Betty's husband's at the wood,  
 38 Where by the week he doth abide,  
 39 A woodman in the distant vale;  
 40 There's none to help poor Susan Gale,  
 41 What must be done? what will betide?

42 And Betty from the lane has fetched  
 43 Her pony, that is mild and good,  
 44 Whether he be in joy or pain,  
 45 Feeding at will along the lane,  
 46 Or bringing faggots from the wood.

47 And he is all in travelling trim,  
 48 And by the moonlight, Betty Foy  
 49 Has up upon the saddle set,  
 50 The like was never heard of yet,  
 51 Him whom she loves, her idiot boy.

---

26 Oh!] O *LB1805*  
 34 a bed] a-bed *LB1802, LB1805*  
 37 husband's] Husband's *LB1802, LB1805*  
 39 woodman] Woodman *LB 802, LB1805*  
 43 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*  
 51 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

52 And he must post without delay  
 53 Across the bridge that's in the dale,  
 54 And by the church, and o'er the down,  
 55 To bring a doctor from the town,  
 56 Or she will die, old Susan Gale.

57 There is no need of boot or spur,  
 58 There is no need of whip or wand,  
 59 For Johnny has his holly-bough,  
 60 And with a hurly-burly now  
 61 He shakes the green bough in his hand.

62 And Betty o'er and o'er has told  
 63 The boy who is her best delight,  
 64 Both what to follow, what to shun,  
 65 What do, and what to leave undone,  
 66 How turn to left, and how to right.

67 And Betty's most especial charge,  
 68 Was, "Johnny! Johnny! mind that you  
 69 "Come home again, nor stop at all,  
 70 "Come home again, whate'er befall,  
 71 "My Johnny do, I pray you do."

72 To this did Johnny answer make,  
 73 Both with his head, and with his hand,  
 74 And proudly shook the bridle too,  
 75 And then! his words were not a few,  
 76 Which Betty well could understand.

77 And now that Johnny is just going,  
 78 Though Betty's in a mighty flurry,  
 79 She gently pats the pony's side,  
 80 On which her idiot boy must ride,  
 81 And seems no longer in a hurry.

---

55 doctor] Doctor *LB1802, LB1805*

63 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

79 pony's] Pony's *LB1802, LB1805*

80 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

- 82 But when the pony moved his legs,  
 83 Oh! then for the poor idiot boy!  
 84 For joy he cannot hold the bridle,  
 85 For joy his head and heels are idle,  
 86 He's idle all for very joy.
- 87 And while the pony moves his legs,  
 88 In Johnny's left-hand you may see,  
 89 The green bough's motionless and dead;  
 90 The moon that shines above his head  
 91 Is not more still and mute than he.
- 92 His heart it was so full of glee,  
 93 That till full fifty yards were gone,  
 94 He quite forgot his holly whip,  
 95 And all his skill in horsemanship,  
 96 Oh! happy, happy, happy John.
- 97 And Betty's standing at the door,  
 98 And Betty's face with joy o'erflows,  
 99 Proud of herself, and proud of him,  
 100 She sees him in his travelling trim;  
 101 How quietly her Johnny goes.
- 102 The silence of her idiot boy,  
 103 What hopes it sends to Betty's heart!  
 104 He's at the guide-post—he turns right,  
 105 She watches till he's out of sight,  
 106 And Betty will not then depart.
- 107 Burr, burr—now Johnny's lips they burr,  
 108 As loud as any mill, or near it,  
 109 Meek as a lamb the pony moves,  
 110 And Johnny makes the noise he loves,  
 111 And Betty listens, glad to hear it.

---

82 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*  
 83 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 87 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*  
 88 left-hand] left hand *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 90 moon] Moon *LB1802, LB1805*  
 102 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 104 guide-post] Guide-post *LB1802, LB1805*  
 109 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*

112 Away she hies to Susan Gale:  
 113 And Johnny's in a merry tune,  
 114 The owlets hoot, the owlets curr,  
 115 And Johnny's lips they burr, burr, burr,  
 116 And on he goes beneath the moon.

117 His steed and he right well agree,  
 118 For of this pony there's a rumour,  
 119 That should he lose his eyes and ears,  
 120 And should he live a thousand years,  
 121 He never will be out of humour.

122 But then he is a horse that thinks!  
 123 And when he thinks his pace is slack;  
 124 Now, though he knows poor Johnny well,  
 125 Yet for his life he cannot tell  
 126 What he has got upon his back.

127 So through the moonlight lanes they go,  
 128 And far into the moonlight dale,  
 129 And by the church, and o'er the down,  
 130 To bring a doctor from the town,  
 131 To comfort poor old Susan Gale.

132 And Betty, now at Susan's side,  
 133 Is in the middle of her story,  
 134 What comfort Johnny soon will bring,  
 135 With many a most diverting thing,  
 136 Of Johnny's wit and Johnny's glory.

137 And Betty's still at Susan's side:  
 138 By this time she's not quite so flurried;  
 139 Demure with porringer and plate  
 140 She sits, as if in Susan's fate  
 141 Her life and soul were buried.

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114 owlets hoot, the owlets] Owlets hoot, the Owlets *LB1802, LB1805*  
 116 moon] Moon *LB1802, LB1805*  
 117 steed and he] Steed and He *LB1802, LB1805*  
 118 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*  
 122 horse] Horse *LB1802, LB1805*  
 130 doctor] Doctor *LB1802, LB1805*

142 But Betty, poor good woman! she,  
 143 You plainly in her face may read it,  
 144 Could lend out of that moment's store  
 145 Five years of happiness or more,  
 146 To any that might need it.

147 But yet I guess that now and then  
 148 With Betty all was not so well,  
 149 And to the road she turns her ears,  
 150 And thence full many a sound she hears,  
 151 Which she to Susan will not tell.

152 Poor Susan moans, poor Susan groans,  
 153 "As sure as there's a moon in heaven,"  
 154 Cries Betty, "he'll be back again;  
 155 "They'll both be here, 'tis almost ten,  
 156 "They'll both be here before eleven."

