

THE
SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE,

AND

FREEMASONS' REPOSITORY,

FOR OCTOBER, 1798.

EMBELLISHED WITH AN ELEGANT PORTRAIT OF
PRINCE POTESKIN,
AND AN ACCURATELY ENGRAVED PLAN OF
ADMIRAL LORD NELSON'S VICTORY.

CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Life of Potemkin	215	Starch, Colours, Air, Mineralogy	267
Review of the Theatrical Powers of the late Mr. John Palmer, &c.	229	Water-pipes, Water-fighting Ma- chine, &c.	268
Observations on the most eminent Per- formers on the London Stage	231	Rolling Machine, Ventilator for Ships, Polarity of Watches, Agriculture	269
Description of the Natives of Easter Island	235	<i>REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.</i>	
Of the Isle of of Mowee	236	Coxe's Memoirs of Sir Robert Walpole	270
Burkiana	238	Posthumous Works of Mrs. Wolle- stonecraft	271
Memoirs of Peter the Great, by a late Traveller	242	Considerations addressed to the Clergy	272
Dumb Philosopher	246	Proceedings of the African Association	273
Life of Bishop Warburton---Original Letter of Bishop Burnet---On Re- ligion, Morality and Government--- Criticism on Virgil---Character of Passwan Oglow---Kamtschatka	248	Life of Catharine II.	ib.
Dance---Unfortunate Ivaschkin, to	249	A Day at Rome	274
Expedition of Buonaparte	255	Budworth's Windermere	ib.
Victory of Admiral Lord Nelson,	260	<i>POETRY.</i>	
Character of Frederic II.	ib.	Wooden Walls of England	275
Anecdotes	ib.	Epigram on Admiral Lord Nelson's Title	ib.
<i>FREEMASONS' REPOSITORY.</i>		On the Victory of ditto	ib.
On the introduction of Masonry into France and Germany	261	Stanzas from Tasker's Warlike Ode	ib.
Masonic Intelligence	263	Acrostic	276
<i>SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.</i>		Tom Halliard, by Peter Pindar	ib.
Astronomy	264	Impromptu	ib.
Physiology, Botany, Medicine	265	The Punster	ib.
Health, Surgical Operation, Chemistry	266	<i>PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.</i> ---An Account of Lover's Vows	
		Sir John Borlase Warren's Victory	279
		Obituary, containing a great variety of Characters	281

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TO CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

We are happy in the receipt of a piece of Poetry from our old correspondent, Dr. P. It should have been inserted in this Number of our Magazine, had not all the Poetic Articles been set up previous to its coming to hand.

The favours of E. J. S. shall be attended to, as soon as the length of the articles which he has sent us will admit of their insertion.

To our new correspondent of the 'Old School' we feel indebted for his letter, and anticipate with pleasure the series which he promises to give us.

Our Antiquarian Friend will accept our thanks for the curious and original M.S. letter of Bishop Burnet.

Of many Articles, from different quarters, we acknowledge the receipt. All shall be attended to according to their respective merits.

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GREGORY ALEXANDROWITZ POTESKIN.
Favorite of Catherine II.

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THE LIFE.
OF
PRINCE POTEMKIN.

WITH AN ELEGANT PORTRAIT.

PRINCE Potemkin was eminently conspicuous in the Court of Russia during the reign of the late Empress, Catharine II. and he was the only one of all her favourites who retained, till the day of his death, a considerable ascendancy over her mind. For the memoirs of this personage we are indebted to the 'History of the Reigns of Peter III. and Catharine II. by the Rev. W. W. Dakins.'

Prince Gregory Alexandrowitz was born in the neighbourhood of Smolensk, and sprung from an obscure family. Of his education we have but slender information, for what he knew he seems, however, to have been indebted to acute observation, a retentive memory, and strong powers of reflection.

At eighteen he became a subaltern in the Russian horse-guards; on the day of the revolution in 1762 he induced his corps to throw off their allegiance to their Royal Master, and support the conspiracy of Catharine, his Consort. He presented the Empress with his sword-knot on that memorable occasion, and in her presence displayed so much gracefulness, and such superior skill in the management of his charger, that her Majesty from that moment viewed him with admiration.

For a long time the Empress had remarked Potemkin's manly elegance and noble demeanour. She recollected with complacency, that on the day of the revolution of 1762, Potemkin being then very young, had seized the moment when she mounted her horse to present her with his sword-knot. She resolved at length to become

more intimately acquainted with him; and the first interview secured to this new lover the superiority over all his rivals. Wasielitschikoff was turned off, and Orloff restored to favour; but he became disgusting.* Potemkin alone could console her Majesty in secret, under the uneasy sensations occasioned by the war, the apprehensive fears inspired by the rebellion, and the vexatious misunderstanding that prevailed between the old favourite and the Minister Panin. Potemkin grew presumptuous; success increased his pride, of which he soon became the victim.

One day, as he was playing at billiards with Count Orloff, he inconsiderately boasted of the favour that he enjoyed; and even asserted that it entirely depended upon him to remove from court such persons as were displeasing to him. Orloff made a haughty reply. Upon this a quarrel ensued; in the warmth of which Potemkin received a blow that occasioned the loss of an eye. This was not his only misfortune. Gregory Orloff, informed of the affray by his brother, ran to the Empress, and requested Potemkin's removal from court.

Potemkin retired to Smolensk, his native place, where he remained almost a year in solitude, suffering much from his eye,† and his solitary exile from court. At one time he declared his resolution of turning monk; at another pretended that he should become the greatest man in Russia. At length, in a sudden fit, he wrote to the Empress, beseeching her to think of him. Her Majesty immediately complied with his request, recalled, and placed him again in full possession of her favour. Orloff had been for several days at the sport of the chace. His absence afforded an opportunity for installing Potemkin at the palace; and on the return of the old favourite, no complaints and no reproaches could remove the new ascendant from his exalted situation.

The Empress had succeeded in reconciling Potemkin with the Orloffs, and exerted all her efforts to preserve peace between them. Though she had not now the smallest remains of affection for Gregory Orloff, nor perhaps even of gratitude, she still kept upon terms with him. As for him, ever jealous, not of the pleasures, but the honours of Potemkin, he requested permission to retire from court; but to this the Empress would not consent. She preferred the endurance of those scandalous scenes to which Orloff exposed her by remaining at court, rather than permit him to carry abroad a resentment, which might not indeed be dangerous, but which circumstances might render alarming. She had still another motive for his retention: she entertained a hope that his presence would restrain the audacity of his rival. After having long opposed Panin to Orloff, she now thought of using Orloff as a foil to Potemkin.

* It is asserted of this man, that his manners were coarse, his presumption insufferable, his pride overbearing.

† It has been reported that the injury done to his eye might have been cured; but that, in his impatience, he burst a slight tumour that had formed on the side of the ball, and totally deprived himself of sight.

On succeeding Orloff in favour, Potemkin ventured to tread in the same steps, and form the same designs with his predecessor, in aspiring to obtain the hand of Catharine. But he was awed by Panin's frankness, his persuasive eloquence, his art for intrigue, of which, in spite of his indolence, the old Minister could still make a skilful use.

