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Gerald Massey 1828-1901 author 1727.7

En Memoriam. M A R K L E M O N, May 23, 1870.

MAY 23, 1870.

So, close his eyes, his life's work done; So, close his lips, hushed mute by death; He here no more shall see the sun, Nor breathe our mortal troubled breath. He, too, has passed. The wit that shone The humour gay that sparkled here, The genial friendship, all are gone; His laugh no more our days shall cheer. Falstaff, be jested in our eyes, An actor, but in daily life His jests were as his "Fat Jack's"—wise, With unctuous fun as rich and rife. What wit-lit nights with him we've known, When Thackeray, Jerrold, Hood, were ours f They clustered round him, who alone Held wise rule o'er their wound'rous powers.

They owned him wise to choose the choice,
Their dimmer sparkles to reject;
They bowed, obedient to his voice.

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