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JERUSALEM DELIVERED;

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HEROIC POEM.

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HEROIC POEM.

TRANSLATED FROM THE

ITALIAN OF TORQUATO TASSO,

By JOHN HOOLE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

THE EIGHTH EDITION,

WITH NOTES.

LONDON:

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1803.

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JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XI.

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THE ARGUMENT.

THE Christians make a folemn procession, and, with public prayers, implore the affistance of Heaven. The next morning a general affault is given to the city; and numbers are flain on both fides. A breach is made in the wall; Godfrey, preparing to enter first, is wounded by an arrow from Clorinda, and obliged to retire from the field. The day then seems to change in favour of the Pagans, Solyman and Argantes fignalize themsfelves. In the mean time Godfrey, being conveyed to his tent, is miraculously healed by an angel. He returns to the walls, and renews the attack, till night puts an end to the battle.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XI.

THE Christian leader now, with cares oppress'd, The near affault revolv'd within his breaft: But, while he haftes his vast machines to frame, Before his prefence reverend Peter came; The hermit fage apart the hero took, And thus fedate with awful words befpoke.

You, mighty Prince ! terreftrial arms prepare, But firft another duty claims your care. To Heaven your thoughts be turn'd, your vows be paid, And call the angels and the faints to aid : With public prayers their fuccour feek to gain, So may your arms the wifh'd fuccefs obtain. Then let the priefthood in proceffion move, And humbly fupplicate the powers above :

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And you, O chiefs! the vulgar herd infpire, And kindle in their fouls devotion's fire.

Severely thus the holy hermit faid; Th' obfervant leader his advice obey'd. O fervant, lov'd of JESUS! (he replied) Well pleas'd I follow where thy counfels guide. While I the chieftains of the camp invite, Call thou the people's paftors to the rite, William and Ademar, a reverend pair ! To adjuft the facred pomp, be thine the care.

Soon as th' enfuing morning's light arofe ^a, The hermit with the priefts affembled goes, Where in a vale, to worfhip facred made, The Chriftians oft their pure devotions paid. Robes, white as fnow, the prieftly band enfold; The paftors fhone in mantles rich with gold, That hung divided on their breafts before, And hallow'd wreaths around their brows they wore.

First Peter leads, and waves alost in air The fign which faints in Paradife revere :

^a Soon as th' enfuing morning's light arofe.] History relates that, before the general affault, the Litany was chanted with a folemn religious procession. I have elsewhere observed, and I believe the reader will agree with me, that the following passage, for folemnity of description, is equal to any part of the poem.

Next in two ranks, with folemn fteps and flow, The tuneful choir in lengthen'd order go: Then, fide by fide, the holy chiefs appear, William and Ademar, and clofe the rear: Next Godfrey comes, like one of high command, Alone and foremost of his martial band. By two and two the field the leaders tread; Then, fheath'd in arms, the warrior-host fucceed. Thus from the trenches move the pious train, Sedate and filent ftretching o'er the plain; Nor clang of arms, nor trumpet's found is heard, But holy hymns from humble hearts preferr'd. 5

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Thee FATHER ! first, omnipotent, they fung, Thee, Son, coequal ! from the FATHER fprung ! Thee, SPIRIT ! in whose influence both combine; Thee, Virgin-mother of the man divine ! And you, ye leaders ! who in heaven above ^b, Th' effulgent bands in triple circles move : And thee, whose hand baptiz'd th' incarnate God With the pure stream in Jordan's hallow'd flood.

^b And you, ye leaders !--] The angelical orders thus classed by the theological writers of that time, feraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominations, principalities, and powers; virtues, angels, and archangels. Thus Milton:

Thrones, dominations, princedoms, virtues, powers!

BOOK XI:

Thee, Peter! too, they hail in fongs of praife, 55 The rock on which Heaven fix'd his church to raife; Where now thy great defcendant holds the place, To unclose the gates of pardon and of grace : And all the nunciates of th' ethereal reign, Who teftified the glorious death to man; With those, the martyrs for the truth, who ftood To feal the precious doctrine with their blood : And those, whose words or writings taught the way To the loft regions of eternal day: And her, the damfel true, of Chrift belov'd, Whofe pious choice the better life approv'd : The virgins chafte, in lonely cells enclos'd, By mystic nuptial rites to heaven espous'd: With every other name in torments tried, Whofe zeal the nations and their kings defied!

Thus chanting hymns devout, the numerous train, In ample circuit, mov'd along the plain : Their penfive march to Olivet they frame ^c, Fruitful in olives, whence it bears the name ; Eaftward it rifes from the facred town, A mount by fame through every region known. So pafs the tuneful bands with cadence fweet, The hollow vales the lengthen'd notes repeat ;

The winding caverns and the mountains high A thoufand echoes to the founds reply.

Meantime, in wonder fix'd, the pagan band ^d All hufh'd and filent on the ramparts ftand; Struck with their folemn pace, their humble tone, The pomp unufual, and the rites unknown. But when their wonder ceas'd, th' ungodly crew From impious tongues blafpheming curfes threw • With barbarous fhouts they fhake the bulwarks round; The hills and vallies to the noife refound ! But not their courfe the Chriftian powers refrain, Nor ceafe their ritual or melodious ftrain; Fearlefs they march, nor heed the clamours more Than cries of birds loquacious on the fhore.

Then on the fummit of the hill they rear'd A fplendid altar, for the prieft prepar'd; On either fide, refulgent to behold, A beamy lamp was plac'd of burnifh'd gold! There William now, in coftlier robes array'd, His reverend homage at the altar paid; There, with low voice, his humble fuit prefers, And fupplicates with vows and holy prayers.

· Their pensive march to Olivet they frame.

d ---- the pagan band

All hufi'd and filent-] All these circumstances are taken from the history.

BOOK XI.

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Devoutly hufh'd the near affiftants fland; With eyes intent behold the diftant band. But when complete the myftic rites were ceas'd, The facred fire th' attending train difmifs'd, And with his prieftly hand the fquadrons blefs'd.

The pious troops return (this duty o'er) And tread the path their feet had trod before : 'Till, at the vale arriv'd, their ranks they broke ; When to the tents his way the hero took : With fmiles he parted from the vulgar band, But there the captains of his hoft detain'd To due repaft ; and full before him plac'd Thouloufe's valiant earl with honours grac'd. The call of thirft and hunger now repreft, The chief of chiefs his leaders thus addrefs'd,

Soon as the morn afcends her early throne, Rife all in arms to affault Judea's town : Be that the day to invade our impious foe; The prefent hours to needful tafks befow.

This faid, the chiefs depart : with trumpet's found Th' obedient heralds fend his mandates round; And bid each ardent warrior rife to fight, Array'd in armour, with the dawning light. In different works the tedious day they wafte, And various thoughts revolve in every breaft,

Till welcome night, that irkfome care relieves, 126 A grateful truce to mortal labour gives.

Aurora still with doubtful lustre gleams, Scarce has the dawn difplay'd her orient beams; No flubborn ploughs the yielding furrows tear, No watchful shepherds to the meads repair; Each bird fecure his peaceful flumber takes; Nor hound nor horn the filent foreft wakes : When now the trumpet's echoes rouze the morn, To arms! to arms! the vaulted fkies return; To arms! to arms! with univerfal cry A hundred legions to the notes reply. First Godfrey role, but now neglects to bear His ponderous cuirafs, oft approv'd in war; A flight defence the fearlefs hero chofe, And o'er his limbs the lighter burthen throws; Arm'd like the meanest of the martial name; When aged Raymond to his prefence came : Soon as he view'd the chief, his thoughts divin'd What deed the leader's fecret foul defign'd. Where is thy corflet's maffy weight (he cry'd) Where all thy other arms of temper try'd? What doft thou feek ? a private palm to gain, To fcale the walls amongft the vulgar train?

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Think not this tafk a general's fword demands: 150 Such dangers leave to lefs important hands. Refume thy arms : regard thy fafety moft, And fave a life, the fpirit of our hoft.

He ceas'd. The generous leader thus replied : When holy Urban girded to my fide ° This fword in Clarmont; and when firft 'twas given To Godfrey's hand to wage the wars of heaven, To God I vow'd my focial arms to wield, A private warrior in the dangerous field. Since I have every duty now difplay'd As fits a chief by whom the hoft is led; It next remains (with juftice fhalt thou own) To march in equal arms to affault the town. Thus fhall I keep the faith to Heaven I gave; His hand fhall lead me, and his power fhall fave.

This faid; his brethren foon th' example took; Each knight of France his heavy arms forfook; The other chiefs lefs cumberous harnefs chofe, And boldly march'd on foot to affail the foes,

e When holy Urban girded to my fide

This froord in Clarmont—] Pope Urban went in perfon to the council of Clarmont, a city of France, where he appointed numbers to the crufade, and among the first, Godfrey; giving to each adventurer the facred badge of the expedition.

Alike prepar'd the pagan troops afcend 170 Where tow'rds the north the crooked ramparts bend; And where the weft furveys the rifing towers, Of least defence against th' invading powers : For, well fecur'd on every part befide, The town th' attempts of all their hoft defied. Nor here alone the tyrant's watchful care Had plac'd the beft and braveft of the war; But, fummon'd in this utmost rifque of state, Old age and childhood fhare the toils of fate : These to the brave supply (as time requires) Sulphur, and ftones, and darts, and miffile fires. With vaft machines and arms the walls they flow, Whofe rifing height commands the plain below. There from aloft, the foldan ftrikes the eyes, In form a giant of ftupendous fize! There on the ramparts, flaming from afar, The fierce Argantes towers with threatening air : And where the highest fort its fummit rears, The fam'd Clorinda o'er the reft appears, And ftor'd with darts her deadly quiver bears. Already in her hand the bow fhe tries, Now ftrains the nerve, and now the fhaft applies. Eager to ftrike, the lovely archer ftands, And waits, with longing eyes, the hoftile bands.

BOOK XI.

So feign'd of old, from heaven's ethereal height, 195 The Delian virgin dealt a feather'd flight.

The hoary king, forgetful of his ftate, Within the city moves from gate to gate; Renews again his orders on the wall, And breathes a hope and confidence in all; Here adds fupplies of men, and there provides Fresh store of arms, and o'er the whole presides. But to the fanes the matrons fad repair, And feek their fabled god with fruitless prayer.

O! hear our vows! thy righteous arm advance, And fudden break the Chriftian robber's lance! And him who dares thy hallow'd name offend, Now prone beneath the lofty gates extend!

While thus the city bends her different cares, The pious chief his arms and troops prepares : And firft he leads the foot, a numerous train, In fkilful order marfhall'd on the plain : Then in two fquadrons he divides his powers To attack, on either fide, the hoftile towers. The huge baliftæ in the midft appear, And every dreadful implement of war ; Whence on the walls, like thunderbolts, are thrown Enormous darts, and crags of ponderous ftone.

The heavy arm'd the weaker foot fuftain; The lighter horfe are fent to fcour the plain. At length the word is given, the fignals found; The bows are bent, the flings are whirl'd around: Their deathful rage the mighty engines pour, And gall the pagans with a rocky flower: Some quit their pofts, and others headlong fall, And thinn'd appear the ranks that guard the wall.

The Franks, impatient now to prove their force, More near the walls advance with eager courfe. Some, shield to shield in closest texture laid, Above their heads an ample covering made : And fome, beneath machines, in fafety move, A fure defence from falling ftones above. And now the foffe th' advancing foldiers gain, And feek the depth to level with the plain. The bottom firm a fafe foundation flow'd, This foon they fill'd, a late impervious road ! Adrastus foremost of the troop appears, And 'gainft the walls a fcaling-ladder rears : Boldly he mounts, while round his head they pour The ftones and fulphur in a mingled flower : The fierce Helvetian wond'ring crowds furvey, Who now had finish'd half his airy way :

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When lo! with fury fent, a rugged ftone, 243
With rapid force as from an engine thrown, (Sent by the vigour of Circaffia's knight)
Struck on his helm, and hurl'd him from his height.
Nor wound enfu'd, nor mortal was the ftroke,
Yet prone he tumbled, fenfelefs with the fhock.
Then thus Argantes with a threatening cry:
Fall'n is the firft: who dares the fecond try?
Behold, I fearlefs ftand before your fight,
Why, warriors ! draw ye not to open fight ?
Think not thofe fheds can fence your daftard train,
For you, like beafts, fhall in your caves be flain !

He faid: yet not for this the Chriftians ftay; But in their coverts ftill purfue their way: While others on their fencing bucklers bear The ftorm of arrows, and the rattling war. Now to the walls the battering rams drew nigh, Enormous engines, dreadful to the eye! Strong iron plates their maffy heads compofe: The gates and ramparts fear th' approaching blows. 'Gainft thefe a hundred hands their force apply, And roll vaft beams and ruins from on high; The ponderous fragments thunder on the fields; At once they break the well-compacted fhields, And the crufh'd helmet to the fury yields!

The plain is ftrewn with arms, and cover'd o'er 268 With fhatter'd bones, and brains, and mingled gore!

The fierce affailants now, for bolder fight, Forth from their covert rufh'd to open light : Some place their ladders, and the height afcend; Againft the ramparts fome their engines bend, The rams begin to fhake the batter'd wall, The nodding bulwarks threat a fudden fall. But, watchful, from the town the foes prepare Each various method of defensive war : And where the forceful beams impetuous drove, A mass of wool, fuspended from above, (Whose yielding fubstance breaks the dreadful blows) The wary pagans 'gainft the ftorm oppose.

While thus, with dauntlefs hearts, the warrior-train Againft the walls the bold attack maintain; Seven times her twanging bow Clorinda drew, As oft her arrow from the bow-ftring flew; And every fhaft that to the plain fhe fped, Its fteel and feathers dy'd with blufhing red. The nobleft warriors drench'd her weapons o'er, She fcorn'd to dip their points in vulgar gore.

The first who, 'midst the tumult of the war, Felt her keen darts, was England's youngest care;

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Scarce from his fence his head appear'd in view, 292 When, wing'd with fpeed, the vengeful arrow flew : Swift thro' his better hand it held its courfe, Nor could the fteely gauntlet ftop the force. Difabled thus, with grief he left the plain, And deeper groan'd with anger than with pain. Then, near the fosse, the earl of Amboile fell : Clotharius mounting found the deadly fteel. That, pierc'd from back to breaft, reluctant died : This headlong fell, transfix'd from fide to fide. The Flemish chief the battering engine heav'd. When his left arin the fudden wound receiv'd : He flay'd, and furious ftrove to draw the dart. But left the steel within the wounded part. To reverend Ademar, who, plac'd afar, Uncautious flood to view the raging war, The fatal reed arriv'd, his front it found; He try'd to wrench the weapon from the wound ; Another dart, with equal fury fent, Transfix'd his hand, and thro' his vifage went.

He fell, and falling, pour'd a purple flood, And ftain'd the virgin-fhaft with holy blood. As Palamede to fcale the bulwarks ftrove, In his right eye the fatal arrow drove,

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Through all the optic nerves its paffage tore, And iffu'd at his nape befinear'd with gore: At once he tumbles with a dreadful fall, And dies beneath the well-contefted wall !

While thus the virgin round her fhafts beftows, With new devices Godfrey prefs'd his foes: Afide he brought against a portal near, The largest of his huge machines of war; A tower of wood, flupendous to the fight, Whofe top might mate the lofty ramparts height: Its ample womb could arms and men contain, And, roll'd on wheels, it mov'd along the plain. Near and more near the bulk enormous drew, While from within the darts and javelins flew. But, from the threaten'd walls, the wary foes With fpears and ftones th' advancing pile oppofe: Against the front and fides their strokes they bend, And heavy fragments on the wheels they fend. So thick, on either fide, the javelins pour, The air is darken'd with the miffile fhower: Cloud meets with cloud; and, clashing in the fky, Back to the fenders oft the weapons fly. As from the trees are torn the fhatter'd leaves, What time the grove the ftormy hail receives

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340 As ripen'd fruit from loaded branches falls : So fell the pagans from the lofty walls: While others that furviv'd, with deep difmay, Fled from the huge machine's tremendous fway. Not fo the foldan : fearlefs he remain'd, And with him many on the height detain'd. Then fierce Argantes thither bent his courfe, And feiz'd a beam to oppose the hoftile force : Firm in his hand th' enormous weight he held, By this his mighty ftrength the tower repell'd And kept aloof. With thefe the martial f fair Appear'd, their glory and their toils to fhare. Meanwhile, with fcythes prepar'd, the Franks divide The cords to which the woolly fence is tied; No more fustain'd, at once on earth it falls, And undefended leaves the threaten'd walls. Now from the Chriftian tower more fierce below, The thundering ram redoubles every blow. A breach is made: when, fir'd with martial fame, The mighty Godfrey to the bulwarks came : His body cover'd with his ampleft fhield, (A weight his arm was feldom wont to wield) He faw, as round he caft his careful view, Where from the walls fierce Solyman withdrew, And fwift to guard the dangerous paffage flew; f CLORINDA.

While ftill Clorinda and Circaffia's knight 365
Maintain'd their flation on the rampart's height.
He fees, and inftant from Sigero's hands
A lighter buckler and his bow demands.
Myfelf (he cries) will firft the deed effay
Thro' yon disjointed flones to force the way :
'Tis time to flow fome act that merits praife,
That may to either hoft our glory raife.

Then, changing fhields, he fcarce the word had faid, When from the wall a vengeful arrow fled : The deftin'd paffage in his leg it found, Where ftrong each nerve, and painful is the wound. The deadly shaft from thee, Clorinda! came, To thee alone the world afcribes the fame : This day, preferv'd by thy unerring bow, Thy pagan friends to thee their fafety owe. But still his troops the dauntless leader fires, Still o'er the works his daring foot afpires : 'Till now he feels the wound's increasing pains; No more the leg his finking bulk fuftains; To noble Guelpho then a fign he made : Behold compell'd I leave the field (he faid) Thou, in my place, a leader's tafk fuftain, And, in my absence, head my focial train.

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Soon will I turn, the combat to renew— He faid, and on a courfer thence withdrew, Yet not unnoted by the pagan crew. Thus parts th' unwilling hero from his poft, And with him fortune quits the Chriftian hoft : While on the adverfe fide their force increas'd, And hope, rekindling, dawn'd in every breaft. In every Chriftian heart new terrors rofe, And chilling fears their former ardour froze : Already flew their weapons flow to wound, And their weak trumpets breath'd a fainter found.

Now on the ramparts height again appear The bands, fo late difpers'd with coward fear. Incited by Clorinda's glorious fires, Their country's love the female train infpires : Eager they run to prove the tafks of war, With veftments girded and difhevell'd hair : They hurl the dart; nor fear, where danger calls, To expofe their bofom for their native walls. But that which moft the Franks with doubts opprefs'd, And banifh'd fear from every pagan breaft, The mighty Guelpho, 'midft the rage of fight, Fell by a wound, in either army's fight :

. . .

Amongft a thouland fates, on earth o'erthrown, 412 Sent from afar he felt the miffile ftone. Another ftone alike on Raymond flew, And prone to earth the hoary warrior threw. While in the foffe the brave Euftatius ftood, A weapon deeply drank his generous blood. This hour (ill fated for the Chriftian train) No pagan weapon flies, that flies in vain. Fir'd with fuccefs, and fwell'd to loftier pride, The fierce Circaffian rais'd his voice and cried.

Not Antioch this; nor now the fhades extend, The fhades of night that Chriftian frauds befriend: A wakeful foe ye view, an open light, Far other forms, far other tafks of fight ! No fparks of glory now your foul inflame, No more ye thirft for plunder or for fame; Do ye fo foon from weak attacks refrain? O! lefs than women, in the fhape of men!

He fpoke, and fcorn'd, in narrow walls confin'd, To hide the fury of his daring mind : With eager bounds he feeks the wall below, Where gaping ftones a dangerous paffage fhow. While dauntlefs there to guard the pafs he flies, To Solyman, who ftood befide, he cries.

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Lo! Solyman, the place, the deftin'd hour, In danger's field to prove our martial power: Why this delay? O! rouze thy noble fire; Who prizes fame muft here to fame afpire.

He faid : and either warrior's ardour grows : At once they iffue where the combat glows, And, unexpected, thunder on the foes. Beneath their arms what numbers prefs the ground, What broken fhields and helms are fcatter'd round ! What rams and ladders cleft in ruins fall, And raife new ramparts for the fhatter'd wall !

Now thofe, who lately hop'd the town to gain, Can fcarce in arms the doubtful fight maintain. At length they yield, and to the furious pair Refign their engines and machines of war. The pagan chiefs, as native fury fway'd, With dreadful fhouts invoke the city's aid : Now here, now there, they call for fiery brands, And arm with flaming pines their dreadful hands; Then on the tower with headlong fpeed they bend : So from the black Tartarian gates afcend Pluto's dire minifters, (tremendous names!) With hiffing ferpents and infernal flames !

Tancred, no lefs with thirft of fame infpir'd, In other parts his hardy Latians fir'd.

When now the fpreading carnage he beheld, And faw the torches blazing o'er the field, He left the walls, and turn'd his rapid courfe To oppofe the Saracens' impetuous force : He comes, he turns the fcale of victory ; The vanquifh'd triumph, and the victors fly !

Thus flood the war, while from the martial band His lofty tent the wounded leader gain'd. Baldwin and good Sigero near him ftood, And round of mourning friends a penfive crowd. He ftrove to draw the fhaft with eager speed, And broke within the flefh the feather'd reed : Then fwift he bade explore the wounded part, And bare a paffage for the barbed dart. Reftore me fwift to arms (the hero cries) Ere rifing night th' unfinish'd strife surprise. Now old Erotimus to affift him flood, Who drew his birth by Po's imperial flood : Who well the power of healing fimples knew, The force of plants and every virtuous dew; Dear to the mufe : but, pleas'd with lowly fame, He gain'd by private arts an humbler name. His skill could mortals from the grave reprieve; His verfe could bid their names for ever live.

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All unconcern'd the godlike chief appears, While every pale affiftant melts in tears. The fage physician for the task prepares, He girds his vefture, and his arm he bares; With lenient med'cine bathes th' afflicted part, And with a gentle hand attempts the dart; With pincers next the flubborn fteel he ftrains, Yet fix'd it ftands, and mocks his utmost pains. What means shall next his baffled art devise, Since fortune thus her favouring aid denies? Full foon the chief th' increasing anguish found, And fleeting life feem'd doubtful in the wound. But now the guardian angel, touch'd with grief, From Ida's fummit brought the wish'd relief; A branch of dittany, of wonderous power, Whofe downy foliage bears a purple flower : By nature taught (th' inftructrefs of their kind) The mountain goats its fecret virtue find, What time they feel the winged dart from far, And in their wounded fides the arrow bear. With this, tho' diftant thence the region lies, The pitying angel in a moment flies : Unfeen, with this, the vafe prepar'd he fills, And odoriferous panacy diftills.

The leech anoints the part, and, (ftrange to tell !) 509 Loos'd from the wound, the fhaft fpontaneous fell : The blood forbore to flow, the anguifh ceas'd, And ftrength, return'd, in every nerve increas'd. Then thus Erotimus with wonder cries : No fkill of mine thy fudden cure fupplies : A greater power his timely aid extends, Some guardian angel from his heaven defcends : I fee celeftial hands !—To arms ! to arms ! Return, and rouze again the war's alarms !

He faid; and Godfrey, eager for the fight, Soon o'er his thighs difpos'd the cuifhes bright; He fhook his ponderous lance, his helmet lac'd, And his forfaken fhield again embrac'd. He moves : a thoufand on his fteps attend; Thence to the town their rapid march they bend : With clouds of duft the face of heaven is fpread, Wide fhakes the earth beneath the warrior's tread. The foes behold the fquadron drawing near, And feel their blood congeal'd with chilling fear. Thrice on the field his voice the hero rear'd; Full well the welcome found his people heard; The found that oft was wont to chear the fight; Then, fir'd anew, they rouze their fainting might.

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Still at the walls, the haughty pagan pair, 533 Plac'd in the breach, fupport the dangerous war; Firm in the pafs a bold defence maintain, 'Gainft noble Tancred and his valiant train.

Now, fheath'd in arms, the glorious chief drew nigh, Difdain and anger flashing from his eye: On fierce Argantes all his force he bends, And 'gainst the foe his lance impatient fends. Not with more noife fome ftone enormous flies, Sent by an engine through th' affrighted fkies; Through founding air its course the javelin held; Argantes, fearlefs, lifts th' oppofing fhield: The riven target to the force gives way, Nor can the corflet's plates the fury ftay : Through shatter'd armour flies the missive wood, And dips its thirsty point in pagan blood. Swift from his fide the lance Argantes drew, And to its lord again the weapon threw; Receive thine own, he cried-but, ftooping low, The wary Christian disappoints the foe: The deadly point the good Sigero found, Full in his throat he felt the piercing wound : Yet with a fecret joy he funk in death, Pleas'd in his fovereign's ftead to yield his breath.

A craggy flint the raging foldan threw; 557 Refiftlefs on the Norman chief it flew; Stunn'd with the dreadful blow he reel'd around, Then fudden tumbled headlong to the ground. No longer Godfrey now his wrath repell'd, Grafp'd in his hand the flaming fword he held; And now to nearer fight his foes defied : What deeds had foon been wrought on either fide ! But night, to check their rage, her veil difplay'd, And wrapt the warring world in peaceful fhade : Then Godfrey, ceafing, left th' unfinifh'd fray, So clos'd the dreadful labours of the day !

But, ere the chief retired, with pious care, He bade the wounded from the field to bear : Nor would he leave (a welcome prey) behind His warlike engines to the foes refign'd. Safe from the walls he drew the loftieft tower, Tho' broke and crufh'd with many a horrid fhower. So feems a fhip from feas and tempefts borne, Her planks all fhatter'd and her canvas torn, When, 'fcap'd from furious winds and roaring tides, Within the port fhe fcarce fecurely rides. The broken wheels no more the tower fuftain, Heavy and flow it drags along the plain, The weight fupported by th' affifting train.

JERUSALEM, &c. BOOK XI.

And now the workmen hafte, with ready care, 582 To fearch the pile, and every breach repair : So Godfrey bade, who will'd that morning light Should view the wonderous tower renew'd for fight. On every fide his watchful thoughts he caft, And guards around the lofty engine plac'd. But, from the walls, their fpeech the Pagans hear, And ftrokes of hammers breaking on the ear : A thoufand torches gild the dufky air, And all their purpofe and their toils declare.

END OF THE ELEVENTH BOOK.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XII.

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THE ARGUMENT.

Argantes and Clorinda undertake by night to burn the tower of the Chrittians. Arfetes, who had brought up Clorinda from her infancy, endeavours to diffuade her from the enterprize, but in vain: he then relates to her the flory of her birth. The two adventurers fally from the town, and fet fire to the tower: the Chriftians take arms: Argantes retreats before them, and gains the city in fafety; but the gates being fuddenly clofed, Clorinda is left amongft the enemy. Tancred, not knowing her, purfues her as fhe is retiring towards the walls. They engage in a dreadful combat: Clorinda is flain, but, before fhe dies, receives baptifin from the hand of Tancred. His grief and lamentation.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XII.

"TwAs night; but neither hoft, with cares opprefs'd, Forgot their labours yet in balmy reft: Here, under covert of the gloomy hour, The Chriftians now repair'd their batter'd tower; And there the Pagans, prefs'd with equal care, Review'd their bulwarks tottering from the war, And propp'd the walls. Alike on either fide, The warriors' wounds each fkilful leech employ'd. Thefe tafks perform'd, the Franks and faithlefs train, O'erwatch'd at length, from further toil refrain; Till deeper darknefs brooded on the ground, And many an eye was clos'd in fleep profound : But not in flumber funk the ^g martial dame, Whofe generous bofom ever pants for fame :

g CLORINDA.

BOOK XII.

15

With her Argantes join'd the watch partook; Then thus in fecret to her foul fhe fpoke.

What wondrous praife has Solyman obtain'd! What, by his deeds to-day, Argantes gain'd! Alone, amidft yon numerous hoft to go, And crufh the engines of the Chriftian foe! While I (how poor the vaunted fame I fhare!) Here plac'd aloft maintain'd a diftant war: 'Tis true my fhafts may boaft fuccefsful aim: And is this all a woman's hand can claim ? 'Twere better far in woods and wilds to chace And pierce with darts remote the favage race, Than here, when manly valour braves the field, Appear a maid in feats of arms unfkill'd.

She faid; and now revolving in her breaft Heroic deeds, Argantes thus addrefs'd.

Long has my foul unufual ardour prov'd, And various thoughts this reftlefs bofom mov'd: I know not whether God th' attempt infpires, Or man can form a God of his defires. See! from yon vale the Chriftian's glimmering light My mind impels me, this aufpicious night, To burn their tower; at leaft the deed be tried, And for th' event let Heaven alone provide.

But fhould it chance (the fate of war unknown) Yon foes forbid me to regain the town; I leave my damfel-train thy care to prove, And one that loves me with a father's love : Protect them, chief! and fafe to Egypt fend My mourning virgins, and my aged friend : O grant my prayer !—This duty from thy hands Thofe claim by fex, and this by age demands.

With wonder fill'd, Argantes heard the dame, And caught the kindling fparks of generous flame. Then fhalt thou go, and leave me here behind, Defpis'd (he cried) among th' ignoble kind ? Think'ft thou that I fecure with joyful eyes, Shall view afar the curling flames arife ? No—if in arms I ever grac'd thy fide, Let me this night thy doubtful chance divide ; I too can boaft a heart defpifing death, That prizes honour, cheaply bought with breath !

O generous chief! (reply'd the fearlefs maid) In fuch refolves thy virtue ftands difplay'd: Yet here permit me to depart alone, A lofs like mine fhall ne'er diftrefs the town : But (Heaven avert the omen !) fhould'ft thou fall, What hand fhall longer guard Judea's wall ?

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BOOK XII.

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In vain is each pretence (the knight rejoin'd) For fix'd remains the purpole of my mind : Behold I tread the path thy feet shall lead, But if refus'd, myself will dare the deed.

This faid, they fought the careful king, who fate In nightly council for the public ftate : There midft the brave and wife (an awful train) They came, and firft Clorinda thus began.

Vouchfafe awhile, O king 1 to bend thine ear, And what we proffer with acceptance hear : Argantes vows (nor vainly boafts the power) With vengeful flames to burn yon hoftile tower : Myfelf will aid—our courfe alone we ftay, Till added toil the foes in flumber lay.

To heaven his trembling hands the monarch rears, His wrinkled cheeks are wet with joyful tears : All praife to thee, O guardian power ! (he cries) Who ftill thy people view'ft with gracious eyes ! Long wilt thou yet preferve my threaten'd reign, When fouls like thefe the town's defence maintain. For you, ye pair ! what praifes can I find ? What gifts to equal your heroic mind ? Fame fhall to diftant times your worth proclaim, And earth aloud repeat each glorious name.

Your deed be your reward—to this receive Such recompense as fits a king to give.

Thus Aladine; and, as he fpoke, he prefs'd, Now this, now that, with transport to his breaft. No more the liftening foldan could controul The generous emulation in his foul : Think not (he cried) in vain this fword I wear, This hand with you fhall every labour bear. Then let us iffue all (the maid rejoin'd) Should'ft thou depart, who dares remain behind ? And now, with envy fill'd and jealous pride, Argantes his confent had here denied; But ftraight the word Judea's monarch took, And mildly thus the chief of Nice befpoke.

Intrepid warrior! whom no dangers fright, Nor toil can weary in the day of fight : Full well I deem that, iffuing on the foe, Thy deeds would worthy of thy courage fhow : But much unmeet it feems, that, parting all, None, fam'd in arms, remain within the wall. Nor would I thefe permit th' attempt to dare, (So high their fafety and their lives I bear) Were this a work of lefs important kind, Or meaner hands could act the part defign'd,

D 2

BOOK XII.

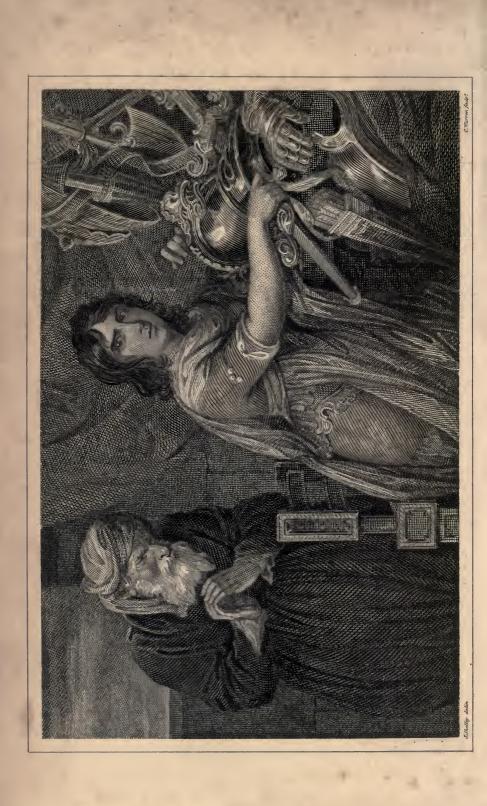
But fince, fo well 'gainft every chance difpos'd, 111 The lofty tower is round with guards enclos'd, No little force can hope the pafs to gain; Nor muft we iffue with a numerous train; Let thefe who claim the tafk, this valiant pair, Oft prov'd before in every rifk of war, Let thefe alone depart, in happy hour, Whofe ftrength is equal to a legion's power; While thou, as beft befits thy regal ftate, Here with the reft remain within the gate. And when (fo fate fucceed the glorious aim) Thefe fhall return, and wide have fpread the flame, If chance a hoftile band purfue their courfe, Then hafte and guard them from fuperior force.

So fpoke the king; nor aught the Turk rejoin'd, Though difcontent lay rankling in his mind.

Then thus Ifmeno: You who boldly dare Th' adventurous tafk, awhile th' attempt forbear; 'Till various mixtures, cull'd with art, I frame, To burn the hoftile tower with fiercer flame: Perchance the guards, that now the pile furround, May then be loft, in friendly flumbers drown'd.

To this they yield; and each, apart retir'd, Expects the feafon for the deed defir'd.





And now Clorinda threw her veft afide, 135 With filver wrought; her helmet's crefted pride: For these (ill omen !) fable arms she wore, And fable cafque that no plum'd honours bore. She deem'd it eafier, thus difguis'd to go, And pierce the watchful fquadrons of the foe. The eunuch, old Arfetes, near her ftay'd, Who from her childhood bred the warrior-maid; Who all her fteps with faithful age purfu'd, And near her now a trufty guardian ftood. He faw the virgin change her wonted arms; Her rash design his anxious breast alarms : He weeps, adjures her oft with earneft prayers, By his long fervice, by his filver hairs, By the dear memory of his former pains, To cease th' attempt; but she unmov'd remains. To whom he faid : Since, bent on future ill, Thou ftand'ft refolv'd thy purpofe to fulfill; Since neither helpless age, nor love like mine, Nor tears, nor prayers, can change thy dire defign, Attend-my tongue shall wondrous things reveal, Nor longer now thy former ftate conceal. That done, no more I ftrive thy thoughts to fhake; Refume thy purpofe, or my counfel take.

BOOK XII.

159

He faid; with eyes intent the virgin flood, While thus the hoary fire his fpeech purfu'd.

In Ethiopia once Senapus reign'd, (And ftill perchance he rules the happy land) Who kept the precepts given by Mary's Son, Where yet the fable race his doctrines own. There I, a pagan liv'd, remov'd from man, The Queen's attendant midft the female train. Though native gloom was o'er her features fpread, Her beauty triumph'd through the dufky fhade. Her hufband lov'd—but ah! was doom'd to prove At once th' extremes of jealoufy and love : He kept her clofe, fecluded from mankind, Within a lonely deep recefs confin'd; While the fage matron mild fubmiffion paid, And, what her lord decreed, with joy obey'd.

Her pictur'd room a facred ftory fhows ^h, Where, rich with life, each mimic figure glows :

^h — a facred flory florus.] This alludes to the fabulous legend of Saint George, to which the poet here feems to give a mystical fense. Thus Ariosto, Orlando Furioso, Canto xv. speaking of the spurs given by Sansonetto to Astolpho,

Believ'd the champion's once, whofe valiant deed The holy virgin from the dragon freed. Ver. 716.

There, white as fnow, appears a beauteous maid, 177 And near a dragon's hideous form difplay'd. A champion through the beaft a javelin fends, And in his blood the monfter's bulk extends.

Here oft the Queen her fecret faults confefs'd, And proftrate here her humble vows addrefs'd. At length her womb difburthen'd gave to view (Her offspring thou) a child of fnowy hue ⁱ. Struck with th' unufual birth, with looks amaz'd, As on fome ftrange portent, the matron gaz'd: She knew what fears poffefs'd her hufband's mind, And hence to hide thee from his fight defign'd, And, as her own, expofe to public view A new-born infant like herfelf in hue : And fince the tower, in which fhe then remain'd, Alone her damfels and myfelf contain'd;

¹ — a child of fnowy hue.] This fiction is apparently taken from the famous romance of Heliodorus, called Theagenes and Chariclea, where Perfina, lying with her hufband in a chamber painted with the ftory of Perfeus delivering Andromeda from the monfler, was delivered of a daughter of a white complexion, afterwards called Chariclea, which, fearful of incurring the jealoufy of her hufband, fhe expofed in the fame manner as is here related of the mother of Clorinda.

BOOK XII.

To me, who lov'd her with a faithful mind, 193 Her infant charge fhe unbaptiz'd confign'd k, With tears and fighs fhe gave thee to my care, Remote from thence the precious pledge to bear! What tongues her forrows and her plaints can tell, How oft the prefs'd thee with a last farewell ! With ftreaming tears each tender kifs is drown'd, While frequent fighs her faltering words confound; At length with lifted eyes-O Goo! (fhe cried) By whom the fecrets of my breaft are tried; If still my thoughts have undefil'd remain'd, And still my heart its constancy maintain'd; (Not for myfelf I afk thy pitying grace, A thoufand fins, alas! my foul deface!) O! keep this harmless babe, to whom, distress'd, A mother thus denies her kindly breaft: Give her from me her spotles life to frame, But copy in her fate fome happier name! Thou, heavenly chief! whofe arm the ferpent brav'd, And from his ravenous jaws the virgin fav'd: If e'er I tapers burn'd with rites divine, Or offer'd gold and incenfe at thy fhrine;

* <u>unbaptiz</u>'d—] According to the cuflom of that country, the males could not be baptized till the age of fourteen, and the females till the age of fixteen.

For her I pray, that fhe, thy faithful maid, On thee, in every chance, may call for aid.

She ceas'd; her heart convulfive anguish wrung, And on her face a mortal forrow hung.

With tears I took thee, and with care beftow'd Within a cheft, with leaves and flowers o'erftrow'd, And bore thee thence conceal'd a pleafing load! At length remote, my lonely footfteps ftray'd Amidft a foreft thick with horrid fhade; When lo! a tigrefs drawing near I view'd, Her threatening eyes fuffus'd with rage and blood; Wild with affright I left thee on the ground, 10 10 1 And climb'd a tree, and thence my fafety found : The furious beaft now caft her eyes alide, And thee deferted on the herbage fpy'd : Intent fhe feem'd to gaze, and milder grew, 'Till all the fierceness from her looks withdrew: Approaching nigh, fhe fawn'd in wanton play, And lick'd your infant members as you lay; While you fecure the favage form carefs'd, And ftrok'd with harmlefs hand her dreadful creft. She offer'd then her teats, and (ftrange to view!) Thy willing lips the milky moifture drew. With anxious fear and wonder I beheld A fight fo new, that all belief excell'd.

BOOK XII.

Soon as the found thee fated with the food, 240 The beaft departed, and regain'd the wood. Then haftening down to where on earth you lay, I with my charge refum'd my former way : 'Till midft a village my retreat I made; In fecret there thy infancy was bred : And there I dwelt, 'till courfing round, the moon Had fixteen changing months to mortals fhown; 'Till thy young feet began their fteps to frame, And from thy tongue imperfect accents came. But finking now, as middle life declin'd, To hoary age, the winter of mankind; Enrich'd with gold, which with a bounteous hand The Queen had given me when I left the land, I loath'd this irkfome life, with wandering tir'd, And to review my native foil defir'd; There midft my friends to pass my latter days, And chear my evenings with a focial blaze. To Egypt then I turn'd, my natal fhore, And thee the partner of my journey bore. When, lo ! a flood we gain-there thieves enclose My doubtful pafs, and here the current flows. What should I do, reluctant to forego My dearest charge, or trust the barbarous foe?

I take the flood; one hand the torrent braves; 264 And one fuftains thee while I plough the waves. Swift was the ftream, and in its midmoft courfe, A circling eddy whirl'd with rapid force : There round and round, with giddy motion toft, Sudden I funk, in depth of waters loft; Thee foon I mifs'd, but thee the waters bore, And winds propitious wafted to the fhore. Breathlefs and faint at length I reach'd the land, And there, with joy, my deareft pledge regain'd.

But now what time to dufky fhade confign'd, Night fpreads her veil of filence o'er mankind, Behold a warrior in my dream appear'd, And o'er my head a naked falchion rear'd. Hear my command! (he cry'd with threatening air) What once a mother trufted to thy care; Thy infant charge with facred rites baptize; Belov'd of Heaven, with me her fafety lies: For her to ravenous beafts I pity gave, And breath'd a living fpirit in the wave. Oh! wretched thou! if, fuch a warning given, Thou dar'ft to flight the meffenger of Heaven!

He ceas'd; I wak'd, and then refum'd my way, Soon as the morn reveal'd her early ray.

BOOK XII.

But, partial to my faith, I kept thee ftill, 288 Nor would thy mother's laft commands fulfill: I heeded not the visions of the night, But bred thy youth in every pagan rite. Mature in years now fhone thy dauntless mind Above thy fex, the rival of mankind ! In many a fight thy deeds have glory won; Thy fortune fince full well to thee is known. In me thou still hast prov'd, in peace or war, A fervant's duty and a parent's care, As yefter-morn my mind, with thought opprefs'd, Lay fenfelefs in a deep, a death-like reft, The phantom-warrior came with fiercer look, And dreadful with a louder accent fpoke. Lo, wretch! th' appointed hour at hand (he cry'd) That must Clorinda from this life divide. In thy defpite the virgin shall be mine, And thee to tears and anguish I refign.

