Jane Cave, â??Written by Desire of a Mother, on the Death of an Only Childâ?•

Description

JANE CAVE

â??Written by Desire of a Mother, on the Death of an Only Childâ?•

As with delight we view the opâ??ning rose
Expand, and all her fragrant sweets disclose,
So did MATERNA view her lovely maid,
In all the charms of innocence arrayâ??d;
Oft had her little all, her only child,
The tedious hour with pleasing chat beguilâ??d,
But Heavâ??n, all-good, and infinitely wise,
Removâ??d this darling idol to the skies,
Ere her young heart had been *obdurâ??d* by sin,
Or guilt, tormenting fiend, could brood therein,
Ere she arrivâ??d at years that might destroy,
By one false step, a tender motherâ??s joy.

Behold she soars to yon celestial fields,
Where evâ??ry plant aethereal odour yields;
With pitying eye, methinks she looks below,
Commisâ??rates a tender motherâ??s woe,
Bids her dejected heart from earth retire,
And all her future thoughts to Heavâ??n aspire;
Prepare, she cries,â??prepare to meet the blest,
And join your SALLY in eternal rest.

NOTES:

3 *maid* In this context, â??a female infantâ?• (*OED*).

4 *charms* â??Fascinating quality; charmingness, attractivenessâ?• (*OED*).

9 *obdurâ??d* â??To harden in wickedness, or against moral influenceâ?• (*OED*).

13 *celestial* â??Of or pertaining to the sky or material heavensâ?• (*OED*).

14 *aethereal* â??Of or relating to heaven, God, or the gods; heavenly, celestialâ?• (*OED*).

Source: *Poems on Various Subjects: Entertaining, Elegiac, and Religious* (Bristol, 1786), pp. 49-50. [*Google Books*]

Edited by Marivic Victoria