

of Henry Kirke White." "What sonnet?" "That to the river Trent.

‘Once more, O Trent! along thy pebbly *marge*,
A pensive invalid, reduced and pale,
From the close sick room newly set at large,
Woos to his woe-worn cheek the pleasant gale.’

It is, in short, one of the common English words of the poetic vocabulary." Could a man in quest of patronage, and actually at the time soliciting a favor, possibly contrive to say anything more imprudent? And this, too, to a gentleman so much accustomed to be deferred to when he took up his ground on the *Standards*, as sometimes to forget, through the sheer force of habit, that he was not a standard himself! He colored to the eyes; and his condescending humility, which seemed, I thought, rather too great for the occasion, and was of a kind which my friend Mr. Stewart never used to exhibit, appeared somewhat ruffled. I have no acquaintance, he said, with the editor of the *Courier*: we take opposite sides in very important questions; and I cannot recommend your verses to him; but call on Mr. ———; he is one of the proprietors; and, with *my compliments*, state your case to him: he will be perhaps able to assist you. Meanwhile, I wish you all success. The minister hurried me out, and one of the withered old women was called in. "This," I said to myself, as I stepped into the street, "is the sort of patronage which letters of introduction procure for one. I don't think I'll seek any more of it."

Meeting on the street, however, with two Cromarty friends, one of whom was just going to call on the gentleman named by the minister, he induced me to accompany him. The other said, as he took his separate way, that, having come to visit an old townsman settled in Inverness, a man of some influence in the burgh, he would state my case to him; and he was sure he would exert himself to procure me employment. I have already referred to the remark of Burns. It is recorded by his brother Gilbert, that the poet used often to say, "That he could not well conceive a more mortifying picture