He faid; and vanish'd fwift to fleeting air: Then hear, my best belov'd! my tenderest care! For thee these threatening visions Heaven has sent; To thee, alas! foretels fome dire event; Perchance displeas'd by me to see thee train'd In rites unpractis'd in thy natal land;

Remote perhaps from truth.—O! yet forbear; 312 Confent, no longer now those arms to wear: Suppress thy daring, and relieve my care.

45

He ceas'd, and wept : In deep fufpenfe fhe ftay'd, A dream, like his, her troubled foul difmay'd : At length her looks fhe clear'd, and thus reply'd : That faith I deem the truth, be ftill my guide; That faith, I learn'd from thee in early years, Which now thou feek'ft to fhake with caufelefs fears: Nor will I (noble minds fuch thoughts difdain) Forego thefe arms, or from th' attempt refrain; Though death, in every fhape that mortals fear, Should undifguis'd before my eyes appear.

So fpoke the generous maid, and gently ftrove To calm his anguifh, and his doubts remove. Now came the feafon for the deed defign'd, When parting thence th' expecting ¹ knight fhe join'd; Ifmeno there to inflame each breaft confpir'd With goading fpeech, that neither breaft requir'd, And to their hands two fulphurous balls confign'd, With fecret fire in hollow reeds confin'd.

Now through the night their filent march they bend, Now leave the city, and the hill defcend :

1 ARGANTES.

BOOK XII.

'Till near the place arriv'd, where towering high, ³³⁵ The hoftile ftructure rifes to the fky; Their daring fouls can fcarcely now reftrain The warmth that breathes in every glowing vein : Their cautious tread the watchful guard alarms; The fignal thefe demand, and call aloud to arms.

No more conceal'd remain the generous pair, But boldly rushing on provoke the war. As miffile ftones from battering engines fly, As forky thunders rend the troubled fky; One inftant fees them, with refiftlefs hand, Attack, and pierce and fcatter wide the band. 'Midft clashing fpears and hiffing darts they flew, And unrepuls'd their glorious tafk purfue : Now, held in fight, the ready fires they raife : Now near the pile the threatening vapours blaze; ,Till on the tower the dreadful peft they bend : On every fide the curling flames afcend : Heavy and thick the fmoky volumes rife, And fhade with fable clouds the ftarry fkies; Flash follows flash, the mingled blaze aspires, 'Till all the ether glows with ruddy fires ! Fann'd by the wind, the flame more furious grows : Down falls the pile, the terror of the foes, And one fhort hour the wondrous work o'erthrows !

¥6.

Meanwhile with fpeed two Christian fquadrons came, Who from the field had feen the rifing flame: 361 To thefe the bold Argantes turn'd, and vow'd To quench the burning ruins with their blood : Yet, with Clorinda join'd, retreating ftill, By flow degrees he gain'd the neighbouring hill ; While, like a flood by founding rains increas'd, Behind their fteps the eager Christians prefs'd.

Soon was the gate unbarr'd, where ready ftands The king, furrounded by his numerous bands, To welcome back (if fate th' attempt fucceed) The pair triumphant from the glorious deed. Now near the town the knight and virgin drew, And fwift behind the troop of Franks purfue; These Solyman dispers'd : the portal clos'd, But left Clorinda to the foe expos'd; Alone expos'd; for while the hafty bands Shut fast the founding gate with ready hands, She follow'd Arimon, by fury driven, To avenge the wound his luckless arm had given: His life the took: nor yet Argantes knew That fhe, ill-fated ! from the walls withdrew. All cares were loft, the tumult of the fight. Amaz'd the fenfes midft the gloom of night,

BOOK XII.

At length, her rage allay'd with hoftile blood, 384 The maid at leifure all her peril view'd: The numbers round, and clos'd the friendly gate, She deem'd her life a prey to certain fate. But when she finds no Christian eye descries The hoftile warrior in the dark difguife, New schemes of fafety in her mind arife. Herfelf fecurely midft the ranks fhe throws, And undifcover'd mingles with the foes. Then, as the wolf retires befmear'd with blood, And feeks the shelter of the distant wood; So, favour'd by the tumult of the night, The dame, departing, fhunn'd the prying fight. Tancred alone perceiv'd, with heedful view, Some pagan foe as near the place he drew. He came what time fhe Arimon had flain, Then mark'd her courfe, and follow'd o'er the plain: Eager he burn'd to prove her force in fight, Efteem'd a warrior worthy of his might, Her fex unknown. And now the virgin went A winding way along the hill's afcent: Impetuous he pursu'd, but ere he came, His clashing armour rouz'd th' unwary dame.

BOOK XII.

DELIVERED.

Then turning fwift—What bring'ft thou here? (fhe cry'd) 407

Lo! war and death I bring !---(the chief reply'd) Then war and death (the virgin faid) I give; What thou to me would'ft bring, from me receive! Intrepid then fhe ftay'd; the knight drew near; But when he faw the foe on foot appear, He left his fteed to meet in equal war.

Now with drawn fwords they rush the fight to wage : With fury thus two jealous bulls engage. What glorious deeds on either part were done, That claim'd an open field and confcious fun ! Thou, night! whofe envious veil with dark difguife, Conceal'd the warrior's acts from human eyes, Permit me from thy gloom to fnatch their fame, And give to future times each mighty name; So shall they shine, from age to age display'd, For glories won beneath thy fable fhade ! All art in fight the dusky hour denies, And fury now the place of skill supplies. The meeting fwords with horrid clangor found: Each whirls the falchion, each maintains the ground: Alternate furies either breaft inflame, Alternate vengeance and alternate shame.

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BOOK XII.

No paufe, no reft, th' impatient warriors know, ⁴³⁰ But rage to rage, and blow fucceeds to blow : Still more and more the combat feems to rife, That fcarce their weapons can their wrath fuffice ; Till grappling fierce, in nearer ftrife they clofe, And helm to helm, and fhield to fhield oppofe. Thrice in his nervous arm he held the maid ; And thrice elufive from his grafp fhe fled. Again with threatening fwords refum'd they flood, And dy'd again the fteel with mutual blood : Till, fpent with labour, each awhile retir'd, And faint and breathlefs from the fight refpir'd.

Now fhines the lateft ftar with fainter ray, And ruddy ftreaks proclaim the dawning day : Each views the foe; while, bending on the plain The fwords revers'd their finking bulks fuftain. Then Tancred marks the blood that drains his foe, But fees his own with lefs effufion flow, He fees with joy :--O! mortals blind to fate, Too foon with Fortune's favouring gale elate ! Ah! wretch! rejoice not--Thou too foon fhalt mourn! Thy boaft and triumph muft to forrow turn ! Soon fhall thy eyes diftil a briny flood, For all thofe purple drops of precious blood !

Thus for a while the weary warriors flay'd, 454 And fpeechlefs each the other's wounds furvey'd. At length the filence gallant Tancred broke, Befought her name, and mildly thus befpoke.

51

Hard is our fate to prove our mutual might, When darknefs veils our deeds from every fight : But fince ill fortune envies valour's praife, And not a witnefs here our ftrife furveys; If prayers from foes can e'er acceptance claim, To me reveal thy lineage and thy name: So fhall I know, whate'er th' event be found, Who makes my conqueft or my death renown'd.

Thou feek'ft in vain (the haughty maid reply'd) To fathom what my foul refolves to hide. Yet, one of those thou fee'ft (whate'er my name) Who gave thy boasted tower to feed the stame.

At this with rage indignant Tancred burn'd : In haplefs hour thou fpeak'ft (he thus return'd) Alike thy fpeech, alike thy filence proves, And either, wretch! my arm to vengeance moves.

With reft refresh'd, with wrath inflam'd anew, Again transported to the fight they flew. What dreadful wounds on either fide are given ! Through arms and flesh the ruthless fwords are driven.

E 2

BOOK XII.

Though faint with blood effus'd from every vein, 478 Their ftaggering limbs can fcarce their weight fuftain, Yet ftill they live, and ftill maintain the ftrife, Difdain and rage withhold their fleeting life. So feems th' Egean fea, the tempeft paft, That here and there its troubled waters caft; It ftill preferves the fury gain'd before, And rolls the founding billows to the fhore.

But now behold the mournful hour at hand, ... In which the fates Clorinda's life demand. Full at her bofom Tancred aim'd the fword; The thirfty fteel her lovely bofom gor'd : The fanguine current ftain'd with blufhing red Th' embroider'd vest that o'er her arms was spread. She feels approaching death in every vein; Her trembling knees no more her weight fuftain: But still the Christian knight purfues the blow, And threats and preffes close his vanquish'd foe . She, as fhe fell, with moving voice addrefs'd The prince; and thus preferr'd her dear requeft; Some pitying angel form'd her last defire, Where faith, and hope, and charity confpire ! On the fair rebel Heaven fuch grace bestow'd, And now in death requir'd the faith fhe ow'd.

'Tis thine, my friend !—I pardon thee the ftroke— O! let me pardon too from thee invoke !— 503 Not for this mortal frame I urge my prayer, For this I know no fear, and afk no care : No, for my foul alone I pity crave ; O! cleanfe my follies in the facred wave !

Feebly she fpoke; the mournful founds impart A tender feeling to the victor's heart; His wrath fubfides, while fofter paffions rife, And call the tear of pity from his eyes. Not diftant far, adown the moffy hill In gentle murmurs roll'd a cryftal rill: There in his cafque the limpid ftream he took; Then fad and penfive haften'd from the brook. His hands now trembled, while her helm he rear'd, Ere yet the features of his foe appear'd;-He fees !- he knows !- and fenfelefs ftands the knight ! O fatal knowledge-O diffracting fight ! Yet still he lives, and rous'd with holy zeal, Prepares the laft fad duty to fulfill. While from his lips he gave the words of grace, A fmile of transport brighten'd in her face : Rejoic'd in death, fhe feem'd her joy to tell, And bade for heaven the empty world farewell.

BOOK XII.

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A lovely palenefs o'er her features flew; As vi'lets mix'd with lilies blend their hue. Her eyes to heaven the dying virgin rais'd; The heavens and fun with kindly pity gaz'd; Her clay-cold hand, the pledge of lafting peace, She gave the chief; her lips their mufic ceafe. So life departing left her lovely breaft; So feem'd the virgin lull'd to filent reft!

Soon as he found her gentle fpirit fled, His firmness vanish'd o'er the fenseless dead. Wild with his fate, and frantic with his pain, To raging grief he now refigns the rein. No more the fpirits fortify the heart; A mortal coldness freezes every part. Speechlefs and pale like her the warrior lay, And look'd a bloody corfe of lifelefs clay! Then had his foul purfu'd the fleeting fair, Whofe gentle fpirit hover'd yet in air : But here it chanc'd a band of Christians came In fearch of water from the cryftal ftream : Full foon their leader, with a diftant view, Well by his arms the Latian hero knew: With him the breathlefs virgin he beheld, And wept the fortune of fo dire a field :

Nor would he leave (tho' deem'd of pagan kind) 550 Her lovely limbs to hungry wolves confign'd: But either burthen, on their fhoulders laid, To Tancred's tent the mournful troop convey'd. Thus ftep by ftep their gentle march they took, Nor yet the warrior from his trance awoke; Yet oft he groan'd, and fhew'd that fleeting life Still in his breaft maintain'd a doubtful ftrife: While hufh'd and motionlefs, the damfel fhow'd Her fpirit parted from its mortal load. Thus either body to the camp they bear, And there apart difpofe with pious care.

With every duteous rite, on either hand Around the wounded prince th' affiftants ftand. And now by flow degrees he lifts his fight, Before his eyes appears a glimmering light; He feels the leech's hand, his ear receives The found of fpeech, but doubts if yet he lives: Amaz'd he gazes round: at length he knows The place, his friends, and thus laments his woes.

And do I live !—and do I yet furvey The hated beams of this unhappy day ! Ah ! coward hand ! to righteous vengeance flow ! Though deeply vers'd in every murderous blow !

BOOK XII.

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Dar'ft thou not, impious minister of death ! Transfix this heart, and ftop this guilty breath? But haply us'd to deeds of horrid ftrain, Thou deem'ft it mercy to conclude my pain. Still, ftill 'tis mine with grief and fhame to rove, A dire example of difaftrous love ! While keen remorfe for ever breaks my reft, And raging furies haunt my confcious breaft; The lonely fhades with terror must I view, The fhades fhall every dreadful thought renew: The rifing fun shall equal horrors yield, The fun that first the dire event reveal'd ! Still muft I view myfelf with hateful eye, And feek, though vainly, from myfelf to fly !---But ah! unhappy wretch! what place contains Of that ill-fated fair the chafte remains? All that efcap'd my rage, my brutal power, Perhaps the natives of the woods devour ! Ah! haples maid! 'gainft whom alike confpire The woodland favage and the hoftile ire! O! let me join the dead on yonder plain, (If still her beauteous limbs untouch'd remain) Me too those greedy jaws alike shall tear, Me too the monfter in his paunch shall bear.

O! happy envied hour! (if fuch my doom) That gives us both in death an equal tomb.

And now he heard that near his tent was laid The lifeless body of his much-lov'd maid. At this awhile his mournful look he clears: So through the clouds a transient gleam appears, And from the couch his wounded limbs he rears. With faltering steps he thither bends his way, Where plac'd apart the haplefs virgin lay: But when arriv'd he faw the wound imprefs'd, With which his hand had pierc'd her tender breaft; And deadly pale, yet calm as evening's fhade, Beheld her face, with every rofe decay'd; His trembling knees had funk beneath their load, But here his circling friends their aid beftow'd, Till thus again he vents his plaints aloud: O! fight! that e'en to death can fweetnefs give, But cannot now, alas! my woes relieve! O! thou dear hand, that once to mine was prefs'd, The pledge of amity and peace confefs'd; What art thou now? alas! how chang'd in death! And what am I, that ftill prolong my breath? Behold those lovely limbs in ruin laid. The dreadful work my impious rage has made!

BOOK XII.

This hand, thefe eyes alike are cruel found; 622 That gave the ftroke, and thefe furvey the wound! Tearlefs furvey!—fince tears are here denied, My guilty blood fhall pour the vital tide!

He ceas'd; and groaning with his inmost breath, Fix'd in defpair and refolute on death, Each bandage straight with frantic passion tore: Forth gush'd from every wound the spouting gore: But here excess of grief his will deceiv'd, His senses fetter'd, and his life repriev'd.

Then to his bed again the knight was borne; His fpirits to their hated home return; And foon around the tongues of fame relate The hero's forrow, and his haplefs fate. Now Godfrey fought his tent; and with him came Each noble chief, a friend to Tancred's name. But nor reproof nor foothing yields relief, And words are vain to calm his rage of grief. So when fome limb a mortal wound receives, Each probing hand increafing anguifh gives. But reverend Peter's care the reft tranfcends, (A fhepherd thus his fickly charge attends) With awful words the lover's breaft he moves, And wifely thus his wandering thought reproves.

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BOOK XII. DELIVI

DELIVERED.

Unhappy prince! why thus indulge thy fhame, 646 * Why thus forgetful of thy former fame? Why thus obfcure thine eye, and deaf thine ear?-View honour's charms, and virtue's fummons hear. Thy lord recalls thee to thy former poft, And fhows the path thy erring feet have loft ! New tafks await thee in the field of fight, The glorious station of a Christian knight! Inite day 1 Which thou haft left, by fatal love betray'd, Loft in wild paffion for a pagan maid ! To thee this chaftening is in mercy given, And thou, doft thou reject the grace of Heaven ? Think where thy errors tend; thy flate furvey, To fenfeless forrow a regardless prey! Thy feet are tottering on the brink of death, Behold th' eternal gulph that gapes beneath ! Think, Tancred, think ! this impious grief control, That in a twofold death involves thy foul.

He ceas'd; nor here in vain the youth affail'd: The fear of fecond death o'er all prevail'd. His yielding heart confefs'd the kind relief; Returning reafon calm'd his raging grief: Yet ftill the frequent fighs his forrow fpeak; Still from his tongue the mournful accents break :

BOOK XII.

With tender found his lips invoke the fair, 670 Who lent perchance from heaven a pitying ear. On her, when fets the fun, and when returns, He calls inceffant, and inceffant mourns. So fares the nightingale, with anguifh ftung, When fome rude fwain purloins her callow young, Torn from the neft; all helplefs and alone, Each night fhe fills the woods with plaintive moan. At length one morn, as fleep his eyes opprefs'd, And o'er his forrows fhed the dews of reft; Lo! in a dream, with ftarry robes array'd, With heavenly charms appear'd the warrior-maid : She feem'd to view him with a pitying look, And dried his tears, and gently thus befpoke.

Behold what glories round my perfon fhine ! Then weep no more, thy faithful grief refign : Such as I am, to thee my flate I owe, Who freed me from the vale of fin below : Who made me worthy, midft the faints above, To dwell with GoD in realms of endlefs love. There wrapt in heavenly blifs, and crown'd with grace, My hopes prepare for thee an equal place : Where thou fhalt fland before th' eternal throne, Partake my glories, and enjoy thy own;

BOOK XII. DELIVERED.

Unlefs thyfelf reject the mercy given, 694 Or fenfual follies fpurn the grace of Heaven : Then live !—and know thou haft Clorinda's love, As far as earthly thoughts can fouls immortal move.

So fpeaking, from her eyes the lightning came, And all her features glow'd with holy flame : Then, loft in rays, the vanish'd from his fight, And breath'd new comfort in the mourning knight. Confol'd he wak'd; and with a temperate mind To skilful hands his wounded limbs confign'd. And next he bade to inhume, with pious care, The last dear relics of the breathless fair. Though for the tomb no coftly marbles came, Nor hand Dædalean wrought the fculptur'd frame : Yet, as the time allow'd, the ftone they chofe, And o'er the grave the figur'd ftructure rofe. With funeral pomp the troops the corfe convey'd, While torches round their folemn light difplay'd: High on the naked pine her arms were plac'd, And every rite the martial virgin grac'd.

Now Tancred fought the tomb, his vows to pay, Where, cold in death, her precious relics lay : Soon as he reach'd the pile, in which, enfhrin'd, Repos'd the treafure of his tortur'd mind;

BOOK XII.

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All pale and fpeechlefs for a time he ftood, Awhile, with eyes unmov'd, the marble view'd: At length releas'd, the guilhing torrents broke, He drew a length of fighs, and thus he fpoke :

O tomb rever'd ! where all my hopes are fled; O'er which my eyes fuch copious forrows fhed; Thou bear'ft not in thy womb a lifeles frame, There love ftill dwells, and lights his wonted flame! Still, ftill that form ador'd my breaft infpires, With not lefs ardent, but more painful fires ! O give these kiffes, give these mournful fighs To that lov'd form that in thy bofom lies. Should e'er her spirit deign a look to turn, Where fleep thefe relics in the filent urn; Would fhe thy pity or my tears reprove? Can hate or anger touch the bleft above? Ah! may fhe then my haplefs crime forgive, In that dear hope my foul confents to live : She knows my erring hand the deed has wrought, My heart was guiltlefs of fo dire a thought: Nor will fhe fcorn that he who owns his flame, Should still, while life endures, adore her name; Till death shall bid me here no longer rove, But join us both in mutual peace above.

BOOK XII. DELIVERED.

Then in one tomb our mortal parts may reft ! 742 And in one heaven our fpirits may be bleft. So fhall I dead enjoy what life denied, O happy change ! if fate fuch blifs provide !

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Thus he : but now the dreadful tidings flew, And fpread in whifpers thro' the hoftile crew : At length, the certain tale divulg'd around, With cries and female fhrieks the walls refound : As if the foes had every fortrefs won, And one vaft blaze involv'd the ruin'd town.

But chief Arfetes every eye demands, He o'er the reft in grief fuperior ftands; No tears from him, like common forrows flow, Too deep his bofom feels the frantic woe. With fordid duft he foils his hoary hairs, He ftrikes his aged breaft, his cheeks he tears. While fix'd on him the vulgar held their look, Thus in the midft the fierce Argantes fpoke.

When first I heard the city gates were clos'd, And midit the foes the glorious dame expos'd, Fain would I then have iffu'd to her aid, And shar'd one fortune with the haples maid ! In vain I pray'd !---the king's command restrain'd, And me reluctant in the town detain'd,

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JERUSALEM, &c. BOOK XII.

706 O! had I iffu'd then, this faithful fword Had fafe the virgin to these walls reftor'd : Or, where her blood now ftains the purple ground, My days had run their race, with glory crown'd! What could I more? what means remain'd untried? But men and Gods alike my fuit deny'd! Pale lies fhe now, in fatal conflict flain; Then hear what duties for this arm remain ! Hear, all Jerufalem ! my purpofe hear ! And confcious Heaven be witnefs whilft I fwear ! I vow dire vengeance on the Christian's head : And if I fail, on me thy bolts be fhed ! The task be mine the murderer's life to take : Ne'er shall this trusty fword my fide forfake, Till deep in Tancred's heart it finds a way, And leaves his corfe to ravenous fowls a prey !

He fpoke : well pleas'd his fpeech the Syrians hear, And loud applaufes rend the founding air. The hopes of vengeance all their pains relieve ; Each calms his forrow, and forgets to grieve. O empty words! O Heaven in vain adjur'd! Far other end difpofing fate enfur'd! For foon fubdu'd the pagan boafter dies By him who now in thought beneath his prowefs lies!

END OF THE TWELFTH BOOK.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XIII.

THE ARGUMENT.

ISMENO, by his enchantments, raifes the Demons, and appoints them to guard the wood which fupplied the Chriftians with timbers to carry on the fiege. The workmen being fent to fell the trees are terrified, and return to the camp. Several of the chiefs fucceffively attempt the adventure, but in vain. Tancred then undertakes it, and penetrates into the wood; but at length retires, deceived by new illufions. The Chriftian army is afflicted with a drought, by which it is reduced to the utmoft extremity. A difaffection fpreads amongft the troops, feveral of whom withdraw themfelves under favour of the night. Godfrey invokes the affiftance of Heaven, and the camp is relieved by a feafonable fhower.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XIII.

But fearce confum'd in fmouldering afhes falls Th' enormous pile that fhook the Pagan walls; When other fehemes Ifmeno's arts compofe, To fave the ramparts from th' invading foes: He bends his thought to guard the woodland fhade, From which the Franks their mighty beams convey'd; That thus their engines they no more may rear, Nor Sion more the threatening fury fear.

Not far from where encamp'd the Chriftian bands, Midft lonely vales, an aged foreft ftands: Here, when the day with pureft beams is bright, The branches fcarce admit a gloomy light; Such as we view from morning's doubtful ray, Or the faint glimmerings of departing day.

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But when the fun beneath the earth defcends, Here mournful night her deeper veil extends; Infernal darknefs broods o'er every fight, And chilling terrors every breast affright.

No fhepherd here his flock to pafture drives; No village fwain, with lowing herd, arrives: No pilgrim dares approach; but each difinay'd In diftant profpect flows the dreary flade. Here, with their minions, midnight hags repair, Convey'd on flitting clouds through yielding air: While one a dragon's fiery image bears; And one a goat's mifhapen likenefs wears. And here they celebrate, with impious rite, The feafts profane and orgies of the night. Thus went the fame: untouch'd the foreft flood, No hand prefum'd to violate the wood; Till now the fearlefs Franks its trees invade, From thefe alone their vaft machines they made.

The Sorc'rer hither came; the hour he chofe, When night around her deepeft filence throws; Clofe to his loins he girt his flowing veft, Then form'd his circle, and his figns imprefs'd: With one foot bare, amidft the magic round He ftood, and mutter'd many a potent found.

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BOOK XIII.

BOOK XIII.

DELIVERED.

Thrice turning to the eaft his face was fhewn; 39 Thrice to the regions of the fetting fun; And thrice he fhook the wand, whofe wondrous force Could from the tomb recall the buried corfe: As oft with naked foot the foil he ftruck, Then thus aloud in dreadful accents fpoke.

Hear you! who once by vengeful lightning driven, Fell headlong from the ftarry plains of heaven! Ye powers who guide the ftorms and wintry war, The wandering rulers of the middle air! And you, the ministers of endless woe To finful fpirits in the shades below, Inhabitants of hell! your aid I claim, And thine, dire Monarch of the realms of flame! Attend my will; thefe woods in charge receive; To you confign'd each fatal plant I leave. As human bodies human fouls contain. So you infhrin'd within thefe trees remain. Thus shall the Christians fly, at least forbear To fell this foreft, and your anger dare. . He faid; and added many an impious fpell, Dreadful to hear, and horrible to tell.

While thus he murmur'd, from the face of night Th' affrighted ftars withdrew their glittering light;

BOOK XIII.

The moon, difturb'd, no more her beams reveal'd, 63 But, wrapt in clouds, her filver horns conceal'd.

Now, fill'd with wrath, he rais'd his voice again: Why are ye thus, ye fiends! invok'd in vain? Why this delay? or do you wait to hear More potent words, and accents more fevere? Though long difus'd, my memory yet retains Each deeper art that every power conftrains: Thefe lips can found that name with terror heard, That awful name by every demon fear'd; The name that ftartles hell's tremendous reign, And calls forth Pluto from his own domain. Hear! and attend !—no more th' enchanter faid, The fpell was ended, and the fiends obey'd.

Unnumber'd fpirits to the grove repair, Of those that wander through the fields of air; Of those that deep in earth's foundations lie, In seats far distant from the cheerful sky. Still in their mind they bear the high command, That late, from fields of sight, their host restrain'd: Yet each compell'd the direful charge receives, Invades the trunk, or lurks beneath leaves.

The Sorc'rer now, his impious purpofe wrought, With fecret joy the Monarch's prefence fought.

BOOK XIII.

DELIVERED.

O king! confirm thy hope, thy doubts give o'er, 87 Behold fecur'd thy throne and regal power! No more the Chriftians, as their thoughts intend, Can bid their towers against the town ascend. He faid; and to th' attentive prince difclos'd The various fpells by magic power compos'd; Then thus pursu'd - To what my lips have told, As grateful tidings let me now unfold. Know Mars and Sol will foon their force combine, To dart their mutual beams from Leo's fign: No fanning winds shall cool the burning ray, No showers or dews refresh the fultry day. But happy we fuch feafon here may bear, Reliev'd with pleafing fhade and gentle air: This city shelter yields and plenteous streams, And cooling gales to check the fcorching beams; While on the barren earth the Franks shall lie, And feel the fury of th' inclement fky. Thus, first fubdu'd by Heaven, th' Egyptian train Shall o'er their hoft an eafy conqueft gain. So shall the foes, without thy labour, yield : Then tempt no more the fortune of the field. But if too high Argantes' courage glows, To bear, what prudence wills, a fhort repose:

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If ftill, as wont, he urge thee to the fight, The care be thine to curb th' impetuous knight: For foon will Heaven on thee its peace beftow, And whelm in ruin yon flagitious foe.

With joy the king thefe welcome tidings heard, The engines of the foes no longer fear'd: But not for this he ceas'd his watchful care, The walls to view, and every breach repair: Alike the citizens the toils divide, And various throngs the works inceffant ply'd.

Meanwhile the pious chief, their labours known, Refolv'd no more to attempt the facred town, Till once again his lofty tower he rear'd, And every engine for th' attack prepar'd. Where midft the wood the living timbers grew, The workmen fwift he fent the trees to hew; Thefe reach'd, at early dawn, the gloomy fhade, But fudden fears their trembling fouls difmay'd.

As fimple children dread the hours of night, When fabled fpectres fill their minds with fright; So thefe were feiz'd with dread : yet fcarce they knew From what new caufe th' unwonted terrors grew. But fancy form'd perhaps a numerous train Of empty fphinxes, and chimeras vain!

BOOK XIII.

DELIVERED.

Back from the wood with fpeed the camp they fought, And wild reports, and tales uncertain brought. 136 The Chriftian warriors fcorn'd their daftard fears, And heard their words with unbelieving ears. Then Godfrey next difpatch'd a fquadron try'd, A valiant troop, that every chance defy'd, To fuccour those, and urge their fainting hands To act with courage what their chief commands. Now near they came, where midft the horrid shade The fiends conceal'd their impious dwelling made. Soon as their eyes the dreary feats behold, Each beating heart is numb'd with freezing cold. Yet on they move, while looks of boldnefs hide Th' ignoble thoughts that every breaft divide. Arriv'd at length within the vale they flood, And reach'd the entrance of th' enchanted wood, When fudden iffu'd forth a rumbling found, As when an earthquake rocks the trembling ground; A hollow noife, like murmuring winds, they hear, Or dashing billows breaking on their ear: There ferpents feem to hifs, and lions roar, To howl the wolf, to grunt the tufky boar: The trumpet's clangor founds, the thunders roll, And mingled clamours echo to the pole!

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BOOK XIII.

At once their bloodlefs cheeks their thoughts difplay'd; A thoufand figns their timorous hearts betray'd: 160 No more could difcipline their ranks fuftain, A fecret power difmay'd the routed train; At length they fled: when one, with looks confus'd, To pious Godfrey thus their flight excus'd:

No more we boaft, O chief! thofe woods to fell, Impervious woods, fecur'd by hidden fpell! Infernal furies midft the gloom refort, And Pluto there has fix'd his horrid court! Of triple adamant his heart is made, Who unappall'd beholds the fatal fhade : And more than mortal he, who; free from fear, Can the dire howlings and the thunders hear.

He faid; and while he thus his tale purfu'd, Amongft the liftening chiefs Alcaftus ftood; A man of courage rafh, whofe daring mind Scorn'd every monfter dreadful to mankind; Nor ftorms nor earthquakes could his fear excite, Nor aught that fills the world with pale affright.

He fhook his head, and fmiling thus reply'd: By me this arduous tafk fhall foon be try'd! Alone I go yon dreaded woods to fell, Where vifionary fhapes and terrors dwell.

DELIVERED.

No ghaftly fpectres fhall this hand reftrain, And fiends fhall howl, and thunders roar in vain: Behold my foul each threatening power defies, Though hell's dire paffage gape before my eyes!

BOOK XIII.

Boaftful he spoke: the leader gave consent: From thence with daring fteps the warrior went. At length the foreft to his fight appear'd, And from within the mingled noife was heard. But still the knight pursu'd his course unmov'd; No terrors yet his dauntlefs bofom prov'd. Now had his feet the foil forbidden trod, When lo! a rifing fire his fteps withftood : Wide and more wide it fpread, and feem'd to frame Huge lofty walls and battlements of flame! The wonderous fence around the wood extends, And from the founding axe its trees defends. What monfters arm'd upon the ramparts ftand! What horrid forms compose the griefly band! With threatening eyes fome view him from afar, And fome, with clashing arms, the champion dare. At length he flies, but with a tardy flight; So parts a lion yielding in the fight. Surpris'd, his confcious heart the doubts confefs'd, And own'd the fears that ftruggled in his breaft.

BOOK XIII.

Then, to the camp return'd, with humbled pride, 207 From every eye he fought the fhame to hide : No longer durft, his face with grief o'erfpread, Among the warriors lift his haughty head.

By Godfrey fummon'd now, awhile he ftay'd, And with excufes vain the time delay'd : Slowly at length he came, unwilling fpoke, And from his lips imperfect accents broke. Full well the leader faw his troubled mind, And, by his looks, the boafter's flight divin'd.

What may (he cries) thefe ftrange events portend? What tales are thefe that nature's laws tranfcend? Is there a man who, fill'd with glorious heat, Dares yet explore the foreft's dark retreat? Now let his courage yonder feats invade, Or bring more certain tidings from the fhade.

So fpoke the chief: and three fucceeding days The boldeft warriors, urg'd by thirft of praife, Affay'd the dreary wood: but, ftruck with dread, Each knight by turns the threatening terrors fled.

Now in her tomb has noble Tancred laid The honour'd relics of his much-lov'd maid : Pale are his looks, his languid limbs appear Too weak the cuirafs or the fhield to bear.

BOOK XIII. DELIVERED.

But, fince the Chriftian caufe his fword requires, 231 Nor toil nor danger damps his generous fires; Heroic ardors all his foul inflame. And give new vigour to his feeble frame. With native firmness arm'd, he haftes to prove The fecret perils of the magic grove. Unmov'd his eyes the gloomy fhade behold: In vain the earthquakes rock'd, the thunders roll'd: At first a transient doubt affail'd his breaft. But each unworthy thought was foon reprefs'd. Still on he pass'd, till full before his eyes The burning walls and flaming ramparts rife. At this awhile his hafty courfe he flay'd: What here can arms avail? (the warrior faid) Shall I, where yon devouring furies wait, Amidst the flames attempt a desperate fate? Ne'er would I fly from death in glory's ftrife, When fame, when public good, demands my life. From useless perils yet the brave refrain; The warrior's courage here were fpent in vain: 'Yet how will yonder camp my flight receive ? What other foreft can their want relieve? By Godfrey then the tafk will fure be try'd: These fires perhaps may vanish when defy'd.

BOOK XIII.

But be it as it may! th' attempt I claim !---255 He faid, and fearlefs rufh'd amidft the flame: At once he leapt, and prefs'd unhurt the ground, Nor fire nor heat th' intrepid hero found : At once the vilionary flames were fled, And all around a difmal darkness spread : Tempests and clouds arose: but soon anew The ftorms were vanish'd, and the clouds withdrew! Surpris'd, but dauntlefs, noble Tancred ftood, And when the fkies thus clear'd the warrior view'd, With fteps fecure he pierc'd th' unhallow'd glade, And trac'd each fecret winding of the fhade. No wondrous phantoms now his courfe oppos'd; No burning towers the guarded wood enclos'd: But oft the trees, with tangled boughs entwin'd, Perplex'd his paffage, and his fight confin'd. At length a fylvan theatre he found; Nor plant nor tree within the verdant round; Save in the midft a ftately cyprefs rofe, And high in air advanc'd its fpreading boughs. To this the knight his wandering fteps addrefs'd, And faw the trunk with various marks imprefs'd: Like those (ere men were vers'd in scriptur'd lore) Mysterious Egypt us'd in days of yore.

BOOK XIII. DELIVERED.

Amidft the figns unknown he chanc'd to find 279 Thefe words engrav'd confpicuous on the rind.

O! valiant knight! whofe feet have dar'd to tread Thefe manfions facred to the filent dead : If pity e'er thy dauntlefs breaft could move, Forbear to violate this fatal grove. Revere the fouls depriv'd of vital air, Nor with the dead an impious war declare.

Thefe lines the knight perus'd, and loft in thought, He long in vain the fecret meaning fought. Now through the leaves a whifpering breeze he hears, And human voices murmuring in his ears; That various paffions in his heart inftil; Soft pity, grief, and awe, his bofom fill.

At length, refolv'd, his fhining fteel he drew, And ftruck the tree, when (dreadful to his view!) The wounded bark a fanguine current fhed, And ftain'd the graffy turf with ftreaming red. With horror chill'd, yet fix'd th' event to know, Again his arm renew'd the forceful blow : When from the trunk was heard a human groan, And plaintive accents in a female tone.

Too much on me before thy rage was bent, O! cruel Tancred! ceafe—at laft relent!

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By thee from life's delightful feat I fell, 303 Driven from the breaft where once I us'd to dwell. Why do'ft thou ftill purfue with ruthlefs hate, This trunk, to which I now am fix'd by fate? Ah! cruel!—fhall not death th' unhappy fave? And would'ft thou reach thy foes within the grave? Clorinda once was I!—nor here confin'd, My foul alone informs a rugged rind : The like myfterious fortune waits on all Who fink in fight beneath yon lofty wall ; By ftrange enchantment here (relentlefs doom!) They find in fylvan forms a living tomb : Thefe trunks and branches human fenfe endows, Nor canft thou, guiltlefs, lop the vital boughs.

As one diftemper'd, to whofe fleeping eyes A dragon or chimera feems to rife, Attempts to fly, while yet he fcarce believes The monftrous phantom that his fenfe deceives : So far'd the lover, doubting what he heard; Yet, midft his doubts, he yielded and he fear'd. A thoufand tender thoughts his bofom pain'd, No more his trembling hand the fword retain'd. Now in his mind he views th' offended fair With all the fighs and tumults of defpair:

BOOK XIII. DELIVERED.

Nor longer can he bear, with pitying eyes, 327 To view the ftreaming bark, or hear the mournful cries! Thus he, whole courage every deed had try'd, And all the various forms of death defy'd, Submits his reafon to delufive charms, And love's all-powerful name his breaft difarms.

A whirlwind now arofe with fudden roar, Which from the wood his fallen falchion bore. The warrior, thus fubdu'd, no longer ftrove, But left th' attempt, and iffu'd from the grove. His fword regaining, to the chief he came, And thus at length began his tale to frame.

Unthought-of truths, O prince ! I fhall reveal, Wondrous to know, incredible to tell ! I heard the dreadful founds, the fire I view'd That, fudden rifing, in my paffage flood ; Like walls and battlements the flames were rear'd, Where armed monfters for defence appear'd. Yet free from heat I pafs'd the burning towers, Nor found my path oppos'd by hoftile powers : To this fucceeded clouds, and florms, and night, But foon again return'd the cheerful light. More fhall I fpeak ?—A human fpirit lives In every tree, and fenfe and reafon gives

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To every plant—deep groans affail'd mine ear, And ftill I feem the mournful founds to hear. Each parted trunk pours forth a purple ftream, Like fanguine currents from a wounded limb ! I own myfelf fubdu'd—no more I dare A branch diffever, or a fapling tear.

While Tancred thus his wondrous tidings brought, The leader waver'd, loft in anxious thought : Uncertain if himfelf th' attempt to prove, And try the dangers of th' enchanted grove ; Or feek what other diftant wood might yield The planks to frame his engines for the field ; But from his doubts the hermit foon relieves The penfive chief, and thus his counfel gives :

Forego thy thoughts, nor yonder wood invade, Another hand muft pierce the fatal fhade. Now, now, the veffel gains the diftant ftrand, She furls her fails, fhe cuts the yielding fand ! See! where at length th' expected hero breaks His fhameful bondage, and the fhore forfakes ! Full foon will Heaven yon towering walls o'erthrow, And quell the numbers of th' Egyptian foe !

While thus he fpoke, inflam'd his looks appear'd; With more than mortal found his voice was heard.

BOOK XIII. DELIVERED.

The pious Godfrey, still with cares oppress'd, 375 New plans revolv'd within his thoughtful breaft. But now, receiv'd in Cancer's fiery fign a, The fun, with fcorching rays, began to fhine: A direful drought fucceeds; the martial train No more the labours of the field fuftain. Each gentle star has quench'd its kindly beam : From fullen skies malignant planets gleam; Their baneful influence on the earth they fhed, And wide through air infectious vapours fpread. To dreadful day more dreadful night fucceeds, And each new morn increasing terror breeds. The fun ne'er rifes cheerful to the fight, But fanguine spots diftain his facred light : Pale hovering mifts around his forehead play, The fad forerunners of a fatal day ! His fetting orb in crimfon feems to mourn, Denouncing greater woes at his return; And adds new horrors to the prefent doom, By certain fear of evils yet to come!

^a But now, receiv'd in Cancer's fiery fign.] This drought with which the Chriftian army was afflicted, is mentioned in the hiftory. In the particulars of the defcription the poet has made great use of Lucretius.

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BOOK XIII.

All nature pants beneath the burning fky: 395 The earth is cleft, the leffening ftreams are dry : The barren clouds, like streaky flames, divide, Difpers'd and broken through the fultry void. No cheerful object for the fight remains; Each gentle gale its grateful breath retains; Alone the wind from Libya's fands refpires, And burns each warrior's breaft with fecret fires. Nocturnal meteors blaze in dusky air, Thick lightnings flash, and livid comets glare ! No pleafing moifture nature's face renews : The moon no longer-fheds her pearly dews To cheer the mourning earth : the plants and flowers In vain require the foft and vital showers. Sweet flumber flies from every reftlefs night, In vain would men his balmy power invite; Sleepless they lie: but, far above the reft, The rage of thirst their fainting fouls oppress'd; For, vers'd in guile, Judea's impious king With poifonous juice had tainted every fpring; Whofe currents now with dire pollution flow, Like Styx and Acheron in realms below. The flender stream, where Siloa's gentle wave Once to the Christians draughts untainted gave,

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BOOK XIII. DELIVERED.

Now fcarcely murmurs, in his channels dry, And yields their fainting hoft a fmall fupply, But not the Po, when most his waters fwell, Would feem too vaft their raging thirst to quell : Nor mighty Ganges, nor the feven-mouth'd Nile, That with his deluge glads th' Egyptian foil. If e'er their eyes, in happier times, have view'd, Begirt with graffy turf, fome cryftal flood : Or living waters foam from Alpine hills, Or through foft herbage purl the limpid rills : Such flattering scenes again their fancies frame, And add new fuel to increase their flame. Still in the mind the wish'd idea reigns: But still the fever rages in their veins ! Then might you fee on earth the warriors lie, Whofe limbs robuft could every toil defy; Inur'd the weight of ponderous arms to bear, Inur'd in fields the hoftile steel to dare: Deep in their flesh the hidden furies prey, And eat, by flow degrees, their lives away.

The courfer, late with generous pride indu'd, Now loaths the grafs, his once delightful food: With feeble fteps he fcarcely feems to tread, And prone to earth is hung his languid head.

BOOK XIII.

No memory now of ancient fame remains, 443 No thirft of glory on the dufty plains : The conquer'd fpoils and trappings once beftow'd, His joy fo late, are now a painful load !

Now pines the faithful dog, nor heeds the board, Nor heeds the fervice of his dearer lord ! Out-ftretch'd he lies, and as he pants for breath, Receives at every gafp new draughts of death.

In vain has nature's law the air affign'd To allay the inward heat of human kind : What here, alas ! can air mankind avail, When fevers float on every burning gale !

Thus droop'd the earth, and every glory loft, Dire profpects terrified the faithful hoft: Complaints aloud refound from every band, And words, like thefe, are heard on either hand.

What next can Godfrey hope? Why longer ftay Till one fad fate fweep all our camp away? Still can he think yon lofty walls to gain, What force is left, what engines now remain? And fees not he, of all the hoft alone, The wrath of GOD by every fignal fhown? A thoufand figns and prodigies declare His will oppos'd againft this fatal war.

BOOK XIII, DELIVERED.

What fcorching rays the fickening land invade ! 467
Nor Ind nor Libya afks a cooler fhade !
Then thinks our leader no regard we claim,
And views us as a vile, a worthlefs name !
That fouls like ours to death muft tamely yield,
So he may ftill th' imperial fceptre wield !
Behold ! the boafted chief, the pious nam'd,
For acts of mercy and for goodnefs fam'd,
Forgets his people's weal, his power to raife,
And on their ruin build deftructive praife !
While thus we mourn each fpring and fountain dry'd,

From Jordan's ftream his thirft is well fupply'd; Amidft his feftive friends the prince reclines, And mixes cooling draughts with Cretan wines.

