J. POWER takes the Liberty of announcing to the Public a Work which has long been a Desideratum in this Country. Though the Beauties of the National Music of Ireland have been very generally felt and acknowledged, yet it has happened, through the Want of appropriate English Words, and of the Arrangement necessary to adapt them to the Voice, that many of the most excellent Compositions have hitherto remained in Obscurity. It is intended, therefore, to form a Collection of the best Original Irish Melodies, with Characteristic Symphonies and Accompaniments; and with Words containing, as frequently as possible, Allusions to the Manners and History of the Country. Sir John Stevenson has very kindly consented to undertake the Arrangement of the Airs; and the Lovers of simple National Music may rest secure, that, in such tasteful Hands, the native Charms of the original Melody will not be sacrificed to the Ostentation of Science.

In the Poetical Part, J. Power has had Promises of Assistance from several distinguished Literary Characters, particulary from Mr. Moore, whose Lyrical Talent is so peculiarly suited to such a Task, and whose Zeal in the Undertaking will be best understood from the following Extract of a Letter which he has addressed to Sir John Stevenson on the Subject:—

"I feel very anxious that a Work of this Kind should be undertaken. We have too long neglected the only Talent for which our English Neighbours ever deigned to allow us any Credit. Our National Music has never been properly collected: and, while the Composers of the Continent have enriched their Operas and Sonatas with Melodies borrowed from Ireland, very often without even the Honesty of Acknowledgment, we have left these treasures in a great Degree unclaimed and fugitive. Thus our Airs, like too many of our Countrymen, for want of Protection at Home, have passed into the service of Foreigners. But we are come, I hope, to a better Period both of Politics and Music; and how much they are connected, in Ireland at least, appears too plainly in the Tone of Sorrow and Depression which characterizes most of our early Songs.—The task which you propose to me, of adapting Words to these Airs, is by no means easy. The Poet who would follow the various Sentiments which they express must feel and understand that rapid Fluctuation of Spirits, that unaccountable Mixture of Gloom and Levity, which compose the Character of my Countrymen, and has deeply tinged their Music. Even in their liveliest Strains we find some melancholy Note intrude, some minor Third or flat Seventh, which throws its Shade as it passes, and makes even Mirth interesting. If Burns had been an Irishman, (and I would willingly give up all our Claims upon Ossian for him,) his Heart would have been proud of such Music, and his Genius would have made it immortal.

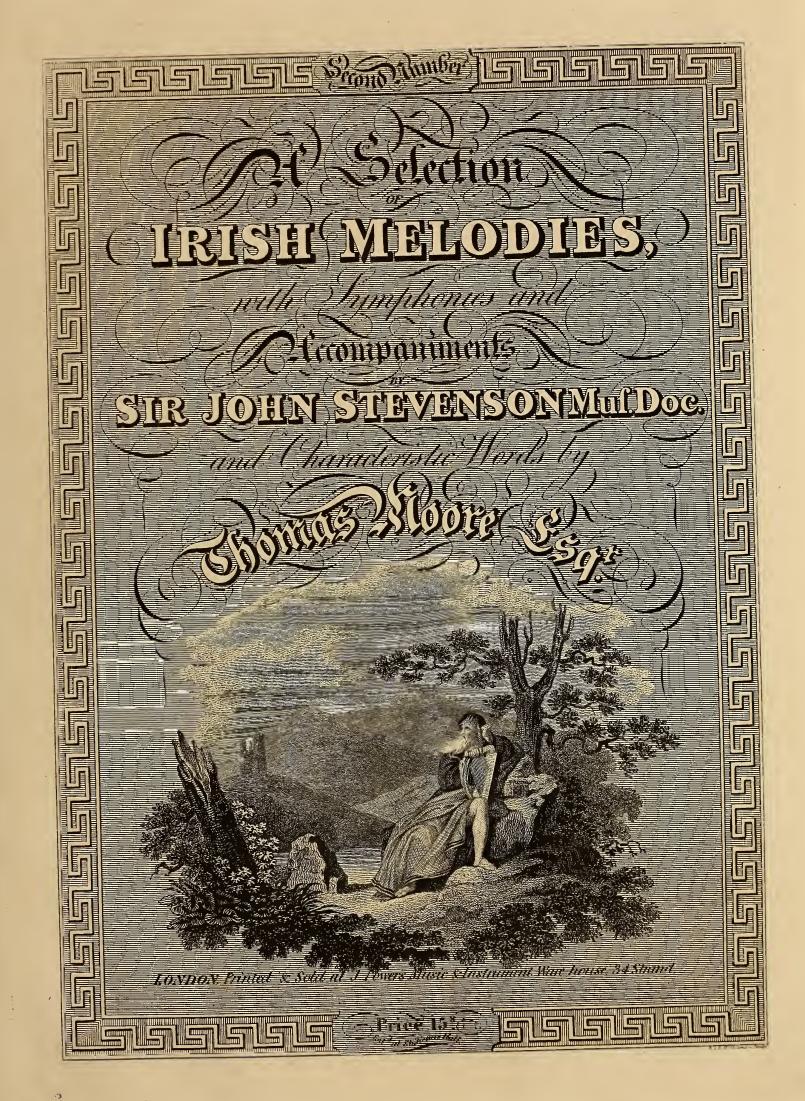
"Another Difficulty (which is, however, purely mechanical) arises from the irregular Structure of many of those Airs, and the lawless Kind of Metre which it will in consequence be necessary to adapt to them. In these instances the Poet must write, not to the Eye, but to the Ear; and must be content to have his Verses of that Description which Cicero mentions, "Quos si cantu spoliaveris nude remanebit oratio." That beautiful Air, "The Twisting of the Rope," which has all the romantic Character of the Swiss Rans des Vaches, is one of those wild and sentimental Rakes which it will not be very easy to tie down in sober Wedlock with Poetry. However, notwithstanding all these Difficulties, and the very little Talent which I can bring to surmount them, the Design appears to me so truly National, that I shall feel much Pleasure in giving it all the Assistance in my Power.

" Leicestershire, Feb. 1807."

The Work will be continued in Numbers, containing each Twelve Melodies; several of them arranged for One, Two, or Three Voices.

*** J. Power will be much obliged by the Communication of any Original Melodies which the Lovers of Irish Music may have the Kindness to contribute to this Work.

^a The Writer forgot, when he made this Assertion, that the Public are indebted to Mr. Bunting for a very valuable Collection of Irish Music; and that the patriotic Genius of Miss Owenson has been employed upon some of our finest Airs.





