

**THE WIDOW'S PLEA: A
COLLECTION OF POETICAL
PIECES, CHIEFLY WRITTEN
DURING BY-GONE YEARS OF
PEACE AND PROSPERITY**

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The widow's plea: a collection of poetical pieces, chiefly written during by-gone years of peace and prosperity by Hammond

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HAMMOND

**THE WIDOW'S PLEA: A
COLLECTION OF POETICAL
PIECES, CHIEFLY WRITTEN
DURING BY-GONE YEARS OF
PEACE AND PROSPERITY**

George Hammond
The gift of his Mother Mrs
Cuthberts
January 20
1838

THE WIDOW'S PLEA.

THE
WIDOW'S PLEA:

A
COLLECTION OF POETICAL PIECES,

CHIEFLY WRITTEN

DURING BY-GONE YEARS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY;

AND NOW PUBLISHED

AS A MEDIUM OF APPEAL TO THE SYMPATHIES OF
THE BENEVOLENT,

IN BEHALF OF THE WRITER,

IN HER SEASON OF

DECLINING LIFE, POVERTY, AND WIDOWHOOD.

AS THE LORD TRY GOD LIVETH, I HAVE BUT A HANDFUL OF MEAL
IN A BARREL, AND A LITTLE OIL IN A CRUISE.

Stourbridge:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF J. HEMING, HIGH STREET.

1837.

PREFACE.



THE unexpectedly rapid sale of the first edition of the following Poems, seems to justify the publication of a second.

The Authoress cannot permit this new edition to appear without recording her deep sense of the sympathy, solicitude, and exertion of her numerous friends ; and, indeed, she rejoices as much at the opportunity it thus affords her of expressing her gratitude, as at the pecuniary advantages it may produce, however reasonable and necessary they may be.

Dudley, Dec. 1836.

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TO
THE BENEVOLENT SUBSCRIBER.

The tear of Gratitude is sweet,—but that which beams in the eye of
Charity is far more sweet,—*And.*

Sweeter is the tear of silent Gratitude,
The heart's best tribute to the kind and good :
But if—like soft and tepid show'rs that fall
Amid the gloom where desert wastes appal—
It light where Memory's busy hand hath cast
Her deepest shades around the fearful past ;
Or with the dark uncertain future blend,
Where Hope and Fear in dubious strife contend ;
Too oft in vain is lent its soothing pow'r,
To still the throbbing bosom in affliction's hour.

Then sweeter far the liquid gems that lie
On meek Compassion's ever-melting eye :
These, like the prism, in blended brightness shew
Hope's ample vista bounding all below ;
Whence her delighted vision doth descry
The far-off flight of dark Despondency ;
And in her full heart's deep ecstatic mood
Believeth all things tend to all things good ;
Pointing to those who Penny's woes relieve,
How much more blessed 't is to give than to receive.

The Editor

THE WIDOW'S PLEA ;

A COLLECTION, &c.

AN ASPIRATION.

ALMIGHTY FATHER ! hear my humble pray'r,
And condescend to dry a widow's tear !
In thee I trust—blest with thy mighty aid,
No dark despair my bosom shall invade.
O give me grace to know and do thy will—
A mother's duties teach me to fulfil :
Let my example to my children prove
How much I feel for them, how much I love.
Permit the fatherless *thy* love to share—
Shield them from Vice and Folly's baneful snare ;
Inspire their minds with hope of future bliss,
And faith, to seek a better world than this.

Though deep adversity my portion be,
And sad reverse—I bow to thy decree.