For those, whom bloody garlands crown,
The brass may breathe, the marble frown;
To him, through every rescu'd land,
Ten thousand living trophies stand.

र्क्ष अरित्रार स्त्रित्रात्त्र स्त्रित्रात्त्र स्त्रित्रात्त्र स्त्रित्त्र स्त्र स्त्रित्त्र स्त्रित्ते स्त्रित्ते स्त्रित्ते स्त्रित्ते स्त्र स्त्रित्ते स्त्रिते स्त्र

KENSINGTON GARDEN.

By the Same,

Campos, ubi Troja fuit.

VIRG.

WHERE Kenfington high o'er the neighb'ring lands,
'Midst greens and sweets, a regal fabrick stands,
And sees each spring, luxuriant in her bowers,
A snow of blossoms, and a wild of slowers,
The dames of Britain oft in crowds repair
To groves and lawns, and unpolluted air.
Here, while the town in damps and darkness lies,
They breathe in sun-shine, and see azure skies
Each walk, with robes of various dies bespread,
Seems from afar a moving tulip-bed,
Where rich brocades and glossy damasks glow,
And chints, the rival of the show'ry bow.

Here England's Daughter, darling of the land, Sometimes, surrounded with her virgin band, Gleams through the shades. She, tow'ring o'er the rest, Stands fairest of the fairer kind confess'd,

Form'd

Form'd to gain hearts, that Brunswick's cause deny'd, And charm a people to her father's side.

Long have these groves to royal guests been known,
Nor Nassau sirst preser'd them to a throne.
Ere Norman banners wav'd in British air;
Ere lordly Hubba with the golden hair
Pour'd in his Danes; ere elder Julius came;
Or Dardan Brutus gave our isle a name;
A prince of Albion's lineage grac'd the wood,
The scene of wars, and stain'd with lovers' blood.

You, who through gazing crowds, your captive throng, Throw pangs and passions, as you move along, Turn on the left, ye fair, your radiant eyes, Where all un-levell'd the gay garden lies: If generous anguish for another's pains Ere heav'd your hearts, or shiver'd through your veins, Look down attentive on the pleasing dale, And listen to my melancholy tale.

That hollow space, where now in living rows,
Line above line the yew's sad verdure grows,
Was, ere the planter's hand its beauty gave,
A common pit, a rude unfashion'd cave;
The landskip now so sweet we well may praise,
But far, far sweeter in its ancient days,
Far sweeter was it, when its peopled ground
With fairy domes and dazzling tow'rs were crown'd.
Where in the midst those verdant pillars spring,
Rose the proud palace of the Elsin king;

For every hedge of vegetable green,
In happier years a crowded street was seen,
Nor all those leaves, that now the prospect grace,
Could match the numbers of its pigmy race.
What urg'd this mighty empire to its fate,
A tale of woe and wonder I relate.

When Albion rul'd the land, whose lineage came From Neptune mingling with a mortal dame, Their midnight pranks the sprightly fairies play'd On ev'ry hill, and danc'd in every shade. But, foes to fun-shine, most they took delight In dells and dales conceal'd from human fight: There hew'd their houses in the arching rock; Or scoop'd the bosom of the blasted oak; Or heard, o'ershadow'd by some shelving hill, The distant murmurs of the falling rill. They, rich in pilfer'd spoils, indulg'd their mirth, And pity'd the huge wretched fons of earth. Even now, 'tis said, the hinds o'erheard their strain, And strive to view their airy forms in vain; They to their cells at man's approach repair, Like the shy leveret, or the mother hare, The whilst poor mortals startle at the found Of unseen footsteps on the haunted ground,

Amid this garden, then with woods o'ergrown, Stood the lov'd feat of royal Oberon.

From every region to his palace gate

Came peers and princes of the fairy state,

Who, rank'd in council round the facred shade,
Their monarch's will and great behests obey'd.
From Thame's fair banks, by losty tow'rs adorn'd,
With loads of plunder oft his chiefs return'd:
Hence in proud robes, and colours bright and gay,
Shone every knight and every lovely fay.
Whoe'er on Powell's dazzling stage display'd
Hath sam'd king Pepin and his court survey'd,
May guess, if old by modern things we trace,
The pomp and splendor of the fairy race.

