

in the infancy of his peerage, ere he had performed a single service of any kind, received unsolicited. The gift had its effect; and many of his after votes were recorded on the side of ministers, against Chatham and the Americans. No party, however, could calculate very surely on his support: he was frequently drawn aside by some eccentric impulse; and frequently hit right and left in mere wantonness, without caring whether the stroke fell on friend or foe. There were, meanwhile, sad doings at Hagley. In "his father's decent hall," to employ the language of Childe Harold,

"condemned to uses vile,
Now Paphian girls were known to sing and smile."

He had been married to a lady, of whom nothing worse has ever been said than that she accepted his hand. Her, however, he had early deserted. But the road he had taken, with all its downward ease and breadth, is not the road which leads to happiness; and enough survives of his private history to show that he was a very miserable man.

"And none did love him; though to hall and bower
He gathered revellers from far and near,
He knew them flatterers of the festal hour,
The heartless parasites of present cheer;
Yea, none did love him, — not his lemans dear."

He seems to have been strongly marked by the peculiar heartlessness so generally found to coëxist with the gratuitous and flashy generosity of men of grossly licentious lives; that petrification of feeling to which Burns and Byron — both of them unfortunately but too well qualified to decide on the subject — so pointedly refer. But he could feel remorse, however incapable of pity, — and remorse heightened, notwithstanding