) /10/01/02 The following Work? M. respectfully - Inscribed 5 the Shillisher



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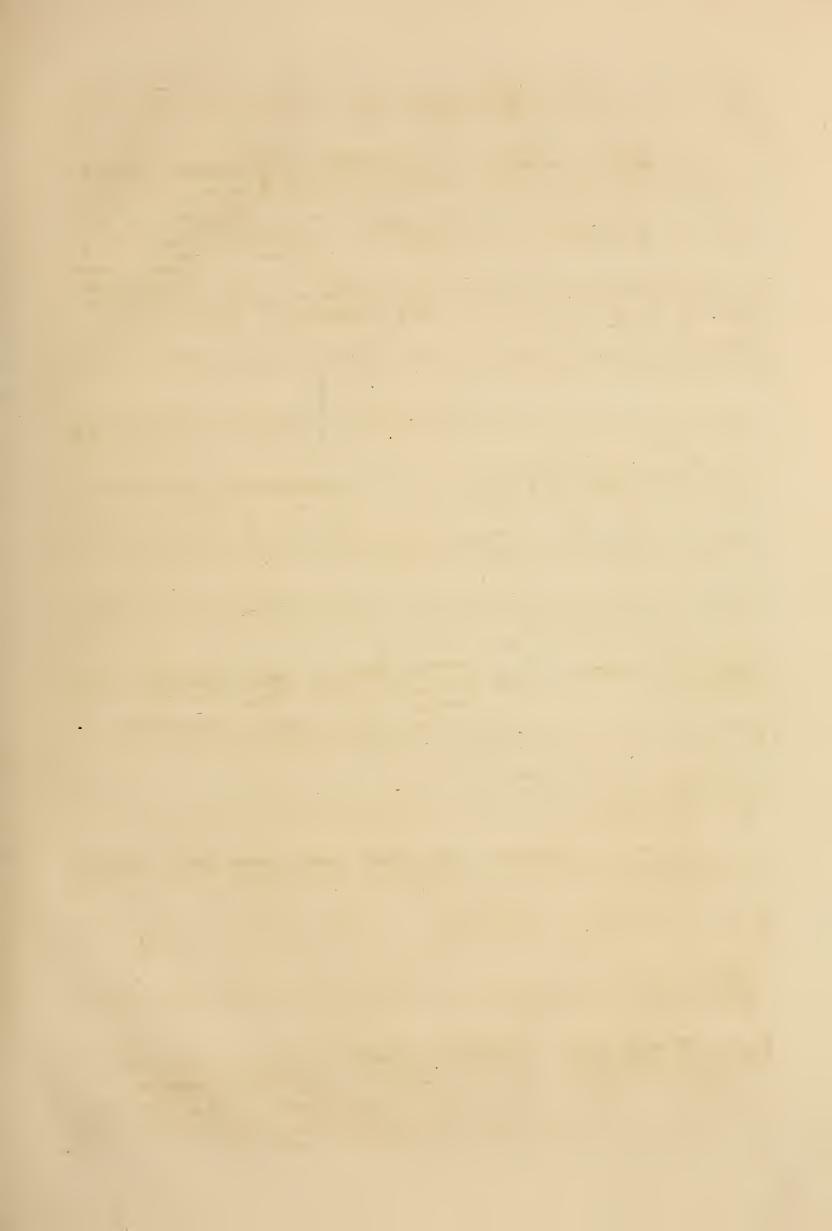
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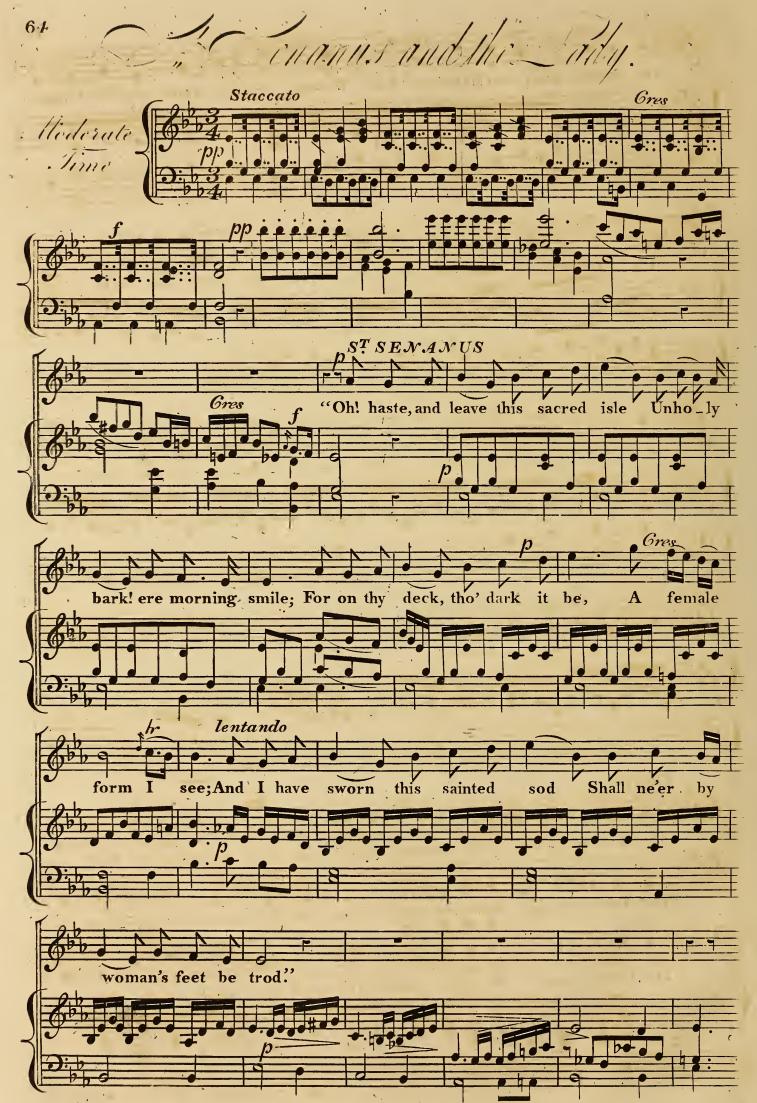
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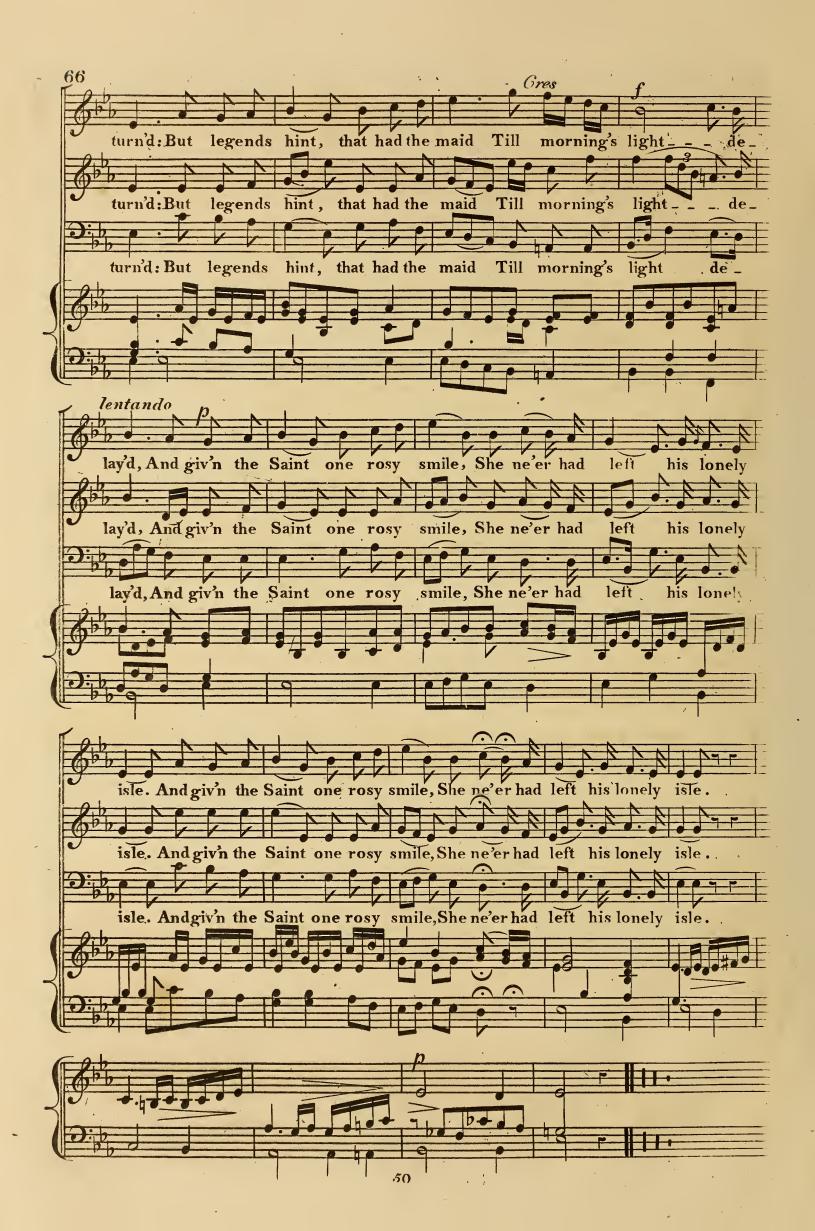
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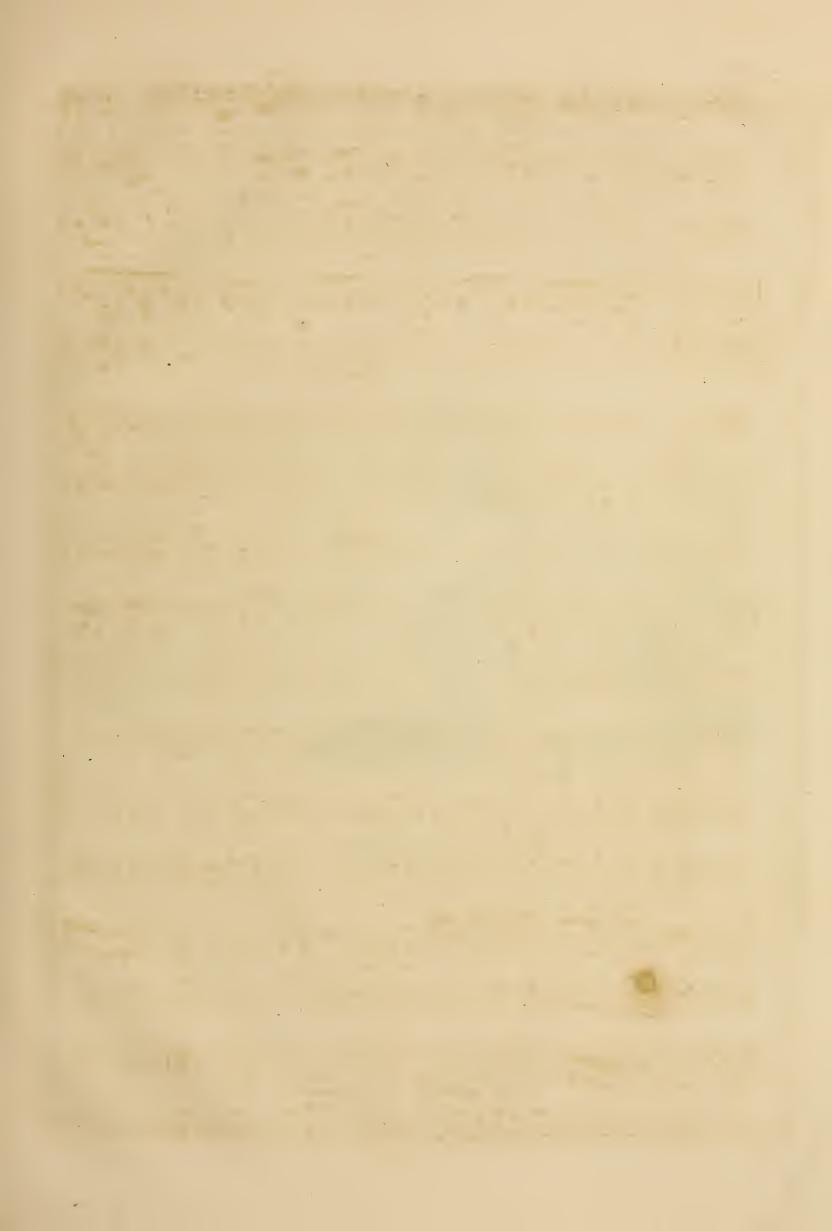
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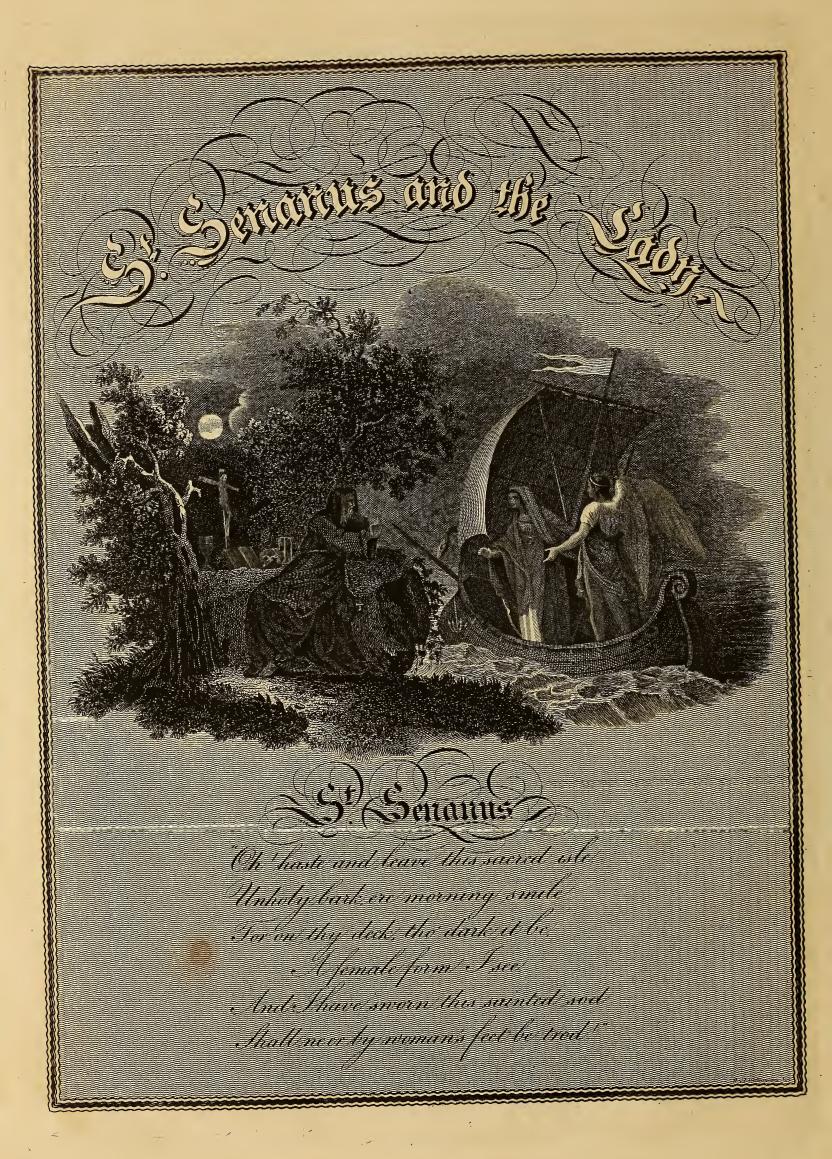












OH! HASTE, AND LEAVE THIS SACRED ISLE.

