



## VI.

For a Column at R U N N Y M E D E.

**T**HOU, who the verdant plain dost traverse here,  
 While Thames among his willows from thy view  
 Retires; O stranger, stay thee, and the scene  
 Around contemplate well. This is the place  
 Where England's ancient barons, clad in arms  
 And stern with conquest, from their tyrant king  
 (Then render'd tame) did challenge and secure  
 The charter of thy freedom. Pass not on  
 Till thou have bless'd their memory, and paid  
 Those thanks which God appointed the reward  
 Of public virtue. And if chance thy home  
 Salute thee with a father's honour'd name,  
 Go, call thy sons: instruct them what a debt  
 They owe their ancestors; and make them swear  
 To pay it, by transmitting down intire  
 Those sacred rights to which themselves were born,