157 Poor Susan moans, poor Susan groans,  
 158 The clock gives warning for eleven;  
 159 'Tis on the stroke—"If Johnny's near,"  
 160 Quoth Betty "he will soon be here,  
 161 "As sure as there's a moon in heaven."

162 The clock is on the stroke of twelve,  
 163 And Johnny is not yet in sight,  
 164 The moon's in heaven, as Betty sees,  
 165 But Betty is not quite at ease;  
 166 And Susan has a dreadful night.

167 And Betty, half an hour ago,  
 168 On Johnny vile reflections cast;  
 169 "A little idle sauntering thing!"  
 170 With other names, an endless string,  
 171 But now that time is gone and past.

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142 woman] Woman *LB1805*

155 here, 'tis almost ten] here— 'tis almost ten— *LB1802, LB1805*

164 The moon's] —The Moon's *LB1802, LB1805*

169 thing] Thing *LB1802, LB1805*

172 And Betty's drooping at the heart,  
 173 That happy time all past and gone,  
 174 "How can it be he is so late?  
 175 "The doctor he has made him wait,  
 176 "Susan! they'll both be here anon."

177 And Susan's growing worse and worse,  
 178 And Betty's in a sad quandary;  
 179 And then there's nobody to say  
 180 If she must go or she must stay:  
 181 —She's in a sad quandary.

182 The clock is on the stroke of one;  
 183 But neither Doctor nor his guide  
 184 Appear along the moonlight road,  
 185 There's neither horse nor man abroad,  
 186 And Betty's still at Susan's side.

187 And Susan she begins to fear  
 188 Of sad mischances not a few,  
 189 That Johnny may perhaps be drown'd,  
 190 Or lost perhaps, and never found;  
 191 Which they must both for ever rue.

192 She prefaced half a hint of this  
 193 With, "God forbid it should be true!"  
 194 At the first word that Susan said  
 195 Cried Betty, rising from the bed,  
 196 "Susan, I'd gladly stay with you.

197 "I must be gone, I must away,  
 198 "Consider, Johnny's but half-wise;  
 199 "Susan, we must take care of him,  
 200 "If he is hurt in life or limb"—  
 201 "Oh God forbid!" poor Susan cries.

202 "What can I do?" says Betty, going,  
 203 "What can I do to ease your pain?  
 204 "Good Susan tell me, and I'll stay;  
 205 "I fear you're in a dreadful way,  
 206 "But I shall soon be back again."

175 doctor] Doctor *LB1802, LB1805*

183 guide] Guide *LB1802, LB1805*

189 drown'd] downed *LB1805*

207 "Good Betty go, good Betty go,  
 208 "There's nothing that can ease my pain."  
 209 Then off she hies, but with a prayer  
 210 That God poor Susan's life would spare,  
 211 Till she comes back again.

212 So, through the moonlight lane she goes,  
 213 And far into the moonlight dale;  
 214 And how she ran, and how she walked,  
 215 And all that to herself she talked,  
 216 Would surely be a tedious tale.

217 In high and low, above, below,  
 218 In great and small, in round and square,  
 219 In tree and tower was Johnny seen,  
 220 In bush and brake, in black and green,  
 221 'Twas Johnny, Johnny, every where.

222 She's past the bridge that's in the dale,  
 223 And now the thought torments her sore,  
 224 Johnny perhaps his horse forsook,  
 225 To hunt the moon that's in the brook,  
 226 And never will be heard of more.

227 And now she's high upon the down,  
 228 Alone amid a prospect wide;  
 229 There's neither Johnny nor his horse,  
 230 Among the fern or in the gorse;  
 231 There's neither doctor nor his guide.

232 "Oh saints! what is become of him?  
 233 "Perhaps he's climbed into an oak,  
 234 "Where he will stay till he is dead;  
 235 "Or sadly he has been misled,  
 236 "And joined the wandering gypsey-folk.

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207 "Good Betty] "Nay, Betty *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 229 horse] Horse *LB1802, LB1805*  
 231 doctor nor his guide.] Doctor nor his Guide. *LB1802, LB1805*

237 “Or him that wicked pony’s carried  
 238 “To the dark cave, the goblins’ hall,  
 239 “Or in the castle he’s pursuing,  
 240 “Among the ghosts, his own undoing;  
 241 “Or playing with the waterfall.”

242 At poor old Susan then she railed,  
 243 While to the town she posts away;  
 244 “If Susan had not been so ill,  
 245 “Alas! I should have had him still,  
 246 “My Johnny, till my dying day.”

247 Poor Betty! in this sad distemper,  
 248 The doctor’s self would hardly spare,  
 249 Unworthy things she talked and wild,  
 250 Even he, of cattle the most mild,  
 251 The pony had his share.

252 And now she’s got into the town,  
 253 And to the doctor’s door she hies;  
 254 ‘Tis silence all on every side;  
 255 The town so long, the town so wide,  
 256 Is silent as the skies.

257 And now she’s at the doctor’s door,  
 258 She lifts the knocker, rap, rap, rap,  
 259 The doctor at the casement shews,  
 260 His glimmering eyes that peep and doze;  
 261 And one hand rubs his old night-cap.

262 “Oh Doctor! Doctor! where’s my Johnny?”  
 263 “I’m here, what is’t you want with me?”  
 264 “Oh Sir! you know I’m Betty Foy,  
 265 “And I have lost my poor dear boy,  
 266 “You know him—him you often see;

237 pony’s] Pony’s *LB1802, LB1805*

238 goblins’] goblin’s *LB1802, LB1805*

247 doctor’s] Doctor’s *LB1802, LB1805*

251 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*

253 doctor’s] Doctor’s *LB1802, LB1805*

257 doctor’s] Doctor’s *LB1802, LB1805*

259 doctor] Doctor *LB1802*; doctor at the casement shews] Doctor at the casement shows *LB1805*

260 doze] dose *LB1802, LB1805*

264 Betty] betty *LB1802*

265 boy] Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

267 "He's not so wise as some folks be,"  
 268 "The devil take his wisdom!" said  
 269 The Doctor, looking somewhat grim,  
 270 "What, woman! should I know of him?"  
 271 And, grumbling, he went back to bed.

