

"I WENT TO GATHER FLOWERS."

Surrounded by pleasures, a wanderer in time,
 I gazed on the beauties of Nature, sublime;
 Her music, harmonious, I heard in the grove,
 And her flowers, all so fragrant, me tempted to rove.
 With a heart light and buoyant, I wandered awhile,
 Where the trees, and the flowers, and all nature did smile;
 And I gazed on the sun, in his western decline,
 And thought that a happiness lasting was mine.
 But soon, where the dead of the hamlet were laid,
 I came, and my heart sunk within me dismayed;
 I paused there to weep, and my spirit did say,
 The pleasures of time will soon vanish away.
 The friends of my youth, whom so dearly I prize,
 In the slumbers of death will soon close their eyes;
 And this body of mine, now so active and gay,
 Like the roses around me, will shortly decay;
 And the beauties of earth, though they flourish awhile,
 By a death-chilling blast, will at length cease to smile.
 Then let us be wise, ere we sink to the tomb,
 That in regions immortal our spirits may bloom.

FOR A FRIEND'S ALBUM.

Now here comes the album, with pages so white,
 Sent forth by the owner, with charms, to invite
 The neighbor, friend, poet and christian to write
 A kind sentiment here,
 Which may, when hereafter presented to sight,
 Some lone moments cheer.

A thought, from the fragments that roam in my mind,
 To transfer to its pages so fair, I'm inclined;
 And when your eye meets it, O, may it remind
 You of friendship unbroken;
 And many kind spirits in life may you find,
 Who shall leave here a token.

A token of friendship! memento most dear!
 A mark of esteem from a friend most sincere.
 And while we're performing our pilgrimage here,
 May we oft bear in mind,
 That our sorrows are soothed, while in life's path so drear,
 By the friends that we find.

But friends from each other must soon pass away,
 Our bodies are mortal, and they must decay;
 But to all who will walk in the straight gospel way,
 At length shall be given
 Pure friendship's unclouded, unchangeable day,
 In its own spotless heaven.