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THE VIGIL OF LOVE. BY MRS. E H. EVANS.

CALMLY within its cradle-bed A gentle babe lay sleeping, And silently beside it there A sister, watch was keeping.

She gazed on it with tender pride-Its curls of amber brightness-The morning's blush upon its chee And its brow of pearly whiteness on its cheek.

She marked the line of azure light Beneath the shadowing lashes, And knew not if 'twas loveliest so, Or lit with mirthful flashes.

She was a fair and gentle girl Who watched the baby sleeping, But oh ! a brighter one than she A holier watch was keeping.

Softer than moonlight was the ray Upon those features shining, And radiant as the stars, a crown That angel brow entwining.

And earthly eyes have never worn Looks so intensely beaming-So soft with love—so bright with joy, With heaven's own beauty gleaming

Nor ever lips of mortal maid Parted with smiles so tender, Or ever mortal form be seen So dazzling in its splendor.

Far floating was her glorious hair— Het hair of sunny brightness— And half unfolded ærer her wings Of more than snowy whiteness.

Fair, blessed mother | guarding still Her infant's happy dreaming, Unseen by others, round his couch Her robes were ever streaming.

But well the fayoured sleeper knew d smiled at her caressing, And listened to her spirit-tones That ever spoke in blessing.

At last about its little bed Were sounds of bitter sorrow, And throbbing hearts that feared to think Upon the weary morrow.

But lo ! a more ecstatic smile

The angel watcher weareth— A lovelier glory than before Upon her face appeareth,

A dimming of the half-shut eye, A cry, half pain, half gladness, A shudder o'er the lovely limbs, And he hath done with sadness.

A spirit toward the glorious gate

Of paradise is wedding— A cherub in her arms she bears To share her bliss ascending.

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