272 "O woe is me! O woe is me!  
 273 "Here will I die; here will I die;  
 274 "I thought to find my Johnny here,  
 275 "But he is neither far nor near,  
 276 "Oh! what a wretched mother I!"

277 She stops, she stands, she looks about,  
 278 Which way to turn she cannot tell.  
 279 Poor Betty! it would ease her pain  
 280 If she had heart to knock again;  
 281 —The clock strikes three—a dismal knell!

282 Then up along the town she hies,  
 283 No wonder if her senses fail,  
 284 This piteous news so much it shock'd her,  
 285 She quite forgot to send the Doctor,  
 286 To comfort poor old Susan Gale.

287 And now she's high upon the down,  
 288 And she can see a mile of road,  
 289 "Oh cruel! I'm almost three-score;  
 290 "Such night as this was ne'er before,  
 291 "There's not a single soul abroad."

292 She listens, but she cannot hear  
 293 The foot of horse, the voice of man;  
 294 The streams with softest sound are flowing,  
 295 The grass you almost hear it growing,  
 296 You hear it now if e'er you can.

---

270 woman!] Woman! *LB1802, LB1805*

276 mother] Mother *LB1802, LB1805*

284 shock'd] shocked *LB1805*

289 three-score] three score *LB1800*; threescore *LB1802, LB1805*

297 The owlets through the long blue night  
 298 Are shouting to each other still:  
 299 Fond lovers, yet not quite hob nob,  
 300 They lengthen out the tremulous sob,  
 301 That echoes far from hill to hill.

302 Poor Betty now has lost all hope,  
 303 Her thoughts are bent on deadly sin;  
 304 A green-grown pond she just has pass'd,  
 305 And from the brink she hurries fast,  
 306 Lest she should drown herself therein.

307 And now she sits her down and weeps;  
 308 Such tears she never shed before;  
 309 "Oh dear, dear pony! my sweet joy!  
 310 "Oh carry back my idiot boy!  
 311 "And we will ne'er o'erload thee more."

312 A thought is come into her head;  
 313 "The pony he is mild and good,  
 314 "And we have always used him well;  
 315 "Perhaps he's gone along the dell,  
 316 "And carried Johnny to the wood."

317 Then up she springs as if on wings;  
 318 She thinks no more of deadly sin;  
 319 If Betty fifty ponds should see,  
 320 The last of all her thoughts would be,  
 321 To drown herself therein.

322 Oh reader! now that I might tell  
 323 What Johnny and his horse are doing!  
 324 What they've been doing all this time,  
 325 Oh could I put it into rhyme,  
 326 A most delightful tale pursuing!

297 owlets] Owlets *LB1802, LB 805*

304 pass'd] passed *LB1805*

309 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*

310 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

312 is] it *LB1802*

313 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*

322 reader] Reader *LB1802, LB1805*

323 horse] Horse *LB1802, LB1805*

327 Perhaps, and no unlikely thought!  
 328 He with his pony now doth roam  
 329 The cliffs and peaks so high that are,  
 330 To lay his hands upon a star,  
 331 And in his pocket bring it home.

332 Perhaps he's turned himself about,  
 333 His face unto his horse's tail,  
 334 And still and mute, in wonder lost,  
 335 All like a silent horseman-ghost,  
 336 He travels on along the vale.

337 And now, perhaps, he's hunting sheep,  
 338 A fierce and dreadful hunter he!  
 339 Yon valley, that's so trim and green,  
 340 In five months' time, should he be seen,  
 341 A desert wilderness will be.

342 Perhaps, with head and heels on fire,  
 343 And like the very soul of evil,  
 344 He's galloping away, away,  
 345 And so he'll gallop on for aye,  
 346 The bane of all that dread the devil.

347 I to the muses have been bound,  
 348 These fourteen years, by strong indentures;  
 349 Oh gentle muses! let me tell  
 350 But half of what to him befel,  
 351 For sure he met with strange adventures.

352 Oh gentle muses! is this kind?  
 353 Why will ye thus my suit repel?  
 354 Why of your further aid bereave me?  
 355 And can ye thus unfriended leave me?  
 356 Ye muses! whom I love so well.

---

328 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*  
 335 horseman-ghost] Horseman-Ghost *LB1802, LB1805*  
 347 muses] Muses *LB1802, LB1805*  
 349 muses] Muses *LB1802, LB1805*  
 351 For sure he] He surely *LB1802, LB1805*  
 352 muses] Muses *LB1802, LB 805*  
 356 muses] Muses *LB1802, LB1805*

357 Who's you, that, near the waterfall,  
 358 Which thunders down with headlong force,  
 359 Beneath the moon, yet shining fair,  
 360 As careless as if nothing were,  
 361 Sits upright on a feeding horse?

362 Unto his horse, that's feeding free,  
 363 He seems, I think, the rein to give;  
 364 Of moon or stars he takes no heed;  
 365 Of such we in romances read,  
 366 —'Tis Johnny! Johnny! as I live.

367 And that's the very pony too.  
 368 Where is she, where is Betty Foy?  
 369 She hardly can sustain her fears;  
 370 The roaring water-fall she hears,  
 371 And cannot find her idiot boy.

372 Your pony's worth his weight in gold,  
 373 Then calm your terrors, Betty Foy!  
 374 She's coming from among the trees,  
 375 And now, all full in view, she sees  
 376 Him whom she loves, her idiot boy.

377 And Betty sees the pony too:  
 378 Why stand you thus Good Betty Foy?  
 379 It is no goblin, 'tis no ghost,  
 380 'Tis he whom you so long have lost,  
 381 He whom you love, your idiot boy.

