

**SAUL; A POEM,
IN TWO PARTS**

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Saul; A Poem, in Two Parts by William Sotheby

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WILLIAM SOTHEBY

**SAUL; A POEM,
IN TWO PARTS**

SAUL. •

PART THE FIRST.

S A U L;
A POEM,
IN
T W O P A R T S.

BY
WILLIAM SOTHEBY, ESQ.

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1807.

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*How, as I grace with Thee my opening lay,
How, with what language, Mary! may I greet
Thy matron ear, that truth's pure utterance meet
Sound not like Flattery? In life's youthful day,
When to thy charms and virgin beauty bright
I tun'd my numbers, Hope, enchantress fair,
Trick'd a gay world with colours steep'd in air,
And Suns that never set in envious night.
Ah! since that joyous prime, beloved Wife!
Years, mix'd of good and ill, have o'er us past:
And I have seen, at times, thy smile o'ercast
With sadness. Not the less my lot of life
With Thee has been most blissful — Heavenly Peace,
Thy guardian angel, Mary! has beguil'd
My woe, and sooth'd my wayward fancy wild.
Nor shall its soothing influence ever cease
Thou present, weal or woe, as may, betide!
Hail Wife and Mother, lov'd beyond the Bride!*

Fair-Mead Lodge, Epping Forest,
July 17, 1806.

SAUL.

PART THE FIRST.

BOOK I.

ARGUMENT.

Invocation,—Subject of the Poem.—Saul, King of Israel, afflicted by an evil Spirit.
—His Appearance before the Tribes assembled at Gibeah.—Samuel, the Prophet,
announces Saul's Defeat and Death.
