Anne Ross, â??To the memory of a Young Lady, who died in the eleventh year of her ageâ?•

Description

[ANNE ROSS]

â??To the memory of a Young LADY, who died in the eleventh year of her ageâ?•

All ye who mourn
The loss of friends thatâ??s dear,
The mournful scene that is exhibit here,
Bids envy cease, and pity drop a tear.

To you, whose hearts can feel when others mourn,
This is addressâ??d, it soon may be your turn;
Their case to day, to-morrow may be yourâ??s,
The clearest sun oft sets in clouds and showers.

A tender mother reared a darling child,
Joy of her friends, and all the countryâ??s pride;
Her person graceful, her complexion fair,
An antient Baronetâ??s apparent heir.

Her comely face displayâ??d a lively bloom,
Which promisâ??d health, and many years to come;
Tâ?? inform her mind, and make her wise as fair,
Was still her honourâ??d motherâ??s constant care.

For her, to Heavâ??n, she still addressâ??d her prayer,
That it might always keep her in its care;
That she, in evâ??ry stage of life, might shine,
And see her race, a long and prospâ??rous line.

Her aunt and mother saw, with glad surprise,
Inherent virtues near perfection rise:
Their hopes were raisâ??d, their expectations high;
But soon, alas! their expectations fly.

How fleeting are our pleasures, here below?
A stream of joy, now turns a tide of woe.

From bloom of health, this darling child is seizâ??d,
Laid on her bed and painâ??d with sore disease;
If human aid could cure, that aid was givâ??n;
But who can alter the decree of Heavâ??n.

How calm and patient in distress she lay;
In all her trouble never ceasâ??d to pray:
Thâ?? afflicted mother sends her sighs to Heavâ??n,
Restore my child, and all I wish is givâ??n.

If this requestâ??s denyâ??d, O! help me still,
To be resignâ??d unto thy heavenly will;
Heavâ??n, oft in mercy, does our wish deny,
Our surest hope is fixâ??d above the sky.

The child was quite resignâ??d; to die was gain,
Her prayer was not for life, but ease from pain:
Her prayer was not unheard, her wish was given;
Her blessed Saviour takes her home to heaven.

In youth and innocence, the child she dies,
And angels waft her spirit to the skies.

NOTES:

Epigraph Unable to trace; possibly provided by the author.

5 *reared* â??To raise a personâ?• (*OED*).

8 *antient* â??The spelling of â??ancientâ?? from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century; it refers to the titles of office or position formerly occupiedâ?• (*OED*).

16 *race* A poetical term that refers to â??a set of children or descendantsâ?• (*OED*).

24 *sore* â??Violent with painâ?• (Johnson).

40 *waft* â??To carry through the airâ?• (Johnson).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions* (Glasgow, 1791), pp. 36-38. [Google Books]

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