

A Poem of
Felicia Hemans
in
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Compiled
by
Peter J. Bolton

On a Picture Representing an Italian Contadina and her Family



THE PRINCE OF SPAIN'S VISIT TO CATALINA

Painted by G. S. Newton R.A. Engraved by Charles Rolls

ON A PICTURE,

REPRESENTING AN ITALIAN CONTADINA AND HER FAMILY.

BY MRS. HEMANS.

I.

Not for the myrtle, and not for the vine,
Whose grape, like a gem, is the sunbeam's shrine ;
And not for the deep blue heaven, that showers
Joy on thy spirit, like light on the flowers ;
And not for the breath of the citron-trees,
Fair Peasant ! I call thee not blest for these.

II.

Not for the beauty spread over thy brow,
Though round thee a gleam, as of spring, it throw ;
And not for the lustre that laughs from thine eye,
Like a dark stream's flash to the summer sky,
Though the south in its riches nought lovelier sees—
Fair Peasant ! I call thee not blest for these !

III.

But for these breathing and loving things—
For the boy's fond arm that around thee clings ;
For the sunny cheek on thy lap that glows,
In the peace of a trusting child's repose ;
For the hearts whose home is thy gentle breast—
Oh ! richly I call thee, and deeply blest !