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M<sup>r</sup>. LISTON AS LUBIN LOG.

*I say Master, see what it is to have the ready—especially  
when one's tolerably pretty into the bargain!!*

Published by John Duncamp, 19, Little Queen Street, Holborn.

THE  
**PORTFOLIO**  
OF  
**AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION,**  
IN  
**History, Science, Literature, and the Fine Arts;**  
CONTAINING  
**ORIGINAL ESSAYS;**  
BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS; HISTORICAL NARRATIVES;  
TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTIONS; NOVELS; TALES; ANECDOTES;  
SELECT EXTRACTS FROM MODERN AUTHORS;  
POETRY, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED;  
**The Spirit of the Public Press;**  
**DISCOVERIES IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES; DOMESTIC HINTS**  
**OF UTILITY, &c. &c. &c.**

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**The Portfolio,**  
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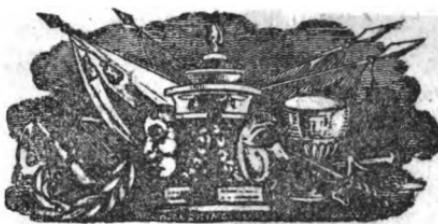
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## Ancient Legends.

No. XIV.

## THE LASS OF FAIR WONE.

Before the parson's bower of yew  
Why strays a troubled sprite,  
That peaks and pines, and dimly shines  
Thro' curtains of the night?

Why steals along the pond of toads  
A gliding fire so blue,  
That lights a spot where grows no grass,  
Where falls no rain nor dew?

The parson's daughter once was good,  
And gentle as the dove,  
And young and fair,—and many came  
To win the damsel's love.

High o'er the hamlet, from the hill,  
Beyond the winding stream,  
The windows of a stately house  
In sheen of evening gleam.

There dwelt in riot, rout, and roar,  
A lord so frank and free;  
That oft, with inward joy of heart,  
The maid beheld his glee.

Whether he met the dawning day,  
In hunting trim so fine,  
Or tapers, sparkling from his hall,  
Beshone the midnight wine.

He sent the maid his picture, girt  
With diamond, pearl, and gold;  
And silken-paper, sweet with musk,  
This gentle message told.

'Let go thy sweethearts, one and all;  
Shalt thou be basely woo'd,  
That worthy art to gain the heart  
Of youths of noble blood?

The tale I would to thee betray,  
In secret must be said:  
At midnight hour I'll seek thy bower;  
Fair lass, be not afraid.

And when the amorous nightingale  
Sings sweetly to his mate,  
I'll pipe my quail-call from the field:  
Be kind, nor make me wait.'

In cap and mantle clad he came,  
At night, with lonely tread;  
Unseen, and silent as a mist,  
And hush'd the dogs with bread.

And when the amorous nightingale  
Sings sweetly to his mate,  
She heard his quail-call in the field,  
And, ah! ne'er made him wait.

The words he whispered were so soft,  
They won her ear and heart;  
How soon will she, who loves, believe!  
How deep a lover's art!

No hire, no soothing guise, he spar'd,  
To banish virtuous shame;  
He call'd on holy God above,  
As witness to his flame.

He clasp'd her to his breast, and swore  
To be for ever true;  
"O yield thee to my wishful arms,  
Thy choice thou shalt not rue."

And while she strove, he drew her on,  
And led her to the bower  
So still, so dim—and round about  
Sweet smelt the beans in flower.

There beat her heart, and heaved her  
breast,  
And pleaded every sense;  
And there the glowing breath of lust  
Did blast her innocence.

But when the fragrant beans began  
Their sallow blooms to shed,  
Her sparkling eyes their lustre lost,  
Her cheek, its roses fled:

And when she saw the pods increase,  
The ruddier cherries slain,  
She felt her silken robe grow tight,  
Her waist new weight sustain.

And when the mowers went afield,  
The yellow corn to ted,  
She felt her burden stir within,  
And shook with tender dread.

