160. “The Song of the Southern Breeze,” February 12, MSS V, VIII. Printed in PJR, 1:106-8; Works, 2:334-35.

In MS VIII, title written “SONG OF THE SOUTHERN BREEZE”; untitled in MS V, although a space was left where a title was to be printed. Dated by Ruskin in MS VIII, and followed by a pen-and-ink vignette labelled “Milan” (first labeled “<Athens>” although it is possible that Ruskin was merely crossing out and delaying his intention to compose a further stanza of that poem, which does appear below the vignette; see no. 135). The vignette was perhaps suggested by the “southern breeze.”

The poem could be related to Ruskin’s comment in a March 4 letter that “Mamma has been wishing for a wind to blow away the cholera” that had been ravaging London since February, “and we have got one at last” (RFL, 273).

Oh what is the voice of the wind that flies

All by the waste and wintry skies

What is the voice of the breeze that swells

Down by the darksome and dreary dells

Where has it been

And what has it seen

As it sailed the high crest of the billows between

Sweeping the heather that girdles the mountain

And circling the waves as they foam in the fountain

For the tempest child

It singeth so wild

Mongst the hills that are heavenward piled

Lullaby lullaby

Has it sung above the wave

Lullaby lullaby

Oer the sailors ocean grave

Where hast thou been

By the ocean green

Tell me wild wind what thou hast seen

*Breeze*

I have come from the southern land

All by Indias pearly strand

And the spicy gales they were following me

As I swept across the boundless sea

I have raised the flag of the warships mast

As it hung down lazilie

I have sung my song with the midnight blast

With a mournful melodie

Oh I have gone so fleet and fast

By the rocks of the sounding sea

And the waves they smiled as I by them past

And they smiled with their foam on me

I have fanned the skies of Araby

Across the lonely sand

And I have seen the pilgrim die

In a far and foreign land

Ive seen full many a mountain height

Uprear his giant form of might

And I have flown

By the desert lone

By Chimborazo’s mountain throne

I have borne the red bolt on my breast

As it fiercely crackled by

I have lulled the ocean into rest

With my soft and soothing sigh

I have caught the clouds from the golden west

Where the sun delights to die

And Ive been by the crags of the mountains crest

That reareth himself upon high

Een now theres a cloud that is waiting for me

To carry him over the northern sea

I must away

Over the ocean away

Full far and full far I must urge my flight

Ere that day shall be drowned in the mists of the night

I am gone by the crests of foam and snow

That hide the waters depth below

Away and away

Textual note.--As compared with the edited version in Works, Ruskin’s fair copy in MS V and his draft in MS VIII are unpunctuated, except for “Chimborazo’s” (line 40) in MS V; capitalization is shown accurately in Works, except Ruskin has no small capital in “OH” (line 1).

9, MS V, Works in] on PJR

12, MS V Mongst] <[Tween(?)]> Mongst MS VIII; Works ’Mongst

14, MS V, Works Has it] Have ye MS VIII

19, MS V, Works what thou hast seen] where thou hast been PJR

28, MS V, Works Oh] O MS VIII

39, MS V, PJR By] Oer MS VIII; Works O’er

48, MSS V, VIII upon] on PJR, Works

55, MS V, Works foam and snow] foam snow MS VIII

57, MS V, Works and] & MS VIII

160a. Translation of Homer’s Iliad, mid-February (or possibly between December 1831 and January 1832) and afterward, MS IA. Unpublished.

On February 20, Ruskin says, “I have not looked at my Pope’s Homer since I began translating, the original is so much superior” (RFL, 263). If no. 148 refers to payment for this translation, however, the project would date from a month or two earlier than this letter. See also part 1, MS IIIA, which contains a note about payment for four “Pages Homer”--possibly referring to this fair-copied manuscript no. 160a. See part 1, MS IA, “Content,” p, for a detailed physical description. The hand and format of this manuscript is very similar to those of the Sermon Books, which Ruskin probably began in the fall (no. 170), except that no. 160a has narrow double columns on a page and the Sermon Books have a wide single column. This fair-copy translation extended into the second book of the Iliad before it was abandoned.