Thus faid the Franks; but louder far complain'd

The Grecian chief, who Godfrey's fway difdain'd; Who with reluctance long his rule obey'd: Why fhould I tamely perifh here? (he faid) And why with me on mine fhall ruin wait? If Godfrey blindly rufh on certain fate, On him and on his Franks th' event be thrown, Nor let us fall for follies not our own.

BOOK XIII.

Thus faid the chief; nor bade the hoft adieu, 489 But, with his train, at evening's clofe withdrew b. Soon as the morn beheld his fquadron fled, On other troops the quick contagion fpread. Thofe that in battle Ademar obey'd, And brave Clothareus, now in filence laid, (Since death, which all diffolves, had burft the bands That held them fubject to their lords' commands) Already meditate their fecret flight; And fome depart beneath the favouring night.

All this full well obfervant Godfrey knew, Nor yet his foul would rigorous means purfue To oppofe the ill; refolv'd the faith to prove, That rapid ftreams can ftay, and rocks remove; The Ruler of the world with prayers implore The facred fountains of his grace to pour. With hands conjoin'd, and eyes with zeal on flame, He thus aloud invok'd th' eternal name.

^b _____ with his train, at evening's clofe withdrew.] Hiftory mentions, that in the famine which the Chriftians fuffered before Antioch, the Grecian commander departed, under pretence of feeking affiftance from the emperor at Conftantinople, and that he returned no more. The poet feigns this circumftance to have happened before the walls of Jerufalem.

BOOK XIII.

DELIVERED.

O King! and Father! if thy pitying hand 507 E'er fhed thy manna in the defert land; If e'er thy will to man fuch virtue gave, From veins of rock to draw the gufhing wave; Be now for thefe thy wondrous power difplay'd: But if their merits little claim thine aid, O! let thy grace, to veil their faults, be given, Still may thy warriors feel the care of Heaven!

Thefe righteous prayers, in humble words express'd, On eagle-wings to heaven their flight address'd; There full before the throne of GoD appear'd: Th' Eternal Father with complacence heard: His awful eyes he bent on Syria's lands, And view'd the labours of his faithful bands: He faw their fufferings with a gracious look, Then thus, with mild benevolence, he spoke.

Lo! to this hour, on earth my camp belov'd Has various woes and dreadful perils prov'd! The world, in arms, refift their glorious toils, And hell obftructs their courfe with all its wiles. Now, chang'd the fcene, a happier fate attends : From favouring clouds the friendly fhower defcends : Their matchlefs hero comes to exalt their name, And Egypt's hoft arrives to crown their fame.

JERUSALEM BOOK XIII.

Th'Almighty ceas'd: heaven trembled as he fpoke; The ftars and every wandering planet fhook; 532 The air was hush'd, the fea was calm'd to reft, And every hill and cave its awe confess'd. Swift to the left the lightning's blaze appear'd; At once aloft the thunder's noife was heard. The troops transported view the lowering skies, And hail the rolling found with joyful cries. Now thickening clouds their gloomy veil extend : Not these in vapours from the earth ascend By Phœbus' warmth; but heaven the deluge pours, And opens all the fluices of its ftores. The torrents fall impetuous from the fkies; Above their banks the foamy rivers rife. As on the fhore, when heats have parch'd the plain, The cackling breed expect the kindly rain; Then greet the moifture with expanded wings, And fport and plunge beneath the cooling fprings : The Chriftians thus falute with joyful cry The grateful deluge from the pitying fky. Thefe on their locks or vefts the ftream receive; From helms or vafes those their thirst relieve : Some hold their hands beneath the cooling wave; Their faces fome, and fome their temples lave :

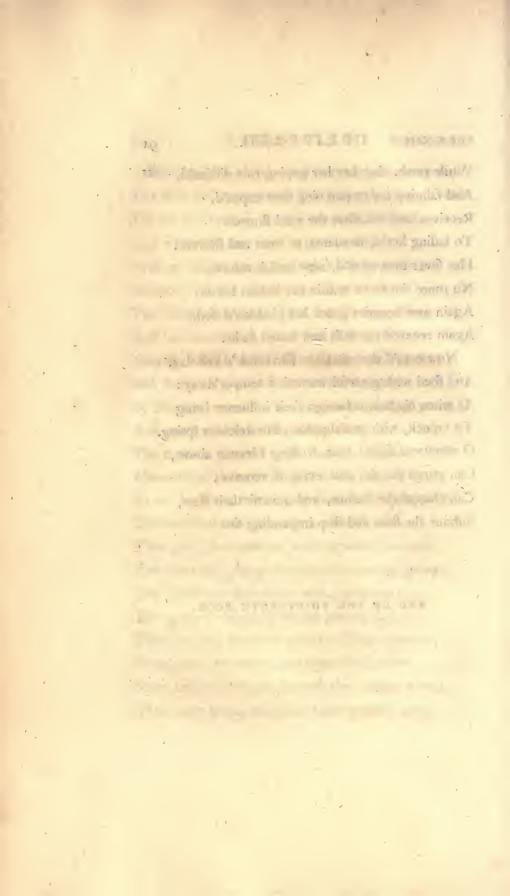
BOOK XIII. DELIVERED.

While earth, that late her gaping rifts difclos'd, 555 And fainting lay to parching heat expos'd, Receives and minifters the vital flowers To fading herbs, to plants, to trees and flowers: Her fever thus allay'd, new health returns, No more the flame within her bofom burns; Again new beauties grace her gladden'd foil, Again renew'd her hills and vallies fmile.

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Now ceas'd the rain; the fun reftor'd the day, And fhed with grateful warmth a temper'd ray: As when his beams benign their influence bring To unlock, with genial power, the welcome fpring. O wondrous faith! that, trufting Heaven above, Can purge the air, and every ill remove; Can change the feafons, and reverfe their flate, Subdue the ftars and ftop impending fate!

BND OF THE THIRTEENTH BOOK.



JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XIV.

THE ARGUMENT.

GODEREY is admonifhed in a dream to recall Rinaldo to the camp. Guelpho pleads for his nephew's return, and Godfrey confents to it. Ubald and Charles the Dane are appointed the meffengers for that purpole; thefe, by the directions of Peter, proceed to Afcalon, where they are entertained by a. Chriftian magician, who fnews them many wonders. He gives them a particular relation of the manner in which Rinaldo was infnared by Armida, and then inftructs them fully how to deliver him from the power of the enchantrefs.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XIV.

Now from her mother's antient lap arofe Indulgent night, befriending fweet repofe; Soft breezes in her train attendant flew, While from her robe fhe fhook the pearly dew: The fluttering Zephyrs breath'd a grateful wind, And footh'd the balmy flumbers of mankind.

Now, every thought forgot, the peaceful hoft Their cares and labours in oblivion loft : But, ever watchful o'er his creatures' ftate, In light eternal Heaven's Almighty fate : His looks he turn'd, and view'd, from upper fkies, The Chriftian leader with benignant eyes : To him, with fpeed, he fent a myftic dream, To fpeak the purpofe of the will fupreme.

BOOK XIV.

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Not far from where the fun, with eaftern ray, Through golden portals pours the beamy day, A cryftal gate there ftands, whofe valves unfold Ere yet the fkies the dawning light behold. From this the dreams arife, which heavenly power To pious mortals fends in gracious hour : From this to Godfrey's tent the vifion fled, And o'er the chief his radiant pinions fpread. No flumber e'er fuch pleafing fcenes difplay'd, As now the hero, in a trance, furvey'd; That brought the ftarry manfions to his eyes, And open'd all the fecrets of the fkies : Then full reflected to his fenfe was fhown The happy ftate, by righteous fpirits known.

He feem'd aloft to realms of glory rais'd, Where beams on beams with mingled luftre blaz'd. There, while he, wondering, view'd the feats around, And heard the facred choir their hymns, refound, Begirt with rays, and cloth'd with lambent flame, Full in his fight a graceful warrior came. His tuneful voice no founds can reach below, And from his lips thefe gentle accents flow : Then will not Godfrey own this face again, And is thy friend, thy Hugo, feen in vain ?

To whom the chief reply'd: That form divine, ³⁹ Where circling beams of dazzling glory fhine, So far my feeble mortal fenfe obfcur'd, That fcarcely yet my memory ftands affur'd. He faid; and thrice with eager arms effay'd With pious love to clafp the friendly fhade : And thrice the phantom mock'd his fruitlefs care, And fled like empty dreams or fleeting air.

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Think not (the vision cry'd) thine eyes behold A mortal fubstance of terrestrial mould: A naked spirit stands before thy sight, A citizen of this celessial light. Behold God's temple! here his warriors rest, With these shalt thou reside, for ever blest. When comes that happy hour? (the chief replies) Ah! now release my foul from earthly ties!

Soon fhalt thou (Hugo thus return'd again) Partake the triumphs of th' immortal train : But firft thy warfare claims new toils below; In fields of fight thy courage yet muft glow. 'Tis thine to free from impious pagan bands 'The facred empire of Judea's lands; And, firmly fix'd, the Chriftian throne to place, The feat thy brother is decreed to grace.

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JERUSALEM BOO

BOOK XIV.

63 But, that thy breaft may feel a holier fire, And purer pleafures purer thoughts infpire : Contemplate well this place, thefe ftarry rays, Where Heaven's Almighty pours the boundlefs blaze! Hark ! how th' angelic choir their hymns prolong, And warble to the lyre celeftial fong ! Now caft thy fight to yonder globe below, See! all that earth on mortals can beftow! Behold what vileness there obscures mankind : Say, what rewards can there the virtuous find. A naked folitude, a narrow space Confines the fenfeless pride of human race. Earth, like an isle, is round with waves embrac'd; Survey yon fea, the mighty and the vaft! Which here can no fuch glorious titles claim, A pool unnoted, and a worthlefs name!

He faid; and Godfrey downward bent his eyes, And view'd the earth with pity and furprize: He fmil'd to fee the numerous nations' boaft, Lands, floods, and oceans, in an atom loft; Amaz'd that man, with fenfual follies blind, Should there, immers'd in finoke, in gloom confin'd, Purfue vain empire, and an airy name, Nor heed the call of Heaven, and virtue's lafting fame.

Then thus he faid: Since 'tis not God's decree, 87 From mortal prifon yet my foul to free; O! be my guide! Vouchfafe the path to fhow, Amidft the errors of the world below.

The path before thee (Hugo then reply'd) Purfue, nor from the track remove afide. This only counfel from thy friend receive; From exile brave Bertoldo's fon reprieve. For if to thee th' Almighty King of heaven The fovereign guidance of the hoft has given; 'Tis his decree no lefs, th' intrepid knight Should execute thy high commands in fight: 'Tis thine the foremost duties to fustain, To him the fecond honours must remain : To him alone 'tis given the woods to fell, So deeply guarded by the fiends of hell; From him the troops, that feem a lifelefs hoft, Their numbers weaken'd, and their courage loft; That inly meditate a shameful flight, Shall gain new vigour for th' approaching fight : So fhall they teach yon haughty walls to yield, And rout the eaftern armies in the field.

He faid, and ceas'd; when Godfrey made reply: The knight's return would fill my breaft with joy:

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BOOK XIV.

Thou know'ft (and thou my fecret thought canft prove) That in my foul he meets a brother's love. 112 But fay, what offers muft I make? and where To feek him fhall the meffengers repair? How fuits it with my ftate, the youth to greet, To exact obedience, or with prayer entreat?

To whom the fhade: Th' Eternal King, whofe grace To thee has given on earth a leader's place, Decrees that those o'er whom he gave thee fway, To thee, their head, fhould rightful homage pay : Request not then-(thou can'ft not, void of blame, With fervile prayers debafe a general's name)-But when thy friends befeech, thine ears incline; The part be theirs to entreat, to yield be thine : To thee, infpir'd by Heaven, shall Guelpho plead, And afk forgiveness for Rinaldo's deed. Though now far diftant from th' abandon'd hoft, He lives, in love and eafe inglorious loft; A few fhort days will bring the youth again, To shine in arms amidst his focial train : For holy Peter can thy envoys fend Where certain tidings shall their fearch attend : They shall be taught the arts, and given the power, The knight to free, and to the camp reflore.

Thus all thy wandering partners of the war Shall Heav'n at length reduce beneath thy care. Yet, ere I ceafe, one truth I fhall reveal, Which well I know thy breaft with joy fhall fill: His blood fhall mix with thine, and thence a race Of glorious names fucceeding times fhall grace !

He ended here; and pafs'd like fmoke away, Or fleeting clouds before the folar ray. Then fleep, departing, left the hero's breaft At once with wonder and with joy poffefs'd. The pious chief th' advancing morn furvey'd, And ftraight his limbs in weighty arms array'd. Soon in his tent th' attending leaders met, In daily council where conven'd they fate; There every future act they weigh with care, And every labour of the war prepare.

Then noble Guelpho^c, who, as Heaven had taught, New plans revolv'd within his careful thought, First turn'd to Godfrey midst the warrior-train: O! prince! for mercy fam'd (he thus began)

^c Then noble Guelpho-] The poet here, as in the fifth book, admirably preferves the decorum of Godfrey's character, by making the request for his recall come from Guelpho.

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BOOK XIV.

I come to implore thy grace; thy grace difpenfe, 155 Though rash the deed, though recent be th' offence: Hence may it feem too boldly here I ftand, And immaturely urge the fond demand. But when I think to Godfrey's friendly ear, For brave Rinaldo I my fuit prefer; Or view myfelf, of no ignoble strain, That intercedes thy favouring grace to gain : I trust thou wilt not fuch a boon deny, Which all will here receive with equal joy. Ah! let the youth return, retrieve his name, And lave, in fields of blood, his fullied fame, What hand but his intrepid shall invade The foreft-gloom, and bare the fatal fhade? Who more adventurous in the field to dare, Defpifing death, amidft the ranks of war? Behold he shakes the walls, the gates o'erthrows, Or foremost fcales the ramparts of the foes ! Reftore him to the camp !--- O chief ! reftore The hope of battle, and the foldiers' power. Reftore to me a nephew well-belov'd, A champion to thyfelf, in arms approv'd: Nor let him in ignoble floth remain, But give him to his rank and fame again :

Thy conquering banners let him ftill purfue, So may the gazing world his virtues view : Great deeds he then fhall fhow in open light, While thou, his leader, rul'ft the field of fight.

He ended here; and, while his fuit he prefs'd, All join'd, with favouring murmurs, his request : And Godfrey now (each inward thought conceal'd) Seem'd to his reafons and his fuit to yield. Can I (he cry'd) refuse the grace requir'd, By all expected, and by all defir'd? Here rigour ends-enough your counfel moves; Then be it as the public voice approves. Let young Rinaldo view the camp again, But learn henceforth his anger to reftrain : May he, with actions equal to your praife, Fulfill your wifnes, and his glory raife ! Him to recall, O Guelpho! be thy care: (And grateful fure the tidings to his ear!) 'Tis thine the trufty envoy to felect, And where the youth refides, his fteps direct.

He ceas'd; when, rifing, thus the Dane began: An envoy if you feek, behold the man! Nor length of way, nor perils I decline, To him this honour'd weapon to refign.

BOOK XIV.

So fpoke the knight, with generous ardor mov'd, 203 And noble Guelpho his defire approv'd; And join'd with him, the labours to divide, Ubald, in every art of wifdom try'd. Ubald, in youth, had many regions feen, Explor'd the cuftoms and the ways of men; And wander'd long, with unremitted toil, From polar cold to Libya's burning foil; From different nations different arts he drew; Their laws, their manners, and their fpeech he knew: In age mature him Guelpho now carefs'd, His much-lov'd friend, and partner of his breaft.

Such were the men, felected midft the hoft, From exile to recall the champion loft: Thefe Guelpho now inftructs their courfe to bend Where mighty Bæmond's regal walls afcend: Since all (for thus the public fame was blown) Had fix'd the knight's retreat in Antioch's town: But here the word the reverend hermit took, And interpofing, on their converfe broke.

Ye warriors brave! attend my words (he faid) Nor be by voice of vulgar fame mifled; But hafte to Afcalon, and feek the fhores Where to the fea a ftream its tribute pours;

There shall a fage, the Christians' friend, appear; 227 Attend his dictates, and his counfel hear: Full well he knows, long fince foretold by me, Of this your journey, fix'd by GoD's decree: 'Tis his your steps to guide; from him receive Such welcome as a faithful heart can give.

The hermit faid: and, as his words requir'd, The ready knights obey'd what Heaven infpir'd: Direct to Afcalon they bent their way ^d, Where breaks againft the land the neighbouring fea, Their ears perceive not yet the hollow roar Of dafhing billows founding on the fhore : When now the chiefs a rapid ftream beheld, With fudden rains and rufhing torrents fwell'd : The banks no more confine its headlong courfe; Swift as a fhaft it drives with furious force.

^d Direct to Afcalon they bent their way,] Here begins the narrative of the wonders met with by these knights, in their embasily to recall Rinaldo, and the description of the enchantments of Armida; and I have little doubt, notwithstanding the severity, and perhaps pedantry, of classical criticism, but every poetical reader will call these the finest passages of the JERUSALEM. The reader will see what use our admirable Spenser has made of these xivth, xvth, and xvith books.

BOOK XIV.

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While in fufpenfe they ftand, a fage appears, Of reverend afpect and experienc'd years, An oaken wreath furrounds his aged brows; In lengthen'd folds his fnowy vefture flows; A wand he fhakes; fecure he treads the waves, And with his feet unbath'd the torrent braves.

So, near the freezing pole, the village-fwains (When winter binds the floods in icy chains) Oft o'er the Rhine in fearlefs numbers glide With hiffing found, and fkim the folid tide.

Now came the fage to where, in deep furprife, On him the filent warriors fix'd their eyes; Then thus: O friends! you 'tempt an arduous tafk, Your high defigns uncommon guidance afk. What toils, what dangers ftill attend your way, What feas to pafs, what regions to furvey! Far muft you fearch, where other funs afcend, Beyond the limits of our world extend. But firft vouchfafe to view my homely cell, The hidden manfion where retir'd I dwell: There fhall my lips fuch wondrous truths declare, As well befits your purpofe now to hear.

He ceas'd; and bade the ftream a paffage yield; Th' obedient ftream a fudden path reveal'd;

Full in the midst the parting waves divide, 267 A liquid mountain rofe on either fide. Then by the hand he feiz'd the knights, and led Within the winding river's fecret bed. There doubtful day fcarce glimmers to their fight; As when pale Cynthia through the groves, by night, Sheds from her flender horns a trembling light. There caverns huge they view; from thefe arife The watery flores that yield the earth fupplies, To run in rills, in gufhing fprings afcend, To flow in rivers, or in lakes extend. There might they fee whence Po and Ister came, Hydafpes, Ganges, and Euphrates' ftream : Whence mighty Tanaïs first derives his course; And Nilus there reveals his fecret fource. Deep underneath they next a flood behold, Where fulphur, mix'd with living filver, roll'd: Till thefe, by Sol's enlivening rays refin'd, In folid gold or lucid cryftal fhin'd. Along the banks they faw, on either fide, Unnumber'd jewels deck the wealthy tide: From thefe by fits, a flashing splendor play'd, And chac'd the horrors of the dufky fhade. There fhines the fapphire gay with azure bright, And there the jacynth gives a pleafing light ;

BOOK XIV.

There flames the ruby; there the di'mond beams: 292 And milder there the verdant emerald gleams!

The warriors ftill purfu'd their reverend guide; Thefe wonderous fcenes in deep amazement ty'd Each various fenfe; till prudent Ubald broke The filence firft, and thus the fage befpoke. Say, Father ! what the place we now behold ? Where do'ft thou lead ? and what thy ftate, unfold ? Scarce can I tell, bewilder'd with furprife If truth I view, or dreams deceive my eyes !

Then he : Lo! here the fpacious womb of earth, Where all productions first receive their birth : Nor could you thus her entrails dark explore, Without my guidance and superior power : Now to my palace I your steps convey (My palace shining with resplendent day.) A pagan was I born, but gracious Heaven A fecond life by cleansing streams has given. Think not these wonders, that confound your thought, By influence of the Stygian angels wrought. Heaven shield I should invoke Cocytus' shore, Or Phlegethon with impious arts implore : But well my knowledge from its source reveals The virtue every plant or spring conceals ;

I meditate the ftars, explore the caufe Of nature's works, and trace her fecret laws. Yet deem not, ever diftant, from the skies, In fubterranean feats my dwelling lies. For oft on Lebanon or Carmel's brow I make abode, and view the world below. There Mars and Venus to my fearching eyes, Without a cloud, in all their afpects rife. Each star I know, of fwift or lingering course, Of mild appearance, or malignant force: Beneath my feet the vapours I furvey, Now dark, and now with Iris' colours gay. What exhalations rains and dews compose I mark, and how the wind obliquely blows: What fires the lightning, how the bolt defcends, And through the air a dreadful paffage rends. There, near at hand, I fee the meteors ftream, And wandering comets dart a fiery gleam ! Elate with pride, I deem'd my art could foar To every height, and fathom heavenly pow'r. But when your Peter, in the facred flood, With myftic rites my finful foul renew'd; I rais'd my thoughts, and own'd my wifdom's boaft, Without a guide divine, in darkness loft !

BOOK XIV.

The minds of men, in truth's immortal ray, 340 Appear like birds of night before the day. Inly I fmil'd my follies paft to view, From which fo late my empty pride I drew: Yet (fo your pious hermit gave command) I ftill my former magic arts retain'd : But all my knowledge now obeys his word, 'Tis his to bid, my teacher and my lord ? He now vouchfafes with me (a worthlefs name!) To entruft a tafk more righteous hands might claim : To me he gives to call from diftant lands Th' unconquer'd hero to his focial bands : Long have I ftay'd, your coming to behold ; For this event the holy fage foretold.

Thus fpoke the fire; and now the knights he fhow'd Where in the lonely rock he made abode : The manfion like an ample cave was feen, And halls and flately rooms appear'd within. There fhone whate'er th' all-breeding earth contains Of riches nourifh'd in her fruitful veins : There native fplendor dwells in every part, And nature rifes o'er the works of art ! An hundred duteous flaves obfequious fland To attend the guefts, and wait their lord's command;

Magnificent the plenteous board is plac'd, 364 With vales huge of gold and cryftal grac'd. At length, the rage of thirst and hunger fled, The wife magician to the warriors faid,

'Tis time, what moft imports, fhould now be fhown; To you in part Armida's arts are known: How to the camp fhe came, and thence convey'd The braveft champions, by her wiles betray'd. Full well you know that thefe, in bonds reftrain'd, Th' infidious dame within her tower detain'd; And fent them guarded thence to Gaza's land, When fortune, in the way, releas'd their band. It now remains for me th' events to tell (As yet unknown) which fince that time befel.

Soon as th' enchantrefs faw her prifoners loft, Her fchemes defeated, and her labours crofst; Opprefs'd with fudden grief, her hands fhe wrung, And thus exclaim'd, with raging fury ftung:

Then shall he live to boast th' audacious deed, My guards defeated, and my captives freed ! No—if his arms to others freedom give, Let him in pains and shameful bondage live: Nor he alone my just revenge shall claim, My rage shall burst on all the Christian name !

III

BOOK XIV.

Furious the fpoke, and as the fpoke defign'd 388 A new device within her fraudful mind : She fought the plain, where late Rinaldo's might Her warriors vanquish'd, and dispers'd in fight : The battle o'er, his mail the chief unbrac'd, And on his limbs a pagan's armour lac'd. Perchance he fought to veil his glorious name, Conceal'd in humbler drefs unknown to fame. His arms th' enchantrefs took e, in thefe enclos'd A headlefs trunk, and near a ftream expos'd; Here well fhe knew that, charg'd with daily care, A band of Franks would from the camp repair. And fast beside she stationed in the shade A crafty flave in fhepherd's garb array'd, Inftructed well fufpicion's bane to fpread : He first amongst your troops th' infection shed; That, wide diffusing, scatter'd discord far, And threaten'd direful rage and civil war. Thus, as her arts defign'd, the Chriftian train Believ'd by Godfrey brave Rinaldo flain.

e His arms th' enchantrefs took—] The following paffage explains fully the account given in the viiith book to Godfrey by Aliprando, of the fuppofed death of Rinaldo. See ver. 343 of that book.

Till foon to all confess'd the truth appear'd, 408 And jealous doubts from every breast were clear'd.

Behold the firft device Armida tried; Now, mark what next her wily thoughts employ'd. The forc'refs ftay'd by fam'd Orontes' ftream, Till near the banks the young Rinaldo came; Where from the main a parting riv'let glides, And forms an ifland in the limpid tides. There by the fhore a little bark appear'd; A marble pillar clofe befide was rear'd; On this, as in fufpenfe, awhile he ftood, Engrav'd in gold thefe words the hero view'd.

" O thou! whoe'er thou art, whofe fteps are led,
" By choice or fate, thefe lonely fhores to tread;
" No greater wonders eaft and weft can boaft,
" Than yon fmall ifland on its pleafing coaft.
" If e'er thy fight would blifsful fcenes explore,
" This current pafs, and feek the further fhore." Th' uncautious warrior with th' advice comply'd,

And curious turn'd, refolv'd to crofs the tide; But, for the bark could only one contain, Alone he pafs'd, and bade his fquires remain. Now, to the land th' impatient hero brought, With eager looks, the promis'd wonders fought;

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BOOK XIV.

Yet nought beheld fave meadows deck'd with flowers, Clear waters, cooling caves, and leafy bowers. 433. Th'enticing fcenes awhile the youth delay'd; He ftretch'd his weary limbs beneath the fhade; Then from the maffy helm his brows reliev'd, And in his face the frefhening breeze receiv'd.

But foon he heard the ftream, with bubbling noife, Remurmuring foft, and thither turn'd his eyes : When midft the flood the circling waves he fpy'd, That form'd an eddy in the whirling tide : Whence, rifing flow, difhevell'd locks appear'd, And female features o'er the water rear'd; The fnowy neck, and gently fwelling breaft; A crystal veil beneath conceal'd the reft. So from the parting ftage is feen to rife A nymph or goddefs to the gazer's eyes. This, though her form a Syren's charms difplay'd, Was but a femblance and delufive shade; Yet one of those she seem'd, who wont of yore, In faithlefs feas, to infeft the Tyrrhene fhore. Sweet as her looks, fo fweet her tuneful voice; And thus fhe fings, while winds and fkies rejoice.

O happy man! when youth reigns o'er your hours, And ftrows the paths of life with finiling flowers:

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Ah! let not virtue with fallacious ray, 456 Or glory, lead your tender mind aftray; Who learns the fruit each feafon yields to prize, Who follows pleafure, he alone is wife. Know, this is nature's voice :- Will you withftand Her facred laws, and flight her high command? Infenfate he who waftes his bloomy prime, Nor takes the transient gifts of fleeting time. Whate'er the world may worth or valour deem, Is but a phantom, and delufive dream! Say, what is fame, that idol of the brave, Whofe charms can thus deceiv'd mankind enflave? An echo—or a shade—to none confin'd; A fhifting cloud, difpers'd with every wind! Then reft fecure; in every offer'd joy Indulge your fenfes, and your foul employ. Paft woes forget; nor antedate your doom By vain prefage of evils yet to come. Let thunders roll, and nimble lightnings fly; Yet heed not you the terrors of the fky. This, this is wifdom: hence each bleffing flows; This nature bids, and this the path fhe fhows.

Thus impious fhe: The foothing accents creep, And lull the liftening knight to balmy fleep:

I 2

BOOK XIV.

In vain the thunder's noife had rent the fkies, 480 So deep entranc'd in death-like reft he lies.

Now fir'd with vengeance, iffuing from the wood, The falfe enchantrefs o'er the warrior ftood : But, when fhe view'd intent his manly face, His features glowing with celeftial grace, Rapt in fufpenfe, befide the youth fhe fate, And, as fhe view'd, forgot her former hate. Low-bending o'er his charms' fhe hangs amaz'd; So once Narciffus in the fountain gaz'd. Now from his cheeks fhe wipes the dews away; Now bids the fanning breeze around him play: Now thro' the meads, that fimil'd with various flowers, She ftray'd, and wanton cropt the fragrant ftores; The rofe and lily, with her artful hands Together join'd, fhe forms in pleafing bands :

^a Low-bending o'er his charms—] See the paffage in Spenfer where Acrafia is deferibed with the knight in the bower of blifs.

And all the while right over him the hong,
 With her falfe eyes faft fixed in his fight,
 As feeking medicine, whence the was flong,
 Or greedily departuring delight, &c.

FAIRY QUEEN, B. ii. c. 12. ft. 73.

BOOK XIV.

DELIVERED.

With thefe the warrior's arms and legs enfolds, 496 And gently thus in flowery fetters holds. Then, while in foft repose he fenseles lies, She lays him on her car, and cuts the fkies. Nor feeks fhe to regain Damafcus' lands, Or where, with waves enclos'd, her caftle ftands; But, jealous of her prize, and fill'd with fhame, In ocean's vaft profound fhe hides her flame, Where from our coaft no bark the billow ploughs: There midft circumfluent tides an isle she chofe: Then to a mountain's lofty fummit flies, Forlorn and wild, expos'd to ftormy fkies: She clothes the foot and fides with dreary fnows, While on the brow eternal verdure grows. There, rear'd by fpells, and more than mortal hands, Befide a lake her fpacious palace ftands; Where, in unfailing fpring, and fhameful eafe, Th' imprifon'd champion waftes his amorous days. 'Tis yours the jealous forc'refs' guards to quell, That watch th' afcent, and near the palace dwell. Nor fhall you want a guide your courfe to lead; Nor arms to affift you in th' adventurous deed. Soon as you quit my ftream, your eyes shall view A dame, though old in years, of youthful hue;

BOOK XIV.

Known by the locks that o'er her forehead play; 520 And changeful robes, with various colours gay. 'Tis hers to guide you to the tafk decreed, With more than eagle's wings or lightning's fpeed; 'Tis hers to waft you o'er the watery plain, And fafe return you from the roaring main. The mount afcending, on whofe towering height Th' enchantrefs dwells, remote from human fight; Your eyes fhall numerous favage forms behold: There Pythons hifs, in dreadful volumes roll'd; With horrid briftles ftands the foaming boar: With gaping jaws the bear and lion roar! Then fudden fhake this potent wand b around, And all with fear fhall fly the hiffing found.

^b — this potent wand—] The palmer that accompanies Sir Guyon in Spenfer, has a flaff of the like virtue. Speaking of the wild beafts that attacked Sir Guyon and his guide on their coming to the bower of Acrafia, the poet thus beautifully enlarges on the fiction of the Italian author.

But foon as they approach'd with deadly threat, The palmer over them his ftaff upheld; His mighty ftaff, that could all charms defeat: Eftfoons their flubborn courages are quell'd, And high advanced crefts down meekly fell d: Inftead of fraying, they themfelves did fear, And trembled, as them paffing they beheld: Such wondrous power did in that ftaff appear, All monfters to fubdue to him that did it bear!

But when your feet the fteepy fummit gain, Yet greater perils in your way remain : A fountain rifes there, whofe ftreams invite Th' admiring ftranger^c, and the thirft excité;

Of that fame wood it fram'd was cunningly, Of which Caduceus whilom was made; Caduceus, the rod of Mercury, With which he wonts the Stygian realms invade, Through ghaftly horror and eternal fhade: Th' infernal fiends with it he can affuage, And Orcus tame, whom nothing can perfuade, And rule the Furies, when they moft do rage : Such virtue in his flaff had eke this palmer fage.

FAIRY QUEEN, B. ii. c. 12. ft. 40.

· A fountain rifes there, whofe streams invite

Th' admiring firanger,—] Pomponius Mela writes thus of fuch a fountain in the Fortunate Iflands: "Contra for-"tunatæ infulæ abundant fua fponte genitis et fubinde aliis "fuperaliis innafcentibus; nihil folicitos alunt beatius, quam "aliæ urbes excultæ. Una fingulari duorum fontium ingenio "maxime infignis, alterum qui potavere rifu folvuntur in "mortem." Petrarch likewife fpeaks of two fountains in the Fortunate lflands.

> Fuor tutti i noftri lidi Nel' ifole famofe di fortuna Due fonti ha, chi dell'una Bee muor ridendo.

BOOK XIV.

But, deep within, th' alluring cryftal hides 538 A fecret venom in its treacherous tides : One fatal draught can strange effects dispense, And fill with dire delight the madding fenfe: Unbidden laughter fwells the panting breath, Till lo! the dread convultion ends in death! Then far! ah, diftant far with fpeed remove, Nor let your lips the deadly waters prove : Nor let the banks with tafteful viands grac'd, Invite your fenfes to the rich repaft : Nor heed th' inticing dames, whole voice decoys, Whofe beauty poifons, and whofe finile deftroys : O! fly their looks, their guileful words defpife; And enter where the lofty gates arife. Within, high walls with winding paths furround The fecret dwelling, and the fearch confound: Maze within maze diffracts the doubtful fight : A map shall guide your wandering steps aright. Amidst the labyrinth lies the magic grove, Where every leaf impregnate feems with love. There shall you view, beneath th' embowering shade. Th' enamour'd champion and the damfel laid, But when awhile th' enchantrefs shall depart, And leave behind the partner of her heart;

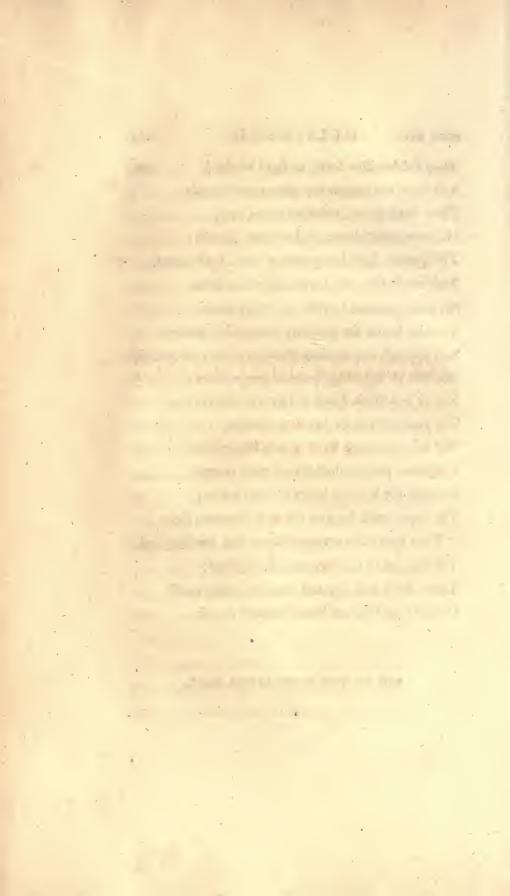
BOOK XIV.

DELIVERED.

Then fudden iffue forth, to fight reveal'd, 562 And fhow the knight my adamantine fhield: There shall he fee, reflected to his eyes, His own refemblance, and obfcure difguife : Th' ignoble fight his generous wrath shall move, And banish from his breast inglorious love. No more remains to tell; 'tis yours alone, To take fecure the path my words have fhown; Safe through the winding maze to bend your courfe, Nor fear th' oppofing fpells of magic force : Not ev'n Armida (fuch is Heaven's decree) Can your arrival, by her arts, forefee. Nor lefs, returning from th'e enchanted fat, Propitious powers shall favour your retreat. But now the wafting hours to fleep invite; The morn must fee you rife with dawning light.

Thus fpoke the reverend fage; and fpeaking led The knights to flumber on a downy bed: There, fill'd with joy and wonder, either gueft He left: and thence himfelf retir'd to reft.

END OF THE FOURTEENTH BOOK.



JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XV.

THE ARGUMENT.

THE two knights take their leave of the hermit, and embark on a vefiel fteered by a female pilot. Their voyage along the Mediterranean defcribed. They pass the ftraits, and proceed to the Fortunate Islands. Their conversation with the pilot during the voyage. They arrive at the island of Armida, where the knights land, who overcome all the obstacles they meet with in ascending the mountain, and asterwards withftand all the various allurements of pleasure offered to their fenses.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XV.

Now role the ruddy morn with gladfome ray, And waken'd mortals to the toils of day; When to the knights the fage the buckler bore, The map and golden wand of wondrous power: Prepare to attempt your arduous way (he cries) Ere yonder fun advances o'er the fkies. These are my promis'd gifts, and these your arms, To quell th' enchantres, and diffolve her charms.

At once the warriors role, and eager round Their limbs robust the shining armour bound. Thence, as the hermit led, they bent their way Through paths ne'er lighted by the cheerful day; Again their former steps returning tread: But when they reach'd the river's faceed bed,

BOOK XV.

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I now difinifs you from my care (he cry'd): Farewell! and profperous fortune be your guide!

Soon as they came where still the parted flood On either fide a cryftal mountain ftood, The waters clos'd, and from the depth upbore The knights, and left them on the flowery fhore. So, from the branch by winds autumnal torn, Light on the tide the fcatter'd leaves are borne. Now from the bank their eyes around they threw, And foon beheld the promis'd guide in view. Amidft the ftream a little bark appear'd, A virgin, at the ftern, the veffel fteer'd: Depending ringlets o'er her forehead ftray, And mild benevolence her looks difplay: Her lovely features beams effulgent fhed, And heavenly glories blaze around her head. Her vefture gay a thousand colours shows, Now flames with red, and now with azure glows : At every turn it shifts the transient light, And cheats with momentary hues the fight! Such various grace the billing dove affumes, Whofe gentle neck is cloth'd with gloffy plumes; For ever new the varied feathers play, Reflecting every tint of every ray;

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BOOK XV.

While, as they move, fucceffive beauties rife, And fill with ftrange delight the gazer's eyes!

Favour'd of Heaven! afcend this bark (fhe cry'd) In which fecure I plough the fwelling tide: The ftormy winds their wonted rage reftrain, While fafe in this each freight may pafs the main: From him, whofe fovereign mercies wide extend, I come, at once your pilot and your friend.

So fpoke the dame; and, haftening to the land, The crooked keel divides the yielding ftrand. Soon as her bark the noble pair receives, She quits the fhore, and fwift the water cleaves; Then gives the fpreading canvas to the wind, And guides the veffel from the helm behind. So wide, fo deep, the river fwells its tide, That lofty fhips might there fecurely ride; Though now a fhallow ftream could well fuffice, So light the pinnace o'er the furface flies! Now, rifing from the land, th' infpiring gales With profperous breath diftend the bellying fails: The foaming ftream is white with froth before, Behind the stern the parted waters roar. At length they came where, midft its mightier waves, The fea's vaft gulph the river's ftore receives.

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Soon as the veffel gains the briny tides, The winds are hufh'd, the angry furge fubfides: The clouds difperfe, the fouth forgets to blow, That threaten'd tempefts to the world below: Light zephyrs only brufh along the main, And fcarcely curl the fmooth cerulean plain.

By Afcalon they pass'd; to left they veer'd, And tow'rd the weft the rapid veffel fteer'd. Then gliding fwift, to Gaza next they came, An ancient harbour, not unknown to fame, But now, from many a neighbouring ruin great, An ample city, and a potent state. The warriors, from the bark, beheld the fhore With tents of various nations cover'd o'er: There horfe and foot, along the crowded way, Swarm thick between the city and the fea. There loaded camels move in folemn ftate, And the huge elephant's unwieldy weight, Safe in the port they fee the veffels ride, Or floating loofe, or at their anchors ty'd. Some hoift their fpreading fails, while others fweep, With level ftrokes, the furface of the deep. Then thus the guiding maid-Though here we view The thronging numbers of this impious crew;

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Yet thefe, that fill the feas and line the fhore, Compose not all the mighty tyrant's power. These Egypt and the neighbouring lands supply: But other aids he waits, that distant lie. Far to the east extends his ample sway, To realms that burn beneath the southern ray; And hence I trust our swift return to make, Ere these, departing, shall their tents forsake.

While thus fhe fpoke, as through th' aerial fpace An eagle towers above the feather'd race; Till, foaring in the fun, the fharpeft eye No more can trace his progrefs through the fky: So midft the fhips the bark its paffage cleaves, And far behind the leffening navy leaves. Now, quick as thought, by Paphia's towers they fail a, (The town that firft Egyptian pilots hail On Syria's land) then near the fhore they fly, And Rhinocera's barren fands efpy. Not diftant far a mountain, crown'd with wood, Cafts a brown fhadow o'er the fubject flood;

^a Now, quick as thought, by Paphia's towers they fail.] I have elfewhere obferved, in my notes to Ariofto, that this voyage of Charles and Ubald through the Mediterranean, feems to be imitated from the voyage of Aftolpho from the Indies to the Perfian Gulph.

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BOOK XV.

Around its rocky foot the billows rave; 107 There haplefs Pompey's bones obtain'd a grave. Fair Damiata next the eye furveys, Where ancient Nile his facred tribute pays Through feven wide mouths, and many a ftream befide, His waters mingling with the briny tide. They pass the city rais'd by him^b, whose name To lateft times shall bear the Grecian fame. By Pharos then they glide, an isle no more, An ifthmus now projecting from the fhore. Nor Rhodes, nor Crete, they to the north furvey, But near the climes of Afric fpeed their way. Fruitful her coaft: but, more remote, her lands Are fill'd with monfters dire and burning fands. By Marmarique they fteer'd, and now they pafs'd Where five fair cities fam'd Cyrene grac'd. Here Ptolemais stands, and here they view Whence his flow ftream the fabled Lethe drew. The greater Syrtes next (the failor's fear) They leave aloof, and far to feaward veer: And now Judeca's cape behind them flood; And now they left the mouth of Magra's flood ;

b ALEXANDER the GREAT.

Now Tripoly's high rifing towers efpy'd, Now Malta fcarcely o'er the waves defcry'd. The Syrtes paft; Alzerbé they beheld, Where once the race that fed on Lotos dwell'd. Tunis they fee, whofe crooked fhores difplay, With circumjacent arms, a fpacious bay: Tunis the rich, a place well known to fame, No Libyan city boafts a greater name. Near this Sicilia's fertile lands are fpread; There Lilybæum rears its lofty head. 131

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Now to the knights the damfel-pilot fhow'd The fpot where once imperial Carthage ftood. Ill-fated Carthage! fcarce, amidft the plains, A trace of all her ruin'd pomp remains! Proud cities vanifh, ftates and realms decay, The world's unftable glories fade away! Yet mortals dare of certain fate complain; O impious folly of prefuming man!