AIR-The Brown Thorn.

St. Senanus.* "OH! haste, and leave this sacred isle,

"Unholy bark! ere morning smile;

"For on thy deck, tho' dark it be, "A female form I see;

" And I have sworn this sainted sod

"Shall ne'er by woman's feet be trod!"

The Lady.

"Oh! Father, send not hence my bark,

"Thro' wint'ry winds, and billows dark;

" I come, with humble heart, to share

"Thy morn and ev'ning pray'r;

" Nor mine the feet, oh! holy Saint,

"The brightness of thy sod to taint."

The Lady's pray'r Senanus spurn'd;
The winds blew fresh, the bark return'd:
But legends hint, that had the maid
Till morning's light delay'd,
And given the Saint one rosy smile,
She ne'er had left his lonely isle.

Cui Præsul, quid fæminis Commune est cum monachis? Nec te nec ullam aliam Admittemus in insulam.

See the Acta Sanct. Hib. Page 610.

According to Dr. Ledwich, St. Senanus was no less a Personage than the River Shannon; but O'Connor, and other Antiquarians, deny this Metamorphosis indignantly.

^{*} In a Metrical Life of St. Senanus, which is taken from an old Kilkenny MS. and may be found among the Acta Sanctorum Hibernia, we are told of his flight to the Island of Scattery, and his resolution not to admit any Woman of the party; he refused to receive even a Sister Saint, St. Cannera, whom an Angel had taken to the Island for the express purpose of introducing her to him. The following was the ungracious Answer of Senanus, according to his Poetical Biographer:—

HOW DEAR TO ME THE HOUR.

AIR—The Twisting of the Rope.*

I.

HOW dear to me the hour when day-light dies,
And sun-beams melt along the silent sea;
For then sweet dreams of other days arise,
And Mem'ry breathes her vesper sigh to thee!

II.

And, as I watch the line of light that plays

Along the smooth wave tow'rd the burning west,

I long to tread that golden path of rays,

And think 'twould lead to some bright isle of rest.

^{*} I had not sufficiently considered the structure of this delightful Air, when I asserted (in the Letter prefixed to this Work) that it was too wild for words of a regular metre.

For dear to me the hour when daylight dies.



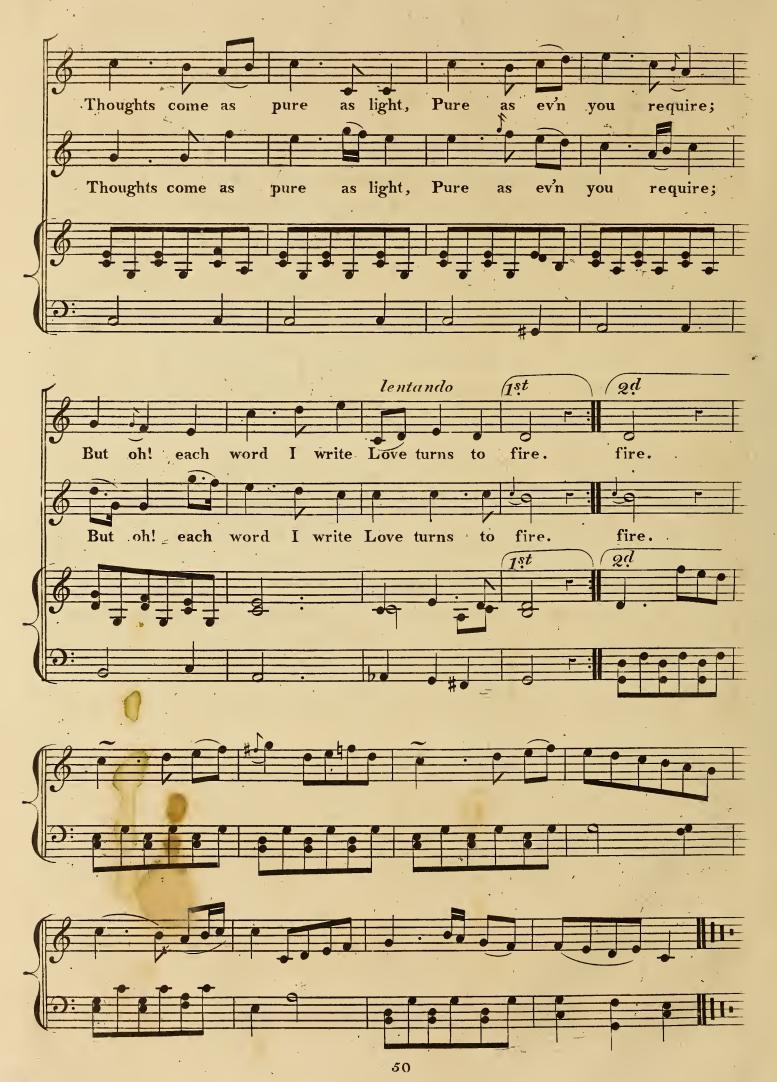












TAKE BACK THE VIRGIN PAGE.

[Written on returning a blank Book.]

AIR-Dermott.

T.

TAKE back the virgin page,
White and unwritten still;
Some hand, more calm and sage,
The leaf must fill.
Thoughts come as pure as light,
Pure as even you require;
But oh! each word I write
Love turns to fire.

II.

Yet let me keep the book;
Oft shall my heart renew,
When on its leaves I look,
Dear thoughts of you!
Like you 'tis fair and bright;
Like you, too bright and fair
To let wild Passion write
One wrong wish there!

III.

Haply, when from those eyes
Far, far away, I roam,
Should calmer thoughts arise
Tow'rds you and home,
Fancy may trace some line
Worthy those eyes to meet;
Thoughts that not burn, but shine,
Pure, calm, and sweet!

IV.

And, as the records are,

Which wand'ring seamen keep,

Led by their hidden star,

Thro' winter's deep;

So may the words I write

Tell thro' what storms I stray,

You still the unseen light,

Guiding my way!

THE LEGACY.

AIR-Unknown.

I.

WHEN in death I shall calm recline,
O bear my heart to my mistress dear;
Tell her it liv'd upon smiles, and wine
Of the brightest hue, while it linger'd here.
Bid her not shed one tear of sorrow
To sully a heart so brilliant and light;
But balmy drops of the red grape borrow,
To bathe the relic from morn to night.

II.

When the light of my song is o'er,

Then take my harp to your ancient hall;

Hang it up at that friendly door

Where weary travellers love to call:*

Then if some Bard, who roams forsaken,

Revive its soft note in passing along,

Oh! let one thought of its master waken

Your warmest smile for the child of Song.

III.

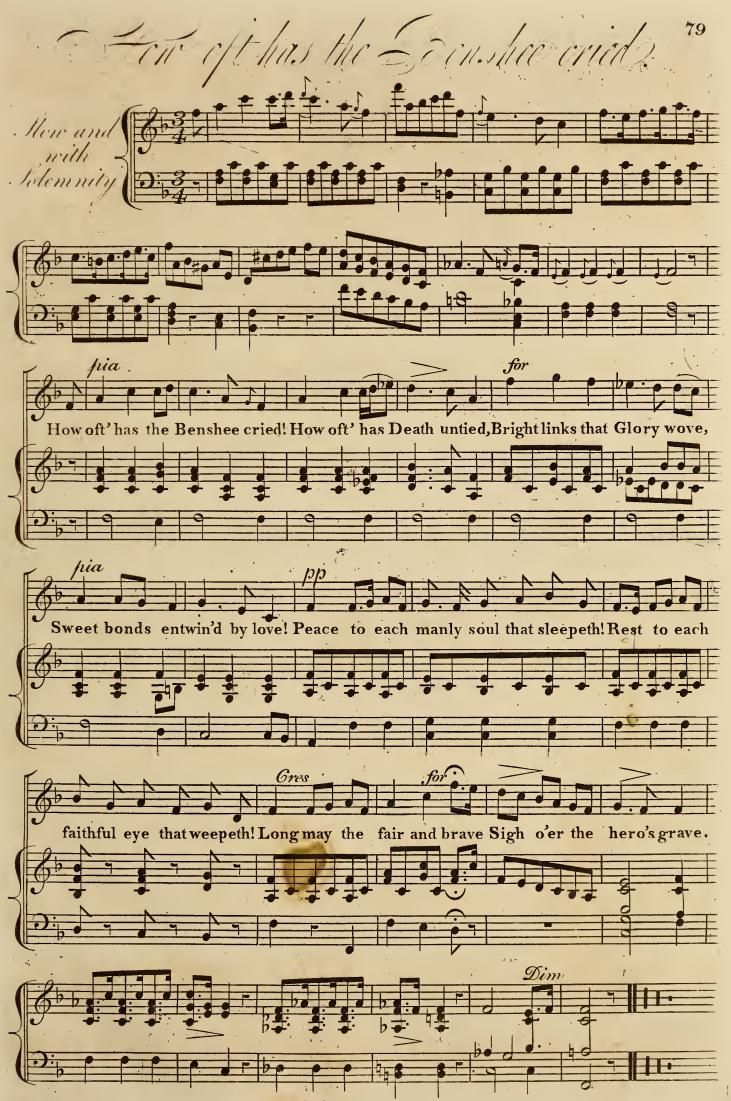
Keep this cup, which is now o'erflowing,
To grace your revel when I'm at rest;
Never, oh! never, its balm bestowing
On lips that beauty hath seldom blest!
But when some warm devoted lover,
To her he adores shall bathe its brim,
Oh! then my spirit around shall hover,
And hallow each drop that foams for him.

