SKETCHES AND LEGENDS AMID THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH WALES. IN VERSE

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Sketches and Legends amid the Mountains of North Wales. In Verse by Janet W. Wilkinson

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JANET W. WILKINSON

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Trieste

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ANID THE

MOUNTAINS OF NORTH WALES.

IN VERSE.



By JANET W. WILKINSON.

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TO THE

CRITICS OF THE BRITISH PRESS.

I FEEL that a girl of fifteen cannot do better than dedicate her first literary effusions to you, in the hope that, profiting by your judgment in kindly pointing out her faults, she may in riper years produce something more worthy of your notice.

I am,

Your very obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

Brymbo Hall, 22d August, 1840.

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SKETCHES AND LEGENDS

MOUNTAINS OF NORTH WALES.

CANTO I.

I.

Mosr glorious Wales! thou Eagle of the Rock!

That nestlest 'mid high mountains and wild streams, Where mighty tempest's dread resounding shock

Alternate rules with sunlight's richest beams-

Hail! throned within thy realms of awe and might,

O'erlooking ocean-canopied by clouds;

Admit us to thy haunts of dusky night,

Where floating mist thy frowning grandeur shrouds !

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11.

Dominion of the free! when from the chain

Of foreign victors Britain's chiefs withdrew,

Guarding with arm and life thy stern domain,

Which round the heroes like a fortress grew, Secure 'mid towering cliff, or savage cave,

Or tangled mazes of recesses deep, High o'er the foes they bade Defiance wave, And still the baffled chase o'er deserts sweep.

III.

Now vale and hill are bright with joy and peace, No echoes startle to the combat's din; The vengeance and the strife of ages cease,

And Plenty reigns around, beneath, within ! There lurks no danger in the forests old —

There gleam no weapons in the distant glen; Deserted stands each patriot's rugged hold,

And flocks lie scathless by the wolf's lorn den.

THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH WALES.

IV.

The morn is come-the morn of light and song,

To lure us gently from our own loved home, And whisper to us as we glide along,

"How sweet amid the mountain paths to roam!" The dew is glistening on the bending grass,

The sun is beaming gladly from on high, The green boughs rustle as beneath we pass, And cloudless azure decks the distant sky !

v. '

The air is redolent of summer flowers,

Opening their petals to the laughing day; Earth ne'er seem'd fairer than amid these bowers,

Yet from their magic bounds we haste away; But once again we backward turn our gaze

To take short farewell of these smiling shades, E'en now illumined by the morning rays,

Then onward through the far-inviting glades!

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VI.

Brymbo! dear Brymbo! with thy time-stain'd walls, Thy scalptured portals, and thy shrine of yore, O'er which the ivy like a mantle falls,

Scattering its tendrils o'er the carvings hoar, — Adien ! a fleeting and short-lived adieu !

Utter'd with glances that gay Pleasure breathe; Farewell thy yew-clad walks, and boundless view, And roses that around the terrace wreathe!

VII.

Long through the fresh, sequester'd lanes we wind, Glowing with hope, wild fancy, and glad mirth, Where trailing buds have clustering circlets twined,

And blush along the dark, deep-furrow'd earth. The fields are golden with the waving grain,

The streamlets babble gaily to the breeze, Happiness seems to shine along the plain,

And ripening fruits hang thickly on the trees.