And when the winds of Autumn hist  
Along the stubble field;  
Then could the damsel's piteous plight  
No longer be concealed.

Her sire, a harsh and angry man,  
With furious voice reviled:  
'Hence from my sight! I'll none of thee,  
I harbour not thy child.'

And fast, amid her fluttering hair,  
With clenched fist he gripes,  
And seized a leathern thong, and lash'd  
Her side with sounding stripes.

Her lily skin, so soft and white,  
He ribb'd with bloody wales;  
And thrust her out, tho' dark the night,  
Tho' fleet the storm assails.

Up the harsh rock, on flinty paths,  
The maiden had to roam;  
On tottering feet she grop'd her way,  
And sought her lover's home.

'A mother thou hast made of me,  
Before thou mad'st a wife:  
For this, upon my tender breast,  
These livid stripes are rife:

Behold.'—And then, with bitter sobs,  
She sunk upon the floor—

'Make good the evil thou hast wrought;  
My injured name restore.'

'Poor soul; I'll have thee hous'd and  
nurs'd;

Thy terrors I lament.  
Stay here; we'll have some further talk—  
The old one shall repent—'

'I have no time to rest and wait;  
That saves not my good name:  
If thou with honest soul hast sworn,  
O leave me not to shame;

But at the holy altar be  
Our union sanctified;  
Before the people and priest  
Receive me for thy bride.'

'Unequal matches must not blot  
The honours of my line:  
Art thou of wealth or rank for me,  
To harbour thee as mine?

What's fit or fair I'll do for thee;  
Shalt yet retain my love—  
Shalt wed my huntsman—and we'll then  
Our former transports prove,'

'Thy wicked soul, hard-hearted man,  
May pangs in hell await!  
Sure, if not suited for thy bride,  
I was not for thy mate.

Go, seek a spouse of noble blood,  
Nor God's just judgment dread—  
So shall, ere long, some base-born wretch  
Defile thy marriage-bed.

Then, traitor, feel how wretched they  
In hopeless shame immers'd;  
Then smite thy forehead on the wall,  
While horrid curses burst.

Roll thy dry eyes in wild despair—  
Unsooth'd thy grinning woe:  
Tho' thy pale temples fire the ball,  
And sink to fiends below.'

Collected then, she started up,  
And, thro' the hissing sleet,  
Thro' thorn and briar, thro' flood and  
mire,  
She fled with bleeding feet.

'Where now,' she cried 'my gracious God!  
What refuge have I left?  
And reached the garden of her home,  
Of hope in man bereft.

On hand and foot she feebly crawl'd  
Beneath the bower unblest;  
Where withering leaves and gathering  
snow,  
Prepar'd her only rest.

There rending pains and darting throes  
Assail'd her shuddering frame;  
And from her womb a lovely boy,  
With wail and weeping came.

Forth from her hair a silver pin  
With hasty hand she drew,  
And prest against its tender heart,  
And the sweet babe she slew.

Erst when the act of blood was done,  
Her soul its guilt abhor'd:  
'My Jesus! what has been my deed?  
Have mercy on me, Lord!'

With bloody nails, beside the pond,  
Its shallow grave she tore;  
'There restin God; there shame and want  
Thou canst not suffer more.'

Me vengeance waits. My poor, poor child,  
Thy wound shall bleed afresh,  
When ravens from the gallows tear  
Thy mother's mouldering flesh.'

Hard by the bower her gibbet stands;  
Her skull is still to show;  
It seems to eye the barren grave,  
Three spans in length below.

That is the spot where grows no grass;  
Where falls no rain nor dew:  
Whence steals along the pond of toads  
A hovering fire of blue.

And nightly, when the ravens come,  
Her ghost is seen to glide;  
Pursues and tries to quench the flame,  
And pines the pool beside.

### Scrapiana.

#### HOPE.

Until its reason fails, it is impossible for human nature to prevent the visitation of Hope. This immortal child of imagination and desire, with the wings of a sylph, the