^{* &}quot;In every house was one or two Harps, free to all travellers, who were the more caressed, the more they excelled in Music."—O'HALLORAN.

THE LEGACY. Mich in Death. Shall colm radine.







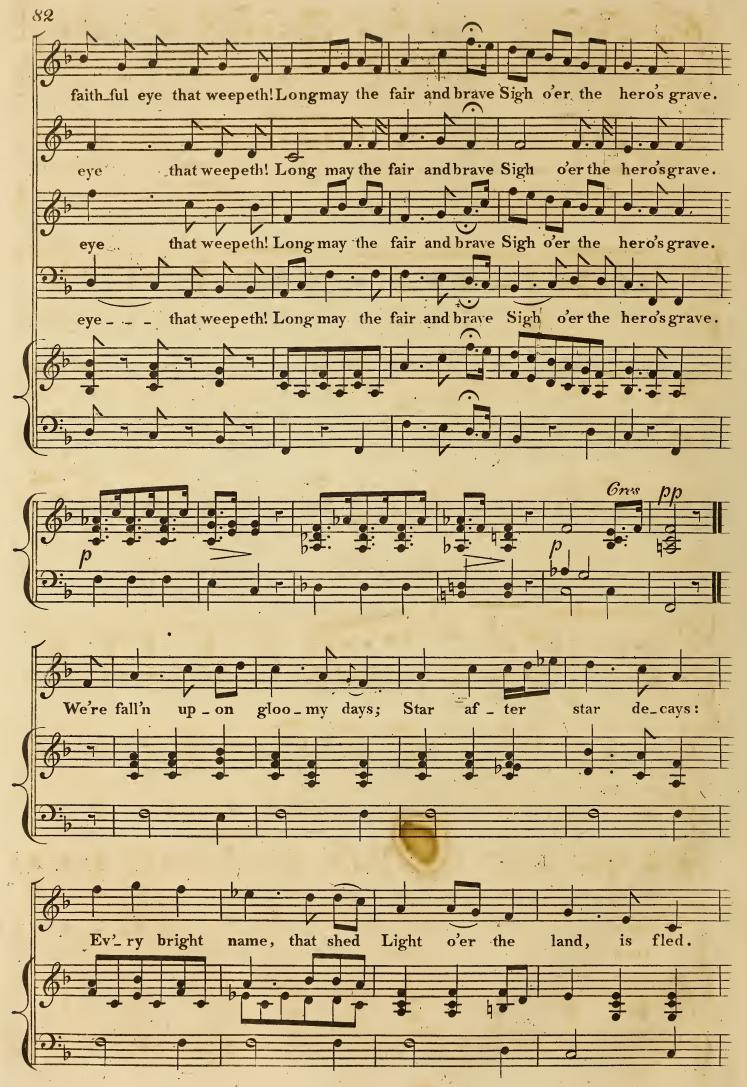
THE DIRGE.

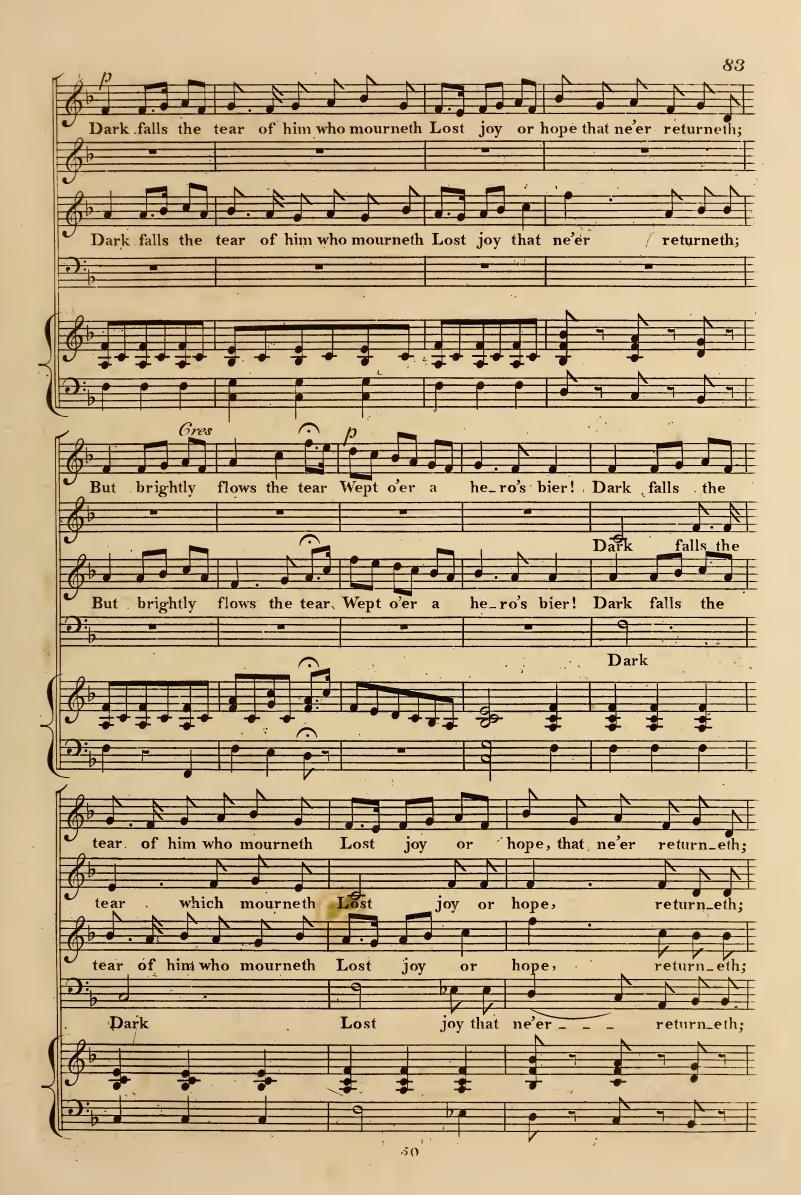
Tow of thus the Bensher cried?

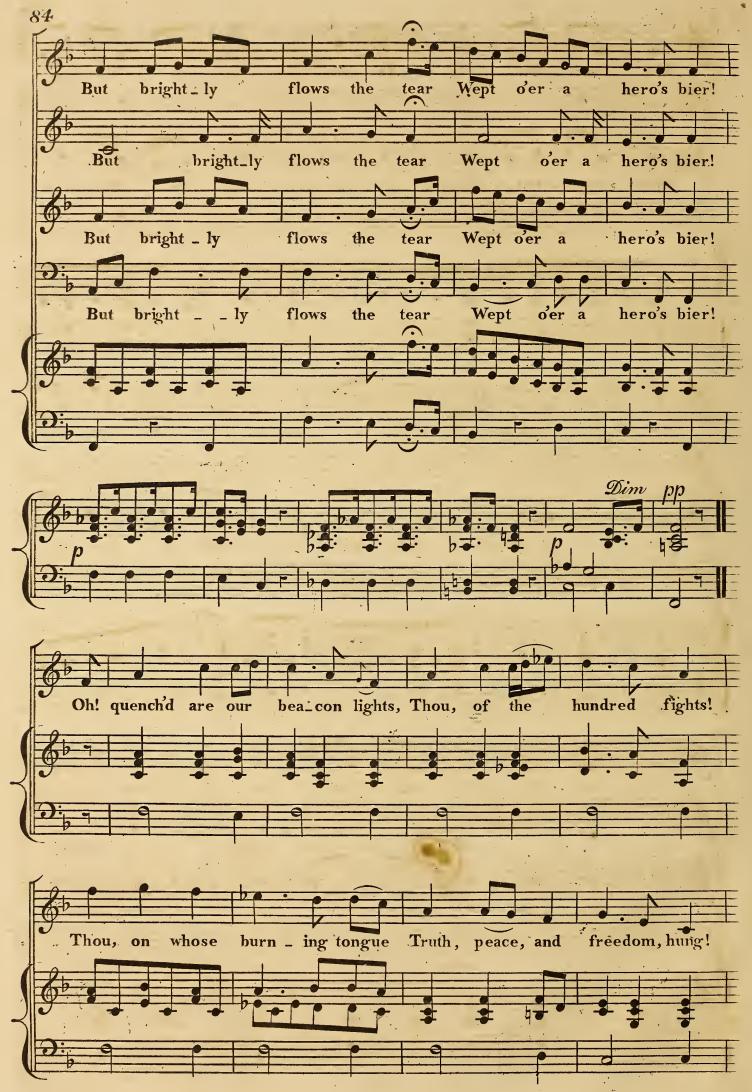
Harmonized for Four Voices.