From thence they fee Biferta's fpires arife; Far to the right Sardinia's ifland lies: They view, where once the rude Numidian fwain Purfu'd a wandering life from plain to plain, Algiers and Bugia then they reach, the feat Of impious corfairs: Next Oran they greet;

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BOOK XV.

And now by Mauritania's ftrand proceed, 153
Where elephants and hungry lions breed :
Morocco here and Fez their cities rear :
To thefe oppos'd Granada's lands appear.
At length they came where, prefs'd in narrow bounds,
Between the capes, the boiling deep refounds.
'Tis feign'd, that firft Alcides forc'd a way,
And gave this paffage to th' indignant fea.
And here perchance a lengthen'd tract of land
With one continu'd mound the flood reftrain'd,
But now the furious main, with rufhing tides,
From towering Calpè Abyla divides;
A ftrait 'twixt Libya now and Spain appears,
Such is the force of time and change of years!

Four times the east had feen the rifing fun, Since first the vessel had its course begun: Nor sheltering bays, nor ports its speed delay, It shoots the strait, and leaves the midland fea. But what are feas to ocean's vast profound, Whose circling arms the spacious earth furround?

Soon from the fight, amid the waves, are loft The fertile Gades, and each neighbouring coaft. Behind, the leffening fhores retreating fly; Sky bounds the ocean, ocean bounds the fky.

BOOK XV.

DELIVERED.

Then Ubald thus began: Say, thou! whofe power Gives us thefe endlefs waters to explore; 178 Did ever prow before thefe feas divide, Do mortals here in diftant worlds refide ? He ceas'd; the virgin pilot thus reply'd.

When great Alcides had the monfters flain, That wafted Libya and the realms of Spain; Your lands fubdu'd, at vonder strait he stay'd; Nor durft old Ocean's furgy gulphs invade, He fix'd his pillars there, in vain defign'd To curb the fearching fpirit of mankind : Urg'd by defire new regions to explore, Ulyffes fcorn'd the confines of the fhore : He pass'd the bound'ry, loofening to the gales, Amidit the wider flood, his daring fails: But all his skill in naval arts was vain, He funk entomb'd beneath the roaring main : And those, by tempests forc'd amidst the waves, Have ne'er return'd, or found untimely graves. Hence undifcover'd ftill the feas remain. That numerous ifles and mighty ftates contain. Inhabitants abound on many a coaft; The lands, like yours, their fertile produce boaft; Where, not ungrateful to the labourer's toil, The fun prolific warms the pregnant foil.

BOOK XV.

Then Ubald—Of thofe climes, remov'd afar, 202 The manners and religious rites declare. Various their lives (the virgin thus rejoin'd) Their fpeech, their cuftoms, are of various kind: Some worfhip beafts, the ftars, or folar power; And earth, the common parent, fome adore. There are who ftain their feafts with human blood, And load their dreadful board with horrid food; And every land, from Calpè's towering heights, Is nurs'd in impious faith and cruel rites!

Will then that pitying GoD (the knight reply'd) Who came with heavenly truths mankind to guide, Leave, far excluded from the facred light, So large a portion of the world in night?

O no! the faith of CHRIST fhall there be fpread, (She cry'd) and fcience rear her laurell'd head. Think not this length of ocean's whelming tide Shall from your future fearch thofe climes divide : The time fhall come, when failors, yet unborn, Shall name Alcides' narrow bounds in fcorn : Lands now unknown, and feas without a name, Shall then through all your realms extend their fame: Perils untry'd fucceeding fhips fhall brave, And cut, with daring courfe, the diftant wave ;

BOOK XV.

DELIVERED.

Through all the flood's unfathom'd currents run, 226 Gird the vaft globe, and emulate the fun. From fair Liguria fee th' adventurer rife, Whofe courage first the threatening passage tries. Nor raging feas, by furious whirlwinds toft, Nor doubtful prospects of th' uncertain coast, Shall, in the ftraits of Abyla confin'd, Detain the ardour of his dauntless mind! 'Tis thou, Columbus, to another pole Shalt rear the maft, and o'er the furges roll; While, with a thoufand wings, and thoufand eyes, Fame fcarce purfues thy veffel as it flies! Let Bacchus or Alcides claim her praife, Thy worth, in future time, her trump shall raife : Thy deeds shall last in storied annals long, The copious fubject of fome poet's fong.

She faid, and weftward fteer'd before the wind, Then gently tow'rds the fouth her fails inclin'd. Now in their front they fee the fun defcend, And now the morn behind her beams extend: But when Aurora, from her radiant head, Had, all around her pearly moifture fhed; Before their eyes a mountain huge appear'd, That midft the clouds its lofty fummit rear'd.

BOOK XV.

Near as they came, the fleeting clouds withdrew, 250 And like a pyramid it flow'd to view; From whence black curling fmoke was feen to rife; As where 'tis feign'd th' Ætnean^c giant lies Transfix'd, and breathes eruptions to the fkies. By day thick vapours from the mouth expire, By night terrific flames of ruddy fire,

Then other islands midst the main they 'fpy'd, And lands lefs fteepy rifing o'er the tide. Delightful isles, renown'd of ancient date And ftyl'd, by tuneful bards, The Fortunate. 'Twas faid, that Heaven to thefe fuch grace allow'd, No fhining fhare the fable furrows plough'd. The lands untill'd could plenteous crops produce; And vines, unprun'd, fupply nectareous juice. Here olives bloom'd with never-fading green; From hollow oaks was liquid honey feen. The rivers murmuring from the hills above, With cryftal ftreams renew'd the vernal grove. No fultry heat opprefs'd the grateful day; Soft dews and zephyrs cool'd the folar ray. And here were feign'd the manfions of the bleft, Th' Elyfian feats of everlafting reft.

ENCELADUS.

BOOK XV.

DELIVERED.

To these her course the damsel-pilot bore: 273 Behold, (she cry'd) our destin'd voyage o'er : The Isles of Fortune to your fight appear, Whofe fame, though doubtful, yet has reach'd your ear: Fair is their foil; but fame each wonder fwells. And every truth, with added fiction tells. While thus fhe fpoke, along the main they flew, Till near the foremost isle their veffel drew. Then Charles began-O ever-facred dame! If this the caufe permits for which we came : Grant that our feet a while may tread the shore, To view a race and land unknown before ; To obferve their rites, and mark with curious eyes Whate'er may claim th' attention of the wife: So shall our lips declare, in future time, The wonders witnefs'd in this foreign clime.

Your fuit demands my praife, (the maid replies) But Heaven's decree the bold requeft denies. The time arrives not yet, by GoD defign'd, To give the great difcovery to mankind: Nor muft you, back from ocean's bofom borne, With certain tidings to your world return. To you, beyond the failor's art, 'tis given To pafs thefe billows, by the will of Heaven;

BOOK XV.

To rouze your champion from his fatal fleep, 297 And fafe convey him o'er the watery deep : Let this fuffice—with prouder thoughts elate, 'Twere impious folly to contend with fate.

Thus while fhe fpoke, the foremoft ifle withdrew, And foon the fecond gain'd upon the view: She fhew'd the warriors how the iflands lay, In order rang'd againft the rifing day. The lands with equal fpace the fea divides, And rolls between the fhores its beating tides. In feven are feen the marks of human care, Where cultur'd fields and rural cots appear : But three a barren defert foil reveal, Where favage beafts in woods and mountains dwell.

Amidft thefe ifles a lone recefs they found, Where circling fhores the fubject flood furround, And, far within, a fpacious bay enclofe; Sharp rocks, without, the rufhing furge oppofe: Two lofty cliffs before the entrance rife, A welcome fign to future failors' eyes: Within, the waves repofe in peace ferene; Black forefts nod above, a fylvan fcene! A grotto opens in the living ftone, With verdant mofs and ivy-leaves o'ergrown;

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BOOK XV.

The grateful fhades a gentle murmur fills, 321 While o'er the pavement glide the lucid rills. No cables need the floating fhips fecure, No bearded anchors here the veffels moor. To this retreat her courfe the pilot bore, And, entering, furl'd her fails, and reach'd the fhore.

Behold (fhe cry'd) where yonder ftructure ftands Rais'd on the mountain, and the ifle commands! There, loft in feftive floth, in folly loft, Slumbers the champion of the Chriftian hoft. 'T is yours, when next the fun forfakes the deep, With labouring feet to afcend the threatening fteep: Meanwhile this flort delay with eafe be borne; All times are lucklefs fave the hour of morn : But to the mountain's foot purfue your way, While yet remains the light of parting day.

Thus fhe; the word th' impatient warriors took, And, leaping from the bark, the ftrand forfook. With ready fteps a pleafing road they crofs'd, And all their toils in fweet delufion loft. At length th' expected hill's broad bafe they gain, (The fun yet hovering o'er the weftern main) From hence their eyes the arduous height furvey, The pendent ruins and the rocky way,

BOOK XV.

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Inclement froft the mountain's fide deforms, And all around is white with wintry florms. The lofty fummit yields a milder fcene, With budding flowers and groves for ever green! There ends the frozen clime! there lilies blow, There rofes blufh upon the bordering fnow. There youthful fpring, and hoary winter here; Such power has magic o'er the changing year!

Now at the mountain's foot the heroes ftay'd, And flept fecure beneath a cavern's fhade, But when the fun (eternal fount of day!) Spread o'er the laughing fkies his golden ray: At once they rofe, at once their courfe renew'd, And up the fteep afcent the way purfu'd. When lo! a ferpent^d, rufhing from his cell, Oppos'd their paffage, horrible and fell!

^b When lo! a ferpent, ____] Virgil and Milton have both excelled in defcribing the motion of this animal.

-----Rapit orbes pro humum. VIRG.

-----He leading fwiftly roll'd

In tangles-----

MILTON.

But the commentator on Milton thinks that Taffo has furpaffed both in the above paffage, the beauty of which can fcarcely bo rendered into English.

> Hor rientra in fe fleffa, hor le nodofe Ruote diftende e fe dopo fe tira,

DELIVERED.

BOOK XV.

Aloft his head and fqualid breaft he held 361 Beftreak'd with gold; his neck with anger fwell'd; Fire fill'd his eyes; he hid the path beneath; And fmoke and poifon iffu'd with his breath. Now in thick curls his fcaly length he wound; Now trail'd his opening folds along the ground. Such was the dreadful guardian of the place, Yet on the heroes prefs'd with fearlefs pace. The Dane his falchion draws, and eager flies To affail the fnake, when fudden Ubald cries: Forbear! can arms like thefe our foes repel? And think'ft thou thus the monfter's rage to quell?

He faid; and fhook the golden wand around; The ferpent fled, aftonifh'd at the found. The knights proceed; a lion fierce defcends, And, roaring loud, the dangerous pass defends; He rolls his fiery eyes, his mane he rears, Wide as a gulph his gaping mouth appears; His lashing tail his slumbering wrath awakes: But, when his potent rod the warrior shakes, Unufual fears the dreadful beast furprise, Sunk is his rage, he trembles, and he flies!

Still on they país'd; but foon a numerous hoft. Of monfters dire their daring paffage croft.

BOOK XV.

In various fhapes the ghaftly troops appear, 385 With various yells they rend the ftartled ear. Each favage form that roves the burning fands, From diftant Nilus to the Libyan lands, Here feem'd to dwell, with all the beafts that roam Hyrcania's woods, or deep Hircinia's gloom! But not their numbers could the chiefs detain; The powerful wand made all their fury vain. These dangers past; the conquering pair ascend; Now near the brow their eager fteps they bend; Yet, as they tread the cliffs, the finking fnows And flippery ice awhile their courfe oppofe. But when at length they reach'd the rocky height, A fpacious level opens to their fight. There youthful fpring falutes th' enraptur'd eye, Unfading verdure, and a gladfome fky; Eternal zephyrs through the groves prevail, And incenfe breathes in every balmy gale; No irkfome change th' unvaried climate knows Of heat alternate, and alternate fnows : A genial power the tender herbage feeds, And decks with every fweet the finiling meads; Diffules foft perfumes from every flower, And clothes with lafting shade each rural bower:

There, rear'd aloft, a ftately palace ftands, 409 Whofe prospect wide the hills and feas commands.

The warriors, weary'd with the fteep afcent, More flowly o'er th' enamell'd meadow went ; Oft looking back, their former toils review'd, Now paus'd awhile, and now their courfe purfu'd. When fudden, falling from the rocky heights, A copious ftream the traveller's thirft excites; From hence a thousand rills dispersing flow, And trickle through the graffy vale below : At length, uniting all their different tides, In verdant banks a gentle river glides, With murmuring found a bowery gloom pervades, And rolls its fable waves through pendent fhades: A cool retreat! the flowery border flows A pleafing couch, inviting foft repofe. Behold the fatal fpring where laughter dwells, Dire poifon lurking in its fecret cells! Here let us guard our thoughts, our passions rein, And every loofe defire in bonds detain : A deafen'd ear to dulcet mufic lend, Nor dare the Syren's impious lays attend.

The knights advanc'd till, from their narrow bed, Wide in a lake the running waters fpread.

BOOK XV.

There on the banks a fumptuous table plac'd, 433 With rare and flavourous cates allur'd the tafte. Two blooming damfels° in the water lave, And laugh and plunge beneath the lucid wave.

• Two blooming damfels—] All this beautiful paffage is imitated, or rather translated, by our Spenfer, in his Fairy Queen, where Guyon is defcribed with the palmer, entering the bower of blifs.

Two naked damfels he therein efpy'd, Which therein bathing feemed to contend, And wreftle wantonly, ne car'd to hide Their dainty parts from view of any which them ey'd.

As that fair flar, the meffenger of morn, His dewy face out of the fea does rear; Or as the Cyprian Goddefs, newly born Of the Ocean's fruitful froth, did firft appear; Such feemed they, and fo their yellow hair, Cryftalline humour dropped down apace.

With that, the other likewife up arofe, And her fair locks, which formerly were bound Up in one knot, fhe low adown did loofe; Which flowing long and thick her cloth'd around, And th' ivory in golden mantle gound; So that fair fpectacle from him was reft, Yet that which reft it, no lefs fair was found: So hid in locks and waves from looker's theft, Nought but her lovely face fhe for his looking left.

FAIRY QUEEN, B. ii. c. 12. ft. 65, 67.

Now round in fport they dafh the fprinkling tide; 437 And now with nimble ftrokes the ftream divide : Now, funk at once, they vanish from the eyes; And now again above the furface rife!

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The naked wantons, with enticing charms, Each warrior's bofom fill'd with foft alarms: Awhile they ftay'd their fteps, and filent view'd, As thofe their paftime unconcern'd purfu'd, Till one erect in open light appear'd, And o'er the ftream her ivory bofom rear'd; Her upward beauties to the fight reveal'd: The reft, beneath, the cryftal fcarce conceal'd.

As when the morning ftar, with gentle ray, From feas emerging leads the purple day : As when, afcending from the genial flood, The queen of love on ocean's bofom ftood: So feems the damfel, fo her locks diffufe The pearly liquid in defcending dews ; Till on th' approaching chiefs fhe turn'd her eyes, Then feign'd, with mimic fear, a coy furprife : Swift from her head fhe loos'd, with eager hafte, The yellow curls in artful fillets lac'd; The falling treffes o'er her limbs difplay'd, Wrapt all her beauties in a golden fhade !

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BOOK XV.

Thus hid in locks, and circled by the flood, 461
With fide-long glance, o'erjoy'd, the knights fhe view'd.
Her finiles amid her blufhes lovelier flow;
Amid her finiles, her blufhes lovelier glow !
At length fhe rais'd her voice with melting art,
Whofe magic ftrains might pierce the firmeft heart.

O happy ftrangers ! to whole feet 'tis given To reach these blissful feats, this earthly heaven ! View here those rapturous Tcenes fo fam'd of old, When early mortals view'd an age of gold. No longer wear the helm, the falchion wield, The cumbrous corflet, or the weighty fhield; Here hang your useless arms amidst the grove, The warriors now of peace-infpiring love! Our field of battle is the downy bed, Or flowery turf amid the fmiling mead. Then let us lead you to our fovereign's eyes, From whole diffulive power our bleffings rife. She shall amongst those few your names receive, Elected here in endlefs joys to live. But first refresh your limbs beneath the tide, And tafte the viands which our cares provide.

She ceas'd; her lovely partner join'd her prayer, With looks perfuafive, and enticing air.

So, in the fcene, the active dancers bound, And move refponfive to the tuneful found. But firmly fteel'd was either champion's heart, Against their fraudful strains and foothing art : Or, if forbidden thoughts a wish inspire, And wake the slumbering feeds of wild defire; Soon to their aid affisting reason came, And quench'd the infant sparks of kindling flame.

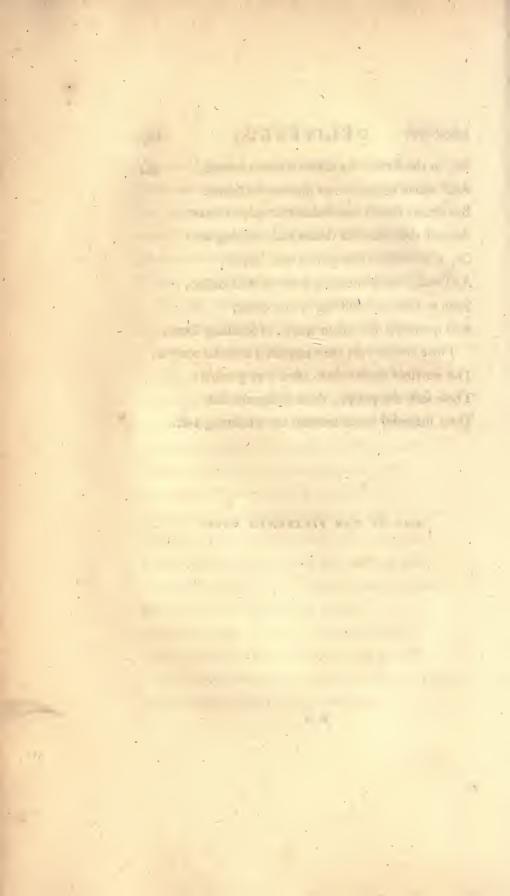
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Their arts in vain the vanquifh'd damfels view'd: The warriors thence their fated way purfu'd: Thefe feek the palace; thofe indignant hide Their fhameful heads beneath the whelming tide.

END OF THE FIFTEENTH BOOK.

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JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

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BOOK XVI.

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THE ARGUMENT.

CHARLES and Ubald enter the palace of Armida. The gardens are defcribed. Rinaldo is feen with his miftrefs. At the departure of Armida, the two knights difcover themfelves; and Ubald reproves Rinaldo for his floth and effeminacy. The youthful hero, filled with fhame, abandons thofe feats of pleafure, and follows the guidance of his deliverers. Armida purfues him, and makes ufe of every argument to move him, but in vain: He endeavours to pacify her: fhe then breaks out into bitter reproaches, till, her firength being exhaufted, fhe falls into a fwoon. The three warriors go on board their veffel, and fet fail for Palefine. Armida, recovering, finds her lover gone: She then gives herfelf up to rage, and, refolving on revenge, deftroys her enchanted palace, and takes her flight to Egypt.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XVI.

IN circling form the coftly ftructure rofe; And deep within the wondrous walls enclofe A beauteous garden, whofe delightful fcene Eclips'd the faireft boaft of mortal men. The fiends had bent their fkill a pile to raife, Perplex'd with fecret rooms and winding ways; And in the centre lay the magic bowers, Impervious to the fearch of human powers.

Now through the loftieft gate the warriors pafs'd, (A hundred gates the fpacious ftructure grac'd) With fculptur'd filver, glorious to behold, The valves on hinges hung of burnifh'd gold! Surpris'd they faw, excell'd in every part, The rich materials, by the fculptor's art.

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In all but fpeech alive the figures rife; Nor fpeech they feem to want to wondering eyes! In female converfe there (inglorious ftate!) Alcides midft Mœonia's damfels fate. There he who propp'd the ftars, and hell fubdu'd, The diftaff bore; while Love befide him ftood, And with exulting fmiles his conqueft view'd. There Iolè was feen, whofe feeble hand With pride the hero's ponderous club fuftain'd: The lion's hide conceal'd the beauteous dame, Too rough a covering for fo foft a frame !

To this oppos'd, the chiefs a fea beheld; Its azure field with frothy billows fwell'd. There, in the midft, two hoftile navies ride; Their arms in lightning flafh from fide to fide. Auguftus o'er his Romans here commands: There Anthony conducts from eaftern lands His Indian, Arab, and Egyptian bands. Thou would'ft have thought the Cyclades uptorn, And hills with hills in horrid conflict borne ! So fierce the fhock, when, joining fhip with fhip₃ The navies meet amidft the roaring deep ! Firebrands and javelins fly from foe to foe; Unufual flaughter ftains the flood below₃

Behold (while doubtful yet remains the fight) Behold where Cleopatra takes her flight. See! Anthony, of fame forgetful, flies, No more his hopes to glorious empire rife: Yet o'er his foul no fervile fear prevails; Her flight alone impels his yielding fails. Contending paffions all his foul inflame, Difdain and rage, and love, and confcious fhame; While, with alternate gaze, he views from far Her parting veffel, and the dubious war. Now Nile receives him on his watery breaft; There, in his miftrefs' arms, he finks to reft; There feems, refign'd, the threatening hour to wait, And foften, with her finiles, the ftroke of fate.

With ftoried labours thus the portals grac'd, The heroes view'd, and thence intrepid pafs'd. And now they try'd the labyrinth's winding maze: As fam'd Meander moves a thoufand ways; Now rolls direct, now takes a devious courfe, Now feems to feek again his native fource: The frequent turnings fo their eyes deceiv'd: But foon the faithful map their doubts reliev'd; Difplay'd each various paffage to their fight, And led through paths oblique their fteps aright.

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The garden then unfolds a beauteous fcene, 63 With flowers adorn'd and ever-living green. There filver lakes reflect the beaming day; Here crystal streams in gurgling fountains play : , Cool vales defcend, and funny hills arife, And groves, and caves, and grottoes, firike the eyes. Art fhew'd her utmost power; but art conceal'd, With greater charms the pleas'd attention held. It feem'd as Nature play'd a fportive part, And ftrove to mock the mimic works of art! By powerful magic breathes the vernal air, And fragrant trees eternal bloffoms bear : Eternal fruits on every branch endure; Those fwelling from their buds, and these mature. There, on one parent ftock, the leaves among, With ripen'd figs, the figs unripen'd hung. Depending apples here the boughs unfold; Those green in youth, these mellow'd into gold. The vine luxuriant rears her arms on high, And curls her tendrils to the genial fky: There the crude grapes no grateful fweet produce, And here impurpled yield nectareous juice. The joyous birds, conceal'd in every grove, With gentle strife prolong the notes of love.

Soft zephyrs breathe on woods and waters round; 87 The woods and waters yield a murmuring found : When ceafe the tuneful choir, the wind replies; But, when they fing, in gentle whifpers dies : By turns they fink, by turns their mufic raife, And blend, with equal fkill, harmonious lays.

Amongft the reft, with plumes of various dyes, And purple beak, a beauteous fongfter flies; Wondrous to tell, with human fpeech indu'd, He fills with vocal ftrains the blifsful wood : The birds attentive clofe their filent wings, While thus the fair, the foothing charmer fings.

Behold how lovely blooms the vernal rofe a, When fcarce the leaves her early bud difclofe :

• Behold how lovely blooms the vernal role.] This fong is clofely translated by Spenfer; but, as it has been observed very well, our poet has judiciously omitted the fanciful circumstance of a bird finging these words, which has been the fubject of Voltaire's ridicule.

Ah! fee the virgin rofe, how fweetly fhe Doft first peep forth with bashful modesty, That fairer feems, the less you fee her may; Lo! fee foon after, how more bold and free Her bared bosom she doth broad display; Lo! fee foon after, how she fades and falls away.

BOOK XVI.

When, half inwrapt, and half to view reveal'd, 101 She gives new pleafure from her charms conceal'd. But when fhe fhows her bofom wide difplay'd, How foon her fweets exhale, her beauties fade ! No more fhe feems the flower fo lately lov'd, By virgins cherifh'd, and by youths approv'd ! So, fwiftly fleeting with the transfient day, Paffes the flower of mortal life away ! In vain the fpring returns, the fpring no more Can waining youth to former prime reftore : Then crop the morning rofe, the time improve, And, while to love 'tis given, indulge in love !

He ceas'd: th' approving choir with joy renew Their rapturous mufic, and their loves purfue.

So paffeth, in the paffing of a day, Of mortal life, the leaf, the bud, the flower, Ne more doth flourifh after firft decay, That earft was fought to deck both bed and bower, Of many a lady and many a paramour : Gather therefore the rofe, whilft yet in prime, For foon comes age, that will her pride deflower: Gather the rofe of love, whilft yet in time, Whilft loving thou may'ft loved be with equal crime,

He ceaft, and then 'gan all the quire of birds Their diverse notes t' attune unto his lay, As in approvance, &c.

Again in pairs the cooing turtles bill; The feather'd nations take their amorous fill. The oak, the chafter laurel feems to yield, And all the leafy tenants of the field: The earth and ftreams one foul appears to move, All feem impregnate with the feeds of love.

Through thefe alluring fcenes of magic power The virtuous warriors pafs'd, and pafs'd fecure : When 'twixt the quivering boughs they caft their fight, And fee the damfel and the Chriftian knight. There fate Armida on a flowery bed; Her wanton lap fuftain'd the hero's head : Her opening veil^b her ivory bofom flow'd; Loofe to the fanning breeze her treffes flow'd; A languor feem'd diffus'd o'er all her frame, And every feature glow'd with amorous flame. The pearly moifture on her beauteous face Improv'd the blufh, and heighten'd every grace :

Her opening veil ——] See Spenfer.
 Her fnowy breaft was bare to ready fpoil
 Of hungry eyes, which n'ote therewith be fill'd:
 And yet through languor of her late fweet toil,
 Few drops, more clear than ne@ar, forth diffill'd,
 That like pure orient pearls adown it trill'd, &c.

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Her wandering eyes confefs'd a pleafing fire, 133 And fhot the trembling beams of foft defire. Now, fondly hanging o'er, with head declin'd, Clofe to his cheek her lovely cheek fhe join'd; While o'er her charms he taught his looks to rove, And drank, with eager thirft, new draughts of love. Now, bending down, enraptur'd as he lies, She kifs'd his vermil lips and fwimming eyes; Till from his inmoft heart he heav'd a figh, As if to hers his parting foul would fly !

All this the warriors from the fhade furvey, And mark, conceal'd, the lovers' amorous play. Dependent from his fide (unufual fight !) Appear'd a polifh'd mirror, beamy bright : This in his hand th' enamour'd champion rais'd; On this, with fimiles, the fair Armida gaz'd. She in the glafs her form reflected 'fpies : And he confults the mirror of her eyes : One proud to rule, one prouder to obey; He blefs'd in her, and fhe in beauty's fway. Ah! turn thofe eyes on me (exclaims the knight) Thofe eyes that blefs me with their heavenly light ! For know, the power that every lover warms, In this fond breaft Armida's image forms.

Since I, alas ! am fcorn'd ! here turn thy fight, 157 And view thy native graces with delight : Here on that face thy ravifh'd looks employ, Where fprings eternal love, eternal joy ! Or rather range through yon celeftial fpheres, And view thy likenefs in the radiant ftars.

The lover ceas'd; the fair Armida fmil'd, And ftill with wanton toys the time beguil'd. Now in a braid fhe bound her flowing hair; Now fmooth'd the roving locks with decent care : Part, with her hand, in fhining curls fhe roll'd, And deck'd with azure flowers the waving gold. Her veil compos'd, with rofes fweet fhe drefs'd The native lilies of her fragrant breaft. Not half fo proud, of glorious plumage vain, The peacock fets to view his glittering train : Not Iris fhews fo fair, when dewy fkies Reflect the changeful light with various dyes. But o'er the reft her wondrous ceftus ' fhin'd, Whofe myftic round her tender waift confin'd.

• — her wondrous ceflus —] The idea of this girdle is from the ceftus of Homer, which Juno borrows of Venus.

> In this was every art, and every charm, To win the wifeft, and the coldeft warm :

BOOK XVI.

Here unembody'd fpells th' enchantrefs mix'd, 177 By potent arts, and in a girdle fix'd: Repulfes fweet, foft fpeech, and gay defires, And tender fcorn that fans the lover's fires; Engaging fmiles, fhort fighs of mutual blifs, The tear of transport, and the melting kifs. All thefe fhe join'd, her powerful work to frame, And artful temper'd in th' annealing flame.

Now with a kifs, the balmy pledge of love, She left her knight, and iffu'd from the grove. Each day, awhile apart, the dame review'd Her magic labours, and her charms renew'd; While he, deep-mufing, in her abfence ftray'd, A lonely lover midft the confcious fhade. But when the filent glooms of friendly night To mutual blifs th' enamour'd pair invite; Beneath one roof, amid the bowers they lay, And lov'd, entranc'd, the fleeting hours away.

Soon as Armida (fo her arts requir'd) From gentle love to other cares retir'd :

Fond love, the gentle vow, the gay defire, The kind deceit, the fiill-reviving fire, Perfuafive fpeech, and more perfuafive fighs, Silence that fpoke, and eloquence of eyes. POPE'S ILIAD, B. xiv. ver. 247.

The warriors, from their covert, rush'd to fight, 197 In radiant arms that cast a gleamy light.

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As when, from martial toil, the generous fteed Releas'd, is given to range the verdant mead; Forgetful of his former fame he roves, And wooes in flothful eafe his dappled loves: If chance the trumpet's found invade his ears, Or glittering steel before his fight appears, He neighs aloud, and, furious, pants to bear The valiant chief, and pierce the files of war. So fares Rinaldo, when the knights he 'fpies :-When their bright armour lightens in his eyes : At once the glorious beams his foul infpire; His breaft rekindles with a martial fire. Then fudden, forth advancing, Ubald held Before the youth his adamantine fhield : To this he turn'd, in this at once furvey'd His own refemblance full to view difplay'd: His fweeping robes he faw, his flowing hair With odours breathing, his luxurious air. His fword, the only mark of warlike pride, Eftrang'd from fight, hung idly at his fide; And, wreath'd with flowers, feem'd worn for empty fhow; No dreadful weapon 'gainst a valiant foe.

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As one, whom long lethargic flumber ties, Recovers from his fleep with wild furprife : So from his trance awakes the Chriftian knight, Himfelf beholds, and fickens at the fight; And wifhes opening earth his fhame would hide, Or ocean veil him in its whelming tide.

Then Ubald thus began-All Europe arms, And Afia's kingdoms catch the loud alarms. Now all that cherifh fame, or CHRIST adore, In fhining armour prefs the Syrian fhore; While thee, Bertoldo's fon! from glory's plains, A narrow ifle in fhameful reft detains; Alone regardless of the voice of fame, Th' ignoble champion of a wanton dame ! What fatal power can thus thy fense control ? What floth fupprefs the vigour of thy foul? Rife! rife !-- thee Godfrey, thee the camp incites : 'Tis fortune calls, and victory invites! Come, fated warrior ! bid the fight fucceed ; And crush those foes thou oft has made to bleed; Now let each impious fect thy vengeance feel, And fall extinct beneath thy conquering fteel.

He ceas'd: awhile the youth in filence mus'd, All motionless he stood, with looks confus'd;

Till fhame gave way, and ftronger anger tofe; 245 (A generous anger, that from reafon flows) O'er all his face a nobler ardour flies, Flames on his cheek, and fparkles from his eyes.

16.3

Now, haftening from the bower, their way they hold, And fafely pafs the labyrinth's winding fold. Meanwhile Armida view'd, with deep difmay, Where, breathlefs at the gate, the keeper lay ^d: Then firft fufpicion in her bofom grew; And foon her lover's flight too well fhe knew: Herfelf beheld the darling hero fly: O direful profpect to a lover's eye !

^d Where, breathlefs at the gate, the keeper lay.] There is an obfcurity in this paffage, for no mention has been made before by the poet of fuch a circumftance.

In tanto Armida de la regal porta Mirò giacere il fier cuftode effinto.

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BOOK XVI.

This fees the dame, who every art applies 263 To ftay his flight: in vain each art she tries. Whate'er the witches of Theffalia's ftrain E'er mutter'd to the shades with lip profane, That could the planets in their fpheres control, Or call from prifons drear the parted foul, Full well she knew; but all in vain effay'd; No hell, refponfive, her commands obey'd. Abandon'd thus, she next refolv'd to prove In fuppliant beauty more than fpells could move. See! where, regardless of her former fame, All wild with anguish runs the furious dame. She who fo late the laws of love defpis'd, Who fcorn'd the lover, though the love fhe priz'd; Whofe conquering eyes could every heart fubdue; Behold her now a lover's fteps purfue ! With foft perfualive grief her look fhe arms, And bathes with tears her now neglected charms. · O'er rocks and fnows her tender feet the plies, And fends her voice before her as she flies.

O thou! who bear'ft away my yielding heart, Who robb'ft me of my beft, my deareft part, O! give me death—or once again reftore My murder'd peace—thy hafty flight give o'er!

Hear my laft words—I afk no parting kifs; For happier lips referve that mighty blifs: What canft thou fear, ah cruel ! to comply, Since ftill with thee remains the power to fly ?

Then Ubald thus—Awhile thy fpeed forbear, And lend her woes, O Prince ! a courteous ear: The praife be thine thy virtue to retain, And hear unmov'd the vanquifh'd Syren's ftrain: So Reafon fhall extend her facred fway, And teach the fubject paffions to obey.

He faid; Rinaldo ftay'd; and fudden came, Breathlefs, o'erfpent with hafte, the haplefs dame. Deep forrow fpread o'er all her languid air; Yet fweet in woe and beauteous in defpair: Silent on him her eager look fhe bent; Difdain, and fear, and fhame her fpeech prevent; While from her eyes the knight abafh'd withdrew, Or fnatch'd, with wary glance, a transient view.

As fam'd muficians, ere the notes they raife To charm the liftening ear with tuneful lays, In accents low, with prelude foft, prepare The rapt attention for the promis'd air: So fhe, yet mindful of her fraudful art, Would foften, ere fhe fpoke, the hearer's heart;

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First breath'd a figh to melt the tender breast; 311 Then thus, at length, these plaintive words address'd.

Ah cruel! think not now I come to prove The prayers that lovers might to lovers move ! Such once we were !- But if thou fcorn'ft the name, Yet grant the pity foes from foes may claim. If me thy hate purfues, enjoy thy hate; I feek not to difturb thy happy ftate ! A Pagan born, I every means employ'd To opprefs the Christians and their power divide. Thee I purfu'd, and thee fecluded far, In diftant climates, from the found of war. But more, which deeper feems thy fcorn to move, Add how I fince deceiv'd thee to my love. O foul deceit !- to yield my virgin flower, To give my beauties to another's power! To let one favour'd youth that gift obtain, Which thousands fondly fought, but fought in vain! Thefe are my frauds; let thefe thy wrath engage; Such crimes may well demand a lover's rage ! So may'ft thou part without one tender thought, And be thefe dear abodes at once forgot !. Hafte !- pafs the feas !- thy flying fails employ, Go, wage the combat, and our faith deftroy !--

Our faith, alas !- Ah, no !- my faith no more; 335 I worship thee, and thee alone adore ! Yet hence with thee deceiv'd Armida bear; The vanquish'd still attends the victor's car: Let me be fhown, to all the camp difplay'd, The proud betrayer by thy guile betray'd.-Wretch as I am! shall still these locks be worn, Thefe locks that now are grown a lover's fcorn? These hands shall cut the treffes from my head, And o'er my limbs a fervile habit fpread : Thee will I follow midft furrounding foes, When all the fury of the battle glows. I want not foul, fo far at least to dare, To lead thy courfer, or thy javelin bear. Let me fustain, or be myfelf thy shield; Still will I guard thee in the dangerous field. No hoftile hand fo favage can be found, Through my poor limbs thy dearer life to wound: Soft mercy even may fell revenge reftrain, And these neglected charms fome pity gain-Ah, wretch! and dare I ftill of beauty boaft, My prayers rejected, and my empire loft!

More had fhe faid; but grief her words withftood, Faft from her eyes diftill'd the trickling flood:

BOOK XVI.

With fuppliant act fhe fought to grafp his hand, 359 She held his robe; unmov'd the chief remain'd: Love found no more an entrance in his breaft, And firm refolves the flarting tears fupprefs'd. Yet pity foften'd foon his generous foul; Scarce could he now the tender dew control: But ftill he ftrove his fecret thoughts to hide, Compos'd his looks, and thus at length reply'd.

Armida; thy diftrefs with grief I fee; O! could I now thy labouring bofom free From this ill-omen'd love !- Ah ! haplefs fair ! No fcorn I harbour, and no hatred bear: I feek no vengeance; no offence I know; Nor canft thou be my flave, nor art my foe. On either fide I fear thy thoughts have flray'd, As love dedeiv'd thee, or as anger fway'd. But human frailties human pity claim; Thy faith, thy fex, thy years, acquit thy fame." I too have err'd : and fhall I dare reprove Thy tender bofom with the faults of love? Hence ever shall thy dear remembrance reft, In joy and grief the partner of my breaft! Still must I be thy champion-thine as far As Christian faith permits, and Afia's war.

But ah! let here our mutual weaknefs end; No further now our mutual fhame extend: Here from the world, on this extremeft coaft, Be all our follies in oblivion loft! Midft all my deeds in Europe's clime reveal'd, O! ftill be thefe, and thefe alone, conceal'd! Then let no rafh ignoble thoughts difgrace Thy worth, thy beauty, and thy royal race. With me thou feek'ft in vain to quit the land; Superior powers thy fond defire withftand. Remain or feek fome happier place of reft, And in thy wifdom calm thy troubled breaft.

As thus the warrior fpoke, the haughty dame Scarce held her rage, now kindling to a flame; Awhile fhe view'd him with a fcornful look, Then from her lips thefe furious accents broke.

Boaft not Bertoldo's nor Sophia's blood ! Thou fprung'ft relentlefs from the ftormy flood : Thy infant years th' Hyrcanian tigrefs fed; On frozen Caucafus thy youth was bred !----See ! if he deigns one tender tear beftow, Or pay one figh in pity to my woe ! What fhall I fay, or whither fhall I turn ? He calls me his !---yet leaves me here in fcorn.

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BOOK XVI.

See how his foe the generous victor leaves, 407 Forgets her error, and her crime forgives ! Hear how fedate, how fage, his counfels prove; This rigid cool Zenocrates in love ! O Heaven !-- O Gods !-- and fhall this impious race Your temples ravage, and your fhrines deface? Go, wretch-Such peace attend thy tortur'd mind As I, forfaken here, am doom'd to find ! Fly hence !- be gone !- but foon expect to view My vengeful ghoft thy traiterous flight purfue : A fury arm'd with fnakes and torch I'll prove, With terrors equal to my former love ! If fate decree thee fafe to pals the main, Escap'd from rocks, to view th' embattled plain, There shalt thou, finking in the fatal strife, Appeafe my vengeance with thy dearest life: Oft shalt thou then by name Armida call In dying groans, while I enjoy thy fall !

She could no more; as thefe laft words fhe fpoke, Scarce from her lips the founds imperfect broke. She faints ! fhe finks ! all breathlefs pale fhe lies In chilly fweats, and fhuts her languid eyes. Doft thou, Armida ! now thy eyelids clofe ? Heaven envies fure one comfort to thy woes.

Ah! raife thy fight; behold thy deadly foe : 431 See down his cheek the kindly forrows flow. O! could'ft thou now, ill fated lover! hear His fighs foft breaking on thy raptur'd ear ! What fate permits (but this thou canft not view) He gives, and pitying takes the laft adieu. What fhould he do ?—thus leave her on the coaft, 'T wixt life and death her ftruggling fenfes loft ? Compafifon pleads, and courtefy detains; But dire neceffity his flight conftrains. He parts:—and now a friendly breeze prevails, (The pilot's treffes waving in the gales) The golden fail o'er furging ocean fpeeds, And from the fight the flying fhore recedes.

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But when, recover'd from her trance, fhe ftood, And all around the land forfaken view'd: And is he gone?—Has then the traitor fled? Left me in life's extremeft need? (fhe faid) Would he not to my haplefs flate difpenfe One moment's flay, or wait returning fenfe? And do I love him ftill? ftill here remain, And unreveng'd in empty words complain? What then avail thefe tears, thefe female arms! Far other arts are mine, and ftronger charms.

BOOK XVI.

I will purfue-nor hell th' ingrate shall shield, 455 Nor heaven shall fafety from my fury yield : Now! now I feize him! now his heart I tear, And fcatter round his mangled limbs in air ! He knows each various art of torture well, In his own arts the traitor I'll excel !---But ah ! I wander !--- O ! untimely boaft ! Unblefs'd Armida, whither art thou toft ? Then should'st thou to thy wrath have given the rein, When he lay captive in thy powerful chain. Then did the wretch no lefs thy hatred claim; Too late thy rage now kindles to a flame ! O beauty fcorn'd ! fince you th' offence fuftain'd, Be yours the due revenge your wrongs demand. Lo! with my perfon shall his worth be paid, Who from the battle brings that hated head. Ye gallant youths ! whom faithful love infpires, A dangerous, glorious talk my foul requires ! Even I, to whom Damafcus' realms shall bow, The price of vengeance with myfelf beftow. But, if, contemn'd, I must not this obtain, Then nature gave these boasted charms in vain: Take back th' unhappy gift !---myfelf I hate, My birth, my being, and my regal state.

One foothing hope alone can comfort give; For fweet revenge I ftill confent to live!

Thus with wild grief fhe ran her frenzy o'er, Then turn'd her footsteps from the defert fhore: Her fiery looks her ftormy passions fhow; Loofe in the wind her locks discovered flow; And in her eyes the flashing fparkles glow !

Now, at her dome, fhe calls with hideous yell, Three hundred deities from deepeft hell: Soon murky clouds o'er all the fkies are fpread; Th' eternal planet hides his fickening head. On mountain-tops the furious whirlwinds blow; Deep rocks the ground; Avernus groans below. Through all the palace mingled cries refound; Loud hiffings, howls, and fcreams are heard around. Thick glooms, more black than night, the walls en-

close,

Where not a ray its friendly light beftows; Save that, by fits, fulphureous lightnings ftream, And dart through fullen fhades a dreadful gleam ! At length the night difpers'd; and faintly fhone, With fcarce recover'd looks, the doubtful fun: No longer now the ftately walls appear'd; No trace remain'd where once the pile was rear'd.

