

poems, articles, hackney coach fares, watermen's fares on the Thames, marketing tables, and facing each weekly diary space is a page for cash accounts filled in most punctiliously. The first three of these belong to a series, *The Minor's Pocket-book*, printed by Darton and Harvey, well-known children's publishers, and they have printed in them several early poems by Ann and Jane. The entries are prosaic to a degree: "Jemima drank tea at Mrs. Blower's", "Jane and I went church meeting evening", "Baptist lecture", "No event". Only very rarely are there hints at Ann's poeticizing, "Heard from Darton with money" (29 Feb., 1804), "Darton ordered a 2d. volume of moral songs" (30 Nov., 1804.) But the incessant repetition of humdrum entries and meticulous accounts serves, as in some detailed Dutch interior, to paint the busy, frugal, pious life of this woman, first engraver's 'prentice daughter, then minister's wife, who jotted down so much in the scant leisure of a crowded life. Isaac Taylor's two daughters are far from the least in the long list of entertainers for "that interesting little race, the race of children".

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