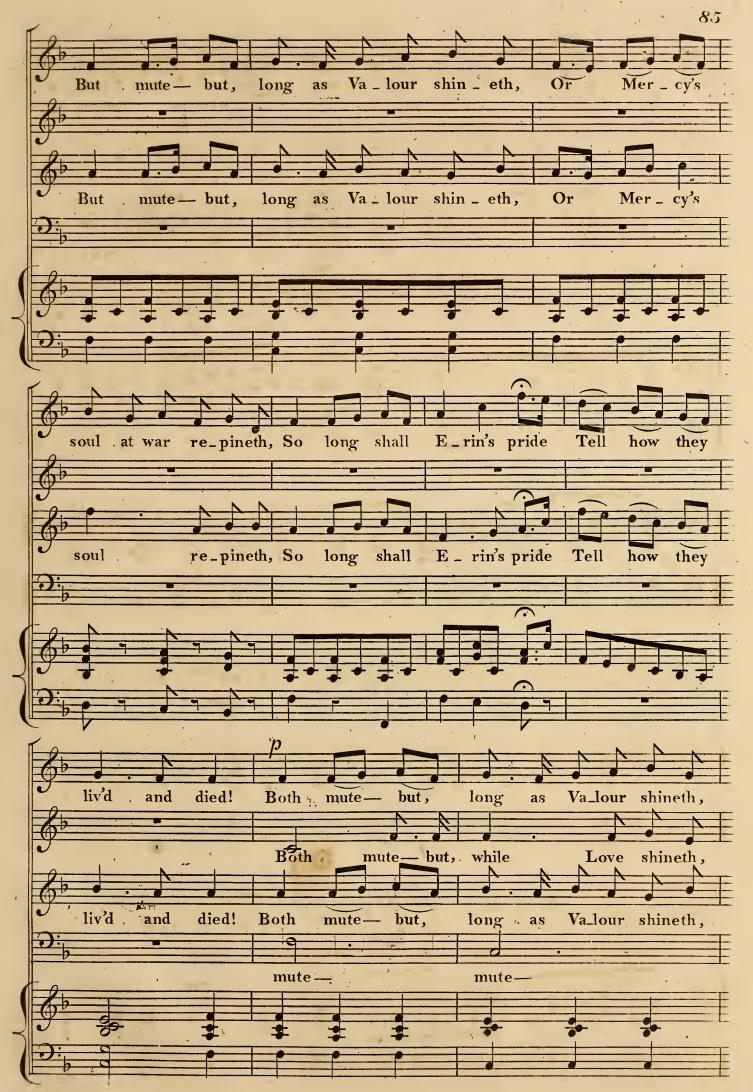


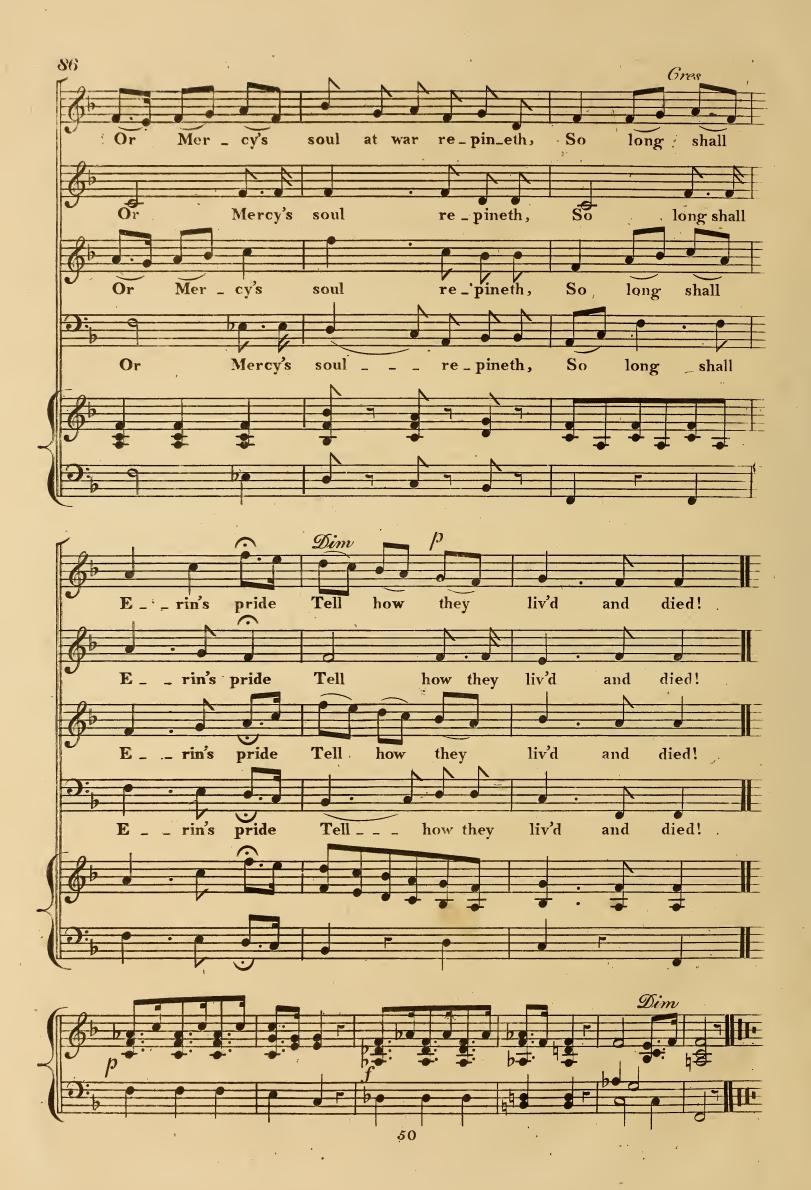












HOW OFT HAS THE BENSHEE CRIED.

AIR—The dear Black Maid.

I.

HOW oft has the Benshee cried!
How oft has Death untied
Bright links that Glory wove,
Sweet bonds entwin'd by Love!
Peace to each manly soul that sleepeth!
Rest to each faithful eye that weepeth!
Long may the fair and brave
Sigh o'er the hero's grave;

II.

We're fall'n upon gloomy days;*
Star after star decays:
Ev'ry bright name, that shed
Light o'er the land, is fled.
Dark falls the tear of him who mourneth
Lost joy or hope, that ne'er returneth;
But brightly flows the tear
Wept o'er the hero's bier!

HI

Oh! quench'd are our beacon-lights,
Thou,† of the hundred fights!
Thou, on whose burning tongue
Truth, peace, and freedom, hung!‡
Both mute—but, long as Valour shineth,
Or Mercy's soul at war repineth,
So long shall Erin's pride
Tell how they liv'd and died!

^{*} I have endeavoured here, without losing that Irish character which it is my object to preserve throughout this Work, to allude to that sad and ominous fatality, by which England has been deprived of so many great and good men, at a moment when she most requires all the aids of talent and integrity.

[†] This designation, which has been applied to LORD NELSON before, is the title given to a celebrated Irish Hero, in a Poem by O'Gnive, the Bard of O'Nial, which is quoted in the "Philosophical Survey of the South of Ireland," Page 433;—" Con, of the hundred fights, sleep in thy grass-grown tomb, and upbraid not our defeats with thy victories!"

^{‡.} FOX, " ultimus Romanorum."

WE MAY ROAM THRO' THIS WORLD.

AIR-Garyone.

Γ.

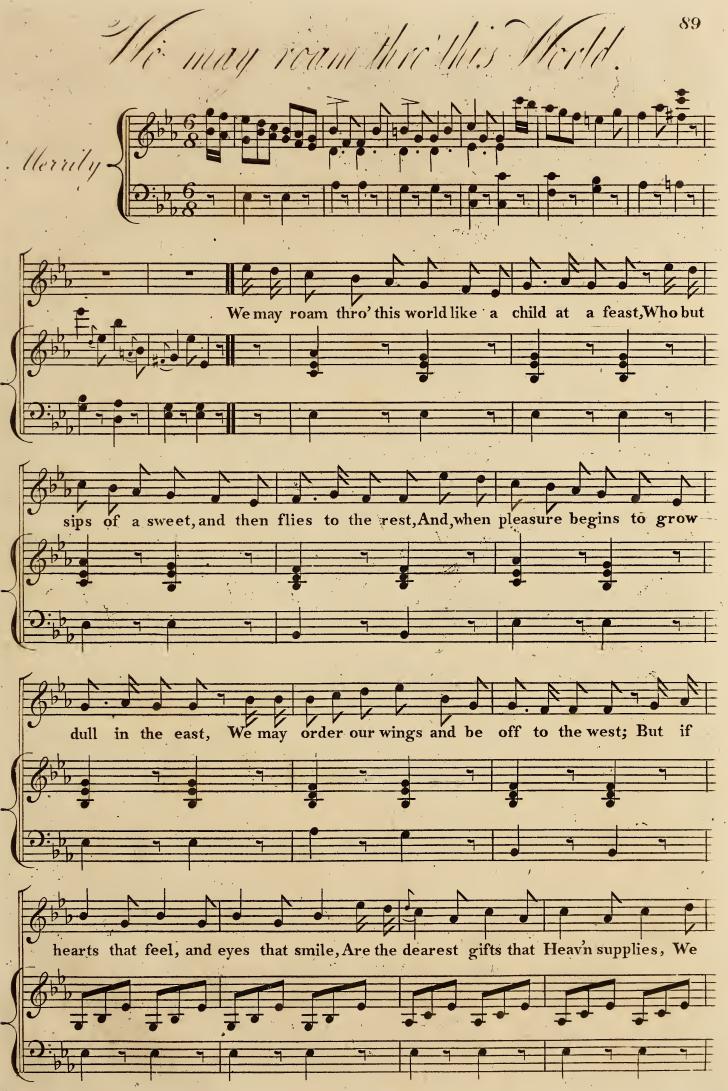
WE may roam thro' this world like a child at a feast,
Who but sips of a sweet, and then flies to the rest,
And, when pleasure begins to grow dull in the east,
We may order our wings, and be off to the west;
But if hearts that feel, and eyes that smile,
Are the dearest gifts that Heaven supplies,
We never need leave our own Green Isle
For sensitive hearts and for sun-bright eyes.
Then remember, wherever your goblet is crown'd,
Thro' this world whether eastward or westward you roam,
When a cup to the smile of dear woman goes round,
Oh! remember the smile which adorns her at home.

II.

In England the garden of Beauty is kept
By a dragon of prudery, plac'd within call;
But so oft this unamiable dragon has slept,
That the garden's but carelessly watch'd, after all.
Oh! they want the wild sweet-briery fence,
Which round the flowers of Erin dwells,
Which warns the touch while winning the sense,
Nor charms us least when it most repels.
Then remember, wherever your goblet is crown'd,
Thro' this world whether eastward or westward you roam,
When a cup to the smile of dear woman goes round,
Oh! remember the smile which adorns her at home.

_ III.