By magic fenc'd, by spells encompass'd round;
No mortal touch'd this interdicted ground;
No mortal enter'd, those alone who came
Stolen from the couch of some terrestrial dame:
For oft of babes they robb'd the matron's bed,
And left some fickly changeling in their stead.

It chanc'd a youth of Albion's royal blood. Was foster'd here, the wonder of the wood; Milkah, for wiles above her peers renown'd, Deep-skill'd in charms and many a mystic sound, As through the regal dome she sought for prey, Observ'd the infant Albion where he lay In mantles broider'd o'er with gorgeous pride, And stole him from the sleeping mother's side.

Who now but Milkah triumphs in her mind!
Ah wretched nymph, to future evils blind!
The time shall come when thou shalt dearly pay.
The thest, hard-hearted! of that guilty day:

Thou in thy turn shalt like the queen repind, And all her sorrows doubled shall be thine:
He who adorns thy house, the lovely boy
Who now adorns it, shall at length destroy.

Two hundred moons in their pale course had seen The gay-rob'd fairies glimmer on the green, And Albion now had reach'd in youthful prime To nineteen years, as mortals measure time. Flush'd with resistless charms he fir'd to love Each nymph and little Dryad of the grove; For skilful Milkah spar'd not to employ Her utmost art to rear the princely boy. Each supple limb she swaith'd, and tender bone, And to the Elfin standard kept him down; She robb'd dwarf-elders of their fragrant fruit, And fed him early with the daify's root, Whence through his veins the powerful juices ran, And form'd in beauteous miniature the Man. Yet still, two inches taller than the rest, His lofty port his human birth confess'd; A foot in height, how stately did he show ! How look superior on the crowd below! What knight like him could tofs the rufhy launce! Who move so graceful in the mazy dance! A shape so nice, or features half so fair, What elf could boaft! or fuch a flow of hair! Bright Kenna saw, a princess born to reign, And felt the charmer burn in every vein.

She, heirefs to this empire's potent lord,
Prais'd like the stars, and next the moon ador'd.
She, whom at distance thrones and princedoms view'd,
To whom proud Oriel and Azuriel su'd,
In her high palace languish'd, void of joy,
And pin'd in secret for a mortal boy.

He too was finitten, and discreetly strove By courtly deeds to gain the virgin's love; For her he cull'd the fairest flowers that grew, Ere morning funs had drain'd their fragrant dew; He chas'd the hornet in his mid-day flight, And brought her glow-worms in the noon of night ; When on ripe fruit she cast a wishing eye, Did ever Albion think the tree too high! He show'd her where the pregnant goldsinch hung, And the wren-mother brooding o'er her young; To her th' inscription on their eggs he read, (Admire, ye clerks, the youth whom Milkah bred) To her he show'd each herb of virtuous juice, Their powers distinguish'd, and describ'd their use: All vain their powers alas to Kenna prove, And well fung Ovid, There's no herb for love.

As when a ghost, enlarg'd from realms below,
Seeks its old friend to tell some secret woe,
The poor shade shivering stands, and must not break
His painful silence, till the mortal speak;
So far'd it with the little love-sick maid,
Forbid to utter what her eyes betray'd.

He saw her anguish, and reveal'd his slame,
And spar'd the blushes of the tongue-ty'd dame.
The day would fail me, should I reckon o'er
The sighs they lavish'd, and the oaths they swore;
In words so melting, that, compar'd with those,
The nicest courtship of terrestrial beaus
Wou'd sound like compliments from country-clowns
To red-cheek'd sweet-hearts in their home-spun gowns.

All in a lawn of many a various hue,

A bed of flowers (a fairy forest) grew;

Twas here one noon, the gaudiest of the May,

The still, the secret, silent hour of day,

Beneath a lofty tulip's ample shade

Sate the young lover and th' immortal maid.

They thought all fairies slept, ah luckless pair!

Hid, but in vain, in the sun's noon-tide glare!

When Albion leaning on his Kenna's breast,

Thus all the softness of his soul express'd.

