147. “Curtained in cloudy drapery,” (“Moonlight on the Mountains”), November 30, MSS V, VIII. MS V version printed in PJR, 1:100; Works, 2:330. MS VIII version previously unpublished.

Dated by Ruskin in MS V. Titled by Collingwood (see no. 124); untitled by Ruskin. MS VIII contains three stanzas beyond the two copied into MS V. The three extra stanzas in MS VIII are numbered 3-5 by Ruskin, unlike the first two, which are unnumbered, and the three stanzas appear to be composed with a different pen than what was used for the first two--all of which suggests the possibility that Ruskin fair-copied the first two stanzas in MS V and then extended the poem in MS VIII as an afterthought. The end of the poem in MS VIII is strongly marked by an ornamental horizontal line and stars.

The tone of the extra MS VIII stanzas--radically differing from that of the MS V stanzas, which were chosen for publication and given a sentimental title by the editor--presents a good example of the selective editing in PJR. In this case, Collingwood’s preference for the sentimental is supported by self-censorship in Ruskin’s fair copy.

The following reprints the complete MS VIII version. The MS V version (i.e., first two stanzas of MS VIII version) is entirely unpunctuated, as compared with the Works version; first letters of lines are capitalized; and only the second stanza is numbered.

Curtained in cloudy drapery

The stars were glimmering on high

All with light festoonery

<Rolling> round their fulgent centre queen

Fleecily as veiled between

<With> [(?)] she and with them did roll

Round the fixed eternal pole

Folding like an airy vest

The very <[sta(?)]> clouds had sunk to rest

Light gilds the rugged mountains breast

Softly pillowed on her breast

Calmly as they lay below

Every hill seemed topped with snow

As the flowing tide of light <midnight>

Broke the slumbers of the night

3

But the wild winds gan to boom

A shadow came across the moon

And wrapt the scene in sudden gloom

Twas not of the murky air

<No> When the thick clouds veil it there

Twas not of the dim winged storm

When it hides the <vast dimwinged storm> rosy morn

4

Not the thunder rolling past

Borne upon the tempest blast

<Not> Such a gloomy darkness cast

And I heard the raven croak

From her hole in knarled oak

And the owl in ivy [bowr(?)]

Answered from her ruined [towr(?)]

5

Ha there comes a gloomy thing

Of shape uncouth and dusty wing

And a dart in his hand is quivering

On his forehead <when [(?)]> It did frown

As the spectre gazed down

Lightning characters did shine

And his name was written TIME

Stz. 2, l. 4, MS VIII Softly pillowed on her breast] Not in MS V. The preceding line Light gilds the rugged mountains breast is inserted above, and may be intended to replace, Softly pillowed on her breast since the latter does not appear in MS V.