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BOOK XVI.

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Like cloudy vapours of the changing fkies, Where towers and battlements in femblance rife, That flit before the winds or folar beam, Like idle phantoms of a fick-man's dream : So vanifh'd all the pile, and nought remain'd But native horrors midft a rocky land !

Then fwift th' enchantrefs mounts her ready car, And, girt with tempefts, cleaves the fields of air. Declining from the pole, where diftant lie Nations unknown beneath the eaftern fky; Alcides' pillars now fhe journeys o'er; Nor feeks Hefperia's ftrand, nor Afric's fhore; But o'er the fubject feas fufpended flies, Till Syria's borders to her view arife.

She feeks not then Damafcus' regal dome, But fhuns her once-lov'd feats and native home; And guides her chariot to the fatal lands, Where, midft Afphaltus' waves, her caftle ftands. There, from her menial train and damfels' eyes, All penfive, in a lone retreat fhe lies : A war of thought her troubled breaft affails; But foon her fhame fubfides, and wrath prevails.

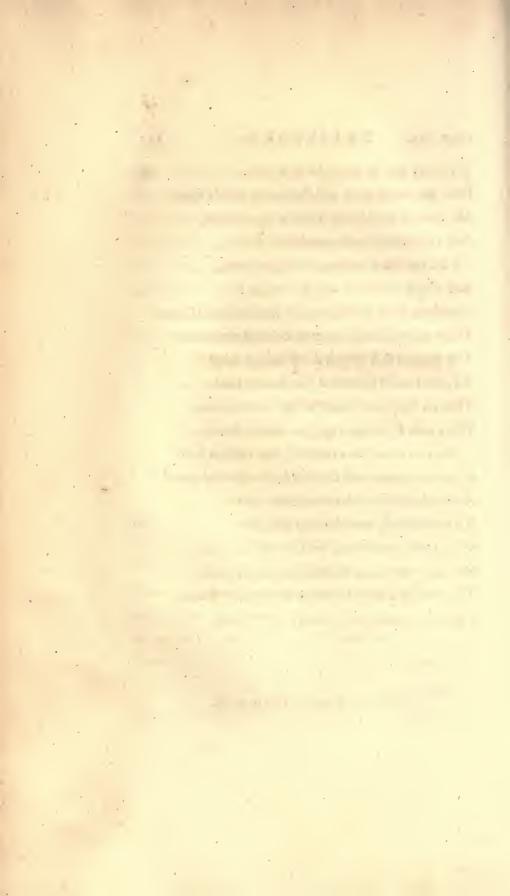
Hence will I haste, (she cry'd) ere Egypt's king To Sion's plains his numerous force can bring:

Try every art, in every form appear, 526 Bend the tough bow, and fhake the miffile fpear. My charms fhall every leader's foul infpire, And every breaft with emulation fire. O! let the fweet revenge I feek be mine, And virgin honour I with joy refign ! Nor thou, flern guardian, now my conduct blame : Thine are my deeds, to thee belongs the fhame : Thy counfel firft impell'd my tender mind To acts that ill befeem'd the female kind : Then all be thine, whate'er my errors prove, What now I give to rage, as once to love !

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She faid; and thus refolv'd, fhe calls in hafte Knights, fquires, and damfels in her fervice plac'd. A fplendid train in duteous order wait; All richly clad, attendant on her ftate. With thefe, impatient, on her way fhe goes: Nor fun, nor moon beholds her take repofe; Till near fhe comes to where the friendly bands Lie wide encamp'd on Gaza's fultry fands.

END OF THE SIXTEENTH BOOK.



JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

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BOOK XVII.

THE ARGUMENT.

THE Egyptian troops and auxiliaries are muftered before the Caliph, feated on his throne. Armida unexpectedly appears with her forces: fhe enflames the leaders of the army with her beauty, and proffers her hand in marriage to any champion that fhall kill Rinaldo. A conteft, thereupon, enfues between Adraftus and Tifaphernes; but the Caliph, interpofing, puts a flop to it. Rinaldo and the two knights return to Paleftine. On their landing, they are met by the hermit, who had before entertained Charles and Ubald: he gives Rinaldo counfel for his future conduct, prefents him with a fuit of armour, and explains to him the actions of his anceftors that are reprefented in the fhield. He then conducts the three warriors within fight of the camp, and difinifies them.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XVII.

PLAC'D where Judea's utmost bounds extend Tow'rds fair Pelusium, Gaza's towers ascend: Fast by the breezy shore the city stands, Amid unbounded plains of barren sands, Which high in air the furious whirlwinds sweep, Like mountain billows of the stormy deep; That scarce th' affrighted trav'ller, spent with toil, Escapes the tempest of th' unstable soil.

Th' Egyptian monarch holds this frontier town, Which from the Turkifh powers of old he won: Since opportunely near the plains it lies, To which he bends his mighty enterprize; He left awhile his court and ancient ftate, And hither now transferr'd his regal feat;

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BOOK XVII.

And hither brought, encamp'd along the coaft, 15 From various provinces a countlefs hoft.

Say, muse! what arms he us'd, what lands he fway'd, What nations fear'd him, and what powers obey'd: How from the fouth he mov'd the realms afar, And call'd the natives of the east to war: Thou only canst disclose the dire alarms, The bands and chiefs of half the world in arms.

When Egypt 'gainft the Grecian fway rebell'd, The faith forfaking which her fathers held, A warrior, fprung from Macon, feiz'd the throne, And fix'd his feat in Cairo's ftately town, A Caliph call'd, from him each prince who wears Th' Egyptian crown the name of Caliph bears. Thus Nile beheld fucceeding Pharaohs fhine, And Ptolemies enroll'd from line to line.

And now revolving years their courfe purfu'd, And well fecur'd the empire's bafis ftood; O'er Libya wide and Afia fpread its power, From far Cyrene to the Syrian fhore; Where feven-fold Nile o'erflows the fatten'd land, And where Syenna's fun-burnt dwellings ftand; Where proud Euphrates laves Affyria's fields; Her fpicy ftores where rich Marenma yields:

And far beyond extends the potent fway, To climes that nearer greet the rifing day.

Vaft in itself the mighty kingdom show'd, But added glories now its Lord beftow'd : Of blood illustrious, and by virtues known, The arts of peace and war were all his own. Against the Turks' and Persians' force engag'd, With various fortune mighty wars he wag'd; Succefs and lofs by turns ordain'd to meet, In conquest great, but greater in defeat. At length, with creeping age his ftrength decay'd, Reluctant at his fide he fheath'd the blade: For yet his foul retain'd the martial flame, The thirst of empire and the lust of fame. His chiefs, abroad, their fovereign's wars maintain'd, While he, at home, in regal fplendor reign'd. His name the realms of Afric trembling heard, And furthest Ind his distant rule rever'd: Some fent their martial bands, a willing aid, And fome, with gold and gems, their tribute paid.

Such was the man who drew his various force From climes remote, t' oppofe the Chriftians' courfe: Armida hither came, in happy hour, What time the king review'd his numerous power.

BOOK XVII.

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High on a ftately throne himfelf was plac'd Th' afcent a hundred steps of ivory grac'd: A filver canopy o'erfpread his feat, And gold and purple lay beneath his feet: Around his head the fnow-white linen roll'd, His turban form'd of many a winding fold : The sceptre in his better hand was feen, His beard was white, and awful was his mien. His thoughtful brow fedate experience flows, Yet in his eye-balls youthful ardor glows. Alike maintain'd, in every act, appears, The pomp of power, or dignity of years. So when or Phydias' or Apelles' art To lifeless forms could feeming life impart; In fuch a fhape they fhow'd to mortal eyes Majeftic Jove when thundering from the fkies. Befide the Caliph, waits on either hand A mighty peer, the nobleft of the land; This holds the feal, ministrant near the throne, And bends his cares to civil rule alone : But greater that, the fword of justice bears, And, prince of armies, guides the course of wars.

Beneath, with thronging fpears, a circling band, In deep array his bold Circaffians ftand;

The cuirafs-plates their manly breafts defend, And crooked fabres at their fides depend.

Thus fate the monarch, and from high beheld Th' affembled nations marfhall'd on the field; While, as the fquadrons pafs'd his lofty feat, They bow'd their arms and enfigns at his feet.

First march'd the forces drawn from Egypt's lands, Four were their chiefs, and each a troop commands. Two came from upper, two from lower Nile, Where ocean's waters once o'erspread the foil: Now lie far distant from the briny flood Those fields which once the coasting failor view'd.

Firft of the fquadrons mov'd the ready train That dwell in Alexandria's wealthy plain; Along the land that weftward far declines, Whofe wide extent with Afric's border joins. Arafpes was their chief, who more excell'd In clofe device than action in the field. The troops fucceed, on Afia's coaft who lie, Against the beams that gild the morning sky: Thefe leads Aronteus, not by virtue fir'd, But with the pride of titles vain inspir'd: No mass hear this, had press'd his brows, Nor early trump disturb'd his fost repose :

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BOOK XVII.

But now from eafe to fcenes of toil he came, By falfe ambition lur'd with hopes of fame. The next that march'd, appear'd no common band, But a huge hoft that cover'd all the land : It feem'd that Egypt's fields of waving grain Could scarce suffice their numbers to suffain : Yet thefe within one ample city dwell'd; Thefe mighty Cairo in her circuit held. From crowded ftreets fhe fends her fons to war; And thefe Campfones brings beneath his care. Then, under Gazel, march'd the troop who till'd The neighbouring glebe with generous plenty fill'd; And far above, where loud the river roars, And from on high its fecond cataract pours. No arms but fwords and bows th' Egyptians bear. Nor weighty mail, nor fhining helmets wear: Their habits rich, not fram'd to daunt the foe, But rouze to plunder with the pompous flow.

Next Barca's tawny fons, a barbarous throng, Beneath their chief, Alarcon, march'd along: Half arm'd they came: thefe, long to plunder train'd, A hungry life on barren fands fuftain'd. Zumara's king a fairer fquadron leads; To him the king of Tripoly fucceeds;

Both weak in fteady fight, but skill'd to dare 135 In fudden onfet, and a flying war. Then those whose culture each Arabia claim'd, The ftony that, and this the happy nam'd. The laft ne'er doom'd (if fame the truth declare) The fierce extremes of heat and cold to bear. Here odoriferous gums their fweets diffufe; Th' immortal phœnix here his youth renews; Here, on a pile of many a rich perfume, Prepares at once his cradle and his tomb! Lefs coftly thefe their vefts and armour wore; But weapons, like the troops of Egypt bore. To these fucceed the wandering Arab train, Who shift their canvas towns from plain to plain: Their accents female, and their ftature low; A fable hue their gloomy features flow, And down their backs the jetty ringlets flow. Long Indian canes they arm with pointed fteel, And round the plain their fteeds impetuous wheel: Thou wouldst have thought the winds impell'd their

course,

If fpeed of winds could match the rapid horfe. Arabia's foremost fquadron Syphax leads; Before the fecond bold Aldine proceeds.

BOOK XVH.

The third have Albiazar at their head; 158 A chief in rapine, not in knighthood, bred. Then from the various Islands march'd a train, Whofe rocks are 'compafs'd by th' Arabian main: There were they wont, in arts of fishing skill'd, To draw rich pearls from ocean's watery field. And join'd with those, the neighbouring lands that lie Befide the Red-fea shore, their aids supply. Those Agricaltes, these Mulasfas guides, Who every faith and every law derides. Next march'd the fwarthy troops from Meroe's foil, That dwell 'twixt Aftaborn and fruitful Nile; Where Ethiopia fpreads her fultry plains, Whofe vaft extent three different states contains: Two Affimirus and Canarius fway'd; Thefe Macon's laws and Egypt's rule obey'd, And 'gainft the Christian hoft their forces led. The third, whofe fons the pure religion knew, Mix'd not its warriors with the Pagan crew.

Two tributary kings their fquadrons fhow, That bear in fight the quiver and the bow. Soldan of Ormus one, a barren land, Where the vaft gulph of Perfia laves the ftrand. One in Boëcan held his regal place, Whofe kingdom oft the rifing tides embrace;

But when the ebbing waves forfake the fhore, With feet unbath'd the pilgrim paffes o'er.

Not thee, O Altamorus! from the plain Thy faithful fpoufe could in her arms detain : She wept, fhe beat her breaft, fife tore her hair, And begg'd thee oft thy purpofe to forbear. Doft thou to me prefer, unkind! (fhe cry'd) The dreadful afpect of the ftormy tide? Are weapons gentler burthens to thy arms, Than thy dear fon, who fmiles in infant charms?

Samarcand's realms this powerful king obey; No fubject crown, no tributary fway: In fields he fhone, confpicuous in the fight, And ftood fupreme in courage as in might. The cuirafs on their breaft his warriors brace; Their fide the fword, their faddle bears the mace.

Next from the feats of morn, beyond the fhores Of Ganges' ftream, Adraftus brings his powers: Around his limbs a ferpent's fkin he drew, Diverfify'd with fpots of fable hue; While for his fteed he prefs'd (tremendous fight!) A mighty elephant of towering height.

Then came the regal band, the Caliph's boaft, The flower of war and vigour of the hoft:

BOOK XVII.

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All arm'd in proof, well furnish'd for the field, On foaming fleeds their rapid courfe they held. Rich purple vestments gleam upon the day, And fteel and gold reflect a mingled ray! Alarcus here and Hidraótes came; Here Odemarus rode, a mighty name! Here, midst the valiant, Rimedon appear'd, Whofe daring foul nor toil nor danger fear'd. Tigranes here and Ormond fierce were found; Ripoldo, once for piracy renown'd : And Marlabuftus bold, th' Arabian nam'd, Since late his might the rebel Arabs tam'd. Here Pirgas, Arimon, Orindus shone; Brimartes, fam'd for many a conquer'd town: Syphantes, skill'd the bounding steed to rein : And thou, Aridamantes! form'd to gain The prize of wreftling on the dufty plain! Here Tifaphernes, with a dauntlefs air, Tower'd o'er the reft, the thunderbolt of war! Whole force in battle every force excell'd, To lift the javelin or the falchion wield.

O'er thefe the fway a brave Armenian bears, Who left the Christian faith in early years For Pagan lore; his former name eftrang'd, To Emirenes then was Clement chang'd:

Yet was he well efteem'd for faith fincere, And far o'er all his fovereign held him dear.

No more remain'd; when now, to fudden view, The fair Armida with her fquadron drew. High on a ftately car, the royal dame In martial pomp (a female archer!) came: A flender belt her flowing robe reftrain'd; Her fide the fhafts, her hand the bow fuftain'd. Even fweet in wrath, her charms the gazer move, • And while the threats her threatening kindles love! Her radiant car, like that which bears the fun, Bright with the jacynth and pyropus fhone. Beneath the golden yoke, in pairs conftrain'd, Four unicorns the skilful driver rein'd. A hundred maids, a hundred pages, round Attend; the quivers on their shoulders found: Each in the field bestrides a milk-white steed, Practis'd to turn, and like the wind in fpeed. Her troop fucceeds, which Aradine commands, And Hidraótes rais'd in Syria's lands.

As when, again reviv'd, the phœnix foars To vifit Ethiopia's much-lov'd fhores, And fpreads his vary'd wings with plumage bright, (Sky-tinctur'd plumes that gleam with golden light!)

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BOOK XVII.

On either hand the feather'd nations fly 256 And wondering trace his progrefs through the fky: So pafs'd the fair, while gazing hofts admire Her graceful looks, her gefture and attire. If thus her face, in awful anger arm'd, Such various throngs with power refiftlefs charm'd; Well might her fofter arts each bofom move, With winning glances and the fmiles of love.

Armida paft; the king of kings commands Brave Emirenes, from the martial bands, To attend his will; to him he gives the poft, O'er all the chiefs, to guide the numerous hoft. He came, his looks with grace majeftic fhin'd, And fpoke him worthy of the rank defign'd. At once the guard divides; a path is flown; He treads the fteps afcending to the throne: There, on his humble knee, the ground he prefs'd, And bow'd his head low-bending o'er his breaft, To him the king-This sceptre, chief, receive, To thee the rule of yonder hoft I give. Thou, Emirenes! now my place fupply; Deliver Sion's king, our old ally: Swift on the Franks my dread refentment pour; Go-fee-and conquer-in th' avenging hour

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No Chriftian 'fcape; their name no more be known, And bring the living, bound, before my throne. 281

The Monarch fpoke; the warrior from his hand Receiv'd the fovereign enfign of command.

This fceptre from unconquer'd hands (he cry'd) I take, O King! thy fortune is my guide. Arm'd in thy caufe I go, thy captain fworn, To avenge the wrongs which Afia's realms have borne: Nor will I e'er return, but crown'd with fame; Death, if I fail, fhall hide a warrior's fhame! Should unexpected ills, ye powers! impend, On me alone let all the ftorm defcend: Preferve the hoft, while, victors, from the plain They bring their chief in glorious triumph flain.

He ceas'd; the troops with loud applause reply, And barbarous clangors echo to the sky.

And now departs, amid the mingled found, The king of kings, with peers encompafs'd round: Thefe, fummon'd to the lofty tent of ftate, In equal honours with the Monarch fate; Himfelf benignant every chief addrefs'd, And gave to each a portion of the feaft. There, for her arts, fit time Armida found, While pleafure reign'd, and feftive fport went round.

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BOOK XVII.

The banquet o'er, the dame, who well deferies 304 That all beheld her charms with wondering eyes; Slow from her feat arofe, with regal look, And thus refpectful to the Caliph fpoke.

O mighty King! behold with thefe I ftand To guard our faith, and combat for the land. A damfel, yet I boaft a royal name; Nor fcorns a queen to mix in fields of fame. Who feeks to reign, in arts of ruling skill'd, By turns the fceptre and the fword must wield. This hand in battle can the javelin ufe, And, where it ftrikes, the wound the ftrokes purfues. Haft thou not heard how once I prifoners made The braveft knights whofe arms the Crofs difplay'd? These overcome, in rugged chains confin'd, To thee a glorious prefent I defign'd: So had thy powers (their braveft champions loft) With fure fuccefs o'erthrown the Christian hoft. But fierce Rinaldo, who my warriors flew, Releas'd, in evil hour, the captive crew. 'Tis he! the wretch of whom I wrong'd complain, And unreveng'd these wrongs I yet fustain. A just refentment hence my bofom warms, And fires with added zeal my foul to arms .--

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But what my wrongs hereafter times shall speak; 328 Let this fuffice-a great revenge I feek! Revenge be mine!-and fure, not fent in vain, Some pointed shaft may fix him to the plain. Heaven oft from righteous hands directs the dart, And guides the weapon to the guilty heart. But fhould fome knight, by thirft of glory led, Bring me, from yonder field, the Chriftian's head, These eyes with joy the welcome gift shall view; The victor chief shall find a victor's due: My hand in marriage shall the hero gain, With ample dowry and a large domain. Say-is there one who will the prize regard, And dare the peril meet for fuch reward?

While thus the damfel fpoke, with longing eyes Adrastus views her, and at length replies.

Forbid it, Heaven! that e'er Rinaldo's heart Should feel the vengeance of Armida's dart : Shall fuch a wretch to thee refign his breath, And fweetly perifh by an envy'd death? In me thy minister of wrath furvey, His forfeit head before thy feet I'll lay; This hand shall rend his breast, and scatter far His mangled body to the fowls of air. 0

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BOOK XVII.

While thus the Indian proud Adraftus fpoke, 352 Thefe haughty words from Tifaphernes broke.

And what art thou, whofe empty pride can dare Before our Monarch thus thy vaunts declare? Know many a chief (though filent here) exceeds Thy boafted valour with his martial deeds.

To him his rival with indignant fcorn: Lo! one for action, not for vaunting, born: And elfewhere hadft thou dar'd our wrath provoke, Thy laft of words, infenfate! hadft thou fpoke.

Thus furious they; but with his awful hand, Their common lord the growing ftrife reftrain'd; Then to Armida thus—Thy manly mind Seems far exalted o'er thy fofter kind: With thee remains the power, transcendent dame! To calm these warriors, and their rage reclaim; 'Tis thine, at will, to bid their fury glow With nobler vengeance on the public foe: Then shall each champion's valour stand confess'd, While emulation breathes from breast to breast.

This faid, the Monarch ceas'd; and either knight Vow'd in her caufe to wield the fword in fight. Nor thefe alone; but all, whom glory warms, Now vaunt their courage and their force in arms:

All to the damfel proffer certain aid, All vow deep vengeance on Rinaldo's head.

While thus against the hero, once belov'd, Such various powers, fuch mighty foes the mov'd, He, whom her hate purfu'd, the land forfook, And through the main his profperous voyage took. The wind, that late impell'd the pilot's fails, Now favour'd her return with western gales. The knight the pole and either Bear furvey'd, And all the ftars that gild night's fable fhade: He view'd the foamy flood, the mountains fleep, Whofe fhaggy fronts o'erfhade the filent deep: Now of the camp he afks, and now enquires Of different nations, and their rites admires. Thus through furrounding waves the warriors fly, Till the fourth morning paints the eaftern fky; And when the fetting fun to fight was loft, The rapid veffel gain'd the deftin'd coaft. Then thus the virgin-Here our voyage ends, Here Palestine her welcome shore extends.

The heroes land, and from their wondering eyes The myftic pilot in a moment flies. Now o'er the profpect eve her mantle threw, And every object from the fight withdrew.

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BOOK XVII.

Uncertain midft the fandy wilds they ftray, 400 No friendly beam to guide them on their way. At length the pale-orb'd queen of filent night, Slow rifing, ftreak'd the parting clouds with light: Sudden the chiefs a diftant blaze behold, With ravs of filver, and with gleams of gold. Approaching then, they radiant arms furvey'd, On which the moon with full reflection play'd. Thick fet as ftars, with many a coftly ftone, The golden helm and polifh'd cuirafs fhone. An aged tree the maffy burden held: Against the trunk was hung the mighty shield; Mysterious forms emblaz'd its spacious field. Beneath the branches from his ruflic feat A courteous hermit rofe, the knights to meet.

When now the Dane and Ubald nearer drew, In him their friend their ancient hoft they knew: At once they greet the fage with glad furprife, The fage with mild benevolence replies; Then tow'rds Rinaldo, who with wonder view'd His reverend form, he turn'd, and thus purfu'd.

For thy arrival, chief! and thine alone, I here have ftay'd in defert fhades unknown. In me thy triend behold—let thefe relate How far my care has watch'd thy former ftate.

Thefe, taught by me, th' enchantrefs' power defy'd, And freed thy foul, in magic fetters ty'd. 426 Attend my words, nor harsh their tenour deem, Though far unlike the Syren's wanton theme: Deep in thy heart repose each facred truth, Till holier lips inftruct thy liftening youth. Think not our good is plac'd in flowery fields, In transient joys which fading beauty yields : Above the fteep, the rocky path it lies, On virtue's hill, whofe fummit cleaves the fkies: Who gains th' afcent must many toils engage, And fpurn the pleafures of a thoughtlefs age. Wilt thou, difmay'd, the arduous height forego, And lurk ignobly in the vale below? To thee a face erect has Nature given And the pure fpirit of congenial heaven, That far from earth thy generous thoughts might rife, To gain, by virtuous deeds, th' immortal prize. She gave thee courage, not with impious rage To opprefs thy friends, and civil combats wage; But that thy foul with noble warmth might glow, In fields of fight against the common foe. Wildom to proper objects points our ire, Now gently cools, now fans the rifing fire.

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He fpoke: with downcaft eyes the hero ftood, 449 While thus the words of truth refiftlefs flow'd. Full well his fecret thoughts the hermit view'd; Now lift thine eyes, O fon! (he thus purfu'd) See in that fhield thy great forefathers flown, Whofe mighty deeds to diftant times are known: Wilt thou the glories of thy line difgrace, And lag behind in honour's facred race ? Rife! gallant youth! and while thy fires I name, From their example catch the generous flame.

He faid; with eager gaze the knight beheld 'The fculptur'd ftories to his fight reveal'd.

There, in a narrow fpace, the mafter's mind, With wondrous art, a thoufand forms defign'd: There fhone great Eftè's race, whofe noble blood From Roman fource^a in ftreams unfully'd flow'd. With laurel crown'd the godlike chiefs appear'd; The fage their honours and their wars declar'd. Caius he fhow'd^b, who (when th' imperial fway Declining fell to alien hands a prey)

² From Roman fource--] The house of Effè was faid to be descended from Actius, related by the mother's fide to Augustus.

b Caius he flow d-] At the time of the emperors Arcadius and Honorius, anno 403, Stilico, incited by ambition to weaken

A willing people taught to own his power, 469 And first of Este's line the fceptre bore. When now the Goth^c (a rude destructive name!) Call'd by Honorius, big with ruin, came; When Rome, oppress'd and captive to the foe, Fear'd one dire hour would all her state o'erthrow; He show'd how brave Aurelius from the bands Of foreign foes preferv'd his subject lands. Forestus then he nam'd⁴, whose noble pride The Huns, the tyrants of the north, defy'd :

Honorius, who ruled in the weft, invited into Italy Alaric and Radagaffo, kings of the Goths and Vandals; at which time this Caius Actius governed in Eftè in the name of the emperor, where the Barbarians committing every kind of outrage, and the emperor taking no measures against them, Actius was by general confent elected absolute sovereign, in order to defend the country from these invaders.

• When now the Goth—] When Honorius, exafperated with the Romans, transferred the imperial feat to Ravenna, and invited Alaric again into Italy, who had been before invited by Stilico, Aurelius conducted himfelf fo artfully, that the Goths, in their march towards Rome, with defign to defiroy that city, passed through his territories without committing the leaft depredations.

⁴ Foreflus then he nam'd-] Attila, king of the Huns, in the year 450, through an irreconcileable hatred to the Christians,

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Fierce Attila their lord, of favage mien, By him fubdu'd in fingle fight was feen. See next the patriot chief, with ceafelefs care, For Aquileia's ftrong defence prepare; Th' Italian Hector in the tafk of war! But ah! too foon he ends his mortal flate, And with his own includes his country's fate. Then Acarinus^e to his father's fame Succeeds, the champion of the Roman name. Not to the Huns, but Fate, Altinus yields^f, And, far retir'd, a furer kingdom builds^g:

prepared to march to the attack of Aquileia, as the key to Italy; and was feveral times defeated by Foreflus, the fon of Aurelius, with the affiftance of the forces of Gilio, king of Padua, his relation. Foreflus is faid to have fought with Attila hand to hand.

e Then Acarinus—] Acarinus fucceeded his father Foreflus in the government of Eftè and Monfelice, and gained many victories over Attila.

^f Not to the Huns, but Fate, Altinus yields.] The forces of Altinus met with fuch continued ill fuccefs with Attila, that their misfortunes feemed to have been the immediate difpensation of Providence; and hence the poet fays, that Altinus gave way to Fate, and not to the Huns.

⁸ And, far retir'd, a farer kingdom builds.] It was under the conduct of Acarinus that Aventino, Anzio, Trento, and other

Deep in the vale of Po his city rofe, (A thoufand fcatter'd cots the town compofe) Which diftant ages fhall with pride proclaim The feat of empire of th' Eftenfian name. Th' Alani quell'd^h, Acarius, in debate With Odoacer, meets the ftroke of fate¹: For Italy he bravely yields his breath, And fhares paternal honour in his death. With him the gallant Alphorifius dies : To exile Actius^k, with his brother, flies; But foon return'd (th' Erulean king¹ o'erthrown) Again in council and in arms they fhone.

neighbouring villages, were reduced into the form of a city, and defended by a mole against the floods of the Po; and this was the foundation of the future town of Ferrara.

^h Th' Alani quell'd-] At this time Acarinus was captain of horfe, anno 463.

i With Odoacer, meets the ftroke of fate.-] Acarius, and Alphorifius his brother, opposed king Odoacer, one of the chiefs in the army of Attila, who had made a descent into Italy, with many others, the remains of the forces of that barbarian.

* To exile Actius—] Actius and Constantius, fons of Acarinus, being invaded by Odoacer, were defpoiled of all their possessions, and obliged to abandon Italy.

¹ Th Erulean king.] Odoacer, who was three times defeated by Theodoric Amalo, king of the Offrogoths, and two years

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Next, as his eye receiv'd the barbed fteel^m, A fecond brave Epaminondas fell : See! where with fmiles he feems his life to yield, Since Totila is fled, and fafe his fhield. His fon Valerian emulates his name, And treads the footfteps of paternal fame : Scarce yet a manⁿ, of manly force poffefs'd, His daring hand th' encroaching Goth reprefs'd.

befieged in Ravenna, and at laft killed, after Actius and Conftantius had recovered their poffeffions.

m — as his eye receiv'd the barbed fleel.] By the title of fecond Epaminondas is meant Bonifacius. This event happened in the year 556, when Narsetes, fent by the emperor Justinian, overcame Totila, king of the Goths; in which battle Bonifacius being present, was shot in the right eye by an arrow, which passed through the nape of his neck; he was carried on his shield into his tent, where he soon expired. The poet compares him to Epaminondas, the Theban general, of whom it is related, that, at the battle of Mantinea, being carried mortally wounded into his tent, he demanded if his shield was fase, and being told it was, he ordered it to be brought to him, and having kissed it with great apparent satisfaction, immediately died.

² Scarce yet a man—] At the death of his father this youth was only fourteen years of age, and at that time was with Narfetes at the overthrow of the Goths.

Near him with warlike mien Erneftus rofe[°], 510 Who routs in field the rough Sclavonian foes. With thefe intrepid Aldoard⁹ is fhown, Who 'gainft the Lombard king defends Monfcelce's

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town.

Henry and Berengarius^q then appear'd, Who ferv'd where Charles^r his glorious banners rear'd. Then Lewis follow'd^s, who the war maintain'd Againft his nephew that in Latium reign'd.

• Erneflus rofe.] Erneflus, fon of Eribert of Eftè, performed many great actions in Dalmatia; which, from the name of Schlavi, took the name of Sclavonia: he defeated the Sclavonians fo effectually in 711, that they were never again able to make head.

P With these intrepid Aldoard—] Agilulpho, by his marriage with Theodolinda, became king of the Lombards, and, making peace with France, invaded Italy, and took Padua, at first defended by the princes of the house of Este; and he endeavoured to do the fame by Monscelce.

9 Henry and Berengarius-] Henry, fon of Erneftus: Berengarius, fon of Henry.

* Who ferv'd where Charles-] Charles the Great, ferved with great valour by Henry and Berengarius.

⁶ Then Lewis follow d-] After the death of Charles, Berengarius entered into the fervice of his fon Lewis, who was created

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Next Otho with his fons', a friendly band, Five blooming youths around their father ftand. There Almeric", Ferrara's Marquis, came, (Ferrara, plac'd by Po's majeftic ftream) See! where he lifts to heaven his pious eyes; Beneath his care what hallow'd fanes arife! The fecond Actius* fill'd a different fide, Who bloody ftrife with Berengarius try'd;

emperor, and carried on a war againft Bernardo the fon of Pepin, the other fon of Charles, who had been by his father made king of Italy: he was defeated by Berengarius, taken prifoner, and afterwards ftripped of his kingdom and deprived of his fight, anno 819.

^t Next Otho with his fons...] Otho, brother to Berengarius: his five fons were Marino, Sigifredo, Uberto, Hugo, and Amizono.

" There Almeric—] Almeric was fon of Amizono: through the favour of Hugo king of Italy, by whom he was greatly effeemed, Almeric was called to the government of Ferrara, where he ruled with fovereign authority, and obtained the title of Marquis: he gave a confiderable part of his revenues to the maintenance of churches and abbeys, and employed his private fortune in building others, amongft which was the church of Saint George, afterwards the principal one of Ferrara.

* The fecond Actius-] He carried on a war with Berengarius II. king of Italy, anno 950.

But, after many various turns of fate, Subdu'd his foe, and rul'd th' Italian ftate : Albertus now appear'd, his valiant fon, Who from Germania mighty trophies won; Who foil'd the Danes; and to his nuptial bed, With ample dowry⁷, Otho's daughter led. Next Hugo, who the haughty Romans quell'd², And o'er the Tufcan lands dominion held. Tedaldo then³; and now the fculpture fhow'd, With Beatrice where Bonifacius ftood^b.

y Who foil'd the Danes; and to his nuptial bed

With ample dowry—] He obtained from the emperor Otho his daughter Adelaide to wife, with the dowry of Friburg, in Germany, and feveral places in Italy, anno 973.

^x Next Hugo, who the haughty Romans quell d.] This Hugo performed many exploits against the Romans, in behalf of pope Gregory, and the emperor Otho, about the year 995.

^a Tedaldo then—] Son of Actius II. duke of Ferrara and marquis of Eftè, count of Canoffa, lord of Lucca, Placentia, Parma, and Rheggio, anno 970.

^b With Beatrice where Bonifacius flood.] There were two of the name of Bonifacius, one fon of the beforenamed Albertus, and the other fon of Tedaldo, duke of Ferrara; this laft fucceeded to

BOOK XVII.

No male fucceeding⁶ to the large domain, 536 No fon the father's honours to maintain, Matilda follow'd⁴, who, with virtues try'd, Full well the want of manly fex fupply'd: In arts of fway the wife and valiant dame O'er crowns and fceptres rais'd the female fame : The Norman there fhe chac'd⁹! here quell'd in field Guifcard the brave, before untaught to yield:

the poffeffions of his father, and obtained befides Mantua and Modena, and was imperial vicar anno 1007. He married Beatrice daughter of the emperor Conrade II. and received Verona with her in dowry in 1034.

• No male fucceeding-] Bonifacius left only one male child, which died under the care of its mother Beatrice.

^d Matilda follow'd—] Daughter of Bonifacius and Beatrice, according to the poet, and fo likewife delivered by Pigna; but other authors differ in the account of the parentage of this celebrated woman.

e The Norman there file chac'd!--] The Normans had then, and fome years before, under Roberto Guifcardo, taken poffeffion of Puglia and Calabria, and endeavoured to lower the power of Matilda, but file defeated them feveral times; and Roberto, having afterwards concluded a peace with this Matilda, joined with her in affifting the pope against Henry IV.

Henry fhe crufh'd^f (the fourth that bore the name) And with his ftandards^g to the temple came; 545 Then in the Vatican, with honours grac'd, In Peter's chair the fovereign Pontiff plac'd. See the fifth Actius^h near her perfon move, With looks of reverence and of duteous love. Actius the fourth¹ a happier race has known; Thence Guelpho iffues, Kunigunda's fon;

f Henry file crufh'd—] The emperor Henry IV. a bitter enemy to the church: he endeavoured to deprive her of the right of creating bithops, and perfecuted the legitimate popes, and twice created antipopes.

⁵ And with his flandards—] This happened in Canoffa 1081, at the time Gregory IX. was befieged there by Henry. This religious and magnanimous woman replaced two pontiffs in the papal chair; the one was Alexander II. who had been driven out by Giberto of Parma, fent by the emperor Henry IV. into Italy, which Henry favoured Candalo, who probably by his means was made antipope; the other was Gregory IX. perfecuted by the fame Henry.

^h See the fifth Actius—] This, according to Pigna, was fecond hufband to Matilda, after the death of her first hufband Gottifredo Gibbofo: but it being afterwards difcovered that they were related, the marriage was annulled, and they were divorced by command of the pope.

i Actius the fourth-] This Actius was more fortunate in point of children than Bonifacius, who left only Matilda to fucceed

BOOK XVII.

Retiring, to Germania's call he yields,552By fate transplanted to Bavarian fields :552There on the Guelphian tree, with age decay'd,Great Este's branch its foliage fair display'd :Then might you foon the Guelphian race beholdRenew their fceptres and their crowns of gold.From hence Bertoldo rose k, of matchless fame ;Hence the fixth Actius, bright in virtue, came.

Such were the chiefs whole forms the shield express'd;

And emulation fir'd Rinaldo's breaft : In fancy rapt, each future toil he view'd, Proud cities ftorm'd, and mighty hofts fubdu'd. Swift o'er his limbs the burnifh'd mail he throws, Already hopes the day, and triumphs o'er the foes.

And now the Dane, who told how Sweno fell In fatal fight beneath the Pagan fteel,

him; but this Actius had for his fon Guelpho, by Kunigonda, daughter of Guelpho IV. duke of Bavaria.

* From hence Bertoldo rofe-] Bertoldo, fon of Actius V. by Judith, born of Conrado II.; and of her was born Actius VI. This Bertoldo was father of Rinaldo; fo that this fhield contained all his progeny from the first original.

To brave Rinaldo gave the deftin'd blade; 568 In happy hour receive this fword (he faid) Avenge its former lord, whofe worth demands, Whofe love deferves this vengeance at thy hands.

Then thus the hero—Grant, O gracious Heaven! The hand to which this fated fword is given, With this may emulate its mafter's fame, And pay the tribute due to Sweno's name.

So they. But now the fage without delay Impell'd the warriors on their purpos'd way: Haste, let us feek the Christian camp (he cry'd) Myself will through the waste your journey guide.

He faid; and ftraight his ready car afcends; (Each knight obfequious at his word attends) He gives the fteeds the rein, the lafh applies: Swift to the eaft the rolling chariot flies. Again the hoary hermit filence broke, And fudden, turning to Rinaldo, fpoke.

To thee 'twas given the ancient root to trace, Whence fprung the branches of th' Eftenfian race: Still fhall that ftock fucceeding years fupply, Nor, damp'd with age, the pregnant virtue die. O! could I now, as late the paft I told, The future ages to thy view unfold,

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BOOK XVII.

Succeeding heroes should thy wonder raife, 592 Great as the first in number as in praise: But truths like these are hidden from my fight, Or feen through dufky clouds with doubtful light. Yet hear, and truft to what my words difclofe; Since from a purer fource this knowledge flows; (From him *, to whofe far-piercing mind 'tis given To view, unveil'd, the deep decrees of Heaven) Thy fons, the heroes of the times to come, Shall match the chiefs of Carthage, Greece, or Rome! But o'er the reft shall rife Alphonso's fame, Alphonfo, fecond of the glorious name!' Born when an age corrupt, to vice declin'd, Shall boaft but few examples to mankind : He, while a youth, in mimic fcenes of war, Shall certain figns of early worth declare; In foreft wilds shall chace the favage train, And the first honours of the list obtain; In riper years in war unconquer'd prove, And hold his fubjects in the bands of love. 'Tis his to guard his realms from all alarms, Midft mighty powers and jarring ftates in arms: To cherish arts, bid early genius grow, And fplendid games and feftivals beftow;

- ² PETER the hermit.

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In equal fcales the good and bad to weigh; 616 And guard with care for every future day. O! should he rife against that impious race, Whofe deeds shall then the earth and feas deface, Who, in those times, shall hold mankind in awe, And give to more enlighten'd minds the law; Then shall his righteous vengeance wide be known, For fhrines profan'd, and altars overthrown : In that great hour, what judgment shall he bring On the falfe fect, and on their tyrant king! The Turk and Moor, with thousands in their train, Shall feek to ftop his conquering arms in vain : Beyond the climate where Euphrates flows, Beyond Mount Taurus, white with endless fnows, Beyond the realms of fummer, shall he bear The Crofs, the Eagle, and the Lily fair; The fecret fource of ancient Nile shall trace, And in the faith baptize the fable race.

He fpoke : and transport fill'd the warrior's breaft, To hear the glories of his line exprest. Now had the light proclaim'd the dawning day, And the east redden'd with a warmer ray; When high above the tents they faw from far The streaming banners trembling in the air.

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Then thus the reverend fire began anew: Before our eyes the fun afcending view, Whofe friendly rays difcover wide around The plains, the city, and the tented ground. Hence may you pafs without a further guide: A nearer profpect is to me deny'd.

He faid; and inftant bade the chiefs adieu; And thefe, on foot, their ready way purfue. Meanwhile the news of their arrival came To all the camp, divulg'd by flying fame; And Godfrey, rifing from his awful feat, With fpeed advanc'd, the welcome knights to meet.

END OF THE SEVENTEENTH BOOK,

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XVIII.

THE ARGUMENT.

SALDO returns to the camp, and is gracioufly received by Godfrey. After offering his devotions on Mount Olivet, he enters upon the adventure of the enchanted wood. He withftands all the illufions of the Demons, and diffolves the enchantment. The Chriftians then build new machines: In the mean time Godfrey has intelligence of the approach of the Egyptian army to raife the fiege. Vafrino is fent as a fpy to the Egyptian camp. Godfrey attacks the city with great refolution: The Pagans make an obfinate defence. Rinaldo particularly fignalizes himfelf, and firft fcales the walls. Ifmeno is killed. The archangel Michael appears to the Chriftian general, and fhews him the celeftial army, and the fouls of the warriors, that were flain in battle, engaged in his caufe. Victory now declares for the Chriftians: Godfrey firft plants his flandard on the wall, and the city is entered on all fides,

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XVIII.

AND now they met: Rinaldo first began, And thus fincere address'd the godlike man.

O prince ! the care to efface my honour's ftain Impell'd my vengeance on the warrior flain : But, late convinc'd, the rafh offence I own; And deep contrition fince my foul has known. By thee recall'd, I feek the camp again; And may my future deeds thy grace obtain !

Him lowly bending, with complacent look Godfrey beheld, embrac'd, and thus befpoke.

No more remembrance irkfome truths fhall tell; The paft fhall ever in oblivion dwell: Lo! all th' amends I claim—thy weapons wield, And fhine the wonted terror of the field.

BOOK XVIII,

'Tis thine to affift thy friends, difmay thy foes, 15 And the dire fiends in yonder wood oppofe. Yon wood, from whence our warlike piles we made, Conceals deep magic in its dreadful fhade : Horrid it ftands! of all our numerous hoft, No hands to fell th' enchanted timbers boaft. Then go !—'tis thine the mighty tafk to try ; There prove thy valour, where the valiant fly.

Thus he. In brief again the warrior fpoke, And dauntless on himself th' adventure took. Then to the reft he ftretch'd his friendly hand, And gladly greeted all the focial band. Brave Tancred now and noble Guelpho came, With each bold leader of the Christian name. The vulgar next he view'd with gracious eye, And affable receiv'd the general joy. Nor round him lefs the fhouting foldiers prefs'd, Than if the hero, from the conquer'd east, Or mid-day realms, enrich'd with fpoils of war, Had rode triumphant on his glittering car. Thence to his tent he pafs'd; there plac'd in ftate, Encircled by his friends, the champion fate. There much he answer'd; much to know defir'd; Oft of the war and wondrous wood enquir'd.

