# 190 THE POLYANTHOS.

have been compared to Raphael, "sociably mild," of whom the same poet, by the mouth of Adam, thus speaks, in language most exquisitely beautiful :—

" Haste hither, Eve, and worth thy sight behold
" Eastward among those trees, what glorious shape
" Comes this way moving ; seems another morn
" Risen on mid noon ; some great behest from heaven
" To us perhaps he brings"

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#### ECCENTRICK CHARACTER.

MARY FRITH, alias Moll Cuthurse, was born in London, 1589. Her early propensities formed a striking index of her future habits; for female attire, and the needle and thimble, were as irksome to her as running, jumping, cudgelplaying, and fighting were consonant to her desires. When she arrived at a state of womanhood, she took to wearing man's apparel, which she continued to do till the day of her death, which happened at the age of seventy-four. It was the custom in those days for ladies and gentlemen to wear their purses hung to a girdle, and Moll was famous for attending places of publick resort to cut them off, for which she obtained the name of Cutpurse; and to her dexterity in this art we owe the invention of ladies pockets, and those used by gentleman in their

### THE FOLYANTHOS. 191

small-clothes. She likewise practised on the highway with much repute, till having rebbed general Fairfax on Hounslow Heath, for which she was condemned to die, but purcashed her life and liberty by paying the General two hundred guineas; she resolved to quit the occupation, and commence broker to the London thieves, which business she followed to the day of her death; and thus set a pattern for Jonathan Wyld. She was the first English woman that ever smoked tobacco; and when she found that death had ordered her to lay aside her pipe and pot, she bequeathed the greater part of her property to her nephew, with an order that he should not lay it out foolishly, but get drunk with it while it lasted. A small monument was raised to her memory in St. Bridget's church-yard, and the great Milton wrote the following epitaph, which was engraven thereon, but the whole was destroyed by the great fire in 1666 :---

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" Here lies under the same marble,
" Dust, for Time's last sieve to garble;
" Dust to perplex a sadducee,
" Whether it rise a he or she;
" Or two in one, a single pair,
" Nature's sport, and now her care.
" For how she'll clothe it at last day,

" Unless she sighs it all away; " Or where she'll place it, none can tell,

## 192 THE POLYANTHOS.

Some middle place 'twixt heaven and hell :
And well 'tis purgatory's found,
Else she must hide her under ground.
These reliques do deserve the doom,
Of that cheat Mahomet's fine tomb ;
For no communion she had,
Nor sorted with the good or bad ;
That when the world shall be calcined,
And the mixed mass of human kind
Shall sep'rate by that melting fire,
She'll stand alone and none come nigh her.
Reader, here she lies till then,

"When truly you'll see her again."

# LOVE'S TELEGRAPH.

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IF a gentleman wants a wife, he wears a ring on the first finger of the left hand; if he be engaged, he wears it on the second finger; if married, on the third; and on the fourth, if he never intends to be married. When a lady is disengaged, she wears a hoop or diamond on the first finger; if engaged, she wears a hoop or diamond on the second finger; if married, on the third; and on the fourth, if she intends to die a maid. When a gentlemen presents a fan, a flower, or a trinket, to a lady with the left hand, it is, on his part, an overture of regard; should she receive it with the left hand, it is considered as an acceptance of his esteem; but if with the right hand, it is a refusal of the offer.—Thus, by a few