What strange metamorphoses will not ambition effect! Potemkin, the most arrogant man of all Russia; he who seemed the least calculated to submit to the bridle of restraint, and who himself, devoid of the slightest tincture of religion, had ridiculed every mode of faith, all at once assumed the exterior of a rigid piety. At the beginning of Lent, he was seen to bid adieu to the indulgence of good cheer, which no one loved better than himself, to feed upon roots, and drink only water; he went to confession almost every day. He had taken care to make choice of her Majesty's confessor, to whom he revealed his illicit intercourse: at the same time begged him to inform his royal mistress that, alarmed by the terrors of conscience, he could no longer indulge an affection when not sanctioned by marriage. Whether the monk had been gained over or not, he faithfully executed his commission. Catharine came to no explanation with him; but easily guessing the motive of Potemkin's scruples, she sent for her lover, and spoke to him with tenderness, but at the same time with dignity. She said, that, notwithstanding her regard for him, passion should not subdue her resolution; and if he were resolved no longer to fill the post of favourite another might easily succeed in his place.

Potemkin, humbled and confounded, found it impossible to conceal his vexation from the perception of the courtiers. He was even heard to declare that he would take holy orders, and cause himself to be consecrated Archbishop. But Catharine returned to Petersburg.* Potemkin followed her, and soon buried his hypocritical devotion in the pursuits of ambition, and the boundless enjoyments of pleasure.

In 1776, upon Catharine's return from Moscow, to which city she had paid a visit in order to gratify a spirit of generosity, which was one of her most splendid virtues, for no Monarch was ever more profuse in recompensing Generals, or in heaping presents upon favourites, Potemkin ceased to be the object of her affection.

She loaded him with benefits; she seemed to want honours and dignities enough to confer upon him; she promised him the sole possession of her love; but her heart already decided in favour of another. A young Ukrainian, named Zawadoffsky, possessed her secret smiles. She began by appointing him her Secretary. Her Majesty shortly after openly called him her favourite. This change

* The Empress made her journey from Moscow to Petersburg in a sledge; and though she turned out of her way to visit an armory, she was not more than four days on the road. Peter the Great went, it is said, once from Moscow to Petersburg in forty-six hours, in a sledge drawn by twenty-four horses.

introduced a scene of a very extraordinary nature at the Court of Catharine. Whenever that Princess issued an order, the execution of it always appeared inevitable; she ever exacted implicit obedience. It was now generally known, that the discarded favourite received orders to travel, and that he was no longer permitted to present himself before the Empress till she should deign to recall him. The lofty Orloff had himself submitted to that form of dismissal. Potemkin dared to evade it. On receiving the fatal order he pretended to depart; but the very next day came, and with the utmost composure, placed himself in front of the Empress, just as she was sitting down to her party at whist. Without uttering the least complaint at the rash disobedience of Potemkin, Catharine advanced him a card, told him that he always played happily, and spoke no more of his dismissal. Potemkin kept his appointments, and reserved his honours, possessed his influence, and from the lover became her Majesty's friend. Zawadoffsky knew the art of pleasing; but Potemkin had rendered himself useful; and his genius, more nearly allied to the genius of Catharine than that of any other of her favourites, still retained his wonted ascendancy over her mind.

Orloff, who had been too suddenly informed of Potemkin's disgrace, in the mean time hastened to Petersburg. Here he found his rival not only in the enjoyment of his Sovereign's affection, but still possessed of her confidence. Orloff flattered himself with being able to resume that confidence, while a youthful lover, totally ignorant of politics, possessed the heart of Catharine: but he was soon undeceived. He appeared at court, kissed her Majesty's hand, and seeing Potemkin beside her person, departed immediately for Moscow.

The courtiers who were most observant of the Empress's conduct, were at a loss to divine which was the lover whom she preferred. They could not suppose that Potemkin would renounce his interest in her affections. They did not reflect, that love is silent in the presence of ambition.

Although Potemkin ceased to partake of that secret intercourse which was the peculiar enjoyment of Catharine's favourites, he still retained a strong hold of her mind. And Catharine knew how to appreciate an understanding, which bore a resemblance to her own. His daring presumption increased his acquisitions of influence, and from the moment of his being advanced to favour, and admitted to partake of her Majesty's secret counsels, he commanded a continuance of the one, and directed the resolution of the other.

Every day some new present from the Sovereign added to the heap of his immense riches; and some new title of honour was added to the long list of his dignities. The court, the army, the navy, all were subject to his controul. He appointed the ministers, he named the generals, he exalted the favourites, or removed them at his pleasure; his benevolence, his animadversion, were under the direction of caprice.

With all the outward shew of rough and sometimes brutal frankness, Potemkin was an adept in art. He ruled over the Empress

with magisterial sway, he dictated to her his will; but at the same time appeared to exist only to serve her. He treated with insolence the veteran Generals and Grandees of the empire, whom he thought he could with impunity offend; but kept on good terms with all those whom he knew possessed of spirit or intrepidity.

Marshal Romanzoff was the only General who would not humble himself before Potemkin, and the latter dreaded his inflexibility as much as he envied the glory of the conqueror of the Turks. The aversion that he entertained for Marshal Romanzoff extended even to Countess Bruce, his sister, one of Catharine's most intimate confidants. By living upon familiar terms with Countess Bruce, and professing great friendship for her, Potemkin kept a vigilant attention upon her conversation; he watched all her proceedings, and promised himself the destruction of her influence whenever an opportunity occurred. Chance suddenly threw one in his way.

Korzakoff was at that time beloved by her Majesty. The benefits, the honours, which she accumulated upon him demanded his gratitude, if they were insufficient to secure his love; but heedlessness and vanity were the characteristics of his mind.* Countess Bruce, who saw him daily with the Empress, felt an inclination towards him. But to this she could not immediately give the reins of indulgence. The constraint laid upon the favourites of Catharine seldom afforded them opportunities for being faithless. Potemkin assisted the Countess in overcoming all obstacles. He undertook himself to be her confidant; he furnished her with occasional secret interviews with Korzakoff; and, though his regard for this favourite was very apparent, yet he resolved to sacrifice him, in hopes of involving at the same time the sister of Romanzoff in his ruin.

Potemkin's project succeeded. The Empress saw ere long that she was deceived at once by her favourite and by her friend. She immediately ordered one to travel out of the empire; and the other to repair to Moscow. From that moment she resolved to dispense with a friend in future; but as she could not so easily live without a favourite, her choice was fixed that same day on Lauskoi, one of the Chevalier guards, whose figure was elegant and interesting. Of all her lovers, Lauskoi was the man for whom Catharine entertained the most affection, and the one who most deserved her esteem.

Court intrigues did not occupy all Potemkin's attention. That ambitious favourite, flattering himself with the honour of having Catharine crowned at Constantinople, and still more desirous of it than herself, resolved to begin by taking possession of the Crimea. But, in order to effect his purpose he must act in concert with the Emperor of Germany. He communicated his design to Catharine, who approved of it without hesitation. When he afterwards proposed it in the council, Count Panin, who valued much the alliance with Prussia, observed, that by detaching the country from that

* Of all Catharine's favourites this was the most ostentatious in his dress; and to him his royal mistress gave the greatest quantity of diamonds.

Potentate it would be exposed to great danger. Notwithstanding his objection, Potemkin's plan was adopted. Panin took this so much to heart that he fell sick, and retired from public business.

