

o The second stage corrections and amplifications, made in brown ink, would therefore seem to have been the following: 'give' to 'gave' on p. 7, the full word 'still' on p. 13, 'black' to 'ill' on p. 17, 'And wash my' to 'wash thou my' on p. 24, 'yields to 'yield'st' on p. 24, and the full word 'eares' also on p. 24. All the new readings here, together with 'still' on p. 13, are peculiar to the Turnbull copy.

The argument might now be put more simply. If these latter corrections do form a distinct group made at the same time (none simulates print, all are in brown ink), and if some of them are Blake's, then it might be thought likely that they all are. Caution however demands one further comment. Whereas the full words 'gave', 'still', 'ill' and 'eares' can be fairly safely attributed to Blake on palaeographical grounds, the other two corrections are palaeographically distinct and may actually represent a third stage of correction. The evidence for such a view is not conclusive but it is highly suggestive. The Turnbull copy contains numerous pencil marks, including many alternate readings, which all seem to be quite late and unauthoritative. In the accompanying facsimile of the emendations, which have had to be reproduced by line-block, these pencil marks have not shown up. In the original, for example, the word 'rustling' is underlined in pencil and the words 'Whistling nests' written alongside. There is a faint chance that this reading might, ignorantly, have preceded Blake's emendation of 'beds' to 'birds'; in fact it is a simple-minded literal reduction of the poetic force of 'rustling' (which also implies birds waking in their nests, and hence 'beds', the initial error). But more important are the words 'And wash'. The facsimile shows the inked corrections, including an inked caret sign. What it does not show is a line in pencil beneath the words 'And wash' and a pencilled caret sign given to mark an insertion. It is possible of course that the pencil marks were quite idle duplications of a correction already made in ink; but the most reasonable explanation is that they preceded the inked correction. If this is so then the inked correction of 'And wash' to 'wash out', and the associated reading 'yield'st', must have been very late indeed and should be regarded with suspicion.⁴

The Turnbull copy of the *Poetical Sketches* passed originally from Blake to Mrs Flaxman and was given by her to an unknown friend who inscribed the title page 'presented from Mrs Flaxman May 15, 1784'. The book must have been still unbound at that stage although the sheets of this copy had been folded — in one case misfolded — and stabbed. The collation runs: 8°: A² B-I⁴ K⁴ (—K⁴, blank?); [\$2 signed]; 37 leaves, pp. [4] [1] 2-70. On page 8 were written the words 'page 9 overleaf', on page 10 the words 'page 11 two leaves back', on page 12 the words, 'page 13 two leaves forward'. These notes, originally in ink, appear to be in the same hand as the title-page inscription