359 moon] Moon *LB1802, LB1805*  
 361 horse] Horse *LB 802, LB1805*  
 362 moon or stars] Moon or Stars *LB1802, LB1805*  
 367 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*  
 371 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 372 pony's] Pony's *LB1802, LB1805*  
 376 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 378 Good] good *LB1802, LB1805*  
 381 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*

382 She looks again—her arms are up—  
 383 She screams—she cannot move for joy;  
 384 She darts as with a torrent's force,  
 385 She almost has o'erturned the horse,  
 386 And fast she holds her idiot boy.

387 And Johnny burrs and laughs aloud,  
 388 Whether in cunning or in joy,  
 389 I cannot tell; but while he laughs,  
 390 Betty a drunken pleasure quaffs,  
 391 To hear again her idiot boy.

392 And now she's at the pony's tail,  
 393 And now she's at the pony's head,  
 394 On that side now, and now on this,  
 395 And almost stifled with her bliss,  
 396 A few sad tears does Betty shed.

397 She kisses o'er and o'er again,  
 398 Him whom she loves, her idiot boy,  
 399 She's happy here, she's happy there,  
 400 She is uneasy every where;  
 401 Her limbs are all alive with joy.

402 She pats the pony, where or when  
 403 She knows not, happy Betty Foy!  
 404 The little pony glad may be,  
 405 But he is milder far than she,  
 406 You hardly can perceive his joy.

407 "Oh! Johnny, never mind the Doctor;  
 408 "You've done your best, and that is all."  
 409 She took the reins, when this was said,  
 410 And gently turned the pony's head  
 411 From the loud water-fall.

---

385 horse] Horse *LB1802, LB1805*  
 386 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 391 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 392 pony's] Pony's *LB1802, LB1805*  
 393 pony's] Pony's *LB1802, LB1805*  
 398 idiot boy] Idiot Boy *LB1802, LB1805*  
 402 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*  
 404 pony] Pony *LB1802, LB1805*  
 410 pony's] Pony's *LB1802, LB1805*

412 By this the stars were almost gone,  
 413 The moon was setting on the hill,  
 414 So pale you scarcely looked at her:  
 415 The little birds began to stir,  
 416 Though yet their tongues were still.

417 The pony, Betty, and her boy,  
 418 Wind slowly through the woody dale:  
 419 And who is she, be-times abroad,  
 420 That hobbles up the steep rough road?  
 421 Who is it, but old Susan Gale?

422 Long Susan lay deep lost in thought,  
 423 And many dreadful fears beset her,  
 424 Both for her messenger and nurse;  
 425 And as her mind grew worse and worse,  
 426 Her body it grew better.

427 She turned, she toss'd herself in bed,  
 428 On all sides doubts and terrors met her;  
 429 Point after point did she discuss;  
 430 And while her mind was fighting thus,  
 431 Her body still grew better.

432 "Alas! what is become of them?  
 433 "These fears can never be endured,  
 434 "I'll to the wood."—The word scarce said,  
 435 Did Susan rise up from her bed,  
 436 As if by magic cured.

437 Away she posts up hill and down,  
 438 And to the wood at length is come,  
 439 She spies her friends, she shouts a greeting;  
 440 Oh me! it is a merry meeting,  
 441 As ever was in Christendom.

---

417 pony, Betty, and her boy] Pony, Betty, and her Boy *LB 1802, LB1805*

424 messenger and nurse] Messenger and Nurse *LB1802, LB1805*

427 toss'd] tossed *LB1805*

439 friends] Friends *LB1802, LB1805*

442 The owls have hardly sung their last,  
 443 While our four travellers homeward wend;  
 444 The owls have hooted all night long,  
 445 And with the owls began my song,  
 446 And with the owls must end.

447 For while they all were travelling home,  
 448 Cried Betty, "Tell us Johnny, do,  
 449 "Where all this long night you have been,  
 450 "What you have heard, what you have seen,  
 451 "And Johnny, mind you tell us true."

452 Now Johnny all night long had heard  
 453 The owls in tuneful concert strive;  
 454 No doubt too he the moon had seen;  
 455 For in the moonlight he had been  
 456 From eight o'clock till five.

457 And thus to Betty's question, he  
 458 Made answer, like a traveller bold,  
 459 (His very words I give to you,)  
 460 "The cocks did crow to-who, to-who,  
 461 "And the sun did shine so cold."  
 462 ---Thus answered Johnny in his glory,  
 463 And that was all his travel's story.

---

442 owls] Owls *LB1802, LB1805*  
 443 travellers] Travellers *LB1802, LB1805*  
 444 owls] Owls *LB 802, LB1805*  
 445 owls] Owls *LB1802, LB1805*  
 446 owls] Owls *LB1802, LB1805*  
 453 owls] Owls *LB1802, LB1805*  
 454 moon] Moon *LB1802, LB1805*  
 455 been] becn *LB1800*  
 458 traveller] Traveller *LB1802, LB1805*  
 459 to] te *LB1800*  
 460 cocks] Cocks *LB1802, LB1805*  
 461 sun] Sun *LB1802, LB1805*

LINES  
WRITTEN NEAR RICHMOND, UPON THE THAMES,  
AT EVENING.

- 1 How rich the wave, in front, imprest  
 2 With evening-twilight's summer hues,  
 3 While, facing thus the crimson west,  
 4 The boat her silent path pursues!  
 5 And see how dark the backward stream!  
 6 A little moment past, so smiling!  
 7 And still, perhaps, with faithless gleam,  
 8 Some other loiterer beguiling.
- 9 Such views the youthful bard allure,  
 10 But, heedless of the following gloom,  
 11 He deems their colours shall endure  
 12 'Till peace go with him to the tomb.  
 13 —And let him nurse his fond deceit,  
 14 And what if he must die in sorrow!  
 15 Who would not cherish dreams so sweet,  
 16 Though grief and pain may come to-morrow?
- 17 Glide gently, thus for ever glide,  
 18 O Thames! that other bards may see,  
 19 As lovely visions by thy side  
 20 As now, fair river! come to me.  
 21 Oh glide, fair stream! for ever so;  
 22 Thy quiet soul on all bestowing,  
 23 'Till all our minds for ever flow,  
 24 As thy deep waters now are flowing.

