tirely new to me. "These Recollections," says the biographer, "are truly interesting and touching, *and were the result of various communications made to Mr. Wilson,* whose pains-taking researches I have had frequent occasion to verify in the course of my own." Alas, no! Poor Wilson was more than a twelvemonth in his grave ere the idea of producing these "Recollections" first struck the writer,—a person to whom no communications on the subject were ever made by any one, and who, unassisted save by one of the biographies of the poet,—that in Chambers' "Lives of Illustrious Scotsmen," —wrote full two hundred miles from the scene of his sad and brief career. The same individual who, in Mr. Wilson's behalf, is so complimentary to my "pains-taking research," is, I find, very severe on one of Fergusson's previous biographers,—the scholarly Dr. Irving, author of the Life of Buchanan, and the lives of the older Scottish Poets,—a gentleman who, whatever his estimate of the poor poet may have been, would have spared no labor in elucidating the various incidents which composed his history. The man of research is roughly treated, and a compliment awarded to the diligence of the man of none. But it is always thus with Fame.

> "Some she disgraced, and some with honors crown'd;
>   Unlike successes equal merits found :
>   So her blind sister, fickle Fortune, reigns,
>   And, undiscerning, scatters crowns and chains."

In the memoir of John Bethune by his brother Alexander, the reader is told that he was much depressed and disappointed, about a twelvemonth or so previous to his decease, by the rejection of several of his stories in succession, which were returned to him, "with an editor's sentence of death passed upon them." I know not whether it was by the editor of the "Tales of the Borders" that sentence in the case was passed; but I know he sentenced some of mine, which were, I dare say, not very good, though well nigh equal, I thought, to most of his own. Instead, however, of yielding to depression, like poor Bethune, I simply resolved to write for