Russia beheld the rapidity with which the advantages derived from her late conquests increased upon her. Her commerce on the Black Sea daily extended its progress. The Russian vessels passed the Dardanelles, and went to traffic at Aleppo, at Smyrna, and in the Italian ports. The delicious wines of Greece were imported into White Russia, and sent over all Poland.

On the banks of the Dnieper, ten miles distant from Oczakoff, Catharine had recently laid the foundation of the city of Kerson, and Prince Potemkin accelerated the work with incredible activity. He was frequently seen to depart from Petersburg, fly to the banks of the Dnieper, and again make his appearance on those of the Newa, in less time than an ordinary man would think requisite to perform the journey to Moscow. Within the walls of Kerson 40,000 inhabitants had already settled. Not only vessels adapted for commerce were launched from its yards, but likewise ships of war destined to make the Ottoman empire tremble.

This advantage enlarged the ambition of the Empress and Potemkin. With equal ardour they anxiously looked forward to the conquest of a country, without which they could not flatter themselves with the hope of realizing their schemes against the Turkish empire, of which the possession would probably indemnify all expenses consequent upon the failure of those schemes. Catharine began by detaching the Crimea from Turkey, and immediately resolved to invade it. The fertility of that country is still a doubtful assertion; but its resources for the support of armies, and the advantages it offers to commerce, are too notorious to be denied.

Of this country the Court of Petersburg, ever since the peace of Kainardgi, had waited with impatience for the moment of obtaining possession.

The Empress had raised Sahim Guerai to the place of Khan of the Crimea, with no other motive than to make him the instrument of her ambition. She heaped upon him caresses and benefits, but to render him a more easy sacrifice. That Prince, in disposition mild but weak, frank, and liable to deception, was far from suspecting the designs of Russia. He was charmed with the novelties and the arts of Europe; his inclination was indulged; voluptuous pleasures and refinements of luxury were presented for his enjoyment. He presently beheld with disdain the manners of his own country. He laid aside his usual manner of eating, engaged a Russian cook, and had his repasts served up on plate. Instead of going on horseback, like the rest of his countrymen, he travelled and paraded about in a magnificent berlin. Forgetful of his independence, and degrading his dignity, he solicited a title in the Russian army; the Empress appointed him Commanding Officer of the Preobaginsky-guards; of which she sent him the uniform, with the collar of St. Anne.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

REVIEW OF THE THEATRICAL POWERS

OF THE LATE

MR. JOHN PALMER:

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A MONODY ON HIS DEATH.

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE MOST EMINENT PERFORMERS ON THE LONDON STAGE.

' Fate gave the word ; the cruel arrow sped ;
And PALMER'S number'd with the silent dead !'

FORTUNATELY for the memory of deceased merit, that spirit of contumely which consigned to oblivion the lives of the Roman actors, no longer extends its injurious influence over the supporters of the British stage. In the present age of liberal refinement, the promoters of the arts may find objects for their exertion as well upon the stage as in the field ; and the children of the histrionic muse, equally with the patriot or the hero, may claim a niche in the proud structure of fame.

The subject of the following remarks, now ' hearsed in death,' no longer listens to the effusions of calumny or the strains of panegyric ; and the writer, uninfluenced by prejudice or party, may fearlessly promulge his sentiments.

In the confined circle of the drama a very short period of time has witnessed the reiterated tear of silent sorrow bedewing the grave of departed excellence. Baddeley, Parsons, Dodd, and Macklin have made their several exits from the scene of life : and the melancholy catastrophe of Benson, who, though not great, was useful, received the commiseration of every friend to virtue. In the increased catalogue of our losses it would be unpardonable not to mention that excellent actress and amiable woman, the late Mrs. Pope.

Palmer may justly be considered as one of the last members of the *good old school*. It is not yet quite extinct ; but it exists only as the ruin of some mighty fabric, and the eye which beholdeth it now must expect, ere long, to behold it no more for ever.

When we survey the universality of genius, evinced by here and there a solitary individual, we are lost in wonder at the intellectual expansion and the extensive powers of the noble mind of man. Faithfully to delineate the various excellencies of the deceased Mr. Palmer might command a volume ; but, in conformity to the limits of our plan, a transient glance at their most prominent features must suffice. No man ever trod the stage better than Palmer. Majesty awaited his every turn. Milton's description of Eve, with a slight alteration, presents a striking picture of his appearance :

' Grace was in all his steps ; pow'r in his eye :
In every gesture dignity and strength.'

In tragedy, gloomy despotic tyrants, haughty imperious commanders, specious artful insinuating villains, received their finished tints from the high colourings of his art. The hideous monster Iago, supported by his plausible features, his insidious manner, appeared the 'very wretch' designed by our inimitable bard. His performance of the grand conspirator Pierre, in *Venice Preserved*, was a masterly and impressive piece of acting. The base Glenalvon,* aided by his deep and varying tones, never failed of exciting the admiration and disgust of the audience—admiration at the powers of the actor, and disgust at the villainy of the character. The cowardly and deceptive Stukely† never displayed his vices with more effect than in the performance of Palmer. Stukely's pretended friendship for Beverly, his mean cowardice at the manly upbraidings of Lewson, and, to crown the climax, his consummate villainy in attempting to seduce the wife of one whose fortune and whose peace of mind he had for ever ruined, were admirably pictured. If Palmer erred at all in this character, it was—he made *too much* of it. How few of our actors fail on the same side!

Mr. Palmer, however, was not confined to the representation of vice. Virtue, arrayed in all her charms, presented herself in many of his characters. His Tamerlane was a truly fine piece of acting. The nobleness and generosity of the character received the fullest support from the exertion of his talents. His Villeroy ‡ exhibited a powerful display of dignified serenity, mingled with emotions of tender affection, assisted by gentlemanly powers. Don Carlos,§ though of late years too young a character, was formerly in his hands unusually interesting. Various other characters might be mentioned in which his numerous beauties shone with 'undiminished lustre.'—Proceed we now to comedy. In the variegated labyrinths of the laughing muse his genius roved still more at liberty. He was here the finished gentleman, the pert coxcomb, the affected puppy, or the consequential blockhead at pleasure. An easy confidence was the leading trait in his comic powers. His Captain Absolute,|| Ranger,¶ Perez,** and Feignwell,†† must be considered in the list of finished performances. Sergeant Kite‡‡ was also a master-piece of its kind. This character he resigned for that of Brazen, in the same piece; but whether the audience could not be satisfied with any substitute for the Sergeant, or whether his performance of Brazen were actually inferior, certain it is that, in the representation of this character, he never acquired his wonted popularity. Dick and Brass, in the *Confederacy*, were as perfect as Brush,§§ and My Lord Duke,||| which were written for him. His Toby, in *Twelfth Night*, must also be classed with those performances which, having passed the ordeal of criticism, are pronounced pure. Joseph Surface, though last, not

* In Home's Douglas. † In Moore's Gamester. ‡ In Southern's Isabella.

§ In Cibber's Ximena. || In Sheridan's Rivals.

¶ Hoadley's Suspicious Husband.

** Rule a Wife and Have a Wife.

†† Clive's Bold Stroke for a Wife.

‡‡ Recruiting Officer.