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*Title* LINES WRITTEN NEAR RICHMOND, UPON THE THAMES, AT EVENING] LINES Written near Richmond upon the Thames. *LB1800*; REMEMBRANCE of COLLINS, Written upon the Thames, near Richmond.] REMEMBRANCE of COLLINS, Written upon the Thames near Richmond. *LB1802*, *LB1805*

- 1-8 *del LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 9-16 *del LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*  
 18 bards] Bards *LB1802, LB1805*  
 20 river] River *LB1802, LB1805*  
 21 stream] Stream *LB1802, LB1805*  
 23 'Till] Till *LB1805*
- 

LINES WRITTEN NEAR RICHMOND... 1789. See *WCLB* 144. Note by ED as follows:

This poem, composed in 1789, actually belongs to the Cam, although the imagined scene is the Thames near Richmond. It was afterwards broken into two short poems, the first two stanzas forming that entitled "Lines written while sailing in a boat at evening," the last three forming that entitled "Remembrance of Collins." There are several changes of text which effect improvements in detail.

25 Vain thought! yet be as now thou art,  
 26 That in thy waters may be seen  
 27 The image of a poet's heart,  
 28 How bright, how solemn, how serene!  
 29 Such heart did once the poet bless,  
 30 Who, pouring here a \**later* ditty,  
 31 Gould find no refuge from distress,  
 32 But in the milder grief of pity.

33 Remembrance! as we glide along,  
 34 For him suspend the dashing oar,  
 35 And pray that never child of Song  
 36 May know his freezing sorrows more.  
 37 How calm! how still! the only sound,  
 38 The dripping of the oar suspended!  
 39 —The evening darkness gathers round  
 40 By virtue's holiest powers attended.

---

25 yet] ....Yet *LB1805*

29 heart] as *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*; poet] Poet *LB1800, LB1802*

30 *later*] later *LB1800, LB1802*

33 Remembrance ! ...glide] Remembrance ! ...float *LB1800*; Now let us, ...float *LB1802, LB1805*

34 him] *him LB1802, LB1805*

36 his freezing] that Poet's *LB1802, LB1805*

40 powers] Powers *LB1802, LB1805*

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30 Wordsworth's footnote as follows: "\* Collin's Ode on the death of Thomson, the last written, I believe, of the poems which were published during his lifetime. This Ode is also alluded to in the next stanza."

## EXPOSTULATION AND REPLY

- 1 "Why William, on that old grey stone,  
 2 "Thus for the length of half a day,  
 3 "Why William, sit you thus alone,  
 4 "And dream your time away?
- 5 "Where are your books? that light bequeath'd  
 6 "To beings else forlorn and blind!  
 7 "Up! Up! and drink the spirit breath'd  
 8 "From dead men to their kind.
- 9 "You look round on your mother earth,  
 10 "As if she for no purpose bore you;  
 11 "As if you were her first-born birth,  
 12 "And none had lived before you!"
- 13 One morning thus, by Esthwaite lake,  
 14 When life was sweet I knew not why,  
 15 To me my good friend Matthew spake,  
 16 And thus I made reply.
- 17 "The eye it cannot chuse but see,  
 18 "We cannot bid the ear be still;  
 19 "Our bodies feel, where'er they be,  
 20 "Against, or with our will.
- 21 "Nor less I deem that there are powers,  
 22 "Which of themselves our minds impress,  
 23 "That we can feed this mind of ours,  
 24 "In a wise passiveness.

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1 grey] gray *LB1805*

5 ?] —? *LB1802, LB1805*

7 "Up! Up!] "Up! up! *LB1805*

17 chuse] choose *LB1805*

---

- 25 "Think you, mid all this mighty sum  
26 "Of things for ever speaking,  
27 "That nothing of itself will come,  
28 "But we must still be seeking?
- 29 "—Then ask not wherefore, here, alone,  
30 "Conversing as I may,  
31 "I sit upon this old grey stone,  
32 "And dream my time away."

THE TABLES TURNED;  
AN EVENING SCENE, ON THE SAME SUBJECT

- 1 Up! up! my friend, and clear your looks,  
 2 Why all this toil and trouble?  
 3 Up! up! my friend, and quit your books,  
 4 Or surely you'll grow double.
- 5 The sun above the mountain's head,  
 6 A freshening lustre mellow,  
 7 Through all the long green fields has spread,  
 8 His first sweet evening yellow.
- 9 Books! 'tis a dull and endless strife,  
 10 Come, hear the woodland linnet,  
 11 How sweet his music; on my life  
 12 There's more of wisdom in it.
- 13 And hark! how blithe the throstle sings!  
 14 And he is no mean preacher;  
 15 Come forth into the light of things,  
 16 Let Nature be your teacher.
- 17 She has a world of ready wealth,  
 18 Our minds and hearts to bless—  
 19 Spontaneous wisdom breathed by health,  
 20 Truth breathed by cheerfulness.

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1 friend,] Friend, *LB1802, LB1805*

3 friend,] Friend, *LB1802, LB1805*

10 hear] here *LB1800*; linnet] Linnet *LB1802, LB1805*

13 throstle] Throstle *LB1802, LB1805*

20 cheerfulness,] cheerfulness. *LB1805*

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*The Tables Turned.* Spring 1798. See *WCLB* 146. Note by ED as follows:

Same place and date as last [i.e., as preceding poem]. The only change of text worth noting is that the first and second pair of lines in stanza 1 were transposed.

- 21 One impulse from a vernal wood  
 22 May teach you more of man;  
 23 Of moral evil and of good,  
 24 Than all the sages can.
- 25 Sweet is the lore which nature brings;  
 26 Our meddling intellect  
 27 Mishapes the beauteous forms of things;  
 28 —We murder to dissect.
- 29 Enough of science and of art;  
 30 Close up these barren leaves;  
 31 Come forth, and bring with you a heart  
 32 That watches and receives.