- · All things are hush'd. The sun's meridian rays
- Weil the horizon in one mighty blaze;
- Nor moon nor star in heav'n's blue arch is feen
- With kindly rays to filver o'er the green.
- d Grateful to fairy eyes; they fecret take
- " Their rest, and only wretched mortals wake:
- This dead of day I fly to thee alone,
- A world to me, a multitude in one.
- 6 Oh sweet as dew-drops on these flowery lawns,
- When the sky opens and the evening dawns!

Streight

- * Streight as the pink, that tours so high in air
- Soft as the blue-bell! as the daify, fair
- Blest be the hour, when first I was convey'd
- An infant captive to this blissful shade!
- And bleft the hand that did my form refine,
- And shrunk my stature to a match with thine!
- 6 Glad I for thee renounce my royal birth,
- And all the giant-daughters of the earth.
- Thou, if thy breast with equal ardour burn,
- Renounce thy kind, and love for love return.
- So from us two, combin'd by nuptial ties,
- A race unknown of demi-gods shall rise.
- 6 Oh speak, my love! my vows with vows repay,
- And sweetly swear my rising fears away.'

 To whom (the shining azure of her eyes

More brighten'd) thus th' enamour'd maid replies.

- By all the stars, and first the glorious moon,
- I swear, and by the head of Oberon,
- A dreadful oath! no prince of fairy line
- Shall e'er in wedlock plight his vows with mine.
- Where-e'er my footsteps in the dance are seen,
- May toadstools rise, and mildews blast the green,
- " May the keen east-wind blight my fav'rite flowers,
- And fnakes and spotted adders haunt my bowers.
- " Confin'd whole ages in an hemlock shade,
- There rather pine I a neglected maid;
- Or worse, exil'd from Cynthia's gentle rays,
- e Parch in the sun a thousand summer-days,

Than any prince, a prince of fairy line,

In facred wedlock plight his vows with mine.'
She ended: and with lips of rofy hue
Dipt five times over in ambrofial dew,
Stifled his words. When from his covert rear'd,

The frowning brow of Oberon appear'd.

A fun-flower's trunk was near, whence (killing fight!)
The monarch isfu'd, half an ell in height:

Full on the pair a furious look he cast,

Nor spake, but gave his bugle-horn a blast,

That through the woodland echo'd far and wide,

And drew a swarm of subjects to his side.

A hundred chosen knights, in war renown'd,

Drive Albion banish'd from the facred ground; And twice ten myriads guard the bright abodes,

Where the proud king, among his demi-gods,

For Kenna's sudden bridal bids prepare,

And to Azuriel gives the weeping fair.

If fame in arms, with ancient birth combin'd, And faultless beauty, and a spotless mind, To love and praise can generous souls incline, That love, Azuriel, and that praise were thine. Blood, only less than royal, fill'd thy veins, Proud was thy roof, and large thy fair domains, Where now the skies high Holland-house invades, And short-liv'd Warwick sadden'd all the shades,

Thy dwelling stood; nor did in him afford A nobler owner, or a lovelier lord.

Vol. I.

[50]

For thee a hundred fields produc'd their store,
And by thy name ten thousand vassals swore;
So lov'd thy name, that, at their monarch's choice,
All Fairy shouted with a gen'ral voice.

Oriel alone a fecret rage suppress'd,
That from his bosom heav'd the golden vest.
Along the banks of Thame his empire ran,
Wide was his range, and populous his clan.
When cleanly servants, if we trust old tales,
Besides their wages had good fairy vails,
Whole heaps of silver tokens, nightly paid
The careful wife or the neat dairy-maid,
Sunk not his stores. With smiles and powerful bribes
He gain'd the leaders of his neighbour tribes,
And ere the night the face of heav'n had chang'd,
Beneath his banners half the fairies rang'd.

Mean-while driven back to earth, a lonely way
The chearless Albion wander'd half the day,
A long, long journey, choak'd with brakes and thorns,
Ill-measur'd by ten thousand barley-corns.
Tir'd out at length, a spreading stream he spy'd
Fed by old Thame, a daughter of the tide:
'Twas then a spreading stream, though now its same
Obscur'd, it bears the creek's inglorious name,
And creeps, as through contracted bounds it strays,
A leap for boys in these degenerate days.