§§ Clandestine Marriage.

||| High Life Below Stairs.

least in excellence, claims our warmest mention. *The School for Scandal* has suffered dreadfully in its original cast. In Miss Farren we lost *Lady Teazle*; in Parsons, *Crabtree*; in Dodd, *Sir Benjamin Backbite*; in Baddeley, *Moses*; and in Palmer, *Joseph Surface*. For the four former we have Mrs. Jordan, Suetts, R. Palmer, and Wewitzer; all respectable; but where shall we find even a *decent* substitute for Palmer's *Joseph*?

Descending from tragedy to comedy, from comedy to farce, and from farce to pantomime, we still admire the force and versatility of his talents. His action was manly, firm, and noble; chaste and correct, it always pleased without that redundancy of attitude and motion with which the impressive Kemble embellishes his performances. In the humble round of pantomime, Palmer, when he deigned to stoop, shone forth conspicuous. In his *Don Juan*, all that was grand, striking, and picturesque, commanded attention; and his *Robinson Crusoe*, to be admired, needed only to be seen.

To fall yet somewhat lower, perhaps he was never rivalled in the elegance of his manner in announcing the entertainments of the ensuing evening.* The manliness and gentility of his appearance, with his respectful mode of addressing the audience whenever an apology was requisite, stilled every murmur and excited expectation.

To the faithful biographer be the task of recording the actions of one whose life has been attended by various misfortunes and embarrassments. We content ourselves with the humbler effort of faintly sketching his theatrical excellence. His fatal, though laudable ambition of becoming a manager was, it is presumed, the source of many sorrows. Through the chicanery of law, and the collusion of rival managers, assisted by pettifogging justices, his pecuniary interests were ruined, and all his brightest prospects blasted in the bud. The possessor of talents which, had they received the *guerdon* of merit, must have accumulated a fortune worthy their master, was exiled from the social sweets of friendship, and thrown upon the wide world a needy and comfortless adventurer. If he had faults, let the veil of pity shade them. He is now no more.

‘O may the turf lie light upon his breast!’

‘No farther seek his errors to expose,
Nor draw his frailties from their dread abode,
There they, alike, in trembling hope repose;
The bosom of his father and his god.’

The present state of theatricals opens a large field for observation: we shall, however, be as concise as possible. The vulgar adage, *that it is an ill wind which blows no one good*, will, no doubt, be

* At the Haymarket, some seasons ago, Mr. Palmer came forward with his cambric handkerchief, as usual, to give out the entertainments, which he did in the following words: ‘Ladies and Gentlemen! to-morrow evening, I’ll tell you what---Nature will Prevail---with Man and Wife!’ Whether or not he might be aware of the strange connexion of the titles we cannot determine, but the house took it, and he retired amidst the loudest bursts of applause.

verified within the walls of Drury. By the demise of Palmer, Barrymore will, of course, succeed to many of his characters. Some of them he will support respectably, but few of them equal to his predecessor. Few persons have naturally a better voice than Barrymore; but, as Archer says, 'he does not know what to do with it.' His voice is a sweet tenor, seemingly capable of every modulation which the variety of stage exhibition requires. If this be true, to what cause, except that of inattention, are we to ascribe his failure? An inflexibility, strongly partaking of, without being a monotony, gives a coldness to, and destroys the effect of what would otherwise be considered good acting. This, we think, might, with a little care, be remedied. Barrymore excels in tragedy, for which his figure is exceedingly well adapted; but there is a stiffness in his comedy which is both unnatural and ungraceful. Exclusive of the particular cast of characters which Mr. Palmer possessed, the Drury-lane audience will sustain a heavy loss, or, to prevent it, the closest attention of Mr. Kemble will be requisite. During a temporary absence of Mr. Kemble it was customary for Palmer to assume his parts; for Palmer, if occasion required, could play every character; though not perhaps with equal excellence, which was peculiarly reserved for Mr. Kemble.

Unless the proprietors obtain a reinforcement, Wroughton must be more upon the boards. But Wroughton is not a popular actor. An indefatigable industry has, in this gentleman, rendered less obvious the deficiencies of nature. More, however, remains to be achieved than, according to the common course of things, we can indulge the hope of witnessing.

Mr. Charles Kemble is a promising and an improving young actor, and he has the best models to copy from: but the public would like Mr. Charles Kemble much better, if Mr. Charles Kemble liked himself somewhat less. If, instead of admiring the symmetry of his form, or the elegance of his dress, and acting entirely for himself, he would attend to his brother performers, an English audience would never withhold the meed of generous applause.

Much might be said of Mrs. Siddons; but Mrs. Siddons is above praise. To illustrate or panegyricize her innumerable excellencies would be an attempt to harden the diamond. Kemble and Siddons, 'take them for all in all,' annihilate comparison.

Mrs. Jordan's name is, of itself, a 'tower of strength;' nor can any actress be thrown into the opposite scale. It is true, we do not admire her Ophelia or her Juliet; nor is her Lady Teazle exactly the thing; but her Angela, in the *Castle Spectre*, is the very apex of exquisite acting. On her comedy all observations would be superfluous.

The comic force of Drury-lane is excellent, but, in point of numbers, it cannot cope with that of Covent-Garden. They have Messrs. Bannister, Suett, King, and R. Palmer; Mesdames Pope, De Camp, Biggs, Goodall, Mellon, Stuart, and Walcott; but they have lost Parsons, Baddeley, Moody, Dodd, Palmer, and Miss Farien, without a single reinforcement to compensate. Covent-Garden

have Messrs. Lewis, Munden, Quick, Fawcett, Rees, and Johnstone; Mesdames Mattocks, Chapman, and Davenport. Their only losses of consequence have been Mr. Middleton, Mrs. Pope, and Miss Wallis; for whom they have received Mr. Knight, Mr. Betterton, Mrs. Pope (late Mrs. Spencer) Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Gibbs, Miss Betterton, Mrs. Litchfield, Miss Mansell, and several others of inferior note. Mrs. Abington, with the Bolognas, and the whole operatic corps, have also, at times, during the last season, contributed towards the amusement of the public.

Suett, combining an accurate knowledge of music with an infinitude of humour, is unrivalled, and can never fail of pleasing. Munden must be considered as his competitor at the other house.

Mr. Baunister, jun. has, in a certain degree, to contend with the combined powers of Lewis, Knight, and Fawcett. He performs some characters represented by each of them, and he also plays some which neither of them can undertake. In the character of a sailor, or in parts where feeling and humour are blended, he particularly excels. His *Lentive*,* *Walter*,† and *Gradus*,‡ with many others, are exquisite performances.

The veteran King is the rival of Quick. He is the only actor, Miss Pope the only actress, who retain their original parts in the *School for Scandal*.

Mr. R. Palmer, the brother of our deceased favourite, is, since the death of Dodd, our only representative of a fop: but, as that character is become a mere nonentity, or, at best, an ideal being, Mr. R. Palmer, whose talents are by no means weak or trivial, has ample scope for their display in a variety of parts allotted to his cast.

Mrs. Powell can scarcely be mentioned in comedy; but, in a long list of respectable performances in tragedy, her Alicia, Queen Margaret, Gertrude, and Queen Mary in the *Albion Queens*, rank high in excellence. Mrs. Powell, with Miss Miller, after Mrs. Siddons and Mrs. Jordan, comprise the tragic strength of the house. Miss Pope leads the van of comic merit.

