ITALIAN TALES, AND OTHER POEMS

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Italian Tales, and Other Poems by Thomas Browne

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THOMAS BROWNE

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ITALIAN TALES

AND

OTHER POEMS.

BY

THOMAS BROWNE, ESQ.

Gesang und Liebe, in schonem Verein, Die erhalten bem Leben ben Jugendschein. SCHILLER.

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IMELDA AND GIOVANNI.

Never durst poet touch a pen to write, Until his ink were temper'd with love's sighs.

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST.



IMELDA AND GIOVANNI.

By few unknown, who e'er have trod that ground,
So long for freedom, arts, and arms renown'd,
Bologna stands, though reft her ancient pow'r,
Not all unworthy of her earlier hour;
Below the city, Apennine on high,
Above, around, the sky of Italy,
Might many a dream of fancy fair inspire,
To rouse the painter's or the poet's fire;
And well her sons have nature's gifts repaid,
By forms more bright than nature self array'd,
Whose magic mimicry of colours mates
Aught that the mind of other air creates,

And few there be can view with heedless eye
Zampieri's martyrs groan, or Guido's virgins sigh.
But these are glories of a later day,
'Tis ours a tale of olden time to say,
While yet the city, free, by faction toss'd,
Her freedom priz'd not truly, till 'twas lost.
'The young Imelda in her bower reclin'd

The young Imelda in her bower reclin'd

Alone, and commun'd with her pensive mind;

Imelda, fairest of Bologna's maids,

Pale from her lattice watch'd the length'ning shades;

'Tis eve, yet recks she not those colours bright,

That dye th' horizon with a flood of light;

The soft repose, the quiet of that hour,

The odours wafted from each drooping flow'r;

'Tis eve, her lover comes ere set of sun,

Yet dares she not bid time too swiftly run,

To speed an hour so fraught with hopes and

fears,

Within it seem to pass the thoughts of years;