/

---

25 nature] Nature *LB1805*

27 Mishapes] Misshapes *LB1805*

29 science and of art;] Science and of Art; *LB1805*

OLD MAN TRAVELLING;  
ANIMAL TRANQUILLITY AND DECAY,  
*A SKETCH.*

1                   The little hedge-row birds,  
2 That peck along the road, regard him not.  
3 He travels on, and in his face, his step,  
4 His gait, is one expression; every limb,  
5 His look and bending figure, all bespeak  
6 A man who does not move with pain, but moves  
7 With thought—He is insensibly subdued  
8 To settled quiet: he is one by whom  
9 All effort seems forgotten, one to whom  
10 Long patience has such mild composure given,  
11 That patience now doth seem a thing, of which  
12 He hath no need. He is by nature led  
13 To peace so perfect, that the young behold  
14 With envy, what the old man hardly feels.  
15 —I asked him whither he was bound, and what  
16 The object of his journey; he replied  
17 “Sir! I am going many miles to take  
18 “A last leave of my son, a mariner,  
19 “Who from a sea-fight has been brought to Falmouth,  
20 “And there is dying in an hospital.”

---

*Title revised to Animal Tranquillity and Decay ... LB1800, LB1802, and LB1805*

10 has] hath *LB1805*

14 old man] Old Man *LB1802, LB1805*

17 “Sir! I am] That he was *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

18 my son, a mariner,] his son, a mariner, *LB1800*; his Son, a Mariner, *LB1802, LB1805*

19 has] had *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

20 dying] lying *LB1800*

---

*Old Man Traveling; Animal Tranquillity and Decay.* 1798. See *WCLB* 147. ED notes as follows:

Composed, 1798. “If I recollect right,” says Wordsworth, “these verses were an overflow from the ‘Old Cumberland Beggar.’” The first part of the title (“Old Man Traveling”) was omitted. In the later texts the last six lines were omitted. [ED’s attribution in last sentence not confirmed in *LB1800-1805*. —WKC]

## THE COMPLAINT OF A FORSAKEN INDIAN WOMAN

[Wordsworth's headnote: "*When a Northern Indian, from sickness, is unable to continue his journey with his companions; he is left behind, covered over with Deerskins, and is supplied with water, food, and fuel if the situation of the place will afford it. He is informed of the track which his companions intend to pursue, and if he is unable to follow, or overtake them, he perishes alone in the Desert; unless he should have the good fortune to fall in with some other Tribes of Indians. It is unnecessary to add that the females are equally, or still more, exposed to the same fate. See that very interesting work, Hearne's Journey from Hudson's Bay to the Northern Ocean. When the Northern Lights, as the same writer informs us, vary their position in the air, they make a rustling and a crackling noise. This circumstance is alluded to in the first stanza of the following poem.*"]

## THE COMPLAINT, &amp;C

1           Before I see another day,  
 2           Oh let my body die away!  
 3           In sleep I heard the northern gleams;  
 4           The stars they were among my dreams;  
 5           In sleep did I behold the skies,  
 6           I saw the crackling flashes drive;  
 7           And yet they are upon my eyes,  
 8           And yet I am alive.  
 9           Before I see another day,  
 10          Oh let my body die away!

---

Headnote: Desert; ] ...Desert; *LB 1805*

...It is unnecessary to add that the females] ...The females; *LB 1802, LB 1805*

When the Northern Lights, as the same writer informs us, vary] In the high Northern Latitudes, as the same writer informs us, when the Northern Lights vary; *LB 1800, LB 1802, LB 1805.*

---

*The Complaint, &c.* 1798. See *WCLB* 147. Note by ED as follows:

In stanza I the fifth and sixth lines were changed to –

“In rustling conflict through the skies,  
 I heard, I saw the flashes drive.”

In stanza 4 the line –

“A most strange something I did see”

became –

“A most strange working did I see.”

11 My fire is dead: it knew no pain;  
 12 Yet is it dead, and I remain.  
 13 All stiff with ice the ashes lie;  
 14 And they are dead, and I will die.  
 15 When I was well, I wished to live,  
 16 For clothes, for warmth, for food, and fire;  
 17 But they to me no joy can give,  
 18 No pleasure now, and no desire.  
 19 Then here contented will I lie;  
 20 Alone I cannot fear to die.

21 Alas! you might have dragged me on  
 22 Another day, a single one!  
 23 Too soon despair o'er me prevailed;  
 24 Too soon my heartless spirit failed;  
 25 When you were gone my limbs were stronger,  
 26 And Oh how grievously I rue,  
 27 That, afterwards, a little longer,  
 28 My friends, I did not follow you!  
 29 For strong and without pain I lay,  
 30 My friends, when you were gone away.

31 My child! they gave thee to another,  
 32 A woman who was not thy mother.  
 33 When from my arms my babe they took,  
 34 On me how strangely did he look!  
 35 Through his whole body something ran,  
 36 A most strange something did I see;  
 37 --As if he strove to be a man,  
 38 That he might pull the sledge for me.  
 39 And then he stretched his arms, how wild!  
 40 Oh mercy! like a little child.

---

23 prevailed] prevail'd *LB 1802*

24 failed] fail'd *LB 1802*

26. Oh] oh *LB 1805*

28 friends] Friends *LB 1802, LB 1805*

30 friends] Friends *LB 1802, LB 1805*

31 child] Child *LB 1802, LB 1805*

33 babe] Babe *LB 1802, LB 1805*

41 My little joy! my little pride!  
 42 In two days more I must have died.  
 43 Then do not weep and grieve for me;  
 44 I feel I must have died with thee.  
 45 Oh wind that o'er my head art flying,  
 46 The way my friends their course did bend,  
 47 I should not feel the pain of dying,  
 48 Could I with thee a message send.  
 49 Too soon, my friends, you went away;  
 50 For I had many things to say.