Miss De Camp is a charming actress and a charming girl. We know not how sufficiently to express our admiration of the abilities of this indefatigable female. Never did we witness so rapid an improvement in so short a period of time. An elegance of figure and a sweetness of voice, joined with an easy gentility, render her a valuable possession. At present she is the only rightful heir of the greater part of the *ci-devant* Miss Farren's resigned dramatic property.

Mrs. Goodall follows as an humble imitator of the Farren style. Seldom, however, in her performances, do we meet with a coalition of the *utile* and the *dulce*.

Miss Biggs, Miss Mellon, and Miss Stuart, assist in filling up the groupe: and Mrs. Walcott (a valuable substitute for Mrs. Hopkins) brings up the rear of the dramatic corps.

VOL. XI.

G g

* In Hoare's Prize.

† Morton's Children in
C owle y's Who's the Dupe ?

In taking a survey of *Covent-Garden*, we may, perhaps, be induced to make some observations and comparisons dissonant from the opinion of the multitude. This obstacle, however, should always be surmounted by the impartial critic.

As an opponent to Mr. Kemble certainly none will start forth. Mr. Holman cannot be considered as such. His enunciation is classical and correct, and his voice excellent; but his action is impelled, and his feelings are not forcible. Our remarks on Mr. Charles Kemble attach with equal propriety to Mr. Holman.

Johnston (the Scotch Roscius) is a clever actor, but his talents are not matured. From the hand of time we expect much improvement. We have seen him twice in the arduous character of Sir Edward Mortimer,* and we were happy to observe, on the repetition, that his acting is more than mechanism. His conceptions are generally just, his action graceful and correct, and his manner easy. Sorry are we that nature has not been uniformly liberal. His figure is rather too short for tragedy, and his voice is not sufficiently extensive. With the former of these evils Garrick struggled: with the latter Kemble. Demosthenes was the first orator of Athens.

Next to Johnston, Pope is an useful and a valuable actor. We think he has the ascendancy of Barrymore, whose rival he may be considered. His figure is genteel, and his voice sweetly mellifluous.

Whitfield is also nearly on a par with Barrymore. Were merit always to obtain precedence, Murray perhaps should have stood first on the list. As a chaste actor it would be difficult to produce his equal. When you see Murray on the boards you see a gentleman: no stage trick, no studied attitude, no affected tone; but all is happy, easy nature. In universality of genius he is almost the counterpart of Palmer; but Palmer pleased all, and Murray pleases only the discerning few. In this place it would be foreign to our purpose to enter into a thorough investigation of this gentleman's theatrical merit; suffice it therefore to assert, that in *Lear*, *Lusignan*, *Old Norval*, and other characters of a similar cast, he is the unrivalled paragon of all that we can suppose perfect in acting. We have an idea of what Garrick was, but we think it impossible for Garrick to have excelled him. Once, and only once, on the indisposition of Mr. Holman, we had an opportunity of witnessing his performance of *Richard the III*. It was a perfect treat. It possessed but one fault—in some parts his voice failed him; but his superlative excellence in others counterbalanced the defect, and, like a boundless torrent, bore off every opposition. Murray is allowed to be the first *Shylock* of the day. In genteel comedy he is all that can be wished. Yet, possessed of all these excellencies, Murray will never acquire universal popularity. But he does more—he deserves it.

Lewis's acting is too well known to require any comment.

Knight is a young man of much merit and more promise.

[TO BE CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.]

* Colman's Iron Chest.

DESCRIPTION
OF THE
NATIVES OF EASTER ISLAND.

BY M. ROLLIN,

SURGEON OF PEROUSE'S SHIP ON A LATE VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY.

THIS island has by no means the barren and disgusting appearance ascribed to it by navigators; it is indeed nearly destitute of trees, but its shore and vallies offer to the eye of the seaman at least a very pleasing covering of verdure. The size and excellence of its potatoes, yams, and sugar-canes, announce the fertility of the soil.

Errors as great have been entertained concerning its inhabitants; we do not find either the giants of Roggewein, or the half-starved pining wretches described by a modern navigator, who has characterized them by a misery that has no existence. Far from finding men worn down by penury, and a small proportion of women, who have with difficulty escaped being buried under the ruins of a supposed revolution in that part of the world; I found, on the contrary, a considerable population, more liberally endowed with grace and beauty than any which I afterwards met with; and a soil which, with very little trouble, furnished excellent provision beyond the supply of their wants; though fresh water was difficult to be met with, and of a very indifferent quality.

These islanders are a stout, handsome, well made race of people, about five feet nine inches high. The colour of the face is not remarkably different from that of Europeans. They have but little hair on the chin and the rest of the body, except on the parts of sex, and beneath the armpits. The colour of the skin is tawny, and the hair black; sometimes, however, it occurs of a lighter shade. They appear in general to enjoy good health even in advanced age. They are accustomed to paint and tattoo the skin, and bore the ears, through which they insert a sugar cane leaf rolled up in a spiral form, so as at length to cause the lobe of the ear to rest on the shoulders; a practice which, among the men at least, is esteemed a great beauty.

The women to a regular shape unite much grace of form; they have an agreeable oval face, and great mildness and intelligence in their features; they only want a mixture of the rose in their complexions to make them handsome, according to European ideas of beauty; their fine hair, their rounded limbs, their engaging appearance, are well calculated to inspire sentiments, which they feel without being under the necessity of concealment.

Notwithstanding these interesting qualities, the men appear to entertain no jealous sentiments; on the contrary, they sought for opportunities of selling their favours. These people are circumcised, and seem to live in pure anarchy, without any chief. Both men and women are almost naked, no part of the body except the parts of sex being concealed; some of them indeed wear a piece of cloth round their shoulders or hips, which reaches as low as their mid thigh.

I know not what are their ideas among themselves of the sacredness of property, but their conduct towards us evinced the little regard which they have for that of strangers; they took such a liking to our hats, that in a very few hours they robbed us of them, and then laughed at us like mischievous school-boys.

These people are not without industry; their cottages are of a good size and neatly built; they are constructed of frame-work filled up with reeds; their shape is that of a reversed cradle, being about fifty feet long, twelve wide, and twelve high in the centre. There are several doors on the sides, the widest of which does not exceed three feet. The inside offers nothing remarkable, containing only some mats, which they spread on the ground by way of beds, and a few other household utensils. Their cloth is made of the paper mulberry; it is, however, by no means common, on account of the scarcity of these trees, though they appear to be cultivated with some care. They make also hats and baskets of rushes, and carve in wood tolerably well. Their food consists of potatoes, bananas, yams, sugar-canes, fish, and a kind of sea weed, or fucus, which they find in plenty on the shore.

Fowls, though in small number, constitute their only domestic animals, and rats are the only wild quadrupeds on the island. There are but a few sea birds, and not many fish on the coast.

In the eastern part of the island is a large crater, round which, on the sea shore, are several rude statues, or rather busts, with only the eyes, nose, mouth, and ears, coarsely executed. At the foot of these statues are those mysterious caverns mentioned by Captain Cook, which serve as vaults in which the dead of each family are deposited. We inspected them without the smallest opposition from the natives.