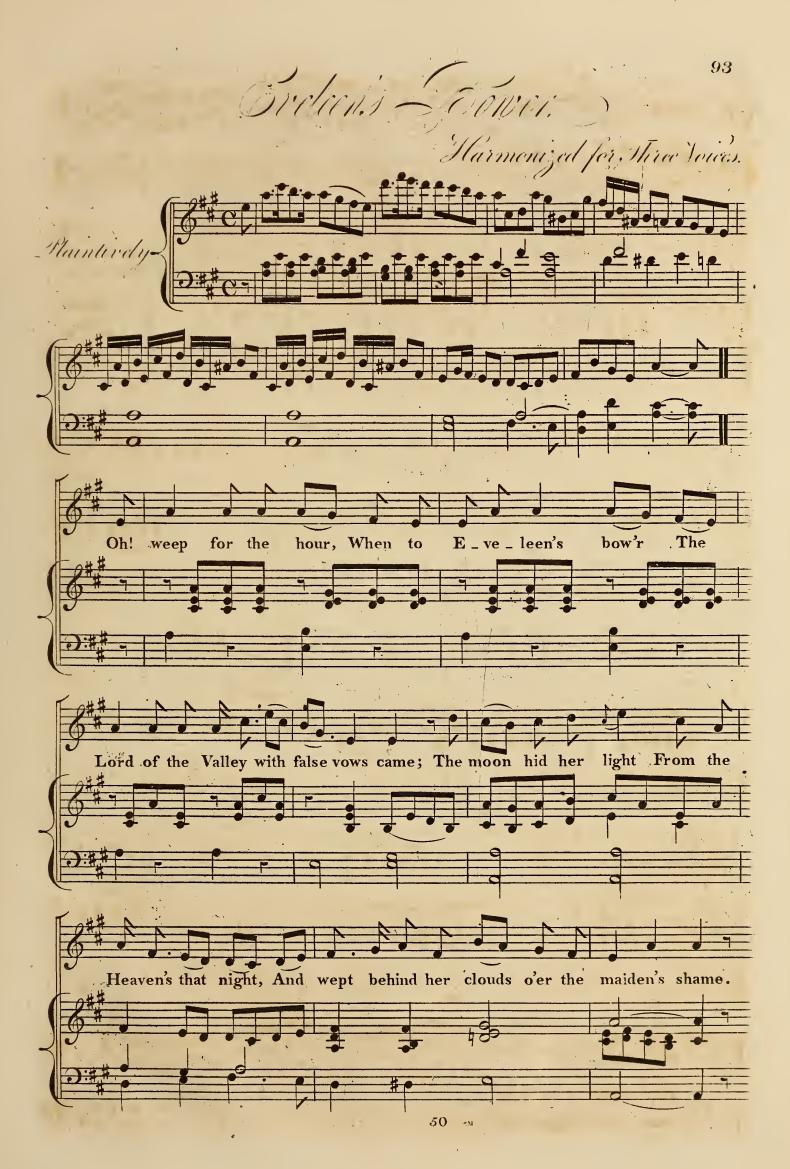
In France, when the heart of a woman sets sail,
On the ocean of wedlock its fortune to try,
Love seldom goes far in a vessel so frail,
But just pilots her off, and then bids her good-bye!
While the daughters of Erin keep the boy
Ever-smiling beside his faithful oar,
Thro' billows of woe and beams of joy,
The same as he look'd when he left the shore.
Then remember, wherever your goblet is crown'd,
Thro' this world whether eastward or westward you roam,
When a cup to the smile of dear woman goes round,
Oh! remember the smile which adorns her at home.





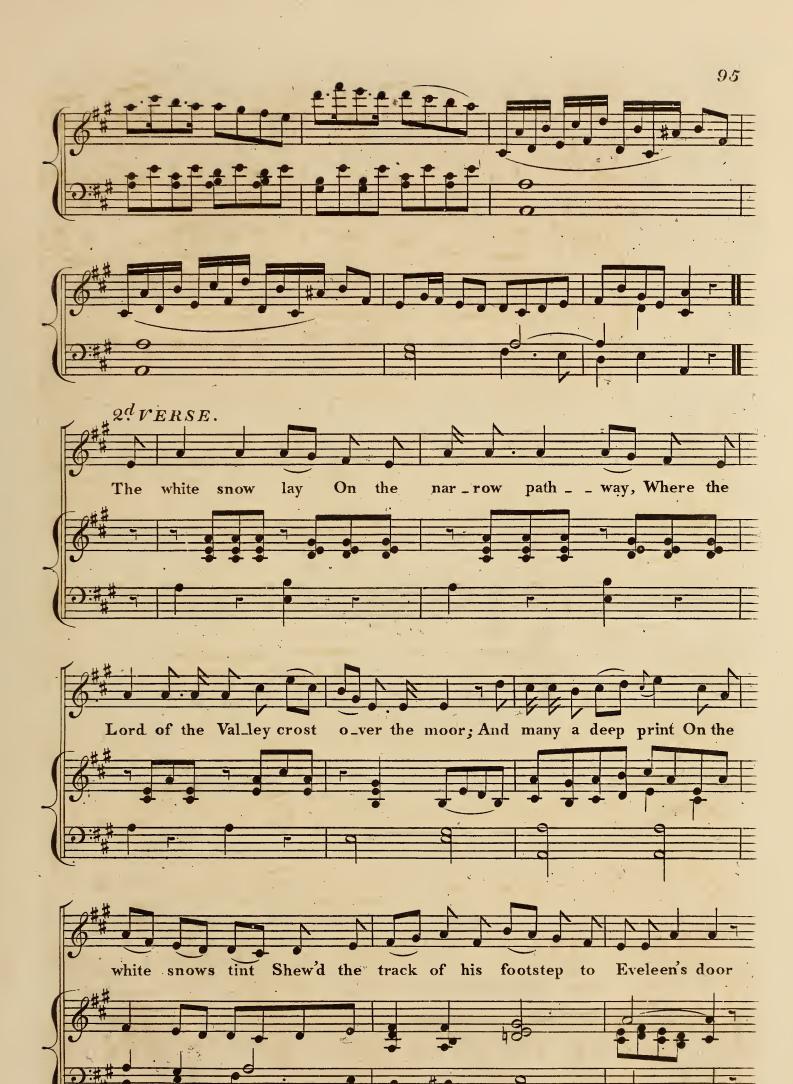














EVELEEN'S BOWER.

AIR—Unknown.*

I.

OH! weep for the hour,
When to Eveleen's bower

The Lord of the Valley with false vows came;
The moon hid her light
From the Heavens that night,

And wept behind her clouds o'er the maiden's shame.
The clouds past soon
From the chaste cold moon,

And Heaven smil'd again with her vestal flame;
But none will see the day
When the clouds shall pass away,

Which that dark hour left upon Eveleen's fame.

II.

The white snow lay
On the narrow path-way
Where the Lord of the Valley cross'd over the moor;
And many a deep print
On the white snow's tint
Shew'd the track of his footstep to Evcleen's door.
The next sun's ray
Soon melted away
Ev'ry trace on the path where the false Lord came;
But there's a light above,
Which alone can remove
That stain upon the snow of fair Evcleen's fame.

^{*} Our claim to this Air has been disputed; but they, who are best acquainted with National Melodies, pronounce it to be Irish. It is generally known by the name of "The Pretty Girl of Derby, O!"

LET ERIN REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD.

AIR—The Red Fox.

I.

LET Erin remember the days of old,
Ere her faithless sons betray'd her,
When Malachi wore the collar of gold,*
Which he won from her proud invader;
When her kings, with standard of green unfurl'd,
Led the Red-Branch Knights† to danger,
Ere the emerald gem of the western world
Was set in the crown of a stranger.

II.

On Lough-Neagh's bank,‡ as the fisherman strays,
When the clear cold eve's declining,
He sees the round towers of other days
In the wave beneath him shining!
Thus shall Memory often, in dreams sublime,
Catch a glimpse of the days that are over;
Thus, sighing, look thro' the waves of Time
For the long-faded glories they cover!

^{* &}quot;This brought on an encounter between Malachi (the Monarch of Ireland in the 10th Century) and the Danes, in which Malachi defeated two of their Champions, whom he encountered successively hand to hand, taking a Collar of Gold from the neck of one, and carrying off the Sword of the other, as trophies of his victory."

WARNER'S HISTORY OF IRELAND, Vol. I. Book 9.

^{† &}quot;Military Orders of Knights were very early established in Ireland: long before the Birth of Christ we find an hereditary Order of Chivalry in Ulster, called Curaidhe na Craoibhe ruadh, or the Knights of the Red-Branch, from their chief seat in Emania, adjoining to the Palace of the Ulster Kings, called Teagh na Craoibhe ruadh, or the Academy of the Red-Branch; and contiguous to which was a large Hospital, founded for the sick Knights and Soldiers, called Bron-bhearg, or the House of the Sorrowful Soldier."

O'HALLORAN'S INTRODUCTION, &c. Part I. Chap. 5.

The Inscription upon Connor's Tomb (for the Fac-Simile of which I am indebted to Mr. Murphy, Chaplain of the late Lady Moira) has not I believe, been noticed by any Antiquarian or Traveller.

[‡] It was an old tradition, in the time of Giraldus, that Lough-Neagh had been originally a fountain, by whose sudden overflowing the country was inundated, and a whole region, like the Atlantis of Plato, overwhelmed. He says that the fishermen, in clear weather, used to point out to strangers the tall ecclesiastical towers under the water:— "Piscatores aquæ illius turres ecclesiasticas, quæ more patriæ arctæ sunt et altæ, necnon et rotundæ, sub undis manifeste, sereno tempore conspiciunt et extraneis transeuntibus reique causas admirantibus, frequenter ostendunt."