On the clear crystal's verdant bank he stood, And thrice look'd backward on the fatal wood,

And

And thrice he groan'd, and thrice he beat his breast, And thus in tears his kindred gods address'd.

- ' If true, ye watery powers, my lineage came
- From Neptune mingling with a mortal dame;
- Down to his court, with coral garlands crown'd,
- Through all your grottoes waft my plaintive found,
- ' And urge the god, whose trident shakes the earth,
- 'To grace his off-spring, and assert my birth.'

He said. A gentle Naiad heard his prayer,
And, touch'd with pity for a lover's care,
Shoots to the sea, where low beneath the tides
Old Neptune in th' unfathom'd depth resides.
Rous'd at the news the sea's stern sultan swore
Revenge, and scarce from present arms forbore;
But first the nymph his harbinger he sends,

And to her care his fav'rite boy commends.

As through the Thames her backward course she guides,

Driven up his current by the refluent tides

Driven up his current by the refluent tides,
Along his banks the pygmy legions spread
She spies, and haughty Oriel at their head,
Soon with wrong'd Albion's name the host she sires,

And counts the ocean's god among his fires;

- 'The ocean's god, by whom shall be o'erthrown
- ' (Styx hear'd his oath) the tyrant Oberon.
- ' See here beneath a toadstool's deadly gloom
- Lies Albion: Him the Fates your leader doom.
- * Hear and obey; 'tis Neptune's powerful call,
- By him Azuriel and his king shall fall.'

D 2

She

She faid. They bow'd: and on their shield up-bore With shouts their new-saluted emperor.

Even Oriel smil'd: at least to smile he strove,

And hopes of vengeance triumph'd over love.

See now the mourner of the lonely shade
By gods protected, and by hosts obey'd,
A slave, a chief, by sickle Fortune's play,
In the short course of one revolving day.
What wonder if the youth, so strangely blest,
Felt his heart slutter in his little breast!
His thick-embattel'd troops, with secret pride,
He views extended half an acre wide;
More light he treads, more tall he seems to rise,
And struts a straw-breadth nearer to the skies.

O for thy Muse, * great Bard, whose losty strains In battle join'd the Pygmies and the Cranes!

Each gaudy knight, had I that warmth divine,

Each colour'd legion in my verse should shine.

But simple I, and innocent of art,

The tale, that sooth'd my infant years, impart,

The tale I heard whole winter eves, untir'd,

And sing the battles, that my nurse inspir'd.

Now the shrill corn-pipes, echoing loud to arms, To rank and file reduce the straggling swarms.

Thick rows of spears at once, with sudden glare,
A grove of needles, glitter in the air;

Loofe

Loose in the wind small ribbon streamers flow, Dipt in all colours of the heav'nly bow, And the gay host, that now its march pursues, Gleams o'er the meadows in a thousand hues.

On Buda's plains thus formidably bright,
Shone Asia's sons, a pleasing dreadful sight.
In various robes their silken troops were seen,
The blue, the red, and prophet's sacred green:
When blooming Brunswick near the Danube's slood,
First stained his maiden sword in Turkish blood.

Unseen and silent march the slow brigades
Through pathless wilds, and unfrequented shades.
In hopes already vanquish'd by surprize,
In Albion's power the fairy empire lies;
Already has he seiz'd on Kenna's charms,
And the glad beauty trembles in his arms.

The march concludes; and now in prospect near, But senc'd with arms, the hostile towers appear, For Oberon, or Druids salsely sing, Wore his prime visir in a magick ring.

A subtle spright, that opening plots foretold By sudden dimness on the beamy gold.

Hence in a crescent form'd, his legions bright With beating bosoms waited for the fight;

To charge their soes they march, a glitt'ring band, And in their van doth bold Azuriel stand.

What rage that hour did Albion's foul posses, Let chiefs imagine, and let lovers guess!