La Perouse, in addition to the presents that he had already made to these islanders, was desirous of giving them fresh proofs of his kindness, and of contributing essentially and lastingly to their welfare; he therefore left on their island two ewes, a she-goat, and sow, with a male of each species; and sowed various kinds of pulse, as well as peach, plum, and cherry stones, and pips of oranges and lemons.

ISLE OF MOWEE.

THESE benevolent intentions being put in execution, we got under way, and directed our course towards the Sandwich Islands. As soon as we came in sight of Mowee, one of this cluster, near two hundred canoes put off to meet us loaded with hogs, fruits, and fresh vegetables, which the inhabitants threw on board, and obliged us to accept without any recompence. The wind having freshened, and thus accelerated our course, we could only partially avail ourselves of these resources, and enjoy but for a short time the agreeable and picturesque view of this island, and the assembled multitude of canoes, the skilful manœuvres of which formed the

most animating and entertaining spectacle that can be imagined. On the 29th of May 1786, we anchored to the west of this island, situate in lat. $20^{\circ} 34' 30''$ and $158^{\circ} 25'$ west longitude. The vegetation of this part of Mowee is not nearly so vigorous, or is the population so considerable, as on the eastern side, which we had just touched upon; however we had scarcely cast anchor, before we were surrounded by the inhabitants, bringing us in their canoes hogs, fruits, and fresh vegetables. We commenced our barter with such success, that for a few pieces of iron we had in a few hours on board nearly 300 hogs, and an ample stock of vegetables. The mutual good faith observed on both sides in this traffic can be equalled, I believe, in very few European markets. Notwithstanding the abundance of animal and vegetable food, that this island furnishes to its inhabitants, yet with regard to health, elegance of form, and beauty of person, they are much inferior to the natives of Easter Isle, who are far more scantily provided with the necessaries of life. The inhabitants, however, of Mowee appear to have some analogy of conformation with those of Easter Isle, and even to be of a more robust make, if their health had not suffered from disorders. The common height of these people is about five feet eight inches; they are of a spare habit of body, with large features; they have thick eyebrows, dark eyes, a confident, though not forbidding air, high cheek bones, wide nostrils, thick lips, a wide mouth, rather large but handsome and even teeth; we saw a few persons who had lost one or more of them; and it is the opinion of a modern navigator, that they manifest in this way their grief for the loss of their relations or friends. During our continuance among them we observed nothing to confirm or invalidate this idea.

These people have more strongly expressed muscles, more bushy beards, and the parts of sex better furnished with hair, than the natives of Easter Island. Their hair is black, which they cut into the figure of a helmet: one lock, representing the crest of the helmet, they suffer to grow to its full length, tinging the ends of it red, probably by means of some vegetable acid. The women are shorter than the men, and are destitute of the gaiety, the mildness, and elegance of form which distinguish those of Easter Island. They are in general ill-shaped, large featured, have a melancholy air, and are gross, sluggish, and awkward in their manners. The inhabitants of Easter Island, on the contrary, are mild, attentive, and have a degree of politeness towards strangers.

These people paint and tattoo the skin, bore the ears and the cartilage of the nose, in which they wear rings by way of ornament. Their dress consists of an apron across the waist, and a piece of cloth wrapped round the body. The stuffs made by these islanders of the bark of the paper mulberry are elegant, and of various constructions. They paint them with much taste, and their drawings are so regular as nearly to equal those of our pattern-drawers. Their houses, formed into villages, are square, and built of the same materials as those of Easter Island. The inhabitants of Mowee appear to be divided into several tribes, each governed by a Chief.

BURKIANA:

OR, THE WITTY SAYINGS, THE SHREWD REMARKS, AND POLITICAL OPINIONS OF THE LATE RIGHT HON.

EDMUND BURKE.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.]

DEANERY OF FERN.

ONE evening at the club, speaking of the Deanery of Fern which was then vacant, Burke said it must be barren, and that he believed there would be a contest for it between Dr. Heath and Dr. Moss. Speaking of livings in general, ‘by this,’ he said, ‘that Horace describes a good manor’—

Est modus in rebus sunt certi denique fines;

Which he translated, ‘There is a modus in the tythes and fixed fines.’

WISDOM AND FOLLY.

In describing the character of Edward I. he drew the line between the firmness of Wisdom and the obstinacy of Folly. ‘Wisdom pursued her ends no longer than she found them to be attainable and salutary. Folly, unable to distinguish, and filled with conceit, often continued to seek objects, merely because she had once done so.’

FREEDOM.

‘THAT is freedom to every practical purpose, which the people think so.’ Johnson, in reply, said, “I will let the King of France govern me on those conditions, for it is to be governed just as I please.”

METAPHYSICAL REFINEMENT OF REPUBLICANS.

‘THERE are people who have split and anatomized the doctrine of free government, as if it were an abstract question concerning metaphysical liberty and necessity, and not a matter of moral prudence and natural feeling. Speculations are let loose, as destructive to all authority, as the former (slavish doctrines) are to all freedom; and every government is called tyranny and usurpation which is not formed on their fancies. In this manner the stirrers up of this contention are corrupting our understandings; they are endeavouring to tear up along with practical liberty, all the foundations of human society, all equity and justice, religion and order.’

SUPINENESS OF GOVERNMENT.

It happened during a long debate on the Scotch riots, occasioned by the Roman Catholic bill, that the Prime Minister was indulging himself in a profound nap. ‘I hope,’ said Burke, ‘Government is not dead, but asleep:’ pointing to Lord North, ‘Brother Lazarus is not dead, only *sleepeth*.’

CIVIL WARS.

‘CIVIL wars strike deepest of all into the manners of a people. They vitiate their politics, they corrupt their morals, they pervert even the natural taste and relish of equity and justice. By teaching us to consider our fellow-citizens in an hostile light, the whole body of our nation becomes gradually less dear to us: the very names of affection and kindred, which were the bond of charity whilst we agreed, become new incentives to hatred and rage, when the communion of our country is dissolved. We may flatter ourselves that we shall not fall into this misfortune, but we have no charter of exemption, that I know of, from the ordinary frailties of our nature.’

CHARACTERS INVESTED IN THE SOVEREIGN.

SPEAKING of the characters with which the Sovereign is invested in different parts of South-Britain, he says, ‘the monarchy is divided into five several distinct principalities, besides the supreme. As in the itinerant exhibitions of the stage, they are obliged to throw a variety of parts on their chief performer; so our Sovereign condescends himself to act, not only the principal but the subordinate parts.—Cross a brook, and you lose the King of England; but you have some comfort in coming again under his Majesty, though shorn of his beams, and no more than Prince of Wales. Go to the north, and you find him dwindled to a Duke of Lancaster. Turn to the west of that north, and he pops upon you in the humble character of Earl of Chester. Travel a few miles on, the Earl of Chester disappears, and the King surprises you again as Count Palatine of Lancaster. You find him once more in his incognito, and he is Duke of Cornwall. So that quite fatigued and satiated with this dull variety, you are infinitely refreshed when you return to the sphere of his proper splendour, and behold your amiable Sovereign in his true, simple, undisguised, native character of Majesty.’

REFORM BILL.

