

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649358083

The widow's offering by Mrs. Kay

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MRS. KAY

**THE WIDOW'S
OFFERING**

THE
WIDOW'S OFFERING.

BY MRS. KAY.

FIFTH EDITION.

How sweet to range through Flora's garden fair,
And cull, for those we love, a nosegay there!
Yet sweeter far the Muses' hints to find,
And seize an "OFFERING" to enrich the mind.

LONDON:
SIMPKIN & MARSHALL, STATIONERS' HALL COURT.

M D C C C X L I.

1841

WILLIAM HEPWORTH, PRINTER, WAKEFIELD.

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TO THE
RIGHT HON. THE EARL FITZWILLIAM.

MY LORD,

I feel very sensibly and deeply affected, I assure your Lordship, by your exceeding kindness and condescension in the permission to dedicate this Fifth Edition of a small and unpretending Volume to yourself. Embellish'd far more by the graces and virtues that adorn your character, than by your illustrious birth and elevated station, I feel a pleasurable confidence that the work which is now presented to your notice contains not a sentiment which your Lordship's cultivated taste and pious feeling will not readily and cordially approve.

All that the Compiler claims upon the score of merit, is the exercise of indefatigable care and diligence in the choice of the most rare and valuable offerings which the Muse has consecrated to piety, friendship, knowledge, and love.

The call which is now made for this Fifth Edition, and the distinguished favour of your Lordship's approving notice, encourages the hope that the humble effort to serve the cause of benevolence and religion has not been unattended with success.

With my most grateful acknowledgments for your Lordship's favour, and with high admiration of your distinguished character,

I remain,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obliged

And most humble Servant,

MARY KAY.

785344

AN
ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

BY A FRIEND TO THE WIDOW.

"He helps the stranger in distress,
The widow and the fatherless."

That the state of widowhood is one of sorrow, and frequently of dependance and privation, especially when associated with fatherless children, is so generally known by the public, and too frequently felt by the mourners, to need dispute. The God of the families of the earth has taken such under his peculiar protection.

"A father of the fatherless, and a husband of the widow, is God in his holy habitation." "Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me." He has recommended them with no less care to the attentive and benevolent consideration of his people. The stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, were made the subjects of an especial provision under the Jewish dispensation; and widows are particularly mentioned under the New Testament as persons to be honoured, comforted, and relieved.

That the widowed authoress of the present Volume has considered to take her harp down from the willows at such a time as this, and thus attempt to sing away the sorrows that she feels, by turning her thoughts into so poetical a channel, is, we apprehend, as laudable as new. Nor will it be at all taken by her as "the singing of songs to a heavy heart," in writing our strains with her own in the purchase of the Volume.

With persons benevolently disposed and politely educated, it is a matter of frequent concern, how they may, with the greatest ease and delicacy, accomplish the greatest measure of good. To such persons, whose kind attention we are anxious to arrest, the purchase of the "Widow's Offering" affords an opportunity for the pleasing attainment of the above object, and to the improvement of their own hearts and minds. Nor can we forbear, while engaged in this pious advocacy, reminding those females who are now in the enjoyment of matrimonial felicity, how uncertain is human life and happiness; and how soon, alas! the strongest earthly bonds are broken, and the tenderest ties dissolved by death—how soon those may be widows, who are now so highly favoured; and how much the benevolent sympathy of the public may, by some, be needed. We have felt so much, personally, upon that subject, as to be prepared to feel for others, and to recommend to the notice of all, susceptible of feeling, the present Volume, which we do not hesitate to say will well repay the purchase and perusal.

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