FANCY'S FIRST, OR TENDER TRIFLES

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Fancy's First, or Tender Trifles by W. Brown Kitchiner

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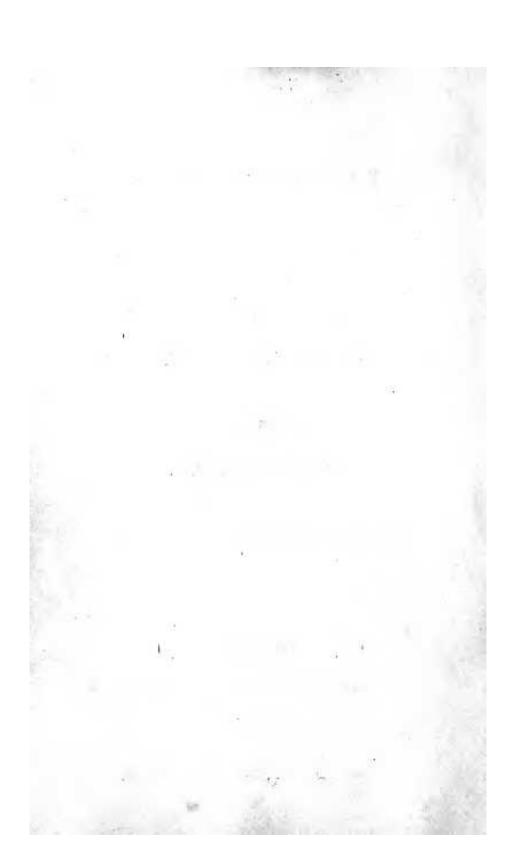
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BY

W. BROWN KITCHINER, Esq.

Sequitarque Patrem non passibus sequis .- VIRGIL.

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M.DCCC.XXIX.



DEDICATION.

TO

MY WIFE.

"From the tumultuous rule of passions freed,
Pure in thy thought, and spotless in thy deed,
In virtues rich, in goodness unconfined,
Thou shewst a fair example to thy kind.
Sincere and equal to thy neighbour's name,
How swift to praise—how guittless to defame!
Bold, in thy presence, Bashfulness appears,
And backward Merit loses all its fears;
Supremely blest by Heaven, Heaven's richest grace
Confest is thine—an early blossning cace."

Gentle Shepherdess, 1788.

POETS, like all authors, labour under a very excusable vanity—the love of approbation; and have often been encouraged, under the greatest disadvantages, to persevere in their performance, by a desire to please those

"whose praise is fame," Why, then, may it be asked, should not the Author of the present Volume be allowed the indulgence of the same trivial fault?

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Conscious of my own inability, and of the responsibility which now attaches itself to me as the Father of this Work, I feel myself wanting some support, and that one name is required in my Volume, which, independent of any trifling merit it may be fortunate enough to possess in itself, would alone give it value.

Most willingly and eagerly do these my TENDER TRIFLES throw themselves at the feet of thee, my amiable and affectionate Wife, humbly supplicating that a portion of that regard which you have bestowed upon their parent may be extended towards them.

Abert five him become not un toplication that in it.

The limited space allotted for a Dedication does not allow me to send those praises forth which I might other-

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wise wish, and might do without flattery; for flattery does not, I conceive, consist in paying Merit what is Merit's due, but in the application of praise misplaced. To say that you are all that is good and amiable, is to speak the truth—to say more, would be to throw "a perfume on the violet."

"And all those sayings will I over swear,
And all those swearings keep as true in soul
As doth that orbed continent, the fire,
That severs day from night."—Twalstu Night.

It is acknowledged by the world, and with truth, that a weak friend's defence is frequently more injurious than an enemy's abuse: so may, in like manner, an injudicious Dedication reflect but a very negative compliment on those we most wish to please.

In the present production I feel this truth sincerely, and wish that the first offering of my Muse could have been more worthy of her to whom it it inscribed. Yet,