The Simile

of an ancient Trish Inscription upon a Tomb stone in the Al-bey of Alultifernon, County of Westmeath, Ireland.

leoinmbulo igre-srol usiche

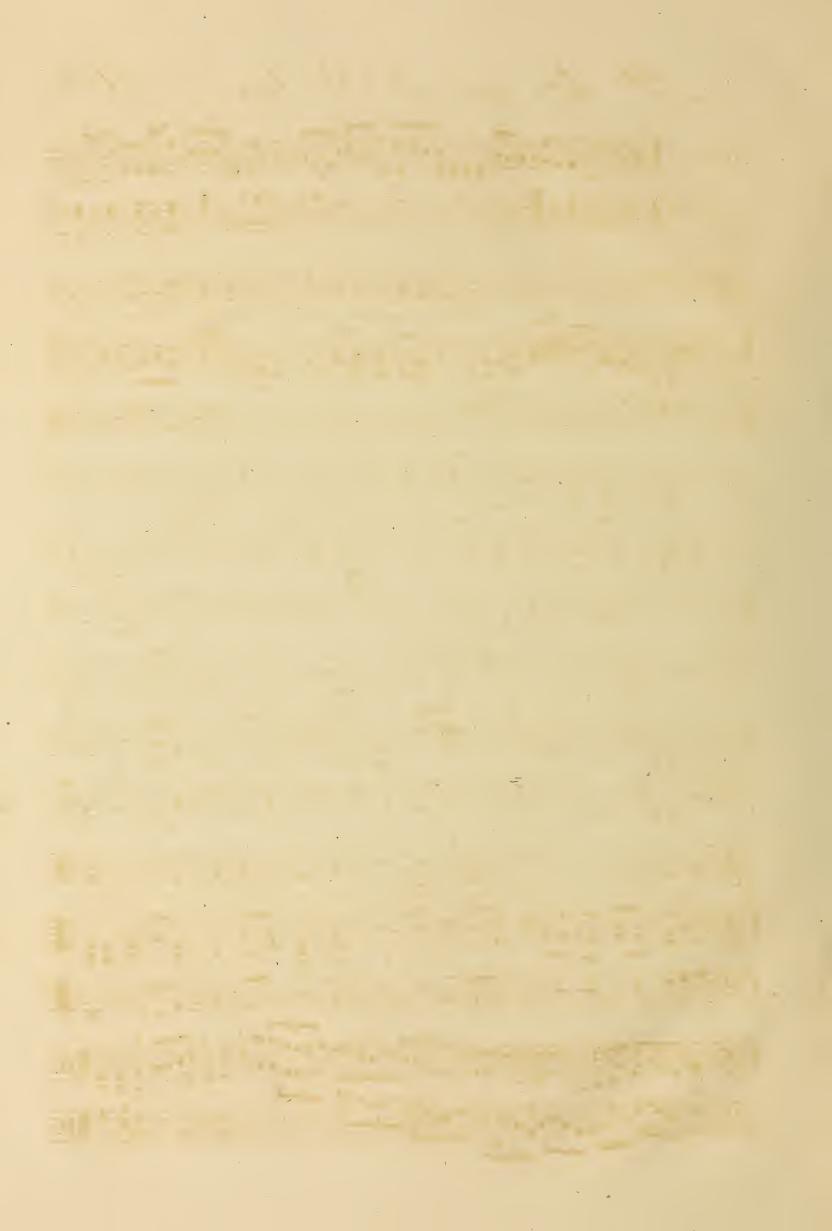
माल्यार ट्रिंग श्र द्रिंग व द्रुवारेट सामारेट

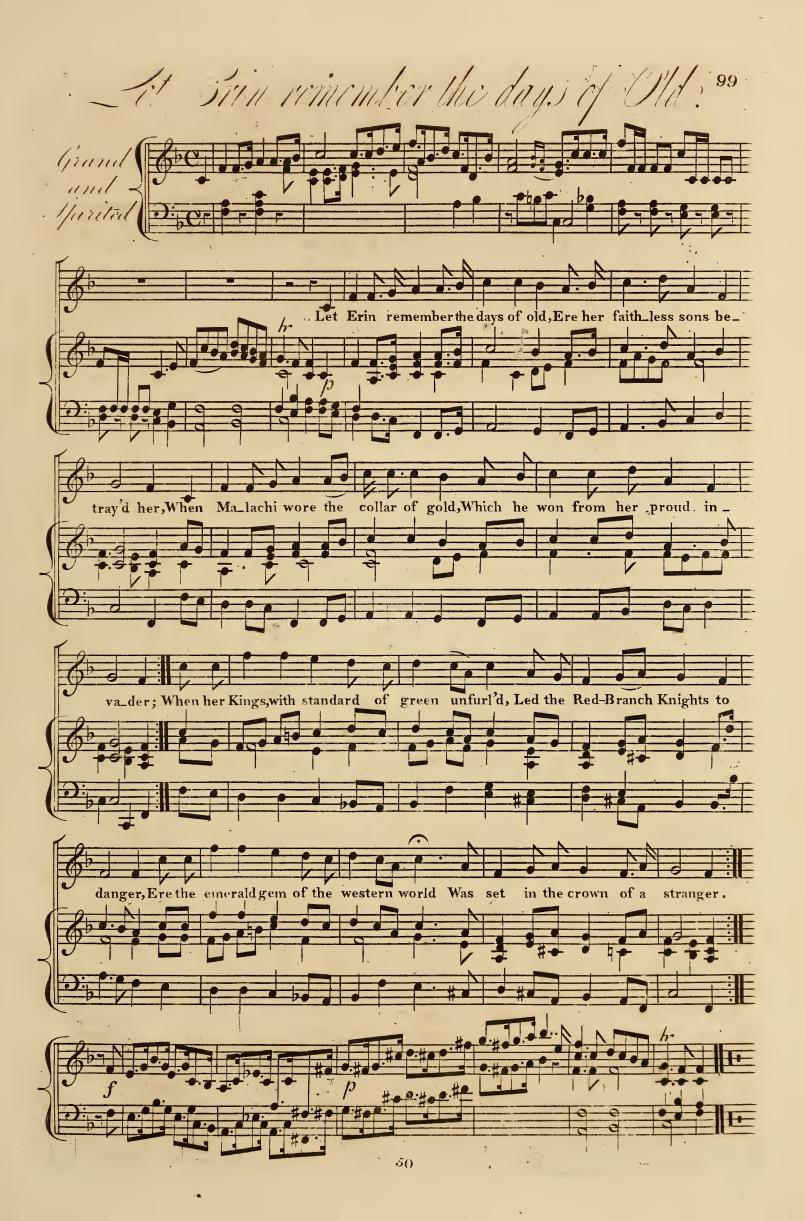
सड़का जिल्ले मह रिंग ट्रिंग डेंग द्रिंग स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त सहिंग सिंग स्वाप्त स्वाप्त सहिंग सिंग स्वाप्त स्वाप्त

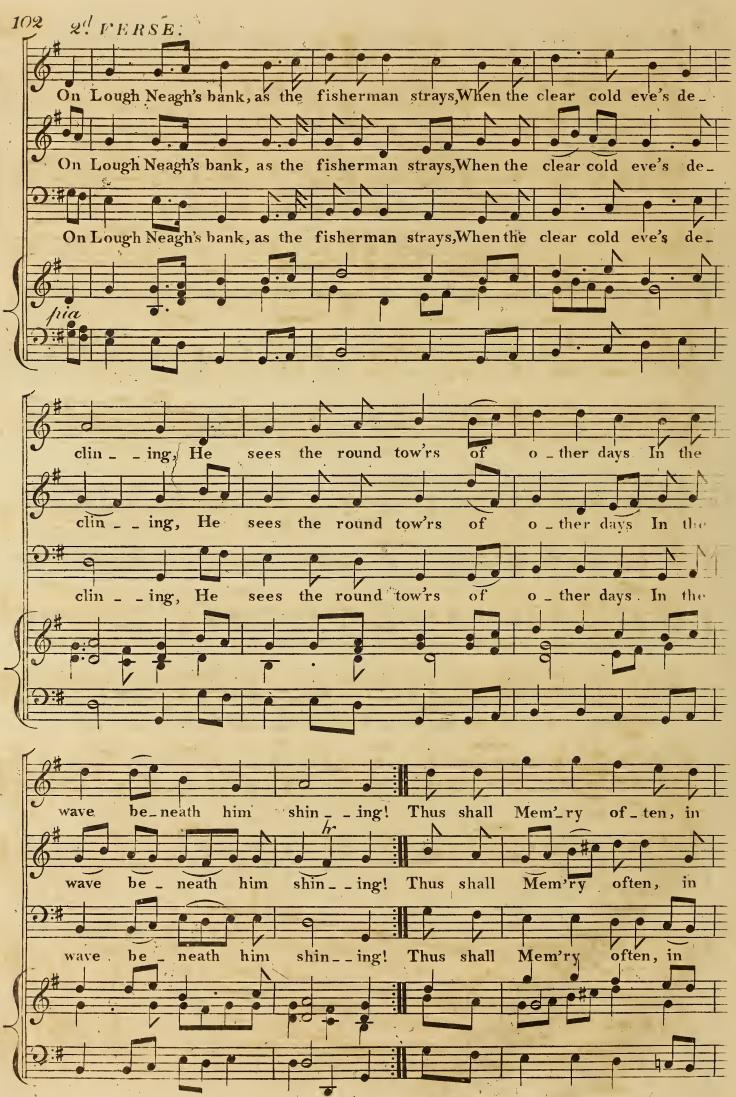
Translation [
Ayellow Lion/upon/green Sattin/
The Standard of the Heroes of the Red Branch?

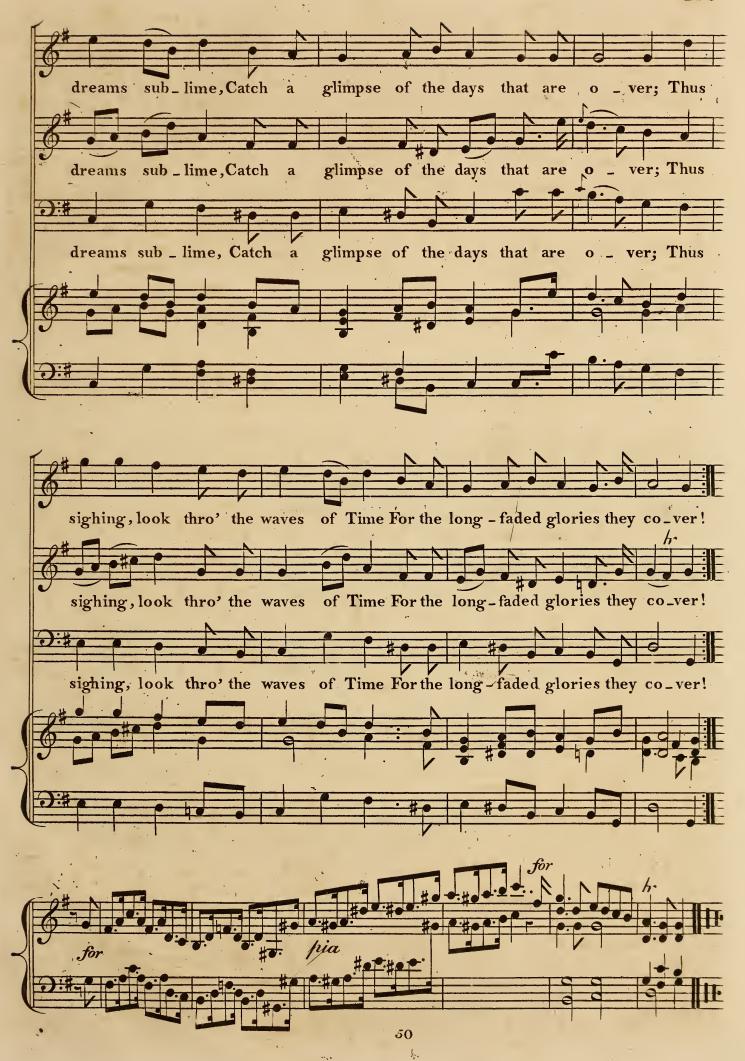
Which Conor carried in Battle

During his frequent Wars, for the expulsion of Toreigners.











