

**THE TRIUMPH OF OLD AGE:
AN ELEGIAC POEM IN EIGHT
CANTOS, OCCASIONED BY
THE DEATH OF MRS. GILBERT**

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The Triumph of Old Age: An Elegiac Poem in Eight Cantos, Occasioned by the Death of Mrs. Gilbert by Edward Durell

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EDWARD DURELL

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Triumph of Old Age.

AN ELEGIAC POEM.

THE
TRIUMPH OF OLD AGE,

AN ELEGIAC POEM,

IN EIGHT CANTOS,

Occasioned by the Death of Mrs. Gilbert,

OF THE PRIORY, BODMIN.

Fuggi 'l sereno e'l verde ;
Non t' appressar ove sia riso o canto,
Canzon mia, nò, mà pianto ;
Non fa per te di star fra gente allegra,
Vedova sconsolata in vèsta negra.
Il Petrarca, Canzone xl, v. 78.

BY

EDWARD DURELL, A. M.,

Curate of Withiel, Cornwall.

BODMIN :

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1818.



280 . . . 220 .

ADVERTISEMENT.

Mrs. Gilbert, the Lady whose memory it is intended to perpetuate in the following Poem, was a most amiable and accomplished woman. Mild, pious, charitable, and humane, she was particularly favoured by Providence in the possession of affluence, which enabled her to render the practice of those virtues more extensively useful. She was also eminently fortunate in her matrimonial connections; she had seen much of the world, and had enjoyed either the acquaintance or correspondence of several of the most distinguished persons who have appeared during the last fifty years. Her memory was unimpaired, and, as she retained all the vigour of her youthful intellect, her conversation was peculiarly agreeable and interesting.

If any person should suppose that some parts of the Poem have received a high colouring, let him recollect, that some indulgence is due to the admiration of a writer and the regret of a friend.

I did not intend, originally, to have written more than a hundred verses; but the heart was full, and the subject

was copious, and as the thoughts flowed in rapidly, I determined to work up the whole into a regular Poem. On reconsideration, I have thought proper to divide the subject into Eight Cantos.

The Title has been suggested by the Triumphs of Petrarch, to whom I am indebted for the imitation of several passages. In a moral and religious Poem it is to be expected that Scriptural allusions should often occur.

It is not common to use the elegiac stanza for long poems, but there is no measure that is so appropriate to solemn and melancholy subjects. Dryden was so fully convinced of its beauty, that he used it in his ANNUS MIRABILIS. It is the metre which approaches nearest to the TERZETTI of Petrarch, and like him I have endeavoured to make the sound of the numbers correspond with the sense.

The Poem was finished before last Midsummer; but unexpected delays have prevented its publication till the present moment. No pains have been spared to revise, correct, change, add, and improve; and, if some weak lines have still escaped, it is owing to that imperfection from which no human composition can be free.

EDWARD DURELL.

Bodmin, Nov. 26, 1818.

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TO THE MOST NOBLE,

The Dowager Marchioness of Bute,

AT NAPLES.

I.

O Thou still nobler than thy Titled Name,
And more exalted by a gen'rous soul,
That deems affliction of that higher claim,
O'er which oblivion neither steals, nor stole ;
Tho' regions rise between, and oceans roll,
Thy breast at Naples has not less been wrung,
With sorrow's pleasing yet severe controul :
To Thee, whose anguish is as deep and strong,
As that which harrows me, I DEDICATE MY SONG.