BURKE introduces his bill for the retrenchment of unnecessary expence in the different departments of Government with the following observations: ‘I feel that I engage in a business in itself most ungracious. I know that all parsimony is of a quality approaching to unkindness: and that (on some person or other) every reform must operate as a sort of punishment: indeed the whole class of the severe and restrictive virtues are at a market almost too high for humanity; what is worse, there are very few of those virtues which are not capable of being imitated, and even outdone in many of their most striking effects, by the worst of vices. Malignity and envy will carve much more deeply, and finish much more sharply, in the work of retrenchment, than frugality and providence. I do not, therefore, wonder that gentlemen have kept away from such a task, as well from good-nature as from prudence. Private feeling might, indeed, be overborne by legislative reason; and a man of long-sighted and strong-nerved humanity might bring himself, not so much to consider from whom he takes a superfluous enjoyment, as for

whom, in the end, he may preserve the absolute necessaries of life.'

HUMOUR.

THE following passages, quoted from Burke's speech on the expenditure of the King's household, shew the force and versatility of his humour:—'Lord Talbot's scheme of œconomy was dashed to pieces; his department became more expensive than ever;—the civil list debt accumulated.—Why? It was truly from a cause, which, though perfectly adequate to the effect, one would not have instantly guessed;—it was because the *turnspit in the King's kitchen was a member of parliament*. The King's domestic servants were all undone; his tradesmen remained unpaid, and became bankrupt;—*because the turnspit of the King's kitchen was a member of parliament*. His Majesty's slumbers were interrupted, his pillow was stuffed with thorns, and his peace of mind entirely broken;—*because the King's turnspit was a member of parliament*. The judges were unpaid; the justice of the kingdom bent and gave way; the foreign Ministers remained inactive and unprovided; the system of Europe was dissolved; the chain of our alliances was broken; all the wheels of government at home and abroad were stopped; *because the King's turnspit was a member of parliament*.'

'THE household troops form an army, who will be ready to mutiny for want of pay, and whose mutiny will be really dreadful to a commander in chief. A rebellion of the thirteen Lords of the Bedchamber would be far more terrible to a Minister, and would probably affect his power more to the quick, than a revolt of thirteen colonies. What an uproar such an event would create at court! What *petitions*, and *committees*, and *associations* would it not produce! Bless me! what a clattering of white sticks and yellow sticks would be about his head!—what a storm of gold keys would fly about the ears of the Minister!—what a shower of Georges, and Thistles, and Medals, and Collars of S.S. would assail him at his first entrance into the antichamber, after an insolvent Christmas quarter! A tumult which could not be appeased by all the harmony of the new year's ode.'

INJUSTICE OF IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBTS.

'THE end of all civil regulations is to secure private happiness from private malignity; to keep individuals from the power of one another: but this end is apparently neglected, when a man, irritated with loss, is allowed to be the judge of his own cause, and to assign the punishment of his own pain; when the distinction between guilt and happiness, between casualty and design, is entrusted to eyes blind with interest, to understandings depraved by resentment.'

ENCOMIUM ON MR. HOWARD.

'I CANNOT name Mr. Howard without remarking, that his labours and writings have done much to open the eyes and hearts of mankind. He has visited all Europe, not to survey the sumptuousness of palaces, or the stateliness of temples; not to make accurate measurements of the remains of ancient grandeur, nor to form a scale of the

curiosity of modern art; not to collect medals, or collate manuscripts; but to dive into the depth of dungeons, to plunge into the infection of hospitals, to survey the mansions of sorrow and pain, to take the gauge and dimensions of misery, depression, and contempt; to remember the forgotten, to attend to the neglected, to visit the forsaken, and to compare and collate the distresses of all men in all countries. His plan is original, and it is full of genius as it is of humanity. It was a voyage of discovery; a circumnavigation of charity. Already the benefit of his labour is felt more or less in every country; I hope he will anticipate his final reward, by seeing all its effects fully realized in his own. He will receive not by retail, but in gross, the reward of those who visit the prisoner: and he has so forestalled and monopolized this branch of charity, that there will be, I trust, little room to merit by such acts of benevolence hereafter.'

ILLNESS OF MR. FOX.

'No one laments Mr. Fox's illness more than I do; and I declare, if he should continue ill, the inquiry into the conduct of the first Lord of the Admiralty (Earl of Sandwich) should not be proceeded upon; and even should the country suffer so serious a calamity as his death, it ought to be followed up earnestly and solemnly; nay, of so much consequence is the inquiry to the public, that no bad use would be made of the skin of his departed friend, should such be his fate, if, like that of John Zisca, it should be converted into a drum, and used for the purpose of sounding an alarm to the people of England.'

TOAST.

'ONE day, after dinner, the Prince, about to propose a bumper toast, asked Burke, if a toast-master was not absolute? He instantly answered, "yes, Sir, *jure de vino*." "That is the only way," replied his Royal Highness, "in which I should wish to be absolute."

COMPARISON OF JOHNSON'S STYLE.

'BURKE, in speaking of any person, could very happily assume his style. A gentleman in company observing, that the language of Young resembled that of Johnson, Burke replied, "it may have the appearance, but has not the reality; it possesses the nodosities of the oak, without its strength."

ON JOHNSON'S DEATH.

BURKE, in the ardour of his feeling for the loss of Johnson, uttered the following sentence:—'He has made a chasm which not only nothing can fill up, but which nothing has a tendency to fill up—Johnson is dead. Let us go to the next best.—There is nobody—No man can be said to put you in mind of Johnson.'

PEACE.

'PEACE,' he observes, 'implies reconciliation; and where there has been a mutual dispute, reconciliation always implies concession on some side.'

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

ANECDOTES
OF
PETER THE GREAT,
OF RUSSIA.

RELATED IN A LETTER, ADDRESSED TO THE RIGHT HON. W. PITT, BY A TRAVELLER
IN RUSSIA IN OCTOBER 1796.

I PERAMBULATED almost the whole island of Saint Petersburg, after which the city is named, wherein a small wooden house, built by Péter for himself, and inhabited by him when he laid the foundation of this capital, is carefully preserved. In the village of Sardam, in Holland, the same respectful attention is also paid to the humble lodging he occupied, when he, in the dress of a common carpenter, went there to learn the construction of ships. The Swedes, from the same principle of pride, keep in the arsenal at Stockholm a boat fabricated by the hands of Peter the Great, and taken from on board a Russian ship, which transported it from Amsterdam to Petersburg:

At the sight of the little mansion inhabited by the Russian Legislator, sentiments of respect took possession of my soul! The simple appearance of this hut, when compared with the sumptuous edifices which decorate Petersburg, forces, I think, upon the mind a more exalted idea of the power of genius, which, from the bosom of fens, has raised a superb city!

The defects, the vices, and, above all, the crimes of Peter I. have lessened the splendor of his glory, and he ought rather to be reckoned among the number of extraordinary, than in the small circle of really great, men. Under the former title, he excites my admiration; all extraordinary characters have a right to it, but according to the obstacles surmounted by them they comparatively demand the tribute. Your illustrious father, who by turns was the Demosthenes and Richelieu of England, to me appears to have merited glory in a much greater degree, from the consideration of having risen superior to the rank in which he set out, than if the chance of birth-right or the hand of fortune had bestowed it upon him. Although an Englishman, I am not blind to the injustice of my country; I know that even with our constitution, so much the subject of panegyric, plebeian merit with difficulty raises her head.

