Maternal Tenderness.

WHAT with such Power the heart can move

As a young, doting Mother's Love!

While gazing on her infant Care,

The Passion of her Soul is there.

When the Babe hangs upon the Breast

With what a rapture He's carest!

If, in that inexpressive Hour,

The Master of Imperial Power

Should through each tempting region range,

And offer all for the Exchange,

Her eyes she'd rivet on his charms,

And clasp him closer in her arms.

—The Mother's fondness for her child

Is Nature pure and undefil'd;

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Thus it appears a pond of Water May prove an Instrument of Slaughter.

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Nor mix'd as other passions are With Fancy's glow or sordid care; Has Joys to Mothers only known, And is, in truth, itself alone. When the sweet Boy, with growing charm, Disdains the tender Nurse's arm, And as strength guides his better speed, New Joys and other cares succeed. Learning now points the glimm'ring way, And lights him with its feeble ray: At length its warmer beams express The bloom of future fruitfulness. Then Reason will begin to stir line and back The embryo seeds of Character, And the fond parent looks to scan The virtues of the future man. -Next, boyish feats and active strife Add new varieties to life. From strict restraint and thraldom free, He dares to climb the branchy tree;

VOL. II.

Oe'r many an headland course to run,

Nor fears the heats of sultry sun:

Or, on the frozen surface bold,

Breasts the keen Winter's piercing cold:

O'er thorny hedge is seen to bound

And light on the uncertain ground;

Or yet, untaught by due controul,

Drives the rough poney to the Goal;

Seeks the dark mazes of the wood,

Or plunges in the running flood.

Thus playing with a Mother's fear,

Thus calling forth the secret tear,

And often smiling at the pain

That foud Affection cannot feign.

The fair Matilda married young,

And, while the song of Joy she sung,

While 'twas her envied Lot to prove

The sweetest bliss of wedded Love,

Relentless Death prepared his dart,

And pierc'd the faithful Husband's heart:

But though a Indulgent He To help her t And save her s A Babe in Bea The Father sm. Would check th And be the solac Would her pale, Inidst its gl When fond reme In that dear form Se in th' un consc The Offspring and The widow and With what a cons Reolv'd to dedica Not to the idle, en

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ection cannot feign.

But though a widow thus bereft,
Indulgent Heaven one comfort left,
To help her the sad Loss to bear,
And save her sorrow from despair.
A Babe in Beauty's infant grace,
The Father smiling in his face,
Would check the tear that strove to flow
And be the solace of her woe,
Would her pale, saddened face beguile
And 'midst its gloom awake a smile.
When fond remembrance feign would dwell
On that dear form she lov'd so well:
She in th' unconscious Babe could view
The Offspring and the Father too.

The widow and the mother prov'd
With what a constancy she lov'd;
Resolv'd to dedicate her days,
Not to the idle, empty praise
Of the gay world's incessant prate,
Or pleasures that on Fortune wait,

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But her maternal cares to ply, a demodition Departed Love's sad Legacy; and paradiabate She hop'd to rear a solid fame distributed of On Duties which her child would claim.

Beauty was her's, and ev'ry charm That doth the tender bosom warm: And though her Lilies grew more pale, And though her roseate blushes fail, Yet Youth and Time were waiting there, Grief's early inroads to repair. The winning Look, the graceful mien Were still with Admiration seen; Still did th' harmonious voice impart The blended sense of mind and heart: Of riches she was left a store, Her purse was full, nay, running o'er,-Nor did her bounteous hand refrain, Nor could a chilling thought restrain The gift that goodness loves to grant, To all who weep and all who want.

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Thus none who knew her but approv'd, And some the widow'd charmer lov'd. -But when she heard of Hymen's name, When Cupid wav'd the proffer'd flame; When Lovers hop'd she would be won, She pointed to her Darling Son: Your suits are all in vain, she said; No Eloquence will e'er dissuade My purpose now so firmly made. The little, playful Boy you see, Is Cupid, Hymen, all to me. Their Altar I shall ne'er attend, Till Heaven, my wishes to befriend, Gives me to view my EDWARD there, My only hope, my darling care; There, bound by Hymen's chaste decree, To one who thinks and loves like me. -'Twas thus she liv'd, while EDWARD grew To all his Mother's wishes true. But still the dangers that belay The passage of Life's early day;

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The Son survives.

Would often cause her eyes to weep,

And discompose the hours of sleep;

While many a fearful omen crept

Across her Fancy when she slept.

EDWARD, a noble Boy, had gain'd Full fourteen years, which, when obtain'd, The parent weighs, with equal scales, His future fate,—and Hope prevails. -'Twas when, in Summer's sultry hour, Fierce Sirius gleam'd with ardent power, That the Youth sought the cooling flood Beside the verdure of a wood; But, while he cleav'd the liquid way, His limbs no longer would obey. He shriek'd, the woodman sought the wave, And plung'd, the sinking form to save, From what appear'd a watry grave. His voice alarm'd the peasants near, And, hast'ning on the wings of fear They reach the stately Hall, nor wait To ask admission at the gate;

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While cries throughout the walls resound, "Our young, our darling Master's drown'd." The Servants fly they scarce know where; The tidings reach MATILDA's ear: She starts,—then hurries to the wood— Aghast, upon the bank she stood, While from the pool, with looks forlorn, Her senseless Edward's form is borne. She sinks, weigh'd down by her alarms; And Death receives her in his arms. -The unconscious Youth now opes his eyes.-The Son survives,—the Mother dies.—