

**HYMNS FOR CHILDHOOD
ON THE WORKS OF NATURE,
AND OTHER SUBJECTS: FOR
THE USE CHILDREN**

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Hymns for Childhood on the Works of Nature, and Other Subjects: For the Use children by
Mrs. Felicia Hemans

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MRS. FELICIA HEMANS

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THIS RAINBOW.

HYMNS
FOR
CHILDHOOD
ON
THE WORKS OF NATURE,
AND
OTHER SUBJECTS
FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN.

BY MRS. FELICIA HEMANS.

PHILADELPHIA:
HENRY F. ANNERS, CHESTNUT STREET.
1840.

PREFACE.

THE following very simple compositions were written by Mrs. Hemans several years before their publication, exclusively for her own family circle, and without the remotest idea of their being offered to the public. It has since been her wish to render them more extensively, however humbly, useful. The Hymns were designed to associate the first

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devotional thoughts of childhood with the solemnity diffused over the outward creation, and to awake in the tender mind a sense of the beauty and sublimity of the great works of God.

INTRODUCTORY VERSES.

On! blest are thou, whose steps may rove
Through the green paths of vale and grove,
Or, leaving all their charms below,
Climb the wild mountain's airy brow;

And gaze afar o'er cultured plains,
And cities with their stately fanes,
And forests, that beneath thee lie,
And ocean mingling with the sky.

For man can show thee nought so fair,
As Nature's varied marvels there ;
And if thy pure and artless breast
Can feel their grandeur, thou art blest !

For thee, the stream in beauty flows,
For thee, the gale of summer blows,
And, in deep glen and wood-walk free,
Voices of joy still breathe for thee.

But happier far, if then thy soul
Can soar to Him who made the whole,
If to thine eye the simplest flower
Portray His bounty and His power.

If, in what'er is bright or grand,
Thy mind can trace His viewless hand,
If Nature's music bid thee raise
Thy song of gratitude and praise ;

If heaven and earth, with beauty fraught,
Lead to His throne thy raptured thought,
If there thou lov'st His love to read,
Then, wanderer, thou art blest indeed.