

Jane Cave, "Written by Desire of a Mother, on the Death of an Only Child"•

Description

JANE CAVE

Written by Desire of a Mother, on the Death of an Only Child

As with delight we view the opening rose
Expand, and all her fragrant sweets disclose,
So did MATERNA view her lovely maid,
In all the charms of innocence arrayed;
Oft had her little all, her only child, 5
The tedious hour with pleasing chat beguiled,
But Heaven, all-good, and infinitely wise,
Removed this darling idol to the skies,
Ere her young heart had been *obdured* by sin, 10
Or guilt, tormenting fiend, could brood therein,
Ere she arrived at years that might destroy,
By one false step, a tender mother's joy.

Behold she soars to yon celestial fields,
Where every plant aethereal odour yields;
With pitying eye, methinks she looks below, 15
Commiserates a tender mother's woe,
Bids her dejected heart from earth retire,
And all her future thoughts to Heaven aspire;
Prepare, she cries, prepare to meet the blest,
And join your SALLY in eternal rest. 20

NOTES:

3 *maid* In this context, a female infant (OED).

4 *charms* Fascinating quality; charmingness, attractiveness (OED).

9 *obdured* To harden in wickedness, or against moral influence (OED).

13 *celestial* Of or pertaining to the sky or material heavens (OED).

14 *aethereal* Of or relating to heaven, God, or the gods; heavenly, celestial (OED).

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

Edited by Marivic Victoria