RETIREMENT: A POEM

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Retirement: a poem by Thomas Stewart

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THOMAS STEWART

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A Poem.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON: 2- Moyes, Took's Court, Charcery Laye.

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RETIREMENT:

A Poem.

STORTAL STORY

BY

THOMAS STEWART, Esq.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

JAMES RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY.

M.DCCC.XXX.

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TO

HARRIET, LADY DRUMMOND,

OF LOGIE ALMOND,

This Poem

IS DEDICATED,

IN TESTIMONY OF THE GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION OF HER NEPHEW,

THE AUTHOR.

Naples, April 12, 1829.



ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed .- The Muses preferred the retirement of Parnassus, and the groves watered by the Mincio, to Olympus. - The retirement of Virgil - of the lover. - The woods the retreat of the poet - of Panof Orpheus. - The Garden of Eden. - The retirement of Adam and Eve. - The change that the world underwent; - its happiness in its primeval state; -that of England when a savage clime, and apart from the commerce of Europe.-The march of vice kept pace with that of refinement in ancient Rome. - The honours decreed to war followed on the march of refinement. - War, a theme unadapted to a rural poem. -Even Wellington turns from war to the nobler arts of peace. - Cicero in retirement.-The woods at sunrise; - their contrast afforded by a city adorned with trophies. - The retirement of Science from the turmoil of cities; -that of the astronomer. -The regularity of the physical compared with the disorder visible in the moral world .- The retirement of the disappointed man illustrated by that of Iölas. - The trophies and nameless records of human pride, visible at Rome, warn the wise to fly to retirement. — Cæsar and Alexander proofs of the emptiness of human greatness. - The woods contain no trophies. - The retirement of the hermit.— Episode of Moria and Ida, - The retirement of Charles V.-The happiness of blameless age - exemplified. - The poet's wish for retirement. - Conclusion.