

Richard Glover (1712-85)

1 Admiral Hosier's Ghost

As near Porto-Bello lying
 On the gently swelling flood,
At midnight with streamers flying
 Our triumphant navy rode;

There while Vernon sate all-glorious 5
 From the Spaniards' late defeat:
And his crews, with shouts victorious,
 Drank success to England's fleet:

On a sudden shrilly sounding,
 Hideous yells and shrieks were heard; 10
Then each heart with fear confounding,
 A sad troop of ghosts appear'd,
All in dreary hammocks shrouded,
 Which for winding-sheets they wore,
And with looks by sorrow clouded 15
 Frowning on that hostile shore.

On them gleam'd the moon's wan lustre,
 When the shade of Hosier brave
His pale bands was seen to muster
 Rising from their watry grave. 20
O'er the glimmering wave he hy'd him,
 Where the Burford rear'd her sail,
With three thousand ghosts beside him,
 And in groans did Vernon hail.

'Heed, oh! heed our fatal story, 25
 I am Hosier's injur'd ghost,
You, who now have purchas'd glory,
 At this place where I was lost!

He has play'd an English part!
Had been better far than dying
Of a griev'd and broken heart.

Unrepining at thy glory, 65
Thy successful arms we hail;
But remember our sad story,
And let Hosier's wrongs prevail.
Sent in this foul clime to languish,
Think what thousands fell in vain, 70
Wasted with disease and anguish,
Not in glorious battle slain.

Hence, with all my train attending
From their oozy tombs below,
Thro' the hoary foam ascending, 75
Here I feed my constant woe:
Here the Bastimentos viewing,
We recal our shameful doom,
And our plaintive cries renewing,
Wander thro' the midnight gloom. 80

O'er these waves for ever mourning
Shall we roam depriv'd of rest,
If to Britain's shores returning
You neglect my just request;
After this proud foe subduing, 85
When your patriot friends you see,
Think on vengeance for my ruin,
And for England sham'd in me.'

1739

(From Thomas Percy, ed. *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*. Vol. 2. With Memoir and Critical Dissertation by the Rev. George Gilfillan. Edinburgh: James Nichol, 1858. A rpt. entire from Percy's last edition of 1794)