51 I'll follow you across the snow,  
 52 You travel heavily and slow:  
 53 In spite of all my weary pain,  
 54 I'll look upon your tents again.  
 55 My fire is dead, and snowy white  
 56 The water which beside it stood;  
 57 The wolf has come to me to-night,  
 58 And he has stolen away my food.  
 59 For ever left alone am I,  
 60 Then wherefore should I fear to die?

61 My journey will be shortly run,  
 62 I shall not see another sun,  
 63 I cannot lift my limbs to know  
 64 If they have any life or no.  
 65 My poor forsaken child! if I  
 66 For once could have thee close to me,  
 67 With happy heart I then would die,  
 68 And my last thoughts would happy be.  
 69 I feel my body die away,  
 70 I shall not see another day.

---

46 friends] Friends *LB 1802, LB 1805*

49 friends] Friends *LB 1802, LB 1805*

55 My] —My *LB 1802, LB 1805*

67 would] should *LB 1800, LB 1802, LB 1805*

## THE CONVICT

1 The glory of evening was spread through the west;  
 2 – On the slope of a mountain I stood;  
 3 While the joy that precedes the calm season of rest  
 4 Rang loud through the meadow and wood.

5 “And must we then part from a dwelling so fair?”  
 6 In the pain of my spirit I said,  
 7 And with a deep sadness I turned, to repair  
 8 To the cell where the convict is laid.

9 The thick-ribbed walls that o’ershadow the gate  
 10 Resound; and the dungeons unfold:  
 11 I pause; and at length, through the glimmering grate,  
 12 That outcast of pity behold.

13 His black matted head on his shoulder is bent,  
 14 And deep is the sigh of his breath,  
 15 And with stedfast dejection his eyes are intent  
 16 On the fetters that link him to death.

17 ‘Tis sorrow enough on that visage to gaze.  
 18 That body dismiss’d from his care;  
 19 Yet my fancy has pierced to his heart, and pourtrays  
 20 More terrible images there.

21 His bones are consumed, and his life-blood is dried,  
 22 With wishes the past to undo;  
 23 And his crime, through the pains that o’erwhelm him, descried,  
 24 Still blackens and grows on his view.

25 When from the dark synod, or blood-reeking field,  
 26 To his chamber the monarch is led,  
 27 All soothers of sense their soft virtue shall yield,  
 28 And quietness pillow his head.

29 But if grief, self-consumed, in oblivion would doze,  
 30 And conscience her tortures appease,  
 31 'Mid tumult and uproar this man must repose;  
 32 In the comfortless vault of disease.

33 When his fetters at night have so press'd on his limbs,  
 34 That the weight can no longer be borne,  
 35 If, while a half-slumber his memory bedims,  
 36 The wretch on his pallet should turn,

37 While the jail-mastiff howls at the dull clanking chain,  
 38 From the roots of his hair there shall start  
 39 A thousand sharp punctures of cold-sweating pain,  
 40 And terror shall leap at his heart.

41 But now he half-raises his deep-sunken eye,  
 42 And the motion unsettles a tear;  
 43 The silence of sorrow it seems to supply,  
 44 And asks of me why I am here.

45 "Poor victim! no idle intruder has stood  
 46 "With o'erweening complacence our state to compare,  
 47 "But one, whose first wish is the wish to be good,  
 48 "Is come as a brother thy sorrows to share.

49 "At thy name though compassion her nature resign,  
 50 "Though in virtue's proud mouth thy report be a stain,  
 51 "My care, if the arm of the mighty were mine,  
 52 "Would plant thee where yet thou might'st blossom again."

LINES WRITTEN A FEW MILES ABOVE TINTERN ABBEY,  
ON REVISITING THE BANKS OF THE WYE DURING A TOUR,  
JULY 13, 1798

1 Five years have passed; five summers, with the length  
2 Of five long winters! and again I hear  
3 These waters, rolling from their mountain-springs  
4 With a sweet inland murmur.\* —Once again  
5 Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs,  
6 Which on a wild secluded scene impress  
7 Thoughts of more deep seclusion; and connect  
8 The landscape with the quiet of the sky.  
9 The day is come when I again repose  
10 Here, under this dark sycamore, and view  
11 These plots of cottage-ground, these orchard-tufts,  
12 Which, at this season, with their unripe fruits,  
13 Among the woods and copses lose themselves,  
14 Nor, with their green and simple hue, disturb  
15 The wild green landscape. Once again I see  
16 These hedge-rows, hardly hedge-rows, little lines  
17 Of sportive wood run wild; these pastoral farms

---

11 cottage-ground] cottage ground *LB1802*

13 Among the woods and copses] Are clad in one green hue, and *LB1802, LB1805*

14 Nor, with their green and simple hue,] Among the woods and copses, nor *LB1802, LB1805*

---

*Lines written a few miles above Tintern Abbey.* July 1798. See *WCLB* 149. Note by ED as follows:

Composed, 1798. "I began it," says Wordsworth, "upon leaving Tintern, after crossing the Wye, and concluded it just I was entering Bristol in the evening, after a ramble of four or five days with my Sister. Not a line of it was altered, and not any part of it written down till I reached Bristol." The only noteworthy change of text is in ll. 13-15—

"Among the woods and copses lose themselves,  
Nor, with their green and simple hue, disturb  
The wild green landscape,"

For which the final text reads—

"Are clad in one green hue, and lose themselves  
'Mid groves and copses."

The earlier visit to the Wye was that of 1793, which followed Wordsworth's wanderings on Salisbury Plain. See note on "The Female Vagrant."

4 Wordsworth's footnote: "\* The river is affected by the tides a few miles above Tintern."





90 To look on nature, not as in the hour  
 91 Of thoughtless youth, but hearing oftentimes  
 92 The still, sad music of humanity,  
 93 Not harsh nor grating, though of ample power  
 94 To chasten and subdue. And I have felt  
 95 A presence that disturbs me with the joy  
 96 Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime  
 97 Of something far more deeply interfused,  
 98 Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,  
 99 And the round ocean, and the living air,  
 100 And the blue sky, and in the mind of man,  
 101 A motion and a spirit, that impels  
 102 All thinking things, all objects of all thought,  
 103 And rolls through all things. Therefore am I still  
 104 A lover of the meadows and the woods,  
 105 And mountains; and of all that we behold  
 106 From this green earth; of all the mighty world  
 107 Of eye and ear, both what they half-create,\*  
 108 And what perceive; well pleased to recognize  
 109 In nature and the language of the sense,  
 110 The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,  
 111 The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul  
 112 Of all my moral being.

