

87 [EBB's page number]

Stray Thoughts. April 1825.

Great minds are always ready
to¹ receive true impressions; and
will not suffer prejudice to com=
=bat conviction. Gold is ^at once[^] the
most valuable & most tenable
of metals.

Bad² failings in a great writer
are less revolting than humiliating.
As we are elevated with the
object³ of our admiration so we
are let down in its descent-
and not let down very gently.
Our minds ^are[^] like the strings of
an instrument – if they be
suddenly relaxed after long
tension Discord follows.

88 [EBB's page number]

A habit [smudged] of severe study

¹ “&” in your notes

² It looks like she overwrote here: “Base>Bad”.

³ “aspect” in your notes

gives energy to thought. As lute
strings by excess of tension are
made musical.

We may receive valuable instruc=
=tion from a foolish book & a
moral lesson from an evil man.
As Milton hath it “A wise man
may learn more from an idle
pamphlet than a fool from
sacred scripture.” It is bad only to
read one side of a discussed [? matter]
tho’ it be the best. Mixed Reading
as>like mixed society is wholesome
for the mind. The body should
be taught endurance of all
89 [EBB’s page number]
weathers and the mind resistance
to all evil. And it cannot resist
without coming in contact with
its opponents. Let it therefore be
instructed rather to wrestle with
wrong that>than to fly from it. Evil>Good

may be brought from good>Evil.

Melampus would not have [i.w. and overwritten down margin]

the gift of prophecy, had not

Serpents licked his ears.

Memory the ashes of a buried

thing '—

Silence & stilness [sic] the precursor of all
passionate feeling.

The very waves have silence when they raise

their dark brows upon high & look around

Before they bay⁴ the Heavens, bursting in foam &

sound /__

& As the Spirits of Fire doth leave behind

But ashes – so the spirit of out Joys

leaveth the heart it glorifies . .

consumed |

90 [EBB's page number]

False friends are like bad torches

they go out

& leave us in the dark ' __

⁴ I was not familiar with this expression, but it is grammatically correct. Hounds can “bay the moon”.

Aye! look in at my eyes! if truth⁵

can speak

She will speak there!

The power of ~~the~~ Kings is as far light –

their subjects

So>Do stand in that light's shadow ?.

A contented mind ~~is~~ retains happiness

even after the overthrow of its

best hopes – as Palm trees on the

South Sea have formed islands

by the falling of their own fruits &

flowers.

Our memory embalms the

past, extracting from it all that

is noisome & offensive, the which

the [sic] replaces with sweet spices

& pleasant gums. It is true

then that our joys rest ~~is~~ near

us longer than our griefs. For when

⁵ Overwriting something

grief is past it seemeth less

grievous; when joy is fled it

seemeth more joyful ' ___
