

1830

THE HOMES OF ENGLAND

Felicia Hemans

Hemans, Felicia Dorothea (nee Browne) (1793-1835) - English poet, best known for her lyrics. Self-educated, Hemans published her first works when she was only fourteen years old. Her poems reflect her romantically secluded life in their enthusiasm and their simplicity. The Homes of England (1830) - A standard English verse. Opening lines: The stately homes of England! / How beautiful they stand, ...

HOMES OF ENGLAND

“Where’s the coward that would not dare To fight for such a land?”-

MARMION.

THE stately homes of England, How beautiful they stand, Amidst their tall ancestral trees, O’er all the pleasant land!

The deer across their greensward bound, Through shade and sunny gleam; And the swan glides past them with the sound Of some rejoicing stream.

The merry homes of England!

Around their hearths by night, What gladsome looks of household love Meet in the ruddy light!

There woman’s voice flows forth in song, Or childhood’s tale is told, Or lips move tunefully along Some glorious page of old.

The blessed homes of England!

How softly on their bowers Is laid the holy quietness That breathes from Sabbath hours!

Solemn, yet sweet, the church-bell’s chime Floats through their woods at morn; All other sounds, in that still time, Of breeze and leaf are born.

The cottage homes of England!

By thousands on her plains, They are smiling o’er the silvery brooks, And round the hamlet fanes.

Through glowing orchards forth they peep, Each from its nook of leaves; And fearless there the lowly sleep, As the bird beneath their eaves.

The free fair homes of England!

Long, long, in hut and hall, May hearts of native proof be reared To guard each hallowed wall!

And green for ever be the groves, And bright the flowery sod, Where first the child’s glad spirit loves Its country and its God!

THE END