112 Nor, perchance,  
 113 If I were not thus taught, should I the more  
 114 Suffer my genial spirits to decay:  
 115 For thou art with me, here, upon the banks  
 116 Of this fair river; thou, my dearest Friend,  
 117 My dear, dear Friend, and in thy voice I catch  
 118 The language of my former heart, and read  
 119 My former pleasures in the shooting lights  
 120 Of thy wild eyes. Oh! yet a little while  
 121 May I behold in thee what I was once,  
 122 My dear, dear Sister! And this prayer I make,  
 123 Knowing that Nature never did betray  
 124 The heart that loved her; 'tis her privilege,  
 125 Through all the years of this our life, to lead  
 126 From joy to joy: for she can so inform

---

93 Not] Nor *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

107 half-create] half create *LB1800, LB1802, LB1805*

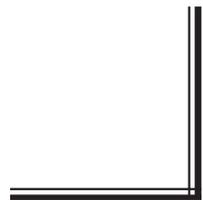
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107 Wordsworth's footnote: "This line has a close resemblance to an admirable line of Young, the exact expression of which I cannot recollect."

127 The mind that is within us, so impress  
 128 With quietness and beauty, and so feed  
 129 With lofty thoughts, that neither evil tongues,  
 130 Rash judgments, nor the sneers of selfish men,  
 131 Nor greetings where no kindness is, nor all  
 132 The dreary intercourse of daily life,  
 133 Shall e'er prevail against us, or disturb  
 134 Our chearful faith that all which we behold  
 135 Is full of blessings. Therefore let the moon  
 136 Shine on thee in thy solitary walk;  
 137 And let the misty mountain winds be free  
 138 To blow against thee: and in after years,  
 139 When these wild ecstasies shall be matured  
 140 Into a sober pleasure, when thy mind  
 141 Shall be a mansion for all lovely forms,  
 142 Thy memory be as a dwelling-place  
 143 For all sweet sounds and harmonies; Oh! then,  
 144 If solitude, or fear, or pain, or grief,  
 145 Should be thy portion, with what healing thoughts  
 146 Of tender joy wilt thou remember me,  
 147 And these my exhortations! Nor, perchance,  
 148 If I should be, where I no more can hear  
 149 Thy voice, nor catch from thy wild eyes these gleams  
 150 Of past existence, wilt thou then forget  
 151 That on the banks of this delightful stream  
 152 We stood together; and that I, so long  
 153 A worshipper of Nature, hither came,  
 154 Unwearied in that service: rather say  
 155 With warmer love, oh! with far deeper zeal  
 156 Of holier love. Nor wilt thou then forget,  
 157 That after many wanderings, many years  
 158 Of absence, these steep woods and lofty cliffs,  
 159 And this green pastoral landscape, were to me  
 160 More dear, both for themselves, and for thy sake.



# *Appendix*



**LYRICAL BALLADS,**

WITH

*A FEW OTHER POEMS.*

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. & A. ARCH, GRACECHURCH-STREET.

1798.

## *Advertisement*

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It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind. The evidence of this fact is to be sought, not in the writings of Critics, but in those of Poets themselves.

The majority of the following poems are to be considered as experiments. They were written chiefly with a view to ascertain how far the language of conversation in the middle and lower classes of society is adapted to the purposes of poetic pleasure. Readers accustomed to the gaudiness and inane phraseology of many modern writers, if they persist in reading this book to its conclusion, will perhaps frequently have to struggle with feelings of strangeness and awkwardness: they will look round for poetry, and will be induced to enquire by what species of courtesy these attempts can be permitted to assume that title. It is desirable that such readers, for their own sakes, should not suffer the solitary word Poetry, a word of very disputed meaning, to stand in the way of their gratification; but that, while they are perusing this book, they should ask themselves if it contains a natural delineation of human passions, human characters, and human incidents; and if the answer be favourable to the author's wishes, that they should consent to be pleased in spite of that most dreadful enemy to our own pleasures, our own pre-established codes of decision.

Readers of superior judgment may disapprove of the style in which many of these pieces are executed[;] it must be expected that many lines and phrases will not exactly suit their taste. It will perhaps appear to them, that wishing to avoid the prevalent fault of the day, the author has sometimes descended too low, and that many of his expressions are too familiar, and not of sufficient dignity. It is apprehended, that more conversant the reader is with our elder writers, and with those in modern times who have been the most successful in painting manners and passions, the fewer complaints of this kind will he have to make.

An accurate taste in poetry, and in all the other arts, Sir Joshua Reynolds has observed, is an acquired talent, which can only be produced by severe thought, and a long continued intercourse with the best models of composition. This is mentioned not with so ridiculous a purpose as to prevent the most inexperienced reader from judging for himself; but merely to temper the rashness of decision, and to suggest that if poetry be a subject on which much time has not been bestowed, the judgment may be erroneous, and that in many cases it necessarily will be so.

The tale of Goody Blake and Harry Gill is founded on a well-authenticated fact which happened in Warwickshire. Of the other poems in the collection, it may be proper to say that they are either absolute inventions of the author, or facts which took place within his personal observation or that of his friends. The poem of the Thorn, as the reader will soon discover, is not supposed to be spoken in the author's own person: the character of the loquacious narrator will sufficiently shew itself in the course of the story. The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere was professedly written in imitation of the *style*, as well as the spirit of the elder poets; but with a few exceptions, the Author believes that the language adopted in it has been equally intelligible for these three last centuries. The lines entitled Expostulation and Reply, and those which follow, arose out of conversation with a friend who was somewhat unreasonably attached to modern books of moral philosophy.

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