D 3

Forth

Forth issuing from his ranks, that strove in vain To check his course, athwart the dreadful plain He strides indignant: and with haughty cries To single fight the fairy prince desies.

Forbear, rash youth, th' unequal war to try;
Nor, sprung from mortals, with immortals vie.
No god stands ready to avert thy doom,
Nor yet thy grandsire of the waves is come.
My words are vain—no words the wretch can move,
By beauty dazled, and betwich'd by love:
He longs, he burns to win the glorious prize,
And sees no danger, while he sees her eyes.

Now from each host the eager warriors start,
And surious Albion slings his hasty dart:
'Twas feather'd from the bee's transparent wing,
And its shaft ended in a hornet's sling;
But, toss'd in rage, it slew without a wound,
High o'er the foe, and guiltless pierc'd the ground.
Not so Azuriel's: with un-erring aim
Too near the needle-pointed jav'lin came,
Drove through the seven-fold shield, and silken vest,
And lightly ras'd the lover's ivory breast.
Rous'd at the smart, and rising to the blow,
With his keen sword he cleaves his fairy foe,
Sheer from the shoulder to the waist he cleaves,
And of one arm the tott'ring trunk bereaves.

His useless steel brave Albion wields no more, But sternly smiles, and thinks the combat o'er: So had it been, had aught of mortal strain, Or less than fairy felt the deadly pain. But empyreal forms, howe'er in fight Gash'd and dismember'd, easily unite. As some frail cup of China's purest mold, With azure varnish'd, and bedrop'd with gold, Tho' broke, if cur'd by some nice virgin's hands, In its old strength and pristine beauty stands; The tumults of the boiling Bohea braves, And hold fecure the Coffee's fable waves: So did Azuriel's arm, if fame fay true, Rejoin the vital trunk whence first it grew; And, whilst in wonder fix'd poor Albion stood, Plung'd the curs'd fabre in his heart's warm blood. The golden broidery tender Milkah wove, The breast to Kenna sacred and to love, Lie rent and mangled: and the gaping wound Pours out a flood of purple on the ground. The jetty lustre sickens in his eyes: On his cold cheeks the bloomy freshness dies; 6 Oh Kenna, Kenna, thrice he try'd to fay, " Kenna farewel:' and figh'd his foul away. His fall the Dryads with loud shrieks deplore, By fifter Naiads echo'd from the shore, Thence down to Neptune's fecret realms convey'd, Through grots, and glooms, and many a coral shade. The fea's great fire, with looks denouncing war, The trident shakes, and mounts the pearly carr:

D 4

With

With one stern frown the wide-spread deep deforms, And works the madding ocean into storms.

O'er foaming mountains, and through bursting tides, Now high, now low, the bounding chariot rides, 'Till through the Thames in a loud whirlwind's roar It shoots, and lands him on the destin'd shore.

Now fix'd on earth his tow'ring stature stood,
Hung o'er the mountains, and o'erlook'd the wood.
To Brumpton's grove one ample stride he took,
(The valleys trembled, and the forests shook)
The next huge step reach'd the devoted shade,
Where choak'd in blood was wretched Albion laid:
Where now the vanquish'd, with the victors join'd,
Beneath the regal banners stood combin'd.

Th' embattel'd dwarfs with rage and fcorn he past,
And on their town his eye vindictive cast.

Its deep foundations his strong trident cleaves,
And high in air th' up-rooted empire heaves;
On his broad engine the vast ruin hung,
Which on the foe with force divine he flung;
Aghast the legions in th' approaching shade,
Th' inverted spires and rocking domes survey'd,
That downward tumbling on the host below
Crush'd the whole nation at one dreadful blow.
Towers, arms, nymphs, warriors, are together lost,
And a whole empire falls to sooth sad Albion's ghost.
Such was the period, long restrain'd by Fate,
And such the downfal of the fairy state.

This dale, a pleasing region, not unblest,
This dale posses'd they; and had still posses'd,
Had not their monarch, with a father's pride,
Rent from her lord th' inviolable bride,
Rash to dissolve the contract seal'd above,
The solemn vows and sacred bonds of love.
Now, where his elves so brightly danc'd the round,
No violet breathes, nor daisy paints the ground,
His towers and people sill one common grave,
A shapeless ruin, and a barren cave.