At length, the reft withdrawn, the hermit broke 39 His filence firft, and thus the youth befpoke.

O chief ! what wonders have thy eyes furvey'd ! How far remote thy erring feet have ftray'd ! Think what thou ow'ft to him who rules on high : He gave thee from th' enchanted feats to fly : Thee, from his flock a wandering fheep, he fought, And; now recover'd, to his fold has brought : By Godfrey's voice he calls thee to fulfill The mighty purpofe of his facred will. But think not yet, impure with many a ftain, In his high caufe to lift thy hand profane : Nor Nile, nor Ganges, nor the boundlefs fea, With cleanfing tides, can wafh thy crimes away. Sincere, to GoD thy fecret fins declare, And forrowing feek his grace with fervent prayer.

He faid; and first the prince, in humble strain, Bewail'd his fenseless love and rage as vain ^a: Then low before the fage's feet he kneel'd, And all the errors of his youth reveal'd. The pious hermit then absolv'd the knight, And thus purfu'd—With early dawn of light,

^a Bewail'd his fenfelefs love and rage as vain:] His love for Armida, and his rage exercifed against Gernando.

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BOOK XVIII.

On yonder mount thy pure devotion pay, 61 That rears its front against the morning ray. Thence feek the wood whose monsters thou must quell; Let no vain frauds thy daring steps repel: Ah! let no tuneful voice, nor plaints beguile, Nor beauty win thee with enticing smile: Sternly resolv'd, avoid each dangerous stare, And scorn the treacherous look and well-diffembled

prayer.

So counfel'd he. The youth obfequious heard, And eager for th' important deed prepar'd: In thought he pafs'd the day, in thought the night; And, ere the clouds were ftreak'd with glowing light, Enclos'd his limbs in arms, and o'er him threw A flowing mantle of unwonted hue. Alone, on foot, his filent way he took, And left his comrades, and the tents forfook. Now night with day divided empire held, Nor this was fully ris'n, nor that expell'd: The cheerful eaft the dawning rays difplay'd, And ftars yet glimmer'd through the weftern fhade. To Olivet the penfive hero pafs'd, And, mufing deep, around his looks he caft,

Alternate viewing here the fpangled skies, And there the spreading light of morning rife.

Then to himfelf he faid—What beams divine In heaven's eternal facred temple fhine! The day can boaft the chariot of the fun, The night the golden ftars and filver moon ! But ah! how few will raife their minds fo high! While the frail beauties of a mortal eye, The transfient lightenings of a glance, a fmile From female charms, our earthly fenfe beguile!

While thus he mus'd, he gain'd the hill's afcent, There low on earth with humble knee he bent: Then on the eaft devoutly fix'd his eyes, And rais'd his pious thoughts above the fkies.

Almighty Father, hear !---my prayers approve ! Far from my fins thy awful fight remove : O let thy grace each thought impure control, And purge from earthly drofs my erring foul !

Thus while he pray'd, Aurora, rifing bright, To radiant gold has chang'd her rofy light: O'er all his arms th' increafing fplendor plays; The hallow'd mount and grove reflect the rays. Full in his face the morn her breeze renews, And fcatters on his head ambrofial dews:

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BOOK XVIII.

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His robe, with lucid pearls befprinkled o'er, Receives a fnowy hue unknown before. So with the dawn the drooping floweret blooms; The ferpent thus a fecond youth affumes.

Surpris'd his alter'd veft the warrior view'd, Then turn'd his steps to reach the fatal wood. And now he came where late the bands retir'd, Struck with the dread the diftant gloom infpir'd: Yet him nor fecret doubts nor terrors move, But fair in prospect role the magic grove. While, like the reft, the knight expects to hear Loud peals of thunder breaking on his ear, A dulcet fymphony his fenfe invades, Of Nymphs or Dryads warbling through the shades : Soft fighs the breeze, foft purls the filver rill, The feather'd choir the woods with music fill: The tuneful fwan in dying notes complains; The mourning nightingale repeats her ftrains : Timbrels and harps and human voices join; And in one concert all the founds combine,

In wonder wrapt awhile Rinaldo ftood, And thence his way with wary fteps purfu'd : When lo! a cryftal flood his courfe oppos'd, Whofe winding train the foreft round enclos'd,

On either hand, with flowers of various dyes, The fmiling banks perfum'd the ambient fkies. From this a fmaller limpid current flow'd, And pierc'd the bofom of the lofty wood : This to the trees a welcome moifture gave, Whofe boughs, o'erhanging, trembled in its wave.

Now here, now there, the ford the warrior try'd, When fudden rais'd a wondrous bridge he 'fpy'd; That, built of gold, on ftately arches ftood, And fhow'd an ample paffage o'er the flood: He trod the path, the further margin gain'd; And now the magic pile no more remain'd : The ftream fo calm, arofe with hideous roar, And down its foamy furge the fhining fabric bore.

The hero, turning, faw the tide o'erflow, Like fudden torrents fwell'd with melting fnow. Then new defires incite his feet to rove Through all the deep receffes of the grove. As, fearching round, from fhade to fhade he ftrays, New fcenes at once invite him and amaze. Where'er he treads, the earth her tribute pours In gufhing fprings, or voluntary flowers: Here blooms the lily; there the fragrant rofe: Here fpouts a fountain; there a riv'let flows:

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From every fpray the liquid manna trills; And honey from the foftening bark diftills. Again the ftrange, the pleafing found he hears Of plaints and music mingling in his ears: Yet nought appears that mortal voice can frame, Nor harp nor timbrel whence the mufic came.

As fix'd he filent stands in deep furprife, And reafon to the fenfe her faith denies; He fees a myrtle near, and thither bends, Where in a plain the path far-winding ends: Her ample boughs the ftately plant difplay'd Above the lofty palm or cyprefs' fhade; High o'er the fubject trees fublime fhe ftood, And feem'd the verdant empress of the wood.

While round the champion caft a doubtful view, A greater wonder his attention drew : A labouring oak a fudden cleft difclos'd, And from its bark a living birth expos'd; Whence (paffing all belief!) in ftrange array, A lovely damfel iffu'd to the day. A hundred different trees the knight beheld, Whofe fertile wombs a hundred nymphs reveal'd. As oft in pictur'd fcenes we fee difplay'd Each graceful goddefs of the fylvan fhade;





With arms expos'd, with vefture girt around, 179 With purple bufkins, and with hair unbound : Alike to view, before the hero ftood Thefe fhadowy daughters of the wondrous wood ; Save that their hands nor bows nor quivers wield ; But this a harp, and that a timbrel held. Now, in a circle form'd, the fportive train With fong and dance their myftic rites began ; Around the myrtle and the knight they fung ; And in his ear thefe tuneful accents rung.

All hail! and welcome to this pleafing grove, Armida's hope, the treafure of her love ! Com'ft thou! (O long expected!) to relieve The painful wounds the darts of abfence give ? This wood, that frown'd fo late with horrid fhade, Where pale defpair her mournful dwelling made, Behold at thy approach reviv'd appears, At thy approach a gentler afpect wears !

Thus they—Low thunders from the myrtle rofe, And ftraight the bark a cleft wide-opening fhows; In wonder wrapt have ancient times furvey'd A rude Silenus iffuing from the fhade; A fairer form the teeming tree difplay'd. A damfel thence appear'd, whofe lovely frame Might equal beauties of celeftial name;

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On her Rinaldo fix'd his heedful eyes, 204 And faw Armida's features with furprife; On him a fad, yet pleafing look fhe bends; And in the glance a thoufand paffions blends.

Then thus—And art thou now return'd from flight, Again to blefs forlorn Armida's fight? Com'ft thou the balm of comfort to beftow, To eafe my widow'd nights, my days of woe? Or art thou here to work me further harms, That thus thy limbs are fheath'd in hoftile arms? Com'ft thou a lover or a foe prepar'd? Not for a foe the ftately bridge I rear'd: Not for a foe unlock'd th' impervious bowers, And deck'd the fhade with fountains, rills, and flowers. Art thou a friend?—That envious helm remove; Difclofe thy face, return the looks of love: Prefs lips to lips, to bofom bofom join; Or reach at leaft thy friendly hand to mine!

Thus as fhe fpoke, fhe roll'd her mournful eyes, And bade foft blufhes o'er her features rife : Unwary pity here, with fudden charm, Might melt the wifeft, and the coldeft warm : While, well advis'd, the knight no longer ftay'd, But from the feabbard bar'd the fhining blade;

Then, fwift advancing, near the myrtle drew: 228 With trembling hafte to guard the plant fhe flew; The much-lov'd bark with eager arms enclos'd, And, with loud cries, the threatening ftroke oppos'd.

Ah! dare not thus with favage rage invade My darling tree, the pride of all the fhade! O cruel!—lay thy dire defign afide, Or through Armida's heart the weapon guide! To reach the trunk, this bofom fhall afford (And this alone) a paffage to thy fword!

But, deaf to prayers, aloft the fteel he rear'd; When lo! new forms, new prodigies appear'd! Thus, oft in fleep we view, with wild affright, Dire monstrous shapes, the visions of the night! Her limbs enlarge; her features loofe their grace; The rofe and lily vanish from her face: Now, towering high, a giant huge fhe ftands, An arm'd Briareus with a hundred hands. With dreadful action fifty fwords fhe wields, And fhakes aloft as many clashing shields; Each nymph, transform'd, a horrid Cyclop ftood; Unmov'd the hero still his task pursu'd; Against the tree redoubled strokes he bent; Deep groans, at every flroke, the myrtle fent: YOL. II. 0

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Infernal glooms the face of day deform ; 252 And winds, loud roaring, raife a hideous florm : With thunders hoarfe the diftant fields refound, And lightnings flafh, and earthquakes rock the ground. But not thefe horrors can his force reftrain, And not a blow his weapon aims in vain: Now finking low, the nodding myrtle bends : It falls—the phantoms fly—th' enchantment ends.

The winds are hufh'd, the troubled ether clears, The foreft in its wonted ftate appears: No more the dark retreat of magic made, Though awful ftill, and black with native fhade. Again the victor tried if aught withftood The lifted fteel to lop the fpreading wood: Then fmiling thus he faid—O phantoms vain! Shall thefe illufions e'er the brave reftrain ?

Now to the camp with hafty fteps he prefs'd; Meanwhile the hermit thus the bands addrefs'd: Already freed I fee th'enchanted ground! Behold the chief returns with conqueft crown'd! He faid: when from afar, confefs'd to fight, In dazzling arms appear'd the victor-knight: High on his creft the filver eagle fhone, And blaz'd with brighter beams againft the fun;

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The troops falute him with triumphant cries; From man to man the fpreading clamours rife. Then to his valour pious Godfrey pays The willing tribute of unenvied praife: When to the leader thus Rinaldo faid: At thy command I fought yon dreadful fhade; The deep receffes of the grove I view'd, The wonders faw, and every fpell fubdu'd: Now may thy train the region fafe explore, No magic charms fhall vex their labours more.

Thus he; and ftraight the band the foreft fought, Whence mighty timbers to the camp they brought. O'er all their work an able chief prefides; William, Liguria's lord, the labour guides. But late the empire of the feas he held, Till forc'd before the Pagan fleets to yield; With all their naval arms the failor train He brings, to increafe the forces on the plain. To him fuperior knowledge Heaven imparts : A fearching genius in mechanic arts ! A hundred workmen his commands obey, Their tafks performing as he points the way. Vaft battering rams^b againft the city rife, And miffive engines of enormous fize.

^b Vaft battering rams—_] The account of these military engines and towers is according to the history.

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Of timbers huge he built a fpacious tower : 300 A hundred wheels the mighty fabric bore : With junctures ftrong he fix'd the folid fides, And 'gainft the fire fecur'd with moiften'd hides. Sufpended from below, with horned head, The ram refiftlefs on the bulwarks play'd ; While from the midft a bridge was form'd to fall, That join'd th' approaching engine to the wall: And from the top was feen at will to rife A leffer tower, high-pointing to the fkies. The gazing throngs admire in every part The ftrange invention and the workman's art : Soon, like the firft, two other piles they frame, The fame their figure and their height the fame.

Thus they: While from the walls the Pagan fpies Obferv'd the Chriftian camp with heedful eyes; They faw the pines and elms in many a load Drawn to the army from the friendly wood : They faw them rife in warlike ftructures high, But fcarce could thence their diftant forms defcry. They too machines compofe with equal care, Their ramparts ftrengthen, and their walls repair. Ifmeno midft the reft his engines brought, From Sodom's lake, with fatal fulphur fraught,

From hell's black flood, whofe waters foul and flow Nine times enfold the realms of endlefs woe! 325 Horrid with thefe, a fiery peft he flood, Refolv'd to avenge his violated wood.

While thus the city and the camp prepar'd, This to affault, and that the works to guard, High o'er the tents, in all the army's view, An airy dove with rapid pinions flew; Now, from the lofty clouds declining down, With nearer flight approach'd the facred town : When lo! a falcon chac'd her from above, And threatening to the high pavilion drove : Juft as his claws the trembling bird opprefs'd, She fhelter fought in pious Godfrey's breaft : The pitying chief the dove from fate repriev'd, Then round her neck a flender band perceiv'd : Beneath her wing a tablet hung conceal'd, Which, open'd, to his fight thefe words reveal'd ;

" To thee th' Egyptian chief his zeal commends,
" And health to great Judea's Sovereign fends.
" Fear not, O Monarch! ftill thy towers defend,
" Till the fifth morn her welcome light extend :
" Then fhall our arms relieve your threaten'd wall;
f Sjon fhall conquer, and the Chriftians fall,"

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Such was the fecret in the tablet feal'd, In barbarous phrafe and characters reveal'd. Thefe winged heralds thus the mandates bear Of eaftern nations through the fields of air.

The prince now fet the captive dove at large, But fhe (a guiltlefs traitrefs to her charge) As confcious of th' event, no more return'd, But diftant from her lord in fecret mourn'd.

The leader then conven'd the princely train, The tidings ftraight difclos'd, and thus began.

Behold, O friends! how heaven's high Monarch fhows Th' important fecrets of our wily foes. No more delay—this prefent time demands Our boldeft hearts and moft experienc'd hands. Be every toil, be every peril try'd, The way to conquer on the fouthern fide. There, well by nature fenc'd on every part, The forts are lefs fecur'd by works of art : There, Raymond, let thy ftrength refiftlefs fall, There, with thy engines, fhake the doubtful wall: While I, upon a different fide, prepare, Againft the northern gate, the ftorm of war. So may the foes their forces thither bend, And there deceiv'd, our chief affault attend.

From thence convey'd, fhall then my lofty tower 372 On other parts unlook'd-for vengeance pour. Near me, Camillus, thou the toils fhalt fhare, And the third pile be truffed to thy care.

He ceas'd: when Raymond, pondering in his breaft The public welfare, Godfrey thus addrefs'd.

So well for all, O chief! thy cares provide, Nor aught can be retrench'd, nor aught fupply'd. Yet let me with fome artful fpy were fent ' To Egypt's camp, to found their deep intent; Who to our hoft might all their motions tell, And certain tidings of their force reveal.

Then Tancred fpoke: A faithful 'fquire is mine, Who feems well form'd to further your defign; He every wile, with ready wit, prepares; He dares all perils, yet with caution dares. Swift in the race he lightly fkims the field; His pliant tongue in every fpeech is fkill'd: He fhifts his mien, his action and his tone, And makes the modes of various climes his own.

The 'fquire, now call'd, before th' affembly ftands, And cheerful hears the tafk his lord demands : Then fmiling thus : To me confign the care, This inftant fee me for th' attempt prepare ;

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Swift will I reach (an unexpected fpy) 306 The diftant land where Egypt's forces lie; There pierce the fwarming vale at noon of day, And every man and every fteed furvey. I promife foon (nor vain efteem my boaft) To bring the ftate and numbers of their hoft; To penetrate their leader's fecret thought, 'And view each purpose in his bosom wrought. Thus bold Vafrino fpoke; nor more delay'd, But fwift in vesture long his limbs array'd : He bar'd his neck, and round his forehead roll'd A turban huge in many a winding fold : His back the Syrian bow and quiver bore, And all his looks a foreign femblance wore. The wondering crowds admir'd his ready tongue, On which each nation's different accent hung; That Egypt well might claim him for her own, Or Tyre receive him as her rightful fon, Now from the camp he iffu'd on a fteed That fcarcely bent the grafs beneath his fpeed.

Ere yet they view'd the third fucceeding day, The Franks, induftrious, gain'd the rugged way. In vain the rolling hours to reft invite, They join to day the labours of the night:

Till all is for the great affault prepar'd, 420 And nought remains that can their fchemes retard.

The Chriftian chief, on pious thoughts intent, In humble prayer the day preceding fpent, And bade the faithful hoft their fins confefs, And take, from facred hands, the bread of peace. He then began his vaft machines to fhow On divers parts, to amufe the thoughtlefs foe. The foe, deceiv'd, with joyful looks defcry'd His force directed on their ftrongeft fide.

But, foon as evening ftretch'd her welcome fhade, He thence with eafe his warlike pile convey'd: This tow'rds the ramparts' weaker parts he brought, Where lefs expos'd his hardy foldiers fought. Experienc'd Raymond with his lofty tower Against the fouthern hill his forces bore: And, with the third, the brave Camillus prefs'd Against the fide declining to the weft.

When now the cheerful harbinger of day Had ting'd the mountains with a golden ray; The foes the mighty tower with terror view'd Far diftant from the place where late it ftood; And all around, till then unfeen, beheld Enormous engines thickening o'er the field.

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With every art the wary Pagans form 444 Their beft defence against th' approaching storm. No less intent, the prudent chief, who knew That nearer now th' Egyptian army drew Each pass fecures; and, calling from the bands Guelpho and either Robert, thus commands.

You watchful on your fteeds in arms remain, While I attempt yon hoffile wall to gain, Where leaft defence appears: be yours the care To guard our rear from unexpected war.

He ceas'd: and breathing courage man to man, Three fierce affaults the Chriftian powers began. Then hoary Aladine, with cares decay'd, In arms, long fince difus'd, his limbs array'd; Trembling with feeble feet and tottering frame, The aged king oppos'd to Raymond came. Stern Solyman for Godfrey ftood prepar'd; And fierce Argantes good Camillus dar'd. Here Tancred, led by fate, approach'd the wall, Where by his arms his daring foe might fall.

The ready archers now their bows apply; In deadly poifon drench'd their arrows fly; The face of heaven is all in darknefs loft, Such clouds of weapons iffue from the hoft.

With greater force the mural engines pour 468 Their fudden vengeance in a mingled fhower. Hence, fheath'd with iron, javelins huge are thrown; Hence rocky fragments thunder on the town. Not in the wound the javelins lofe their force, But furious hold their unremitted courfe; Refiftlefs here their bloody entrance find, And iffuing there, leave cruel death behind! Where'er the ftones alight, with dreadful fway Through men and arms they force their horrid way; Sweep life before 'em, crufh the human frame, And hide at once the figure and the name!

Still unappall'd the Pagan troops remain, And boldly ftill the bold affault fuftain : Already had they fpread with heedful care Their woolly fences 'gainft the threatening war; And where expos'd the thickeft ranks they 'fpy, With miffile weapons fend a fierce reply: Yet undifmay'd the brave affailants prefs, Nor from the threefold charge, intrepid, ceafe. Some under vaft machines fecurely move, While ftorms of arrows hifs in vain above. Some wheel th' enormous engines near the foes: The Syrians, from the walls, th' attempt oppofe.

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Each ready tower to launch its bridge effays; Its iron head each ram inceffant plays.

Meanwhile in generous doubt Rinaldo ftands, No vulgar deeds his glorious arm demands : He rolls his ardent eyes; his thoughts afpire To tempt the pafs from which the reft retire. Then to the warriors, late by Dudon led, Th' intrepid hero turn'd, and thus he faid :

O fhame to fight! while here our fquadrons prefs, Behold yon fortrefs ftill remains in peace! No perils e'er can brave defigns control, All deeds are open to the dauntlefs foul. Hafte, let us thither march, and 'gainft the foes A fure defence, with lifted fhields, oppofe.

He fpoke: The warriors with one foul obey'd, And o'er their heads extend an ample fhade, The bucklers join'd fecur'd the moving train, While from on high the ruins roll in vain. Now to the walls they came: with eager hafte A fcaling-ladder bold Rinaldo plac'd; A hundred fteps it bore, the hero's hand Aloft with eafe th' enormous weight fuftain'd. Spears, beams, and rafters from the ramparts pour; Dauntlefs he mounts amid the ponderous fhower:

Nor toils nor death the daring youth could dread, 516 Though pendent rocks had nodded o'er his head. His ample shield receiv'd a feather'd wood; His back fuftain'd a falling mountain's load: This arm the bulwarks shook; and that before His towering front the fencing buckler bore. His great example every warrior fir'd; Each gallant chief to scale the works aspir'd. But various fates they prove : fome headlong fall; And fome are flaughter'd ere they mount the wall; While he, afcending ftill, fecurely goes, His friends encourages, and threats his foes. The thronging numbers, with collected might, Attempt in vain to hurl him from his height : Still in th' unequal combat firm he ftands, And bears alone th' united furious bands. And now his fword the fpacious rampart clears, And frees the paffage for his brave compeers. To one the hero gave a wish'd relief,-(Eustatius, brother to the pious chief) With ready hand he ftopp'd his fatal fall, And friendly guarded while he gain'd the wall. The Christian leader, on a different fide, With various perils various fortune try'd : .

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Nor men with men alone the combat fought, 540 There pile with pile, with engine engine, fought. Above the walls a trunk the Syrians raife; (A veffel's towering maft in ancient days) To this athwart a maffy beam fulpend; Thick iron plates the folid head defend: This with ftrong cables back the Pagans drew, Then, fwift recoiling, on the tower it flew. The yielding timbers with the fury fhook, The joint gave way before the frequent ftroke : But foon the tower its needful arms fupplies : Two fcythes prepar'd are rais'd of mighty fize, That, clofing, with their fharpen'd edge divide The twifted cords to which the beam is ty'd. As, loos'd by time, or by rude tempefts torn, A rock's huge fragment from a mountain borne, Impetuous whirling down the craggy fteeps, Woods, cots, and herds before its fury fweeps: So drew the dreadful engine, in its fall, Arms, men, and ruins, from the fhatter'd wall. The tower's vaft fummit nodded from on high, The bulwarks tremble, and the hills reply!

Victorious Godfrey now, advancing on, Already deem'd the hoftile ramparts won:

When from the foes, with roaring thunders, broke Whirlwinds of flame and deluges of fmoke! 565 Not Ætna from her raging womb expires Such pois'nous ftreams and fuffocating fires; Not fuch dire fumes the clime of India yields, When noxious vapours taint her fultry fields. Thick fulphur pours and burning javelins fly; Dark clouds arife, and intercept the fky. The tower's ftrong planks the fcorching mifchief meet; The moiften'd hides now fhrivel in the heat : Around afcends a black and fanguine flame, And the laft ruin threats the mighty frame.

Before the reft the glorious leader ftood, With looks unchang'd the growing danger view'd, And on the pile commands his troops to pour The cooling waters in a copious fhower. Now deep diffrefs the troubled hoft affails; The fire increafes, and the water fails; When from the north a fudden wind arofe, And turn'd the raging flames againft the foes: The blazing fury on the Pagans falls, Where numerous works were rais'd to guard the walls. The light materials catch! the fparks afpire; And all their fences crackle in the fire.

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O favour'd chief! the Almighty's care approv'd: 588 By him defended, and by him belov'd: Heaven in thy caufe auxiliar arms fupplies, And at thy trumpet's call the winds obedient rife!

But dire Ifmeno, who the flames beheld By Boreas' breath against himself repell'd, Refolv'd once more to prove his impious skill, And force the laws of nature to his will. With two magicians, that his arts purfue, The dreadful forcerer towers in open view: Black, fqualid, foul! he rifes o'er the bands : So'twixt two furies Dis or Charon stands. And now the murmuring of the words was heard By Phlegethon and deep Cocytus fear'd: Already now the air difturb'd was feen, The fun with clouds obfcur'd his face ferene : When from an engine flew with hideous fhock, A ponderous ftone, the fragment of a rock, Through all the three^c its horrid paffage tore, Crash'd every bone, and drench'd their limbs in gore:

^c Through all the three —] Though the particular character of Itmeno is entirely the invention of the poet, yet hiftory relates the death of certain magicians, that had placed themfelves on the walls of Jerufalem, in order to oppose the machines of the Christians.

With groans the finful fpirits take their flight 608 From the pure air and feats of upper light, And feek th' infernal fhades of endlefs pain: O mortals! hence from impious deeds refrain.

At length the tower, preferv'd from threaten'd flame By friendly winds, more near the ramparts came; Now, from the midft, the bridge was feen to fall, And now was fix'd upon the lofty wall: But thither Solyman intrepid flies, And there to cut the bridge his falchion tries : Nor had he tried in vain, but, fudden rear'd, Another tower upon the first appear'd : Above the loftieft spires was feen on high The wondrous fabric rifing to the fky. Struck with the fight th' aftonish'd Pagans stood, While far beneath the pile the town they view'd. But still the fearless Turk his post maintain'd, Though on his head a rocky tempeft rain'd; Nor yet defpairs to part the bridge, and loud, With threats and cries, incites the timorous crowd.

To Godfrey then⁴, unfeen by vulgar eyes, Appear'd th' Archangel Michael from the fkies,

^d To Godfrey then,-] This fiction feems to be taken from miracles recorded in the hiftory of the crufade. The archbithop

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In glorious panoply, divinely bright, More dazzling than the fun's unclouded light.

Lo! Godfrey (he began) the hour at hand To free from bondage Sion's hallow'd land: Decline not then to earth thy looks difmay'd: Behold where Heaven affifts with heavenly aid! I now remove the film, and teach thy fight To bear the prefence of the fons of light. The fouls of thofe, now heavenly beings, view, That champions once for CHRIST their weapons drew : With thee they fight, with thee they come to fhare The glorious triumph of the facred war. There, where thou feeft the duft and fmoke on high In mingled waves, where heaps of ruin lie, There, wrapt in darknefs, Hugo holds his place, And heaves the bulwark from its loweft bafe.

of Tiro relates, that the Chriftians being engaged with the Infidels, and nearly defeated, a foldier was feen to defeend from Mount Olivet, bearing a fhield of wonderful luftre, who encouraged the Chriftians to renew the battle with double vigour, and immediately difappeared. It was likewife faid, that, at the fiege of Antioch, Pyrrhus, a Turk, faw an infinite army of foldiers on white horfes, with white arms and veftments, who fought on the fide of the Chriftians. These afterwards difappeared, and were fupposed to be angels and the fouls of the bleffed, fent from God to fuecour the Chriftians.

2

See! Dudon, arm'd againft the northern towers, 646 With fire and fword celeftial vengeance pours. Yon facred form that on the mount appears, Who folemn robes with wreaths of priefthood wears, Is Ademar[°]; a faint confefs'd he ftands; See! ftill he follows, bleffes ftill the bands. But higher raife thy looks, behold in air Where all the powers of heaven combin'd appear.

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The hero rais'd his eyes, and faw above A countlefs army of celeftials move. Three fquadrons rang'd' the wondrous force difplay'd, Three fulgent circles every fquadron made,

^c Is Ademar;—] The archbishop of Tiro gives the following extraordinary account. "That day Ademar, bishop of Poggio, a man of exemplary virtue and piety, who loss his life near Antioch, was seen by numbers in the holy city: and numbers, whose testimony is worthy of credit, affirmed that they faw him among the first to scale the walls, and inciting others to enter the town." All these traditions were authority sufficient for the beautiful machine with which Tasso has adorned his poem; the whole passage of which is taken from the sublime fiction of Virgil, in the 2d Æneid, where Æneas sees the gods of Greece engaged in the destruction of his native city.

^f Three fquadrons rang'd—] The Italian commentator explains thefe to mean the three celeftial hierarchies, each divided into three orders: the first, feraphim, cherubim, and thrones; the fecond, dominations, principalities, and powers; the third, virtues, angels, and archangels. This opinion is according to

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JERUSALEM BOOK XVIII.

Orb within orb; by just degrees they role, 658 And nine bright ranks the heavenly host compose^{*}.

St. Gregory and St. Bernard, from which other authors havediffered.

5 Orb within orh; by just degrees they rose,

And nine bright ranks the heavenly hoft compose.] Some theologists have faid that these circles diminished till they came to an indivisible point, wherein was centered the effence of Divinity. This abstructe and whimfical doctrine is mentioned by Dante, which passage may not be unpleasing to the curious reader; where he speaks of these nine choirs or orders in the following manner.

Un punto vidi, che raggiava lume

Acuto sì, che'l vifo ch'egli affoca,

Chiuder conviensi per lo forta acume :

Diftante intorno al punto un cerchio d'igne

Si girava fi ratto, ch' avria vinto

Quel moto che piu tofto il mondo cigne,

E questro era d'un altro circoncinto

E quel del terzo e'l terzo poi dal quarto

Dal quinto il quarto, e poi dal festo il quinto

Sovra feguia il fettimo fi fparto

Già di larghezza che'l mezzo di Giuno Intero a contenerlo farebbe arto.

Cofi l'ottavo, e'l nono: e ciafcheduno Più tardo fi movea, fecondo ch'era, In numero diftante, più da l'uno.

PARADISO, Canto XXVIII.

BOOK XVIII.

DELIVERED.

His fense no more fustain'd the blaze of light, 660 And all the vision vanish'd from his fight. Then round the plain his martial bands he 'fpy'd, And faw how conquest smil'd on every fide. With brave Rinaldo numbers fcale the wall; Before his arms in heaps the Syrians fall: No longer Godfrey then his zeal reftrain'd, But fnatch'd the ftandard from Alfiero's hand; And, rushing o'er the bridge, the passage try'd. The furious Turk all paffage there deny'd: A little fpace is now the glorious field Where valour's deeds a great example yield! Here let me nobly fall! (the Pagan cries) Be glory mine, let life the vulgar prize. O burft the bridge ! and me alone expose; I shall not meanly fink beneath the foes. - But now he fees th' affrighted numbers fly, And now beholds the dread Rinaldo nigh: What fhould I do? (the wavering Soldan faid) If here I fall, in vain my blood is fhed. Then, other fchemes revolving in his mind, He flowly to the chief the pafs refign'd, Who threatening follow'd, with impetuous hafte, And on the wall the holy ftandard plac'd.

JERUSALEM BOO

BOOK XVIII.

The conquering banner, to the breeze unroll'd, 684 Redundant ftreams in many a waving fold: The winds with awe confefs the heavenly fign, With purer beams the day appears to fhine: The fwords feem bid to turn their points away, And darts around it innocently play: The facred mount the purple crofs adores, And Sion owns it from her topmoft towers.

Then all the fquadrons rais'd a fhouting cry, The loud acclaim of joyful victory! From man to man the clamour pours around: The diftant hills re-echo to the found. And now, incens'd, impatient of delay, Againft Argantes Tancred forc'd his way; At once he launch'd his bridge, the paffage made, And ftraight his ftandard on the walls difplay'd.

But tow'rds the fouth where aged Raymond fought, And 'gainft the Pagan king his forces brought; There deeper toil engag'd the Chriftian power, There rocky paths delay'd the cumbrous tower. At length th' affailants and defenders hear The echoing fhouts of conquefts from afar. To Aladine and Raymond foon 'tis known, That tow'rds the plain are Sion's ramparts won :

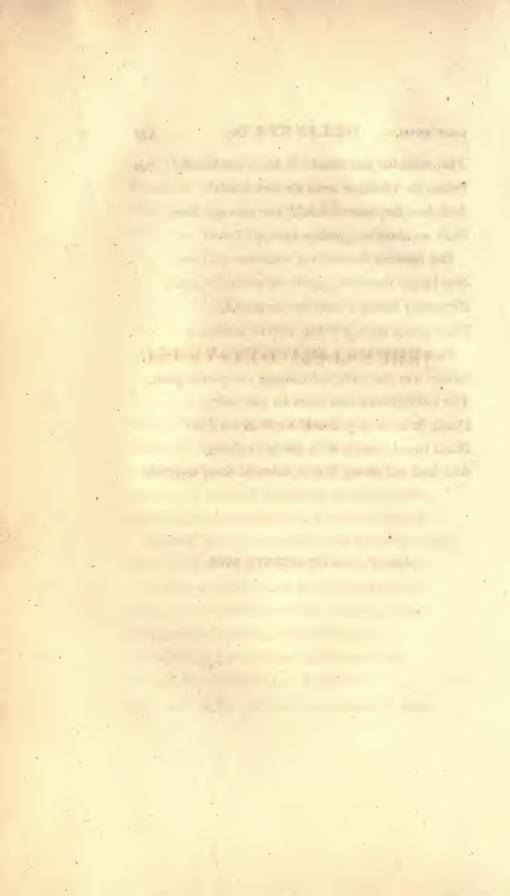
Then thus the earl aloud—O hear, my friends! 708 Before the Chriftian arms the city bends! And does fhe, when fubdu'd, our courage dare? Shall we alone no glorious triumph fhare?

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But foon the Syrian king withdrew his force, Nor longer ftrove to oppose the victor's course; Retreating thence a lofty fort he gain'd, From which he hop'd their fury to withstand.

Now all the conquering bands, oppos'd no more, Swarm o'er the walls and through the portals pour. The thirfty fword now rages far and wide, Death ftalks with grief and terror at his fide : Blood runs in rivers, or in pools o'erflows, And dead and dying, heap'd, a horrid fcene compose!

END OF THE EIGHTEENTH BOOK.



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THE ARGUMENT.

TANCRED and Argantes retire together from the walls, and engage in fingle combat: after an obfinate defence, the latter is flain; and Tancred himfelf, weakened by the lofs of blood, falls into a fwoon. In the mean time Rinaldo purfues the Infidels, and compels many of them to take refuge in Solomon's temple. Rinaldo at length burfting open the gate, the Chriftian troops enter, and make a terrible flaughter. Solyman and Aladine fortify themfelves in David's tower. Solyman defends the pass with great intrepidity, but at last retires within the fort at the appearance of Godfrey and Rinaldo. Night puts an end to the operations on both fides. Vafrino enters the Egyptian camp, where he meets with Erminia. In their way to the Christian tents, they find Tancred in appearance dead : Erminia's lamentation ; fhe recovers Tancred from his fwoon, and, at his defire, he is conveyed with the body of Argantes to the city. Vafrino gives an account to Godfrey of the discoveries he has made; upon which the general determines to hold his army in readine's to encounter the Egyptian forces.

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BOOK XIX.

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Shine weite them first with (position my rothers;

Now wide-deftroying death, or pale affright, Remov'd the Pagans from their ramparts' height: T Alone, ftill fix'd to triumph or to fall, Argantes turns not from th' abandon'd wall; Secure he ftands, his front undaunted fhows, And fingly combats midft a hoft of foes: Far more than death he dreads a fullied name, And, if he dies, would clofe his days with fame.

Before the reft intrepid Tancred flies, And lifts his falchion, and the chief defies : Well, by his mien and arms confefs'd to view, His plighted foe the fierce Argantes knew. Thus doft thou, Tancred! keep thy faith? (he cry'd) Late art thou come our battle to decide :

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We meet not here as heroes heroes dare; 15 Thou com'ft a bafe artificer of war! Thofe engines are thy guard, thofe troops thy fhield; Thou bring'ft ftrange weapons to difgrace the field! Yet hope not from this hand, in dreadful ftrife, (Thou woman's murderer!) now to 'fcape with life!

He faid; and Tancred, finiling with difdain, In words indignant thus reply'd again. Late am I come?—Supprefs thy fenfelefs fcorn; Soon fhalt thou find too fpeedy my return; When thou fhalt wifh, to eafe thy doubtful foul, That 'twixt us Alps might rife, or oceans roll; And know, by fatal proof too well difplay'd, Nor fear detain'd my arms, nor floth delay'd. Come, glorious chief! thou terror of the plain, By whom are heroes quell'd and giants flain! With me retire, and prove thy boafted might, The woman's murderer dares thee to the fight!

Then to his troops—Withhold your wrathful hands, This warrior now my fword alone demands; No common foe; by challenge him I claim; By former promife mine, and mine by fame.

Defcend (again the proud Circaffian cry'd) Or fingly, or with aid, the caufe decide:

The place frequented or the defert try; With every odds thy prowefs I defy!

The ftern convention made, at once they move, With mutual ire, the dreadful fight to prove. Already Tancred hopes the glorious ftrife, And burns with zeal to take the Pagan's life: He claims him wholly, all his blood demands, And envies even a drop to vulgar hands. He fpreads his shield, forbids the threatening blow, And guards from darts and fpears his mighty foe. They leave the walls, impatient of delay, And through a winding path purfue their way. At length, amid furrounding hills, they view'd A narrow valley, black with fhady wood; That feem'd a fylvan theatre, defign'd For chace or combat with the favage-kind. Here both the warriors ftopp'd; when penfive grown, Argantes turn'd to view the fuffering town. Tancred, who faw his foe no buckler wield, Straight caft his own at diftance on the field; Then thus began - What means this fudden gloom? Think'ft thou, at last, thy destin'd hour is come? If fuch foreboding thoughts a doubt create, Too late thy prescience, and thy fears too late.

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Yon city fills my mind (the chief reply'd) The queen of nations, and Judea's pride, That vanquifh'd now muft fall, while I in vain Attempt her finking ruins to fuftain : How poor a vengeance can thy life afford, Thy life by Heaven devoted to my fword!

He ceas'd; then wary each to combat drew: For each his adverse champion's valour knew. Tancred was light, his joints were firmly knit, Swift were his hands, and ready were his feet. Argantes tower'd superior by the head, With larger limbs, with shoulders broader spread. Now Tancred wheels, now bends to elude the so, Now, with his fword, averts th' impending blow. But high, erect, the bold Argantes stood, And equal art, with different action, show'd: Now here, now there, impetuous from above, Against the prince the brandish'd steel he drove. That, on his art and courage most relies; This, on his mighty ftrength and giant fize.

Two veffels thus their naval ftrife maintain, When no rude wind difturbs the watery plain: Their bulk though different, equal is the fight, In fwiftnefs one, and one excels in height.

But while the Chriftian feeks to reach the foe, And fhuns the fword that feems to threat the blow, Full at his face the point Argantes fhook; Then fwift, as Tancred turn'd to ward the ftroke, He pierc'd his flank, and, loud exulting, faid: Behold the crafty now by craft betray'd!

With rage and fhame indignant Tancred burn'd, And all his thoughts to glorious vengeance turn'd; Then with his falchion to the boaft replies, Where to his aim the vizor open lies. Argantes breaks the blow: with fhorten'd fword On him intrepid rufh'd the Chriftian lord: The Pagan's better hand he feiz'd, and dy'd With many a ghaftly wound his bleeding fide, Receive this anfwer (loud the hero cries) The vanquifh'd to his victor thus replies!

The fierce Circaffian foams with rage and pain, But ftrives to free his captive arm in vain : At length, dependent from the chain^a, he leaves The trufty falchion, and his hand reprieves. Each other now in rude embrace they prefs'd, Arms lock'd in arms, and breaft oppos'd to breaft.

a — from the chain,] In Ariofto it is frequently mentioned, that the fword was fastened to the wrift by a chain, though this is the only passage where such a custom is alluded to by Tasso.

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BOOK XIX.

Not with more vigour, on the fandy field, 109 Great Hercules the mighty giant held. Such is their conflict, fo the warriors ftrain, Till both together, fidelong, prefs the plain, Argantes, as he fell, by chance or fkill, Bore high his better arm releas'd at will: But Tancred's hand, that fhould the weapon wield, Was held beneath him prifoner on the field. Full well the Frank th' unequal peril view'd, And, foon recovering, on his feet he ftood.

More flow the Saracen the ground forfook, And, ere he rofe, receiv'd a fudden ftroke. But as the pine, whofe leafy fummit bends To Eurus' blaft, at once again ascends: So from his fall arofe the Pagan knight With equal wrath and unabated might. Again, with flashing fwords, the war they wag'd: Now lefs of art and more of horror rag'd. From Tancred's wounds appear'd the trickling blood; But from Argantes pour'd a crimfon flood : Tancred full foon his feeble arm beheld Slow and more flow the weighty falchion wield : All hatred then his generous breaft forfook, And, back retreating, mildly thus he fpoke. Yield, dauntless chief! enough thy worth is shown; Or me, or fortune, for thy victor own:

I alk no fpoils, no triumph from the fight, Nor to mylelf referve a conqueror's right.

At this with rage renew'd the Pagan burn'd: Use what thy fortune gives-(he fierce return'd) And dar'ft thou then from me the conquest claim ? Shall bafe conceffions ftain Argantes' fame ? Alike thy mercy and thy threats I prize; This arm shall yet thy fenseless pride chastife. As, near extinct, the torch new light acquires, Revives its flame, and in a blaze expires : So he, when fcarce the blood maintain'd its courfe, With kindled ire recruits his dying force; Refolv'd his last of days with fame to fpend, And crown his actions with a glorious end. Grafp'd in each hand, his vengeful fteel he took : In vain the Chriftian's fword oppos'd the ftroke : Full on his shoulder fell the deadly blade," Nor, deaden'd there, its eager fury ftay'd, But, glancing downward, deeply pierc'd his fide, And ftain'd his armour with a purple tide. Yet Tancred's looks nor doubt nor fear confess'd; For Nature's felf had fteel'd his dauntless breaft. A fecond stroke the haughty Pagan try'd; The wary Chriftian now his purpofe 'fpy'd, And flipt, elufive, from the steel aside.

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Then, fpent in empty air thy ftrength in vain, 160. Thou fall'ft, Argantes ! headlong on the plain : Thou fall'ft ! yet (unfubdu'd alike in all) None but thyfelf can boaft Argantes' fall !

Frefh ftream'd the blood from every gaping wound, And the red torrent delug'd all the ground: Yet on his arm and knee the furious knight His bulk fupported, and provok'd the fight. Again his hand the courteous victor ftay'd : Submit, O chief ! preferve thy life (he faid :) But, while he paus'd, the fierce infidious foe Full at his heel directs a treacherous blow, And threats aloud: Then flafh from Tancred's eyes The fparks of wrath, while thus the hero cries : And doft thou, wretch ! fuch bafe return afford For life fo long preferv'd from Tancred's fword ?

