

COMMENTARY.

a. Next, then, of female messengers.

TEXT.

No. 157. Female messengers may be a friend, an actress, a slave-girl, a foster-sister, a neighbour, a wandering ascetic, a workwoman, a female artist, &c. ; and likewise one's self.

COMMENTARY.

a. By a 'workwoman' is meant a washer-woman or the like. By a 'female artist' is meant a woman who makes pictures, or the like. By the '&c.' are meant female purveyors of betel-nut, perfumers, and the like. Among these, the 'friend,' [acting as a messenger, may be recognised in the narrator of the heroine's sad case in the verses, quoted under § 147, beginning] as follows:—

"She utters, sighs," &c.

b. One acting as messenger for one's self may be recognised in the following lines of mine.

"O traveller,—thou seemest thirsty ;—why, then, goest thou elsewhere? Canst thou not refresh thyself with a little water [even here where thou art so heartily welcome]?"

c. And these [§ 157] serve the hero also as messengers to the heroine.

d. The author next mentions the qualifications of a female messenger.

TEXT.

No. 158. Her qualifications are skill in the [lighter] arts, perseverance, fidelity, penetration, a good memory, sweetness, readiness to understand a joke, and fluency of speech. These women too [—as well as the heroines mentioned under § 75—] are, in their own line, either of the first class, of the lowest, or of the intermediate order [of merit].

COMMENTARY.

a. 'These,'—that is to say these female messengers.

b. Now, as for the 'rival' [mentioned under § 63 as one of the 'substantial ingredients' in poetry]:—

TEXT.

No. 159. The 'rival' [or opponent of the hero] is a presumptuous, dissipated, sinful person.