THE SONG OF FIONNUALA.*

AIR—Arrah, my dear Eveleen.

I.,

SILENT, oh Moyle! be the roar of thy water,
Break not, ye breezes! your chain of repose,
While, murmuring mournfully, Lir's lonely daughter
Tells to the night-star her tale of woes.
When shall the Swan, her death-note singing,
Sleep with wings in darkness furl'd?
When will Heaven, its sweet bell ringing,
Call my spirit from this stormy world?

III.

Sadly, oh Moyle! to thy winter-wave weeping,

Fate bids me languish long ages away;

Yet still in her darkness doth Erin lie sleeping,

Still doth the pure light its dawning delay!

When will that day-star, mildly springing,

Warm our isle with peace and love?

When will Heaven, its sweet bell ringing,

Call my spirit to the fields above?

^{*} To make this story intelligible in a Song, would require a much greater number of verses than any one is authorized to inflict upon an audience at once; the reader must therefore be content to learn, in a note, that Fionnuala, the daughter of Lir, was, by some supernatural power, transformed into a Swan, and condemned to wander, for many hundred years, over certain lakes and rivers of Ireland, till the coming of Christianity, when the first sound of the Mass-bell, was to be the signal of her release.—I found this fanciful fiction among some manuscript translations from the Irish, which were begun under the direction of that enlightened friend of Ireland, the late Countess of Moira.

COME, SEND ROUND THE WINE.

AIR—We brought the Summer with us.

I.

COME, send round the wine, and leave points of belief

To simpleton sages and reasoning fools;

This moment's a flower too fair and brief

To be wither'd and stain'd by the dust of the schools.

Your glass may be purple, and mine may be blue;

But, while they are fill'd from the same bright bowl,

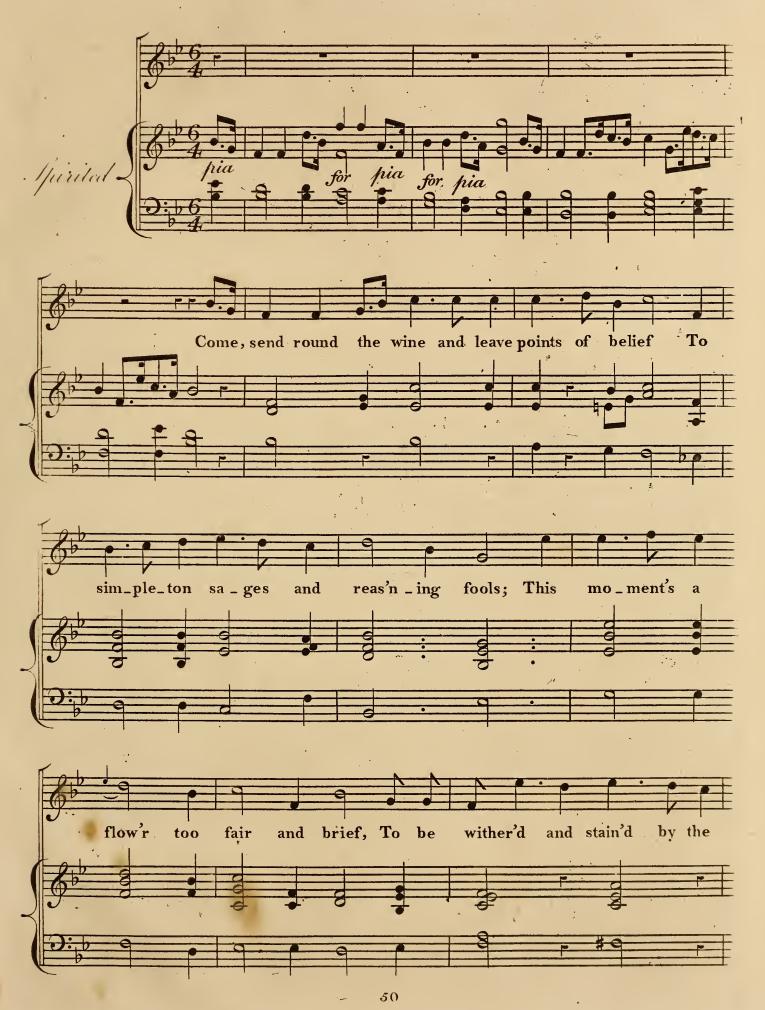
The fool who would quarrel for difference of hue

Deserves not the comfort they shed o'er the soul.

II.

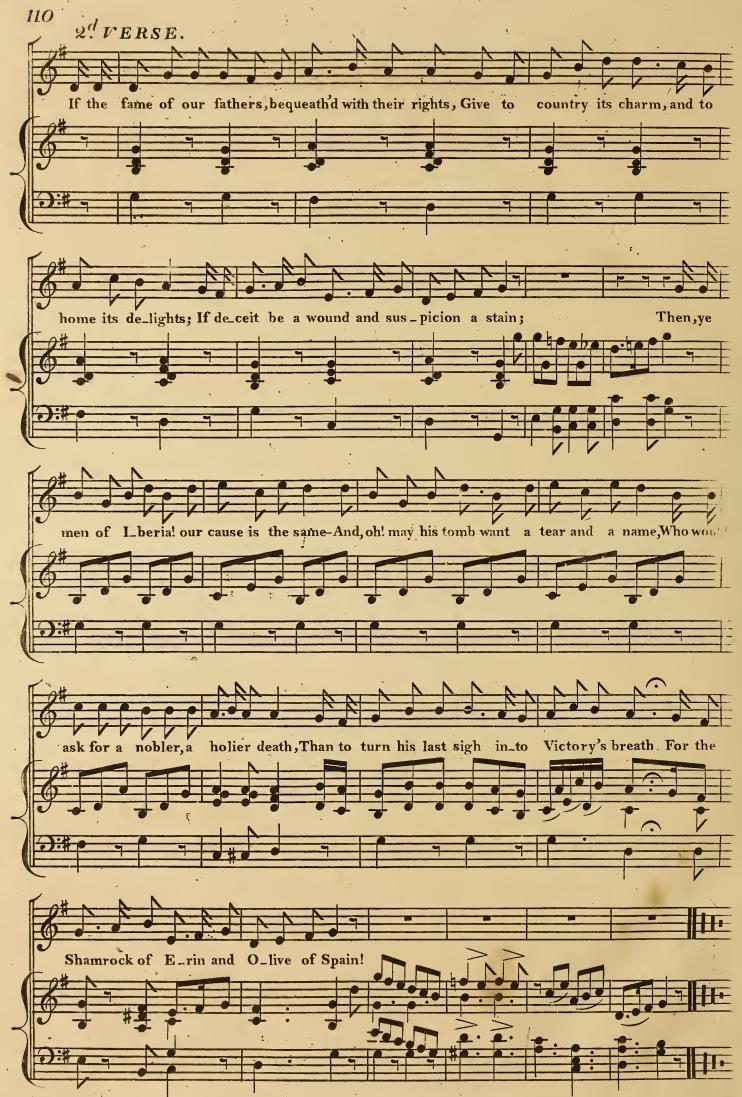
Shall I ask the brave soldier, who fights by my side
In the cause of mankind, if our creeds agree?
Shall I give up the friend I have valu'd and try'd,
If he kneel not before the same altar with me?
From the heretic girl of my soul shall. I fly,
To seek somewhere else a more orthodox kiss?
No! perish the hearts and the laws that try
Truth, valour, or love, by a standard like this!

Tome send round the Thine.









SUBLIME WAS THE WARNING.

AIR—The Black Joke.

T

SUBLIME was the warning which Liberty spoke,

And grand was the moment when Spaniards awoke
Into life and revenge from the Conqueror's chain!

Oh, Liberty! let not this spirit have rest

Till it move, like a breeze, o'er the waves of the west—

Give the light of your look to each sorrowing spot,

Nor, oh! be the Shamrock of Erin forgot,

While you add to your garland the Olive of Spain!

II.

If the fame of our fathers, bequeath'd with their rights,
Give to country its charm and to home its delights;
If deceit be a wound, and suspicion a stain,
Then, ye men of Iberia! our cause is the same—
And, oh! may his tomb want a tear and a name,
Who would ask for a nobler, a holier death,
Than to turn his last sigh into Victory's breath
For the Shamrock of Erin and Olive of Spain!

III.

Ye Blakes and O'Donnels, whose fathers resign'd
The green hills of their youth, among strangers to find
That repose which, at home, they had sigh'd for in vain,
Breathe a hope that the magical flame, which you light,
May be felt yet in Erin, as calm and as bright;
And forgive even Albion, while, blushing, she draws,
Like a truant, her sword, in the long-slighted cause
Of the Shamrock of Erin and Olive of Spain!

IV.

God prosper the cause!—Oh! it cannot but thrive, While the pulse of one patriot heart is alive,

Its devotion to feel and its rights to maintain:
Then how sainted by sorrow its martyrs will die!
The finger of glory shall point where they lie;
While far from the footstep of coward or slave,
The young Spirit of Freedom shall shelter their grave
Beneath Shamrocks of Erin and Olives of Spain!

BELIEVE ME, IF ALL THOSE ENDEARING YOUNG CHARMS.

AIR—My Lodging is on the cold Ground.

I.

BELIEVE me, if all those endearing young charms,
Which I gaze on so fondly to-day,

Were to change by to-morrow, and fleet in my arms,

Like fairy-gifts fading away,—

Thou wouldst still be ador'd as this moment thou art,

Let thy loveliness fade as it will;

And around the dear ruin each wish of my heart Would entwine itself verdantly still!

II.

It is not while beauty and youth are thine own,

And thy cheeks unprofan'd by a tear,

That the fervour and faith of a soul can be known,

To which time will but make thee more dear!

Oh! the heart, that has truly lov'd, never forgets,

But as truly loves on to the close;

As the sun-flower turns on her god, when he sets,

The same look which she turn'd when he rose!

