

LADY RANDOLPH'S COMPLAINT.

My hero! my hero! my beauteous, my brave,

How proud was my foul of thy virtues and thee;

Doom'd here prematurely to find a cold grave,

Nor couldst thou elude what thou couldst not foresee.

Of gen'rous endeavours, was this thy reward,

The lord of this mansion from foes to defend?

Henceforth hospitality who shall regard;

What man on the friendship of man shall depend.

With transport this day my fond heart overflow'd,

When keenly indulging the pleasing presage,

How warm with maternal affection it glow'd,

Midst an offspring of thine whilst I hop'd for old age!

Whose prattle endearing, and innocent play,

To me might the loss of thy childhood atone;

Those actions the same of your house might display,

Adorn'd with a husband's dear name, and thy own.

Thy gallant deportment, thy exquisite bloom,

Which merciless foes might with rapture admire;

With them my dear hopes are all quench'd in the tomb,

With thee they were born, and with thee they expire.

In conjugal union how short my delight!

In a mother's high rank how much shorter my boast!

With planets malignant, no more let me fight,

No longer in life's cruel tempest be tost!

Forgive, gracious powers, in compassion my state,

Whilst, by forrow compell'd, with reluctance I seize

The only sweet moment reserv'd me by fate,

The moment which renders me just what I please;

My Douglas, my darling, my glory, my pride!

How happy was I but to name thee my son!

For thee would to heav'n a fond mother had died,

Since living without thee, is living undone.