He faid; and as he fpoke, no more delay'd, But through his vizor plung'd th' avenging blade. Thus fell Argantes; as he liv'd he dy'd; Untam'd his foul, unconquer'd was his pride: Nor droop'd his fpirit at th' approach of death, But threats and rage employ'd his lateft breath.

Then Tancred in the fheath his fword beftow'd, And paid to God the thanks his conqueft ow'd:

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DELIVERED.

But dear his triumph has the victor coft : His fenfes fail, his wonted ftrength is loft. Again he ftrives to pafs the valley o'er, And tread the fteps his feet had trod before. Not far his tottering knees their load fuftain, His utmost ftrength he tries, but tries in vain. Now, laid on earth, his arm fupports his head, (His arm, that trembles like a feeble reed) Each object fwims before his giddy fight; The cheerful day feems chang'd to dufky night; He faints—he fwoons ! and fcarce to mortal eyes The victor differing from the vanquifh'd lies.

While thefe, inflam'd with private hate, engag'd, The wrathful Chriftians through the city rag'd. What tongue can tell the woes that then were known, And fpeak the horrors of a conquer'd town! Each part is fill'd with death, with blood defil'd; The ghaftly flain appear in mountains pil'd. There on th' unbury'd corfe the wounded fpread; The living here interr'd beneath the dead. With flowing hair pale mothers fly diftrefs'd, And clafp their harmlefs infants to the breaft: The fpoiler here, impell'd by thirft of prey, Bears on his laden back the fpoils away:

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BOOK XIX.

The foldier there, by luft ungovern'd fway'd, 203 Drags by her graceful locks th' affrighted maid.

But tow'rds the mountain where the temple flood, 'The bold Rinaldo drove the trembling crowd : Nor helm nor buckler could his force withftand; 'Th' unarm'd alone efcap'd his vengeful hand. He fought the brave, but fcorn'd with great difdain To wreak his fury on a helplefs train. Then might you wondrous deeds of valour view, How thefe he threatening chac'd, and thofe he flew; How with unequal rifk, but equal fear, 'The arm'd and naked fugitives appear.

Already, mingled with th' ignobler band, A troop of warriors had the temple gain'd, That, oft o'erthrown, and oft confum'd by flame, Still bears its antient founder's glorious name. Great Solomon the flately fabric rear'd, Where marble, gold, and cedar once appear'd: Lefs coftly now; but 'gainft the hoftile powers Secur'd with iron gates, and guarded towers.

Rinaldo rais'd his threatening looks on high, And view'd the fortrefs with an angry eye: Now here, now there, he feeks fome pafs to meer, And twice furrounds it with his rapid feet.

So when a wolf, beneath the friendly shades, 232 With hopes of prey the peaceful fold invades; He traverfes the ground with fruitlefs pain, Licks his dry chaps, and thirfts for blood in vain. The chief now paus'd before the lofty gate, The Pagans, from above, th' encounter wait. While thus the hero ftood, by chance he 'fpies A beam befide him of enormous fize: (Whate'er the ufe defign'd) fo high, fo vaft, The largeft ship may claim it for a mast: This in his nervous arms aloft he fhook, And with repeated blows the portal ftruck : Not the ftrong ram with greater fury falls, Nor bombs more fiercely fhake the tottering walls: Nor fteel nor marble could the force oppofe; The fence gives way before the driving blows : The bars are burft, the founding hinges torn, And hurl'd to earth the batter'd gates are borne. Swift through the pafs, the victor to fuftain, Fierce as a torrent rufh th' exulting train.

Then, dire to fee! the dome devote to GoD, With carnage fwell'd, and pour'd a purple flood. O! facred juftice of th' Almighty, fhed, Tho' late, yet certain, on the guilty head !

JERUSALEM, BOOK XIX.

Thy awful providence now ftands confess'd, 256 And kindles wrath in every pious breaft. The Pagan with his blood must cleanse from stain Those facred fhrines which once he durft profane.

But Solyman, meanwhile, to David's tower a Retreated with the remnant of his power; His troops with fudden works the fort enclose, And ftop each entrance from th' invading foes, And Aladine the tyrant thither flies; To whom aloud th' intrepid Soldan cries.

Come, mighty monarch! hafte! the fortress gain, Whofe ftrength shall yet preferve thy threaten'd reign; Here may'ft thou ftill defend thy life, fecur'd From the dire fury of the wafting fword. Ah me! relentlefs fate (the king reply'd) O'erturns the city, levels all her pride !---My days are run-my empire now is o'er-I liv'd-I reign'd-but live and reign no more ! 'Tis paft !--we once have been! behold our doom-The laft, th' irrevocable hour is come !

To whom with generous warmth the Soldan faid : Where, prince ! is all thy antient virtue fled ?

² David's tower] The citadel of Jerufalem was fo called.

BOOK XIX.

DELIVERED.

Though of his realms by fortune difpoffefs'd, 278 A monarch's throne is feated in his breaft. But come, and, here fecur'd from hoftile rage, Refresh thy limbs decay'd with toils and age. Thus counfel'd he; and ftraight, with careful hafte, The hoary king within the bulwarks plac'd. Himfelf to guard the dangerous pass appear'd, With both his hands an iron mace he rear'd: He girt his trufty falchion to his fide, And all the forces of the Franks defy'd. On every part his thundering weapon flew, And these he overturn'd, and those he slew. All fled the guarded fort, with wild affright, Where'er they faw his mace's fury light. Now, led by fortune, with his dauntlefs train. The fearlefs Raymond rush'd the pass to gain : Against the Turk in vain he aim'd the blow; But not in vain return'd his haughty foe: Full in his front the reverend chief he found, And ftretch'd him pale and trembling on the ground.

Again the vanquish'd breathe, the victors fly, Or in the well-defended entrance die. The Soldan then, who, midst the vulgar dead, Beheld on earth the Christian leader spread,

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Incites his followers, with repeated cries, To drag within the works their proftrate prize.

All fpring to take him (a determin'd band) But toils and dangers their attempt withstand. What Chriftian can his Raymond's care forego? At once they fly to guard him from the foe, There rage, here piety, maintains the fight; No common caufe demands each warrior's might : For Raymond's life or freedom they contend; And those would feize the chief, and these defend. Yet had the Soldan's force at length prevail'd, For fhields and helms before his weapon fail'd; But fudden, to relieve the faithful band, A powerful aid appear'd on either hand; At once the chief of chiefs b, refiftlefs, came, And he', the foremost of the martial name.

As when loud winds arife, and thunders roll, And glancing lightnings gleam from pole to pole, The fhepherd-fwain, who fees the darkening air, Withdraws from open fields his fleecy care; And, thence retreating, to fome covert flies To fhun the fury of th' inclement fkies; And with his voice and crook his flock conftrains: Himfelf, behind them, laft forfakes the plains. · RINALDO.

GODFREY.

So the fierce Pagan, who the florm beheld, 326 That like a whirlwind fwept the dufty field, Who heard the fhouts of legions rend the air, And faw the flafh of armour from afar, Compell'd his troops within the fheltering tower; Himfelf, reluctant, from fuperior power Retires the laft, with unabated heat, In caution brave, intrepid in defeat.

Scarce were they enter'd, when, with headlong hafte, Rinaldo o'er the broken fences pass'd: Defire to vanquish one so fam'd in fight, His plighted vows the hero's foul excite : For still he keeps his folemn oath in view, To take the warrior's life who Sweno flew. Then had his matchlefs arm the walls affail'd, Then had their ftrength to fhield the Soldan fail'd: But here the general bade furcease the fight, For all th' horizon round was loft in night. There Godfrey straight encamp'd his martial train, Refolv'd at morn the hoftile fort to gain. Then cheerful thus his liftening hoft he warms : Th' Almighty favours now the Christian arms : At early dawn yon fortrefs shall be ours; The last weak refuge of the faithless powers.

BOOK XIX.

Meantime your thoughts to pious duties bend, 350 The fick to comfort, and the wounded tend. Go—pay the rites thofe gallant friends demand, Who purchas'd with their blood this fated land; This temper better fuits the Chriftian name, Than fouls with avarice or revenge on flame. Too much, alas! has flaughter ftain'd the day; Too much has luft of plunder borne the fway. Then ceafe from fpoil, each cruel deed forbear; And let the trumpet's found our will declare.

He faid; and went where, fcarce repriev'd from death, Still Raymond groan'd with new-recover'd breath. Nor Solyman lefs bold, his friends addrefs'd, While in his thought the chief his doubts fupprefs'd. O warriors! fcorn the change of fortune's power; Still cheerful hope maintains her blooming flower; Safe is your king, and fafe his chofen train; Thefe walls the nobleft of the realm contain. Then let the Franks their empty conqueft boaft; Swift fate impends o'er all th' exulting hoft : While rage and plunder every foul employ, And luft and murder are their favage joy : Amidft the mingled tumult fhall they fall, And one deftructive hour o'erwhelm them all;

If Egypt's troops, now haftening to our aid, 374 With numerous force their fcatter'd bands invade. From hence our miffile weapons can we pour, To whelm the city with a rocky fhower; And with our engines from afar defend The paths that to the fepulchre afcend.

While deeds like thefe were wrought, Vafrino goes; A trufty fpy, amidit a hoft of foes : The camp he left, his lonely way he took, What time the fun the weftern fky forfook; By Afcalon he pafs'd, ere yet the day Shed from his orient throne the golden ray: And when his car had reach'd the midmoft height, The hoftile camp appear'd in open fight. There, pitch'd around, unnumber'd tents he fees, Unnumber'd ftreamers waving to the breeze. Difcordant tongues affail his wondering ears; Timbrels and horns and barbarous notes, he hears. The elephant and camel mix their cries; The generous fteed, with fhriller found, replies. Surpris'd he fees fuch numerous forces join'd, Where Afia's realms and Afric's feem combin'd.

Now here, now there, his watchful looks he throws, And marks what different works the camp enclose;

BOOK XIX.

Nor feeks in unfrequented parts to lie; 308 Nor fhuns the observance of the public eye; But boldly to each high pavilion goes, And fearlefs communes with th' unconfcious foes : Wife were his queftions, well his anfwers made, And deepeft prudence all his actions fway'd. The warriors, fteeds, and arms, attract his view; Full foon each leader's rank and name he knew. At length, as wandering through the vale he went, Chance led his footsteps to the general's tent : There, while immers'd in deepeft thought he ftay'd, -His fearching eyes a friendly gap furvey'd; From this each voice within diffinct was heard, Through this reveal'd th' interior parts appear'd. There watch'd Vafrino, while he feem'd employ'd To mend the torn pavilion's opening fide.

Bare-headed there he faw the chief confefs'd, With limbs in armour fheath'd, and purple veft: Two pages bore his helmet and his fhield; His better hand a pointed javelin held; He view'd a warrior, who befide him ftood, Of limbs gigantic, and of femblance proud. Vafrino ftay'd, intent their words to hear, And fudden Godfrey's name affail'd his ear.

Think'ft thou (the leader thus the knight befpoke) That Godfrey fure shall fall beneath thy stroke?

Then he: He furely falls! and here I fwear Ne'er to return, but victor from the war. This hand my fellows' fwords fhall render vain; And let my deed this fole reward obtain; A glorious trophy of his arms to raife In Cairo's town, and thus inferibe my praife: "Thefe from the Chriftian chief, whofe force o'er-run "All Afia's lands, in battle Ormond won; "And fix'd them here, that future times might tell "How, by his prowefs vanquifh'd, Godfrey fell."

Think not our grateful king (the leader cries) Will view th' important act with thanklefs eyes : Full gladly will he yield to thy demand, And crown thy fervice with a bounteous hand. But now with fpeed the vefts and arms prepare ; The approaching day of combat claims thy care. All, all is now prepar'd—the knight reply'd : And here the converfe ceas'd on either fide.

Thus they: A ftranger to the hidden fenfe, The words Vafrino heard in deep fufpenfe; Oft-times debating, in his anxious mind, What arms were purpos'd, and what wiles defign'd.

BOOK XIX.

He parted thence, and fleeplefs pafs'd the night, 446 And watch'd impatient for the dawning light; But when the camp, as early morning fhin'd, Unfurl'd the waving banners to the wind, Mix'd with the reft he went, with thefe he ftay'd; And round from tent to tent uncertain ftray'd.

One day he came to where, in regal ftate, Amidft her knights and dames Armida fate : Penfive fhe feem'd, with various cares opprefs'd, A thousand thoughts revolving in her breast: On her fair hand her lovely cheek the plac'd, And prone to earth her ftarry eyes the caft, All moift with tears : Full opposite he faw Adrastus motionless with filent awe : Fix'd on her charms, he gaz'd with fond defire, And with the profpect fed his amorous fire. But Tifaphernes both by turns beheld, While different paffions in his bofom fwell'd: His changing looks a quick fucceffion prove, Now fir'd with hatred, now inflam'd with love. From thence Vafrino caft his fight afide, And midft the damfels Altamorus 'fpy'd; Who curb'd the licence of his roving eyes, Or fnatch'd his wary glances by furprife;

Her hand, her face, with fecret rapture view'd, 470 And oft, by ftealth, a fweeter fearch purfu'd, To explore the paffage where th' uncautious veft Reveal'd the beauties of her ivory breaft.

At length her downcaft looks Armida rears, While through her grief a transient fmile appears. O brave Adraftus! in thy glorious boaft, I feel (fhe cries) my former anguifh loft : And foon I truft a fweet revenge to find ; For fweet is vengeance to an injur'd mind.

To whom the Indian—Bid thy forrows ceafe, O royal fair ! compofe thy foul to peace. Doubt not to view (ere many days are fled) Caft at thy feet Rinaldo's impious head; Elfe fhall he come, if fo thy will ordains, To fervile dungeons, and eternal chains.

To Tifaphernes fmiling then fhe faid : And wilt not thou, O chief! Armida aid ?

It fuits not me (he taunting thus reply'd) With fuch a knight to combat fide by fide. But I more flow, in fields of battle new, Muft far behind thy champion's fteps purfue.

Sternly he faid; the word the monarch took, And ftraight incens'd with pride ungovern'd fpoke:

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'Tis thine, indeed, a diftant war to wage, Nor dare like me in nearer fight engage.

Then Tifaphernes fhook his haughty head : O were I mafter of this arm ! (he faid) Could I at will this faithful falchion wield, We foon fhould fee who beft could brave the field : Fierce as thou art, thy threats with foorn I hear ! Not thee, but Heaven and tyrant love, I fear.

He ceas'd : Adraftus ftern his force defy'd ; But here Armida interpos'd, and cry'd :

O warriors ! wherefore now, your promife vain, Will you fo foon refume your gift again ? My champions are ye both—let this fuffice To bind your jarring fouls in friendly ties : At my command, this rafh contention ceafe; He meets my anger first who wounds the peace.

Thus fhe : At once the rage their breaft forfook, And hearts difcordant bow'd beneath her yoke.

Vafrino, prefent, all their converfe knew, Then, penfive, from the lofty tent withdrew; He faw, though deeply yet in clouds enfhrin'd, Some treafon 'gainft the Chriftian chief defign'd: He queftion'd oft, refolv'd each means to try To bear the fecret thence, or bravely die.

In vain his fearch—till chance at length difplay'd 518 The treacherous fnares for pious Godfrey laid. Again he fought the tent, and viewed again The princefs feated midft her warrior train : Then near a damfel with familiar air He drew, and fportive thus addrefs'd the fair.

I too would gladly draw th' avenging blade, 'Th' elected champion of fome lovely maid: Perhaps this arm Rinaldo's felf may feel, Or Godfrey breathlefs fink beneath my fteel. Afk from this hand (to me that fervice owe) The head devoted of fome barbarous foe.

So fpoke the fquire; and fmiling as he fpoke, A virgin view'd him with attentive look: Sudden her eyes his well-known face confefs'd, Befide him foon fhe ftood, and thus addrefs'd.

From all the train I here thy fword demand, Nor afk ignoble fervice at thy hand: I choofe thee for my champion; hence retire, I now thy converfe, as my knight, require.

She faid; and drew him from the throng afide: I know thee well, Vafrino! (then fhe cry'd) Know'ft thou not me?—Confus'd the Chriftian ftood, Till with a finile he thus his fpeech renew'd.

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BOOK XIX.

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Ne'er have I feen thy charms, exalted fair, Nor is the name thou fpeak'ft the name I bear: Born on Biferta's fhore, my birth I claim From Lefbin', and Almanzor is my name.

Long have I known thee (thus the maid reply'd) Then feek no more in vain thyfelf to hide: Difinifs thy fear—thou feeft a faithful friend For thee prepar'd her deareft life to fpend. Behold Erminia! born of royal kind, And once with thee in Tancred's fervice join'd: Two happy moons, a blifsful captive there, I liv'd in peace beneath thy gentle care.

Then on her face he bent his earnest view, And foon the features of Erminia knew.

Reft on my faith fecure (the damfel cries) I here atteft the fun and confcious fkies! Ah! let me now thy pitying aid implore; Erminia to her former bonds reftore! In irkfome freedom fince my hours were led, Care fills my days, and flumber flies my bed. Com'ft thou the fecrets of the hoft to fpy? In happy time—on me thou may'ft rely: I fhall at full their purpos'd frauds explain, Which thou, perchance, had'ft long explor'd in vain-

BOOK XIX. DELIVERED.

Thus fhe; while doubtful ftill Vafrino mus'd In filent gaze, with various thoughts confus'd: He call'd Armida's former arts to mind: Woman's a changeful and loquacious kind: A thoufand fchemes their fickle hearts divide, Infenfate thofe that in the fex confide! At length he fpoke: If hence you feek to fly, Hafte, let us go—your trufty guide am I. Be this refolv'd—but let us yet beware, And further fpeech, till fitter time, forbear.

Thus having faid, they fix'd without delay, Before the troops decamp'd, to take their way. Vafrino parted thence; the cautious maid Awhile in converfe with the damfels ftay'd, Amus'd them with her champion lately gain'd, And with a plaufive tale each ear detain'd: Till at th' appointed time the fquire fhe join'd; Then mounts her fteed, and leaves the camp behind.

The Pagan tents were vanish'd from the view; And near an unfrequented place they drew; When bold Vafrino spoke—Now, courteous fair! The treason, fram'd for Godsrey's life, declare.

Eight knights (fhe cry'd) the dire adventure claim, But Ormond fierce excels the reft in fame:

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BOOK XIX.

Thefe, urg'd by hatred, or inflam'd with ire, 500 In murderous league against your chief conspire : Then hear their arts-what time on Syria's plain Th' embattled hoft contend for Afia's reign; These on their arms the purple Cross shall bear, Difguis'd as Franks in white and gold appear, Like Godfrey's guard, amid the mingled war. But on his helm, fhall each a fignal flow, Which, in the thickening fight, their friends may know. These shall the Christian leader's life pursue, And deadly venom shall their steel imbrue. 'To me 'twas given each false device to frame; Compell'd to act what now I loath to name! Hence from the camp I fly with just difdain, From the dire mandates of an impious train : I fcorn my thoughts with treafon to defile, To affift the traitor, and partake the guile. For this-yet nor for this alone, I fled-She, ceas'd; and ceafing blufh'd with rofy red: Declin'd to earth fhe held her modeft look, And half again recall'd what last fine spoke.

But what her virgin fcruples ftrove to hide, He fought to learn, and gently thus reply'd.

BOOK XIX. DELIVERED.

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Why wilt thou ftrive thy forrows to conceal, 613 Nor to my faithful ear thy cares reveal ? She breath'd a figh that inftant from her breaft, Then, with a faltering voice the fquire addrefs'd.

Farewell, ill-tim'd referve! no more I claim The modefty that fits a virgin's name. Such thoughts fhould long ere this my heart have

fway'd;

But ah! they fuit no more a wandering maid. That fatal night, my country's overthrow, When Antioch bow'd before the Christian foe; From that, alas! my following woes I date, The early fource of my difaftrous fate! Light was a kingdom's lofs, an empire's boaft, For with my regal state myself I lost. Thou know'ft, Vafrino! how I trembling ran, Midft heaps of plunder and my fubjects flain, To feek thy lord and mine, when, first in view, All fheath'd in arms he near my palace drew: Low at his feet I breath'd this humble prayer : Unconquer'd chief! a helplefs virgin hear! Not for my life I now thy mercy claim! But fave my honour, guard my fpotlefs fame! Ere yet I ceas'd, my hand the hero took, And rais'd me from the earth, and courteous fpoke:

BOOK XIX,

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O lovely maid! in vain thou fhalt not fue; In me thy friend, thy kind preferver, view. He faid; a fudden pleafure fill'd my breaft, A fweet fenfation every thought poffefs'd, That, deeply fpreading through my foul, became A wound incurable, a quenchlefs flame!

He faw me oft; he gently fhar'd my grief; With words of comfort gave my woes relief. To thee (he cry'd) thy freedom I refign; Nor aught of all thy treasures shall be mine. O cruel gift! O bounty vainly fhown! . For, giving me myfelf, myfelf he won! And while he thus reftor'd th' ignobler part, Usurp'd the fovereign empire o'er my heart. Alas! in vain I fought to hide my fhame-How oft with thee I dwelt on Tancred's name! Thou faw'ft the tokens of a mind diftrefs'd, And faid'ft-Erminia! love difturbs thy breaft. Still I deny'd, but ftill deny'd in vain: My locks, my fighs, reveal'd my fecret pain. At length, refolv'd my wifhes to purfue, Love all refpect of fear and fhame o'erthrew. To feek my lord I went, in luckless hour : (He gave the wound, and he alone could cure.)

BOOK XIX.

DELIVERED.

But lo! new dangers in my way I met, A band of barbarous foes my fteps befet : From these I scarce with life and freedom fled : Thence to the diftant woods my courfe I fped; There choose with shepherd-swains retir'd to dwell. A humble tenant of the lonely cell. But when my flame, awhile by fear fupprefs'd, Once more, returning, kindled in my breaft; Again I fought the paths I fought before; Again was crofs'd by fickle Fortune's power : A troop of fpoilers in my way I found; (Egyptian forces, and to Gaza bound) Me to their chief they led: with gentle ear Their chief vouchsaf'd my mournful tale to hear: So was my virtue fafe preferv'd from stain, Till plac'd in fafety with Armida's train. Behold me thus (fo changing fate decreed) Now made a captive, now from bondage freed : Yet thus enflav'd, and thus releas'd again, I still am held in fond affection's chain. O thou! for whom fuch foft diftrefs I prove, Repulse not with difdain my proffer'd love; But to a maid a kind reception give, And to her bonds a wretch forlorn receive.

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BOOK XIX.

Thus spoke Erminia. All the night and day 685 They journey'd on, and commun'd on their way. Vafrino shunn'd the beaten track, and held His courfe through fhorter paths, and ways conceal'd. Now near the town they came at evening light, What time the fhade foretold th' approach of night: When here they faw the ground diftain'd with blood, And, ftretch'd on earth, a flaughter'd warrior view'd: His face was upward turn'd, with dauntlefs air, His afpect menac'd, ev'n in death fevere. In him, as near the fquire attentive drew, Some Pagan warrior by his arms he knew. Not far from thence another prone was feen, His garb was different, different was his mien. Behold fome Chriftian there (Vafrino faid) Then mark'd his well known veft with looks difmay'd; I-le quits his fteed, the features views, and cries-Ah me! here flain unhappy Tancred lies!

Meanwhile th' ill-fated maid behind him ftood, And with attentive gaze the Pagan view'd: But foon her ear the cruel founds confefs'd, As if a fhaft had pierc'd her tender breaft. At Tancred's name fhe ftarts in wild defpair, No bounds can now reftrain th' unhappy fair:

BOOK XIX. DELI

DELIVERED.

She fees his face with palenefs all o'erfpread, She leaps, fhe flies impetuous from her fteed; Low-bending o'er him, forth her forrow breaks; And thus, with interrupted words, fhe fpeaks.

Was I for this, by fortune here convey'd ? O dreadful object to a love-fick maid! Long have I fought thee with unweary'd pain, Again I fee thee :---yet I fee in vain! Tancred no more Erminia prefent views; And, finding Tancred, I my Tancred lofe! Ah me!-and did I think thou e'er fhould'ft prove A fight ungrateful to Erminia's love? Now could I wish to quench the beams of light, And hide each object in eternal night! Alas! where now are all thy graces fled! Where are those eyes that once fuch luftre fhed! Where are those cheeks, replete with crimfon glow! Where all the beauties of thy manly brow ! But fenfeless thus and pale thou still canft please! If yet thy gentle foul my forrow fees, Yet views, not wholly fled, my fond defires, Permit th' embolden'd theft which love infpires : Give me (fince fate denies a further blifs) From thy cold lips to fnatch a parting kifs:

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BOOK XIX,

Those lips from which such so that for the second second

She faid; her bofom fwell'd with labouring fighs, And briny torrents trickled from her eyes. At this the knight, who feem'd of fenfe depriv'd, Wafh'd with her tears, by flow degrees reviv'd; A figh he mingled with the virgin's fighs; He figh'd, but rais'd not yet his languid eyes. His breath, returning, foon the dame perceiv'd; A dawn of hope her fainting foul reliev'd. See, Tancred! fee! (exclaim'd the tender maid) The mournful rites by dear affection paid. Behold I come, thy fortune to divide— Thus will I fink, thus perifh by thy fide! Yet, yet awhile thy fleeting life retain— O! hear my laft requeft, nor hear in vain!

Then Tancred ftrove to view the cheerful light, But foon again withdrew his fwimming fight: Again Erminia vents her tears and fighs; Again fhe mourns—Forbear! (Vafrino cries)

DELIVERED.

BOOK XIX.

Still, ftill he breathes, be then our care effay'd 757 To heal the living ere we weep the dead.

He straight difarms the chief, she trembling stands, And to the office lends her friendly hands; Then views the hero's wounds with skilful eyes, And feels new hopes within her bosom rife: But midst those deferts nought the fair can find, Nought but her flender veil, his wounds to bind : Yet love, inventive, every fcheme ran o'er; Love taught her various arts untry'd before, Her locks fhe cut, with thefe fhe gently dry'd The clotted blood; the bandage thefe fupply'd. Though there nor dittany nor crocus grew, Yet different herbs of lenient power she knew. Already now, his mortal fleep difpell'd, The languid prince again his eyes unfeal'd: He view'd his fquire, he faw th' attending maid In foreign vefture clad, and faintly faid; From whence, Vafrino! doft thou hither ftray? And who art thou, my kind preferver! fay? She doubtful ftill, 'twixt joy and forrow, fighs; Then blushes rofy red, and thus replies: All fhalt thou know; but now from converse cease: Hear my commands, and calm thy thoughts to peace.

BOOK XIX,

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I, your phyfician, will your health reftore : Be grateful for my care—I aik no more.

Then in her lap his head fhe gently laid : In anxious doubt awhile Vafrino ftay'd, How to the camp his wounded lord to bear, Ere dewy night advanc'd to chill the air: When fudden near a band of warriors drew, And foon his eyes the troops of Tancred knew ; Who hither came, by happy fortune brought, As fill'd with fear their abfent chief they fought. These rais'd th' enfeebled hero from the field, And gently in their faithful arms upheld. Then Tancred thus :- Shall brave Argantes flain Be left, a prey to vultures, on the plain? Ah no!-forbid it, Heaven! nor let him lofe A foldier's honours, or fepulchral dues. I wage no battle with the filent dead; In fight the glorious debt he boldly paid : Then on his worth the rightful praise beftow; 'Tis all the living to the lifelefs owe.

So he. Obsequious to their lord's command, His breathless foe they rear'd from off the land. Behind they bore him, while with guardian care Vafrino rode befide the royal fair.

BOOK XIX. DELIVERED.

Then fpoke the prince, as thus they journey'd on: sos Seek not my tents, but feek th' imperial town : What chance foe'er this mortal frame fhall meet, There let me find it in that holy feat : From thence, where CHR IST a prey to death was given, My foul may wing her readier flight to heaven : So fhall I then my pilgrimage have made; And the laft vows of my devotion paid.

He faid: to Sion's walls the train addrefs'd Their ready courfe: There foon the warrior prefs'd The welcome couch, and funk to gentle reft. And now Vafrino for the virgin-fair A fecret place provides with filent care : That done, to Godfrey's fight with fpeed he goes; And enters boldly, (none his fteps oppofe) Where fate the leader, bending o'er the bed On which the wounded Raymond's limbs were fpread; And round their prince (a great affembly !) ftand The beft, the wifeft, of the Chriftian band. All gaz'd in filence, with attentive look, While thus Vafrino to the general fpoke.

O facred chief! thy high commands obey'd, I fought the faithlefs crew, their camp furvey'd.

BOOK XIX.

But here my fkill, to tell their number, fails; 826 I faw them hide the mountains, fields, and vales : Their thirft the copious ftreams and fountains dries ; And Syria's harveft fcarce their food fupplies. But many a troop of horfe and foot, in vain, Unfkill'd in battle, load th' encumber'd plain : Nor order thefe obey, nor fignals hear, Nor draw the fword, but wage a diftant war : Yet fome are forces prov'd, not new to fame, Who once beneath the Perfian ftandards came : But chief o'er all thofe mighty warriors ftand, Th' Immortal Squadron call'd, the Monarch's chofen

band.

The ranks unthinn'd no flaughter can deface; Still, as one falls, another fills his place. Brave Emirenes leads the numerous hoft; And few can equal fkill or courage boaft; And him, in every art of battle fkill'd, The Caliph trufts to draw thee to the field. Ere twice returning morn the day renew, Expect to find th' Egyptian camp in view. But thou, Rinaldo! moft thy life defend; For which, ere long, fuch warriors fhall contend: For this the nobleft champions wield their arms; With rival hate each breaft Armida warms:

BOOK XIX. DELIVERED.

For with her beauty fhall his deed be paid, Who from the battle brings thy forfeit head. Midft thefe, the noble chief from Perfia's lands, Samarcand's monarch, Altamorus ftands. Adraftus there is feen, of giant fize, Whofe kingdom near Aurora's confines lies: No common courfer in the field he reins; His bulk a towering elephant fuftains. There Tifaphernes boafts his glorious name, Who bears in hardy deeds the foremoft fame.

Thus he; Rinaldo, fill'd with generous ire, Darts from his ardent eyes the fparkling fire: He burns with noble zeal to meet the foes, And all his foul with martial ardour glows.

Then to the chief the fquire his fpeech renew'd: Yet more remains to fpeak (he thus purfu'd); For thee the Pagans deeper wiles prepare; For thee has treafon fpread its blackeft fnare. He faid; and to the liftening peers explain'd The fatal purpofe of th' infidious band; Fierce Ormond's boaft and proud demand difclos'd, And all the murderous fraud at full expos'd.

Much was he afk'd; and much again reply'd: Short filence then enfu'd on every fide.

BOOK XIX.

At length the leader, loft in various thought, 876 From hoary Raymond's wifdom counfel fought.

Then he: Attend my words—at morning hour, With forces deep enclofe yon hoftile tower; And let the troops awhile recruit their might, And rouze their vigour for a greater fight. Thou, as fhall beft befeem, O chief! prepare, For open action, or for covert war. Yet this I moft o'er every care commend, In every chance thy valu'd life defend : Thou giv'ft fuccefs to crown our favour'd hoft; And who fhall guide our arms, if thou art loft? That all the Pagan fraud may ftand confefs'd, Command thy guard to change their wonted veft: So fhall the traitors through the field be known. And on their heads their impious treafon thrown.

O ftill the fame! (the leader thus replies) Thou fpeak'ft the friend, and all thy words are wife! Now hear the purpofe in our thoughts decreed : Againft the foe our battle will we lead : In walls or trenches ne'er fhall bafely reft A camp triumphant o'er the fpacious eaft! 'Tis ours to meet yon barbarous troops in fight, And prove our former worth in open light.

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BOOK XIX. DELIVERED. 289

Before our fwords fhall fly the trembling train: 900 Thus fhall we firmly fix our future reign: The tower fhall foon our ftronger force obey, And, unfupported, yield an eafy prey.

He ceas'd; and to his tent his fteps addrefs'd; • For now the finking ftars invite to reft.

END OF THE NINETEENTH BOOK.

VOL. II.



JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

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THE ARGUMENT.

THE Egyptian army arrives; the generals, on both fides, prepare for the battle. The fpeeches of Godfrey and Emirenes. The Chriftians make the onfet: Gildippe fignalizes herfelf and engages Altamorus, who had made great havock of the Chriftians. Ormond is killed by Godfrey, and his affociates are all cut to pieces. Rinaldo attacks the Moors and Arabs, and defeats them with great flaughter: He paffes by Armida's chariot; her behaviour on that occasion. Solyman, from the tower, takes a prospect of the battle, and, fired with emulation, leaves his fortrefs: Aladine, and the reft of the Pagans, accompany him. Raymond is felled to the ground by Solyman, but . Tancred, hearing the tumult, iffues from the place where he lay ill of his wounds, and defends him from the enemy. Aladine is flain by Raymond. The Soldan, having forced his way through the Syrians and Gafcons that furrounded the tower, enters the field of battle. The deaths of Edward and Gildippe. Adrastus is killed by Rinaldo, and Solyman falls by the fame hand. Emirenes endeavours, in vain, to rally his troops. Tifaphernes performs great actions, till he is flain by Rinaldo. Armida flies from the field; Rinaldo purfues her: The interview between them. Godfrey kills Emirenes, and takes Altamorus prifoner. The Pagans fly on all fides; and Godfrey enters the temple victorious, and pays his devotions at the tomb.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED.

BOOK XX.

 $T_{\rm HE}$ fun had rouz'd mankind with early ray, And up the fteep of heaven advanc'd the day: When from the lofty tower the Pagans 'fpy A dufty whirlwind, that obfcur'd the fky, Like evening's fhade: At length reveal'd to fight, Th' Egyptian hoft appear'd in open light: The numerous ranks the fpacious champaign fill'd, Spread o'er the mountains, and the plains conceal'd. Then fudden, from the troop befieg'd afcends A general fhout, that all the region rends. With fuch a found the cranes embody'd fly From Thracian fhores, to feek a warmer fky; With noife they cut the clouds, and leave behind The wintry tempeft, and the freezing wind.

BOOK XX.

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Now hope, rekindling, fires the Pagan band; Swells every threat, and urges every hand. This foon the Franks perceiv'd, and inftant knew From whence their foes' recover'd fury grew. They look'd; and midft the rolling fmoke, beheld The moving legions that o'erfpread the field. At once a generous rage each bofom warms; At once each valiant hero pants for arms : Around their chief with eager looks they ftand, And loud the fignal for the war demand.

But, well advis'd, the prudent chief denies To wage the battle till the morn arife: He rules their ardour, he controls their might, And points a fitter feafon for the fight. They hear, obfervant, and his voice obey, But burn impatient for the dawning ray.

At length, high feated on her eaftern throne, The breezy morn with welcome luftre fhone; Wide o'er the fkies fhe fhed her ruddy ftreams, And glow'd with all the fun's enlivening beams; While heaven, ferene and cloudlefs ^a, would furvey The glorious deeds of that aufpicious day.

^a While heaven, ferene and cloudles, —] The hiftory relates, that the morning on which the armies engaged was uncommonly fibe.

BOOK XX. DELIVERED.

Soon as the dawn appears, with early care, His army Godfrey leads in form of war; But leaves, to enclofe the focs' beleaguer'd tower, Experienc'd Raymond with the Syrian power, That from the neighbouring lands auxiliar came, And hail'd with joy their great deliverer's name; A numerous throng !—nor thefe alone remain, To thefe he adds the hardy Gafcon train.

Now tower'd the leader, with exalted mien, While certain conqueft in his eyes was feen, With more than wonted ftate he feem'd to tread; A fudden youth was o'er his features fpread: Celeftial favour beam'd in every look, And every act a more than mortal fpoke.

Now near advanc'd, the pious hero view'd Where, deeply throng'd, th'Egyptian fquadrons ftood; And ftraight to feize a favouring hill he fends, Whofe height his army's left and rear defends. His troops he rang'd; the midft the foot contain'd; In either wing the lighter horfe remain'd. The left, that to the friendly hill was join'd, The chief to either Robert's care confign'd: The midft his brother held; himfelf the right, Where open lay the dangers of the fight :

BOOK XX.

Here mix'd with horfe, accustom'd thus t' engage, 61 A distant war on foot the archers wage. Behind, th' advent'rers to the right he led, And plac'd the bold Rinaldo at their head.

In thee, intrepid warrior ! (Godfrey cries) Our ftrong defence, our hope of conqueft, lies. Behind the wing awhile remain conceal'd : But when the foes advance to invade the field, Affail their flank, as vainly they contend To wheel around us, and our rear offend.

Then on a rapid fteed, in open view, From rank to rank, 'twixt horfe and foot, he flew : From his rais'd helm his piercing looks he caft; His eyes, his figure, lighten'd as he pafs'd ! The chearful he confirm'd, the doubtful rais'd, And, for their former deeds, the valiant prais'd. He bade the bold their antient boafts regard; Some urg'd with honour's, fome with gold's reward. At length he ftays where thickening round him ftand The firft, the braveft of the martial band : Then from on high his fpeech each hearer warms, Swells the big thought, and fires the foul to arms. As from fteep hills the rufhing torrents flow, Increas'd with fudden falls of melting fnow :

BOOK XX. DELIVERED.

So from his lips, with fwift effusion, pours Mellifluous eloquence in copious fhowers.

O you, the fcourge of JESUS' foes profess'd, O glorious heroes! conquerors of the eaft! Behold the day arriv'd, fo long defir'd, The wish'd-for day to which your hopes aspir'd! Some great event th' Almighty fure defigns, Who all his rebels in one force combines: See! in one field he brings your various foes, That one great battle all your wars may close. Defpife von Pagans, an ungovern'd hoft, Loft in confusion, in their numbers loft! Our mighty force can troops like thefe fustain; A rout undisciplin'd, a straggling train! From floth or fervile labours brought from far, Compell'd, reluctant, to the task of war! Their fwords now tremble, trembles every fhield; Their fearful standards tremble on the field. I hear their doubtful founds, their motions view, And fee death hovering o'er the fated crew. Yon leader fierce and glorious to behold, In flaming purple and refulgent gold, Might quell the Moorish and Arabian train, But here his valour, here his worth is vain;

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JERUSALEM BOOK XX.

Wife though he be, what methods shall he prove 100 To rule his army, or their fears remove? Scarce is he known, and fcarce his troops can name, Nor calls them partners of his former fame : We every toil and every triumph fhare, Fellows in arms, and brothers of the war! Is there a warrior but your chief can tell His native country, and his birth reveal? What fword to me unknown? What fhaft that flies With miffile death along the liquid fkies? I afk but what I oft have gain'd before; Be still yourfelves, and Godfrey feeks no more. Preferve your zeal ! your fame and mine attend : But, far o'er all, the faith of CHRIST defend! Go-crush those impious on the fatal plain : With their defeat your facred rights maintain. What should I more ?- I fee your ardent eyes ! Conquest awaits you !- feize the glorious prize.

He ceas'd; and inftant, like a flafhing light, When ftars or meteors ftream through dufky night, A fudden fplendor on his brow was fhed, And lambent glories play'd around his head. All wondering gaze ! and fome the fign explain, A certain omen of his future reign.

BOOK XX. DELIVERED.

Perchance (if mortal thoughts fo high may foar, 133 Or dare the fecrets of the fkies explore) From heavenly feats his guardian angel flew, And o'er the chief his golden pinions threw.

While Godfrey thus the Chriftian hoft prepares; Th' Egyptian leader, prefs'd with equal cares, Extends his numerous force to meet the foes: The midft the foot, the wings the horfe compofe: Himfelf the right; the midft Mulaffes guides: There, in the central war, Armida rides. In pomp barbaric near the leader ftand India's ftern king, and all the regal band: There Tifaphernes lifts his haughty head; But where the fquadrons to the left were fpread, (A wider fpace) there Altamorus brings His Afric Monarchs, and his Perfian Kings: From thence their flings, their arrows they prepare, And all the miffile thunder of the war.

Now Emirenes every rank infpires, The fearful raifes, and the valiant fires : To those he cry'd—What mean your looks depress'd? What fear unmanly harbours in your breast? Our near approach shall daunt yon hostile train, Our shouts alone shall drive them from the plain.

BOOK XX.

To thefe—No more delay, ye generous bands! 157 Redeem the pillage from the fpoilers' hands. In fome he 'waken'd every tender thought, Each lov'd idea to remembrance brought : O! think by me your country begs (he cries) And thus, adjuring, on your aid relies ! Preferve my laws, preferve each facred fane, Nor let my children's blood my temples ftain : Preferve from ruffian force th' affrighted maid; Preferve the tombs and afhes of the dead ! To you! opprefs'd with bending age and woe, Their filver locks your hoary fathers fhow : To you, your wives, your lifping infants fue; All afk their fafety, and their lives from you.

He faid, and ceas'd; for nearer now was feen Th' advancing powers, and finall the fpace between. Now front to front in dreadful paufe they ftand, Burn for the fight, and only wait command. The ftreaming banners to the wind are fpread, The plumage nods on every crefted head; Arms, vefts, devices, catch the funny rays, And fteel and gold with mingled fplendor blaze ! Each fpacious hoft on either fide appears A fteely wood, a grove of waving fpears.

BOOK XX. DELIVERED.

They bend their bows, in reft their lances take, 181 They whirl their flings, their ready javelins fhake. Each generous fleed to meet the fight afpires, And feconds, with his own, his mafter's fires; He neighs, he foams, he paws the ground beneath, And fmoke and flame his fwelling noftrils breathe!

Even horror pleas'd in fuch a glorious fight, Each beating bofom felt fevere delight : While the fhrill trumpets, echoing from afar, With dreadful transports animate the war. But ftill the faithful bands superior stood, More clear their notes, more fair their battle show'd; Their louder trumpets rouz'd a nobler stame, And from their arms a brighter lustre came !

The Chriftians found the charge; the foes reply; And the mix'd clangors rattle in the fky: Strait on their knees the Franks the foil adore, And kifs the hallow'd earth, and Heaven implore. And now between the troops the fpace is loft; With equal ardour joins each adverfe hoft.

What hero first, amidst the Christian name, Gain'd from the faithless bands a wreath of fame? 'Twas thou, Gildippe! whose results hand O'erthrew Hircanes, who in Ormus reign'd:

BOOK XX.