Beneath huge hills of smoaking piles he lay
Stun'd and confounded a whole summer's day.
At length awak'd (for what can long restrain
Unbody'd spirits!) but awak'd in pain:
And as he saw the desolated wood,
And the dark den where once his empire stood,
Grief chill'd his heart: to his half-open'd eyes
In every oak a Neptune seem'd to rise:
He sled: and lest, with all his trembling peers,
The long possession of a thousand years.

Thro' bush, thro' brake, thro' groves and gloomy dales,
Thro' dank and dry, o'er streams and slowery vales,
Direct they sled; but often look'd behind,
And stop'd and started at each russling wind.
Wing'd with like fear, his abdicated bands
Disperse and wander into different lands;
Part did beneath the Peak's deep caverns lie,
In silent glooms impervious to the sky;

Part on fair Avon's margin feek repose,
Whose stream o'er Britain's midmost region slows,
Where formidable Neptune never came,
And seas and oceans are but known by same:
Some to dark woods and secret shades retreat,
And some on mountains chuse their airy seat.
There haply by the ruddy damsel seen,
Or shepherd-boy, they featly soot the green,
While from their steps a circling verdure springs;
But sly from towns, and dread the courts of kings.

Mean-while fad Kenna, loth to quit the grove,
Hung o'er the body of her breathless love,
'Try'd every art (vain arts!) to change his doom,
And vow'd (vain vows!) to join him in the tomb.
What could she do; the Fates alike deny
The dead to live, or fairy forms to die.

An herb there grows (the same old † Homer tells Ulysses bore to rival Circe's spells)

Its root is ebon-black, but sends to light

A stem that bends with slow'rets milky white,

Moly the plant, which gods and fairies know,

But secret kept from mortal men below.

On his pale limbs its virtuous juice she shed,

And murmur'd mystick numbers o'er the dead,

When lo! the little shape by magick power

Grew less and less, contracted to a flower;

A flower, that first in this sweet garden smil'd, To virgins sacred, and the Snow-drop styl'd.

The new-born plant with fweet regret she view'd,
Warm'd with her sighs, and with her tears bedew'd,
Its ripen'd seeds from bank to bank convey'd,
And with her lover whiten'd half the shade.
Thus won from death each spring she sees him grow,
And glories in the vegetable snow,
Which now increas'd through wide Britannia's plains,
Its parent's warmth and spotless name retains;
First leader of the slowery race aspires,
And foremost catches the sun's genial sires,
'Midst frosts and snows triumphant dares appear,
Mingles the seasons, and leads on the year.

Deferted now of all the pygmy race,
Nor man nor fairy touch'd this guilty place.
In heaps on heaps, for many a rolling age,
It lay accurs'd, the mark of Neptune's rage;
'Till great Nassau recloath'd the defart shade,
Thence facred to Britannia's monarchs made.
'Twas then the green-rob'd nymph, fair Kenna, came,
(Kenna that gave the neighb'ring town its name)
Proud when she saw th' ennobled garden shine
With nymphs and heroes of her lover's line.
She vow'd to grace the mansions once her own,
And picture out in plants the fairy town.
To far-fam'd Wise her slight unseen she sped,
And with gay prospects fill'd the craftsman's head,

Soft in his fancy drew a pleasing scheme, And plan'd that landskip in a morning dream.

With the sweet view the sire of gardens sir'd,
Attempts the labour by the nymph inspir'd,
'The walls and streets in rows of yew designs,
And forms the town in all its ancient lines;
The corner trees he lifts more high in air,
And girds the palace with a verdant square;
Nor knows, while round he views the rising scenes,
He builds a city as he plants his greens.

With a fad pleasure the aërial maid
'This image of her ancient realm survey'd;
How chang'd, how fallen from its primæval pride!
Yet here each moon, the hour her lover dy'd,
Each moon his solemn obsequies she pays,
And leads the dance beneath pale Cynthia's rays;
Pleas'd in the shades to head her fairy train,
And grace the groves where Albion's kinsmen reign.