(Such glory Heaven on female arms difplay'd) 205 Deep in his breaft the fpear a paffage made; Headlong he falls; and, falling, hears the foe-With joyful fhouts applaud the forceful blow. Her javelin broke, her trufty fword fhe drew, The Perfians pierc'd, and Zopyrus fhe flew; Cleft where the circling belt his armour bound, He falls, divided, on the purple ground. Through fierce Alarcus' throat her weapon hew'd The double paffage of the voice and food; Then Artaxerxes in the duft fhe laid, And through Argeus thrust her furious blade. At Ishmael's arm her rapid steel she guides, And the close juncture of the hand divides : The fever'd hand at once the rein forfook : Above the startled courfer hifs'd the stroke : He rear'd aloft, and, feiz'd with fudden fright. Broke through the ranks, and difcompos'd the fight. All thefe, and numbers more, her fury feel, Whofe names in filence diftant years conceal: But 'gainft her now the thronging Perfians came, And Edward ran to affift the matchless dame. With force united then, the faithful pair Undaunted bore the rushing storm of war.

EOOK XX. DELIVERED.

Neglectful of themfelves amidft the ftrife, 220 Each guards, with pious care, the other's life b. Her ready shield the warlike damfel spread, And turn'd the weapons aim'd at Edward's head. He, o'er his fpouse, his fencing buckler throws: Each feeks for each the vengeance on the foes. By him the daring Artaban was flain, Who in Boëcan's ifland held his reign: By him his inftant fate Alvantes found, Who durft at fair Gildippe aim the wound. Then Arimontes' brow the cleft in two, Who, with drawn fword, against her confort flew. While thefe refiftlefs midft the Perfians rag'd; More dire Samarcand's king the Franks engag'd. Where-e'er he turn'd his fteed, or drove his fteel, The horfe and foot before his fury fell: And those that 'scape the falchion's milder death, Beneath the courfer's feet groan out their ftruggling breath !

^b Each guards, with pious care, the other's life.] The circumflance of a male and female warrior, fo tenderly connected with each other, makes a beautiful and affecting picture, and adds variety to the poem: it feems to have been first introduced by Taffo, and has already been observed to have its foundation in history. See note to Book i. ver. 424.

BOOK XX.

By Altamorus on the dreadful plain, 247 Brunello ftrong, Ardonio huge, was flain : Of that the helm and head the fword divides ; The gory vifage hangs on equal fides. This pierc'd where laughter firft derives its birth, And the glad heart dilates to pleafing mirth, (Wondrous and horrid to the gazer's eyes !) Now laughs conftrain'd, and as he laughs he dies ! With thefe Gentonio, Guafco, Guido dy'd : And good Rofmondo fwell'd the crimfon tide. What tongue can tell the throng depriv'd of breath, The wounds deferibe, or dwell on every death ?

None yet appear'd, of all the warring band, Who durft fuftain his valour hand to hand. Alone Gildippe 'gainft the monarch came ; No fear could damp her generous thirft of fame. Lefs bold on fair Thermodoön's winding fhore, Each warlike Amazon her buckler bore, Or rear'd her axe; than now, with glorious heat, Gildippe rufh'd the Perfian's rage to meet. She rais'd her fword, and ftruck the regal crown That round his helm with pomp barbaric fhone. The glittering honours from his brows fhe rent; Beneath the force the mighty warrior bent.

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The king with fhame the powerful arm confefs'd, 271 And fwift to avenge the blow his fteel addrefs'd: Full on her front fo fierce the dame he ftruck, That fenfe her mind, and ftrength her limbs forfook. Then had fhe fall'n, but near with ready hand Her faithful lord her finking weight fuftain'd. No more the lofty foe his ftroke purfu'd, But with difdain an eafy conqueft view'd: So the bold lion, with a fcornful eye, Scowls on the proftrate prey, and paffes by.

Meantime fierce Ormond, who, with murderous care, Had fpread for Godfrey's life the fatal fnare, Difguis'd, was mingled with the Chriftian band, And near their chief his dire affociates ftand. So prowling wolves an entrance feek to gain, Like faithful dogs, amongft the woolly train; They watch the folds when welcome fhades arife, And hide their quivering tails between their thighs. Th' infidious band advanc'd, and now in view Near pious Godfrey's fide the Pagan drew. Soon as the prince the white and gold furvey'd, (The certain token which their wile betray'd) Behold the traitor there confefs'd (he cries) Who veils his treafon with a Frank's difguife !

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At me his followers aim the deadly blow— 2 He faid, and rufh'd againft the treacherous foe: On Ormond fwift th' avenging blade he rais'd; Th' aftonifh'd wretch, without refiftance, gaz'd: And, while a fudden terror froze his blood, With ftiffening limbs, a fenfelefs ftatue ftood. Each fword was turn'd againft the fraudful crew, At thefe the fhafts from every quiver flew : In pieces hewn their bodies ftrew the plains; And not a fingle corfe entire remains !

Now, ftain'd with flaughter, Godfrey bent his courfe To where the valiant Altamorus' force His fquadrons pierc'd, that fled with timorous hafte, Like Afric fands before the fouthern blaft. Loud to his troops th' indignant hero cry'd, Stay'd thofe that fled, and him that chac'd defy'd.

BOOK XX. DELIVERED.

Two Roberts there the Pagan force defy'd; 319 With Emirenes one the combat try'd, While conqueft yet declar'd on neither fide : But one, with armour pierc'd and helmet hew'd, In harder conflict with Adraftus ftood. Still Tifaphernes finds no equal foe To mate his ftrength, and meafure blow for blow; But rufhes where he fees the thickeft train, And with a mingled carnage heaps the plain.

Thus far'd the war; while neither part prevails, And hope and fear are pois'd in equal fcales. O'erfpread with fhatter'd arms the ground appears, With broken bucklers, and with fhiver'd fpears. Here fwords are fluck in haplefs warriors kill'd, And useles there are fcatter'd o'er the field. Here, on their face, the breathlefs bodies lie; There turn their ghaftly features to the fky! Befide his lord the courfer prefs'd the plain; Befide his flaughter'd friend the friend is flain; Foe near to foe; and on the vanquish'd spread The victor lies; the living on the dead! An undiftinguish'd din is heard around, Mix'd is the murmur, and confus'd the found: The threats of anger, and the foldiers' cry, The groans of those that fall, and those that die.

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BOOK XX.

The fplendid arms that fhone fo gay before, 344 Now, fudden chang'd, delight the eyes no more. The fteel has loft its gleam, the gold its blaze: No more the vary'd colours blend their rays: Torn from the creft the fullied plumes are loft, And duft and blood deform the pomp of either hoft!

Now, on the left, with Ethiopia's train, The Moors and Arabs wheel around the plain. The flingers next, ' and archers from afar, Pour'd on the Franks a thick and miffile war: When lo! Rinaldo with his fquadron came, Dire as an earthquake, fwift as lightening's flame! From Meroë, first of Ethiopia's bands, Full in his paffage Affimirus ftands : Rinaldo reach'd him, where the fable head Join'd to the neck, and mix'd him with the dead. Soon as his fword the tafte of blood confefs'd, New ardour kindled in the hero's breaft. Through all the throng the dreadful victor ftorm'd, And deeds, transcending human faith, perform'd. As, when th' envenom'd ferpent fhoots along, Furious he feems to dart a triple tongue : At once the chief appears three fwords to wield, And hurl a threefold vengeance round the field:

BOOK XX. DELIVERED.

The fwarthy kings, the Libyan tyrants die; 368 Drench'd in each other's blood confus'd, they lie. Fierce with the reft his following friends engage, His great example animates their rage. Without defence th' aftonish'd vulgar fall; One univerfal ruin levels all ! 'Twas war no more, but carnage through the field; Those lift the fword, and these their bosoms yield. No longer now the Pagans fink, opprefs'd With wounds before, all honeft on the breaft; Loft are their ranks, they fly with headlong fear, And pale confusion trembles in their rear: Behind, Rinaldo pours along the plain, And breaks and fcatters wide the timorous train. At length his generous arm from flaughter ceas'd, And 'gainst a flying foe his wrath decreas'd. So when high hills or tufted woods oppofe, With double force the wind indignant blows; No more oppos'd, no more its rage prevails, But o'er the lawn it breathes in gentle gales. So midft the rocks the fea refounding raves, But, unconfin'd, more calmly rolls its waves, Next on the foot the warrior bent his force, Where late the Afric and Arabian horfe

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The fquadrons flank'd; but now difpers'd around, 392 They take their flight, or gafp upon the ground. Swift on th' unguarded files Rinaldo flew; As fwift behind his brave compeers purfue: Spears, darts, and fwords, in vain his might withftand, Whole legions fall beneath his dreadful hand! Not with fuch rage a burfting tempeft borne, Sweeps o'er the field, and mows the golden corn. The ftreaming blood in purple torrents fwell'd, And arms and mangled limbs the earth conceal'd: There, uncontrol'd, the foaming courfers tread, Bound o'er the plain, and trample on the dead !

Now came Rinaldo where, with martial air, Appear'd Armida in her glittering car. A train of lovers near her perfon wait, A glorious guard, the nobles of the ftate ! She fees ! fhe knows !—conflicting paffions rife, Defire and anger tremble in her eyes. A transfient blufh the hero's vifage burns ; But heat and cold poffefs her heart by turns. The knight declining from the car, withdrew, Not unregarded by the rival crew ; Thofe lift the fword, and thefe the lance protend ; Even fhe prepares her threatening bow to bend ;

She fits the fhaft, difdain her thoughts impell'd, 416 But love awhile the purpos'd ftroke with-held; Thrice in her hand the miffile reed fhe tries; And thrice her faltering hand its ftrength denies. At length her wrath prevails, fhe twangs the ftring, And fends the whizzing arrow on the wing: Swift flies the shaft-as fwiftly flies her prayer, That all its fury may be fpent in air ! She hopes, fhe fears, fhe follows with her eye, And marks the weapon as it cuts the fky. The weapon, not unfaithful to her aim, Against the warrior's stubborn corfelet came: Harmlefs it fell ; afide the hero turn'd : She deem'd her power despis'd, her anger fcorn'd: Again she bent her bow, but fail'd to wound, While love with furer darts her bofom found.

And is he then impervious to the fteel, And fears he not (fhe cry'd) the ftroke to feel? Does tenfold adamant his limbs inveft, That adamant which guards his ruthlefs breaft? So well fecur'd, that fafely he defies The fword of battle, or the fair one's eyes? What further arts for wretched me remain? Attempt no more—for every art is vain !

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BOOK XX.

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Arm'd or difarm'd an equal fate I know, 440
Alike contemn'd, a lover or a foe!
Where now, alas! is every former boaft?—
Behold my warriors faint !—my hopes are loft!
Againft his valour every ftrength muft fail;
Nor courage can withftand, nor arms avail!
While thus fhe thought, her champions round fhe

view'd

O'erthrown, or ta'en, or weltering in their blood. What fhould fhe do?—alone, unhelp'd remain? Already now fhe dreads the victor's chain: Nor dares (the bow and javelin at her fide) In Pallas' or Diana's arms confide. As when the fearful cygnet fees on high The ftrong-pounc'd eagle ftooping from the fky, Trembling fhe cowers beneath th' impending fate; So feem'd Armida, fuch her dangerous ftate.

But Altamorus, who from fhameful flight Still held the Perfians, and maintain'd the fight, Her peril view'd, and, carelefs of his fame, His troops forfook, and to her refcue came. With rapid fword he breaks amid the war, And wheels around her, and defends the car; While dire deftruction rages through his bands, O'erthrown by Godfrey and Rinaldo's hands.

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This fees th' unhappy prince, but fees in vain: 464 Armida fuccour'd, now he turns again, But flew too late to affift his routed train ! There all was loft; a general panic fpread; Difpers'd, around the broken Perfians fled. In other parts the fainting Chriftjans yield; Two Roberts there in vain direct the field; One fcarce efcap'd with life; his wounded breaft And bleeding front the hoftile fteel confefs'd; While fierce Adraftus one his prifoner made : Thus equal chance the dubious battle fway'd.

But Godfrey now his hardy warriors warm'd, Again to fight his ready bands he form'd; Then bravely on the victor-forces flew: They join, they thicken, and the war renew. Each fide appears diftain'd with adverfe gore; Each fide the glorious figns of triumph bore. Conqueft and fame on either part are feen, And Mars and Fortune doubtful ftand between.

While thus the combat rages on the plain Betwixt the Chriftian and the Pagan train; High on the tower the haughty Soldan ftood, From whence, intent, the diftant ftrife he view'd; Struck with the fight, his breaft with envy fwell'd, He burn'd to mingle in the fatal field.

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All arm'd befides, he fnatch'd with eager hafte, And on his head his radiant helmet plac'd: Rife ! rife ! (he faid) no longer flothful lie-Behold the time to conquer or to die ! Then, whether Heaven's high providence infpir'd His daring purpole, and his fury fir'd, That thus at once the Pagan reign might end, And all its glories on that day defcend : Or whether, confcious of his death to come, He felt an impulse now to meet his doom : Sudden he bade the founding gates unbar, And iffu'd forth with unexpected war; Nor waits his following band, but fingly goes; Himfelf alone defies a thoufand foes. But foon the reft his martial rage partook, Even aged Aladine the fort forfook : The bafe, the cautious, catch at once the fires; Not hope excites them, but defpair infpires.

The first the Turk before his passage found, His valour tumbled breathless to the ground. So fwift he thunder'd on the faithful train, That, ere they view th' affault, their friends are flain. First of the Christians, struck with panic fear, The trembling Syrians for their flight prepare.

But ftill unrouted fteed the Gafcon band, 513 Though nearer thefe the Soldan's rage fuftain'd, And fell in heaps beneath his flaughtering hand. Not with fuch wrath the favage beaft indu'd, Leaps o'er the fold, and dies the ground with blood : Not with fuch fury, through th' ethereal fpace, Voracious vultures rend the feather'd race. Through plated fteel his ftrength refiftlefs drives, While his keen falchion drinks the warriors' lives! With Aladine the Pagans quit the tower, And furious on their late befiegers pour.

But Raymond now advanc'd with fearlefs hafte, And faw where Solyman his fquadron prefs'd; Nor yet the hoary chief his fteps forbore, Nor fhunn'd that arm whofe force he felt before. Again to combat he defies the foe, Again his front receives a dreadful blow: Again he falls; in vain declining age, With ftrength unequal, would fuch power engage. Behold a hundred fwords and fhields difplay'd; And thefe defend the knight, and thofe invade. But thence with fpeed th' impetuous Soldan flies; (He deems him flain, or deems an eafy prize) Defcending, o'er the ruin'd works he goes To diftant plains, where fiercer battle glows:

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Far other fcenes his barbarous rage demands, Far other deaths must glut his cruel hands!

Meanwhile around the late beleaguer'd tower, New vigour now infpires the Pagan power; The warmth their leader breath'd they still retain; And with the Christians still their fears remain. Those feek to finish what their chief began; And thefe, retreating, feem to quit the plain: In due array the hardy Gafcons yield ; The Syrians wide are fcatter'd o'er the field. The tumult thickens near where Tancred lies, He hears the din of arms, the foldiers' cries : Strait from the couch his wounded limbs he rears 4, And lo! at once the mingled fcene appears: He fees on earth th' ill-fated Raymond laid, Some flowly yield, and fome in flight furvey'd. That courage true to every noble breaft, Nor loft by weaknefs, nor by pain fupprefs'd, Now fwell'd the hero's foul; he grafp'd his fhield, Nor feem'd too faint the ponderous orb to wield;

d <u>from the couch his wounded limbs he rears.</u>] Taffo feems to have caught this circumftance from an incident in Boyardo, where Sacripant, in like manner, iffues forth, armed only with his fword and fhield, against Agrican, who had gained an entrance into Albracca.

His right hand held unfheath'd his glittering blade, 558 Nor other arms he fought, nor more delay'd; But fluing thus—O! whither would you fly, And leave your lord neglected here to die? Shall then thefe Pagans rend his arms away, And in their fanes fufpend the glorious prey? Go—feek your country—to his fon reveal That, where you fled, his noble father fell!

He faid; and durft against a thousand foes His breaft, still feeble with his wounds, oppofe; While with his ample fhield (a fencing fhade, With feven tough hides and plates of fteel o'erlaid) He kept the hoary Raymond fafe from harms, From fwords, and darts, and all the miffile arms: He whirls his falchion with refiftles fway: The foes repuls'd forego their wifh'd for prey. But foon the venerable hero rofe, His face with fhame, his heart with anger, glows; In vain he feeks the chief by whom he fell, Then 'gainft the vulgar turns his vengeful fteel. The Gafcons, rally'd, foon the fight renew, And strait their gallant leader's steps pursue: Now fears the troop that danger late difdain'd, And courage now fucceeds where terror reign'd.

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They chace that yielded, those that chac'd give way : So chang'd at once the fortune of the day! 583 While Raymond rag'd with unrefifted hand, And fought the nobleft of the hoftile band : The realm's ufurper, Aladine, he view'd; Who midft the thickeft prefs the fight purfu'd; He faw, and 'gainst him rais'd his fatal steel, Cleft through the head the dying monarch fell; Prone on his kingdom's foil refign'd his breath, And groaning bit the bloody duft in death. Now various paffions move the Pagan foes : Some 'gainft the fpear their defperate breafts oppofe; While fome, with terror feiz'd, the fight forfake, And in the fort their fecond refuge take: But entering, mix'd with thefe, the victor-train At once the conquest of the fortress gain. Now all is won-in vain the Pagans fly; Within they fall, or at the portal die. Sage Raymond then alcends the lofty tower, The mighty ftandard in his hand he bore, There full in view, to either hoft difplay'd, The Crofs triumphant to the winds he fpread; Unfeen of Solyman, who thence afar, Impatient flew to mingle in the war ;

And now he reach'd the fatal fanguine field, 606 Where more and more the purple torrent fwell'd. There death appear'd to hold his horrid reign, There raife his trophies on the dreadful plain. The Soldan feiz'd a fteed, the combat fought, And fudden to the fainting Pagans brought A fhort but glorious aid-So lightning flies, And unexpected falls, and inftant dies; But leaves in rifted rocks, with furious force, The tokens of its momentary courfe. A hundred warriors, great in arms, he flew; Yet from oblivion fame has fnatch'd but two. O Edward and Gildippe! faithful pair! Your haplefs fate, your matchlefs deeds in war, (If equal praife my Tufcan mufe can give) Confign'd to diftant times shall ever live ! Some pitying lover, when the tale he hears, Shall grace your fortune and my verfe with tears.

Th' intrepid heroine fpurr'd her fteed, and flew To where the raging Turk the troops o'erthrew: Two mighty ftrokes her valiant arm impell'd, One reach'd his fide, one pierc'd his plated fhield: The furious chief her well-known veft defcry'd: Behold the ftrumpet with her mate (he cry'd)

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Hence to thy female tafks ! the diftaff wield, 630 Nor dare with fpear and fword to brave the field.

He faid, and dreadful as the words he fpoke, 1 His thundering weapon through her conflet broke: Deep in her breaft the ruthlefs falchion drove, Her gentle breaft, the feat of truth and love ! Her languid hand foregoes the useless rein; Approaching death creeps cold in every vein. To fave his wife, unhappy Edward flies ! Too late he comes-his lov'd Gildippe dies ! What should he do ?- distracting thoughts prevail, Pity and wrath at once his heart affail: That, bids his arm a kind fupport beftow, This, prompts his vengeance on the barbarous foe. While with his left he feeks to hold the fair, His better hand provokes th' unequal war: But vain his effort to fupport his bride, Or reach the murderous chief by whom fhe dy'd. The fword the Pagan through his arm impell'd, That with a fruitless grasp his confort held. As when an axe the ftately elm invades, Or ftorins uproot it from its native fhades, It falls-and with it falls the mantling vine, Whofe curling folds its ample waift entwine:

So Edward funk beneath the Pagan fteel; 654 So, with her Edward, fair Gildippe fell. They ftrive to fpeak, their words are loft in fighs, And on their lips th' imperfect accent dies. Each other ftill with mournful looks they view, And, clofe embracing, take the laft adieu: Till, lofing both the cheerful beams of light, Their gentle fouls together take their flight!

Soon fpreading fame the dire event declares, And foon the tidings to Rinaldo bears : Compafiion, grief, and wrath at once confpire, And all his generous thoughts to vengeance fire : But firft Adraftus, in the Soldan's fight, His paffage crofs'd, and dar'd him to the fight.

Then thus the king—By every fign difplay'd Thou fure art he for whom my fearch is made. Each buckler have I long explor'd in vain, And oft have call'd thee through th' embattled plain. Now fhall my former vows be fully paid, And juffice fated with thy forfeit head: Come!—let us here our mutual valour fhow, Armida's champion I, and thou her foe!

- Boaftful he fpoke; then whirl'd his flashing fteel; Swift on the Christian's head the tempest fell:

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In vain—the temper'd cafque the force withftood; 678 But oft the warrior in the faddle bow'd: Rinaldo's falchion then Adraftus found, And in his fide imprefs'd a mortal wound : Prone falls the giant-king, no more a name! One fatal blow concludes his life and fame!

With horror feiz'd, the gazing Pagans flood, While fear and wonder froze their curdling blood. Even Solyman furpris'd the stroke beheld, His alter'd looks his troubled thoughts reveal'd : He fees his doom, and (wondrous to relate!) Sufpended ftands to meet approaching fate. .But Heaven's high will, for ever uncontroll'd, Unnerves the mighty, and confounds the bold! As oft the fick in dreams attempt to fly, What time the fainting limbs their fpeed deny; In vain their lips a vocal found effay, Nor cries nor voice can find their wonted way. So ftrove the Soldan now th' affault to dare, He rouz'd his foul to meet the threaten'd war; In vain-no more the thirst of fame prevail'd; His fpirits droop'd, his wonted vigour fail'd; He fcorn'd to yield or fly: yet, unrefolv'd, A thousand thoughts his wavering mind revolv'd.

While thus he paus'd, the conquering chief drew nigh, Furious he rufh'd, tremendous to the eye! 703 He feem'd to move with more than mortal courfe, And look'd a match for more than mortal force. The Pagan fcarce refifts, yet even in death Preferves his fame, and nobly yields his breath ; Nor fhuns the fword, but, midft his ruin great, Without a groan receives the ftroke of fate ! Thus he, who, when fubdu'd by ftronger foes, From every fall like old Antæus rofe With force renew'd, now reach'd his deftin'd hour, And prefs'd at length the earth, to rife no more.

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Then fame from man to man the tidings bears; A doubtful face no longer fortune wears; No longer then the war's event fufpends, But joins the Chriftians, and their arms befriends. Soon from the fight recede the regal band, The pride, the ftrength of all the eaftern land; Once call'd Immortal; now the name is loft, And ruin triumphs o'er an empty boaft! Th' aftonifh'd bearer with the ftandard fled, Him Emirenes ftopp'd, and fternly faid :

Art thou not he, felected from the train, Our monarch's glorious banner to fuftain?

¥ 2

BOOK XX.

Was it for this (O! fcandal to the brave!) 726 That to thy hand th' important charge I gave ? And canft thou, Rimedon, thy chief furvey, Yet bafely leave him, and defert the day ? What doft thou feek—thy fafety ?—here it lies— With me return—death waits for him who flies. Here let him bravely fight who hopes to live ; Here honour's deeds alone can fafety give.

He heard, and inftant to the field return'd; Difdain and fhame his confcious bofom burn'd. No lefs the reft th' intrepid chief retain'd, Thefe urg'd by threats, and thofe by force conftrain'd. Who dares to fly from yonder fwords (he cries) Who dares to tremble, by this weapon dies! Thus rang'd again his routed files he view'd, The war rekindled, and his hopes renew'd: While Tifaphernes with refiftlefs might Maintain'd the combat, and forbade the flight. Brave deeds that day renown'd the warrior's hand; His fingle force difpers'd the Norman band : By him were chac'd the Flemings from the plain, And Gernier, Gerrard, and Rogero flain. When acts like these had grac'd his last of days, And crown'd his fhort but glorious life with praife,

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DELIVERED.

As carelefs what fucceeding fate might yield, 750-He fought the greateft perils of the field; He faw Rinaldo, well the youth he knew, Though all his arms were dy'd to fanguine hue. Lo! there the terror of the plain (he cries) May Heaven affift my daring enterprize! So fhall Armida her revenge obtain : O! Macon! let my fword this conqueft gain, And his proud arms fhall hang devoted in thy fane.

Thus pray'd the knight; his words are loft in air, No Macon hears his unavailing praver. As the bold lion, eager to engage, With lashing tail provokes his native rage : So fares the furious warrior; love infpires, Swells all his foul, and rouzes all his fires. He bears aloft his shield; he spurs his steed; The Latian hero rush'd with equal speed. At once they meet; at once, on either hand, In deep fuspense the gazing armies stand. Such skill, such courage, either champion shows, So fwift their weapons, and fo fierce their blows; Each fide awhile forget their wonted rage, And drop their arms, to fee the chiefs engage. In vain the Pagan strikes; fecur'd from harms, The Christian combats in ethereal arms;

BOOK XX.

From him more fatal every ftroke defcends; 775 The foe from wounds no temper'd fteel defends; His fhield is rent away, his helm is hew'd, And the plain blufhes with a ftream of blood.

The fair enchantres, who the fight furvey'd, Beheld how fast her champion's strength decay'd. She faw the reft, a pale and heartlefs train, That fcarce from flight their trembling feet reftrain; Till fhe, who late fuch guards around her view'd, Alone, forfaken, in her chariot flood: She loaths the light, and fervitude fhe fears, Of conquest or revenge alike despairs. Then, leaping from her car in pale affright, She mounts a fteed, and takes her fpeedy flight. But, like two hounds that fnuff the tainted dew, Anger and love her parting steps purfue. When Cleopatra, by her fears betray'd, Of old from Actium's fatal conflict fled; And left, to Cæfar's happier arms expos'd, Her Roman lord^e with perils round enclos'd; He foon, forgetful of his former fame, Spread every fail to join the flying dame : So Tifaphernes (but his foe withftood) Had from the field Armida's flight purfu'd:

"MARK ANTHONY.

His fair one vanish'd from his longing eyes, The fun feem'd blotted from the cheerful fkies: Fierce at Rinaldo then, in wild defpair, He rais'd aloft his vengeful blade in air. Not with fuch weight, to frame the forky brand, The ponderous hammer falls from Brontes' hand. Full on his front the thundering ftroke he fent : Beneath the force the ftaggering warrior bent; But foon recovering, whirl'd his beaming fword : The thirfty point the Pagan's bofom gor'd; A furious paffage through his cuirafs made, Till at his back appear'd the reeking blade : The fteel, drawn forth, a double vent fupply'd; The foul came floating in a purple tide.

Rinaldo, paufing, caft around his view, To mark what friends to aid, what foes purfue. Wide o'er the field he fees the Pagans fly; On earth their broken arms and enfigns lie. And now his thoughts recall th' unhappy fair Who furious fled abandon'd to defpair; Her woeful ftate might well his pity claim, Her love neglected, and her ruin'd fame : For ftill in mind his tender faith he bore, Her champion plighted when he left her fhore. 327

BOOK XX.

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Then, where her rapid courfer's track he view'd, Th' impatient knight the flying dame purfu'd.

Meanwhile Armida chanc'd a vale to find That feem'd for dire despair and death design'd: Well-pleas'd herfelf fhe faw by fate convey'd To end her woes in fuch a grateful shade. There, 'lighting from her steed, she laid aside Her bow, her quiver, all her martial pride. Unfaithful arms! (fhe cries) effay'd in vain, Return'd unbath'd from fuch a fanguine plain; Here buried lie, and prove the field no more, Since you fo ill aveng'd the wrongs I bore. If vainly thus at other hearts you fly, Dare you a female's wretched bofom try? Here-enter mine, that naked meets the blow; Here raife your trophies, here your triumph fhow! Love knows how well this breaft admits the dart; Love, that fo deep has pierc'd my tender heart! Unbleft Armida! what is now thy fate, When this alone can cure thy wretched flate? The weapon's point must heal the wound of Love. And friendly Death my heart's phyfician prove. Fond Love, farewell!-but come, thou fell Difdain! For ever partner with my ghoft remain;





Together let us rife from realms below, To haunt th' ungrateful author of my woe; To bring dire visions to his fearful fight, And fill with horror every fleepless night!

She ceas'd; and, fix'd her mournful life to clofe, The fharpeft arrow from her quiver chofe; When lo! Rinaldo came and faw the fair So near the dreadful period of defpair : Already now her frantic hand fhe rear'd, And death already in her looks appear'd : He rufh'd behind her, and reftrain'd the dart ; The fatal point juft bent againft her heart.

Armida turn'd, and ftraight the knight beheld, (Unheard he came, and fudden ftood reveal'd) Surpris'd fhe fees, and fhrieking with affright, From his lov'd face averts her angry fight; She faints! fhe finks!—as falls a tender flower, Whofe feeble ftem fupports the head no more : His arms he threw around her lovely waift, Her weight fupported, and her zone unbrac'd; While, gently bending o'er the fair diftrefs'd, His forrows bath'd her face and lovely breaft. As, wet with pearly drops of morning dews, The drooping rofe her wonted grace renews :

BOOK XX.

So fhe, recovering foon, her vifage rears, 871 All moift and trickling with her lover's tears. And thrice fhe rais'd her eyes the youth to view, Thrice from his face her fight averfe withdrew. Oft from the ftrict embrace in vain fhe ftrove, With languid hand, his ftronger arm to move : The pitying warrior ftill his grafp retain'd, And clofer to his breaft the damfel ftrain'd, At length, as thus in dear reftraint fhe lay, Her words with gufhing torrents found their way: Yet ftill on earth fhe bent her ftedfaft look, Nor dar'd to meet his glance, while thus fhe fpoke.

O cruel! when thou left'ft me firft to mourn ! And O! as cruel now in thy return ! Why wouldft thou then thy fruitlefs cares employ To fave a life thy perjuries deftroy ? Say, to what future wrongs, what future fhame, What woes unknown is doom'd Armida's name ? Full well thy wily purpofe I defcry— But fhe can little dare, who dares not die. One triumph ftill to grace thy pomp remains; A haplefs princefs bound in captive chains ; At firft betray'd, then made by force thy prize ; From acts like thefe thy mighty glories rife!

DELIVERED.

BOOK XX.

Once life and happinels 'twas thine to give ; 895 Now death alone my fufferings can relieve! But not from thee this bleffing I demand ; All gifts are hateful from Rinaldo's hand! Yet, cruel as thou art, myfelf can find Some friendly way t' elude the ills defign'd : If to a helplefs wretch in bondage ty'd, Are poifonous drugs and piercing fteel deny'd ; Yet (thanks to Heaven!) a path remains to death; Thou fhalt not long detain this hated breath : Ceafe then thy foothing arts, thy feints give o'er, And move my foul with flattering hopes no more.

Thus mournful fhe; while love and anger drew Faft from her beauteous eyes the briny dew. He, touch'd with pity, melts with equal woe, And, mix'd with hers, his kindly forrows flow. At length with tender words he thus reply'd: Armida! lay thy doubts, thy fears, afide; Live—not to fuffer fhame, to empire live; In me thy champion, not thy foe, receive. Behold thefe eyes, if ftill thou doubt'ft my zeal, Let thefe, the truth of what I fpeak, reveal. I fwear to place thee on thy regal throne, The feat of fplendor where thy fathers fhone.

BOOK XX.

O! would to Heaven! the rays of truth as well 919 Might from thy mind the Pagan mift difpel, As I fhall raife thee to fo high a ftate, No eaftern dame fhall match thy glorious fate.

He fpoke; and, fpeaking, fought her breaft to move With fighs and tears, the eloquence of love! Till, like the melting flakes of mountain fnow, Where fhines the fun, or tepid breezes blow; Her anger, late fo fierce, diffolves away, And gentle paffions bear a milder fway.

Ah me! I yield! (the foften'd fair replies) Still on thy faith my eafy heart relies; 'Tis thine at will to guide my future way, And, what thou bid'ft, Armida muft obey.

Thus they. Meanwhile th' Egyptian chief beheld His regal ftandard caft upon the field : And Rimedon all breathlefs prefs the plain, By one fierce ftroke from mighty Godfrey flain. Or killed, or routed, all his troops appear, Yet, to the laft, he fcorns ignoble fear; And feeks, what now his hopes alone demand, A death illuftrious from a noble hand.

He fpurs his fteed, and fwift on Godfrey flies; No greater foe amid the plain he fpies:

Fierce as he thunders through the ranks of war, 912 He fhows the laft brave tokens of defpair: Then to the chief he rais'd his voice on high: I come by thee in glorious ftrife to die! 'Tis death I feek—but, ere I yield to fate, I truft to crufh thee with my finking weight.

Thus he. At once they rufh to meet the fight: At once, on either fide, their fwords alight. The Pagan's fteel the Chriftian's buckler cleaves; His hand, difarm'd, the fudden wound receives. From Godfrey next defcends a mightier blow Full on the cheek of his unwary foe: Half back he fell; and, while to rife he ftrove, Deep in his groin the Frank his falchion drove.

Now, Emirenes dead, but few remain Of all the numbers of th' Egyptian train : While Godfrey thefe from place to place purfu'd, Brave Altamorus on the field he view'd, Who midft his foes th' unequal fight maintain'd, Alone, on foot, with hoftile blood diftain'd; With broken fword and fhield the king appears, And clofe furrounded with a hundred fpears.

Then to his warriors pious Godfrey cry'd: Forbear, my friends! and lay your arms afide:

JÈRUSALEM .

BOOK XX.

And thou, O chief! no more contest the field; 967 Forego thy weapons, and to Godfrey yield.

He faid; and he, who till that fatal hour Ne'er bow'd his lofty foul to human power, Soon as the great, the glorious name he heard, (A found from Libya to the pole rever'd) At once refign'd his fword to Godfrey's hands : I yield! (he cry'd) nor lefs thy worth demands : Thy triumph gain'd o'er Altamorus' name, Is crown'd no lefs with riches than with fame. My kingdom with its gold, my pious wife With jewels, fhall redeem my forfeit life,

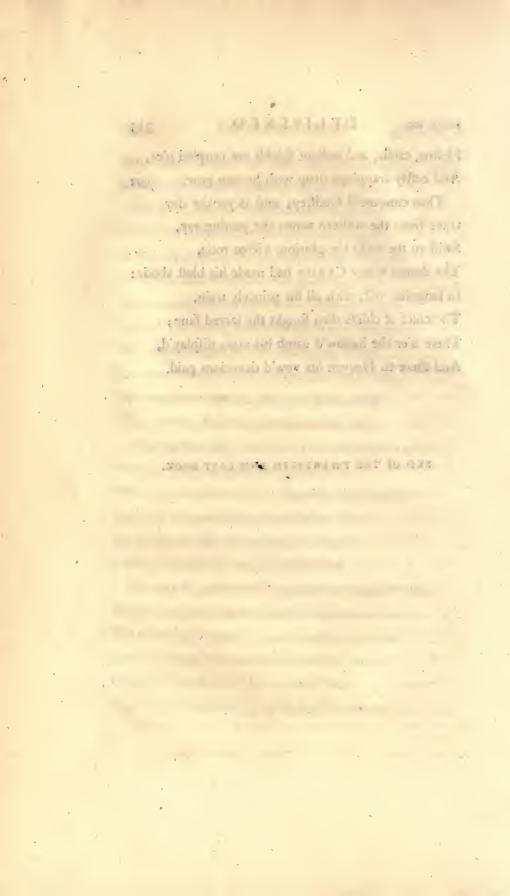
Heaven has not given me (thus the chief replies) A mind to covet gold, or jewels prize : Still keep whate'er is thine from India's fhore, And ftill in peace enjoy thy Perfian ftore : No price for life, no ranfom I demand ; I war, but traffick not, in Afia's land.

He ceas'd; and with his guards the monarch plac'd, Then from the field the fcatter'd remnants chac'd; Thefe to the trench in vain their flight purfue; Infatiate death o'ertakes the trembling crew: Gigantic flaughter ftalks on every fide, And fwells from tent to tent the dreadful tide:

Helms, crefts, and radiant fhields are purpled o'er, And coftly trappings drop with human gore. 992

Thus conquer'd Godfrey; and as yet the day Gave from the weftern waves the parting ray, Swift to the walls the glorious victor rode, The domes where CHRIST had made his bleft abode: In fanguine veft, with all his princely train, The chief of chiefs then fought the facred fane; There o'er the hallow'd tomb his arms difplay'd, And there to Heaven his vow'd devotions paid.

END OF THE TWENTIETH AND LAST BOOK.



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caufes him to be carried to the city, ib. 783.

gives Godfrey an account of his difcoveries in the Egyptian camp, ib. 825.

Vinciflaüs, one of the champions drawn by lot to accompany Armida, v. 529. (See Champions.)

VOICE heard by Tancred, when taken prifoner in Armida's caftle, vii. 345.

- heard by Tancred from the trunk of a tree, xiii. 301.

VOYAGE of the two knights through the Mediterranean to the Fortunate Islands, xv. 69-280.

William of England, in the review, i. 338.

----- defcribed by Erminia, iii. 483.

- relates the adventure of the Christian knights in Armida's castle, x. 430.

----- wounded by Clorinda, xi. 287.

William (the Bishop) in the review, i. 297.

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William, of Liguria; fends advice from the fleet to Godfrey, v. 617.

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his skill in mechanics, *ib.* 294. gives directions for making military engines, *ib.* 296. WOOD (enchanted).

the Chriftians attempt, in vain, to enter it, xiii. 121. 187.

----- guarded by dreadful apparitions, and furrounded with fiery walls, ib. 193.

---- entered by Tancred, ib. 227.

----- further defcribed, ib. 260.

- entered by Rinaldo, xviii. IIT.

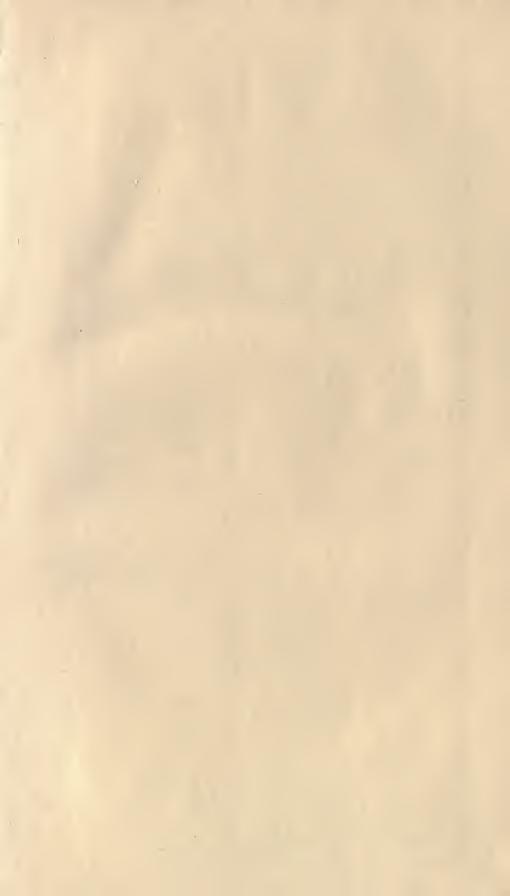
--- fine description of it, ib. III-160.

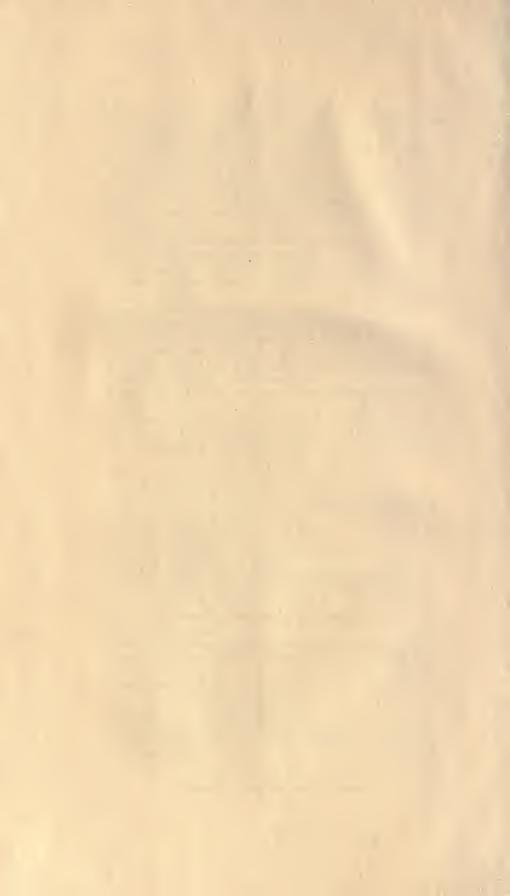
---- the enchantment is diffolved by Rinaldo, ib. 238. (See Demons, Forest, &c.)

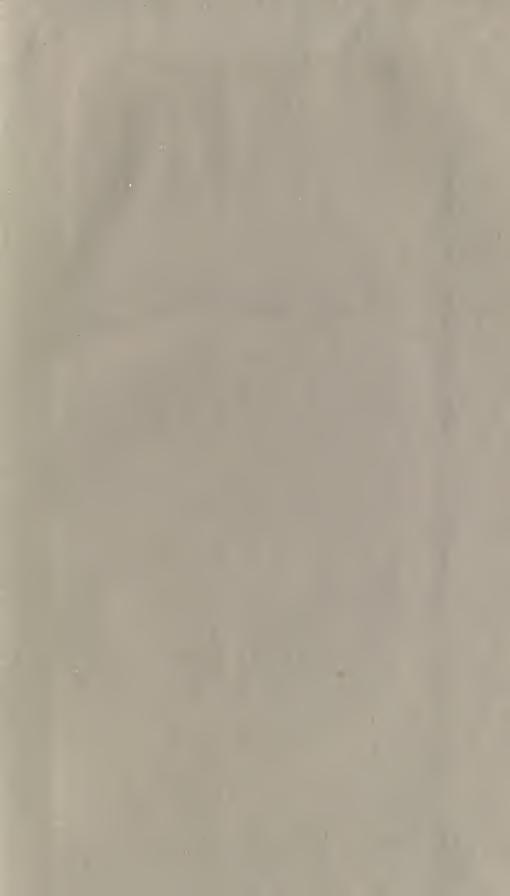
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