With obstacles of another kind, and of a nature much more terrible, Peter I. had to contend. These were the frenzy of superstition, and the innumerable prejudices of a nation still sunk in barbarism; but the obstinate perseverance of his character enabled him to triumph over them. Whilst on the one hand he opposed the formidable efforts of the conqueror of Narva; on the other, he built ships, he

sketched out plans for schools and academies, he opened new roads to commerce; in fine, he laid the foundation of that ever increasing grandeur, which threatens the greatest part of Europe with invasion.

We know with what eagerness Peter I. early in his youth attached himself to Lefort, a native of Geneva, with whom he accidentally became acquainted at the Envoy of Denmark's house, in Moscow, and who afterwards became a Baron and General of the Russian armies. Notwithstanding the disparity of their age, the Czar found in Lefort ideas, and a conformity of character, so very similar to his own, that he made him the confident of his vast projects; and feeling the superiority of his friend, he submitted always to his opinion. He had even charged him to restrain his impetuosity, and subject him to the government of reason in the wild excesses of anger, which were frequent in their attacks, and which, sometimes receiving strength from inebriety, occasioned by strong liquors, rendered him furious. In these paroxysms, Lefort, alone, durst speak to him; and reproaching him for his intemperance and delirium, he seized him as a refractory child, and often had recourse to violence. It is true, Lefort ran the risque of becoming a victim to this hardy zeal bordering on temerity. Peter once was upon the point of stabbing him with a dagger; but having recovered from his derangement, he embraced Lefort, and asked his pardon.

The Russians feel all they owe to Peter I. and, in their eulogies upon the singular features of his character, are never exhausted.

Many anecdotes of this singular man, you know, have been already published. Some I will relate to you that are less known.

For the idea at once so grand and successful, of forming a marine in his states, Peter I. was indebted to chance. In his early youth he perceived, as he was walking in a village near Moscow, a shallop, which a Hollander named Brandt had constructed in the reign of Alexis Michaelowitsch. His curiosity wished to be satisfied why this shallop was built so different from other boats that he had seen; he was informed that she might be navigated against the wind. This reply augmented rather than satisfied his spirit of enquiry. Brandt was on a sudden sent for, and the shallop, supplied with masts and sails, received the young Czar, who, to his great surprise, worked her with Brandt in the river Yaoussa.

Brandt afterwards received Peter's command to build him a yacht, which was launched in Moscow in 1691; and, soon after, the Hollander built on the borders of the lake Periloff, under the Czar's directions, several small vessels carrying cannon, with which the Prince, in triumph, returned to Moscow.

The death of Brandt did not diminish in the Czar his ardour for a marine. He, some years after, went to Holland himself, to learn naval architecture. From thence he passed over to England, and when he had acquired sufficient information to judge of the nautical skill of both nations, he, to the construction of the English, added, in his own ships, the rigging of the Dutch, which they have still retained.

Peter I. was cruel, and often barbarous; but for this terrible defect he was indebted to his education, and the necessity, as he thought, of impressing the minds of his subjects with a belief of his unlimited power.

One day, on his return from his travels, he was willing to give a specimen of his talents as a sailor, for which purpose he exercised himself in a small vessel upon the lake Ladoga, which is sometimes tempestuous, and at that time became more agitated than ever. Peter was afraid, and regained the bank; but irritated that the waves paid him no more respect, he sent for the public executioner, and put the untractable lake to the knout.*

When the Strelitz were banished to Astrakan, they were accused of a fresh conspiracy. The Czar went immediately to that city, and arrested more than twelve thousand of his soldiers. At the same time, upon stakes covered with planks, erected in the middle of a vast plain, the Strelitz were conducted. Billets of wood in great numbers were placed on the platform, and many executioners immediately employed in cutting off heads. Peter himself, with a hatchet in his hand, set the example to the executioners. A child about twelve years old came to lay his head upon the Czar's block. The Prince, instead of striking, pushed the infant back with his arm. The lad, without saying one word, went to put his head upon another billet. The Czar perceiving it, went up to him, raised and dismissed him again. A moment after, the boy repeated his attempt to catch the fall of the hatchet. The Czar, in anger, asked him, why he persisted in losing his head? 'You have,' said the boy, 'cut off my father's and mother's, that of my brother, and those of all my relations, who were no more guilty than I, why will you not cut off mine?'

Peter was struck dumb. He drove the boy out of the inclosure, threw the hatchet down, and disappeared.

I cannot resist the inclination to recal to your mind two notable instances in the life of Peter I. because they alone are sufficient to prove, that to a haughty soul he sometimes added perfidy and inflexible harshness. The first is the tragical death of his own son, the unhappy Alexis. After having, by artful means, torn him from Naples, where the young Prince had retired; the Czar, with pecuniary bribes, gained over the mistress who had accompanied him in his flight, and deceived the Emperor of Germany and the King of Naples; under whose protection the unfortunate prince had committed his safety, and who interceded for him in vain.

The other is the punishment of the young Moens. Although Catharine, whom from a humble sutler the Czar had seated on the

* Those who suffer the knout are stript to the middle, suspended by the arms pinioned behind them, have a considerable weight tied to their feet, and in this condition receive a scourging from the hand of the executioner. A large thong of untanned leather, very cutting, about three or four feet in length, is the instrument of punishment. Fifty strokes are sometimes applied, and the culprit survives; but four have deprived him of life. This depends upon the executioner, whose skill enables him to open at pleasure the flanks of the person he strikes and Peter himself could inflict this dreadful punishment with his own hand!!!

throne, was indebted to his Majesty for every thing, she did not always adhere to that inviolable honour that he expected from her. On the contrary, she seldom neglected to retaliate his infidelity by an equal return of perfidy; but in her amours she took care to act with greater circumspection.

Catharine had chosen for her Chamberlain *Moens de la Croix*, a youth sprung from a Flemish family established in Russia, whose sister, *Madam Balks*, had been an attendant upon her person for a considerable time. *Moens's* elegant person did not fail to make a lively impression upon the Empress's heart, and her passion was soon perceived by *Jaguschinsky*, who engrossed all the confidence of the Czar, and whose cruelty led him to reveal the discovery to his master. Peter's jealousy was roused to the utmost. He swore vengeance upon the culprit; but first he wished to satisfy his own eyes of Catharine's treason. He pretended to leave Petersburg with the intention of spending a few days in one of his country-seats, but secretly withdrew to the winter-palace, and then sent a confidential page to present his compliments to the Empress, to inform her Majesty that he was at *Dupka*, a few miles from the capital.

The page, ordered to be curious in his observation, did not fail to confirm the Czar's suspicions, who suddenly returned, and surprised Catharine, under a jessamine arbour, in the arms of her lover. Night had already approached, and *Madam Balks* was upon the watch at some distance from the arbour. Peter, furious with rage, knocked down a page who opposed his passage, and struck Catharine with his cane; but to *Moens* and his sister he said not a word, reserving for them a much severer punishment than a few blows.

The next day he entered the Empress's house with a terrible countenance, and breaking a most beautiful glass that was in the apartment, 'thou seest,' said he, 'that with a single stroke I have reduced that glass to the dust from whence it came.' Catharine, who understood the allusion, mildly replied: 'true, but having destroyed the greatest ornament of your palace, do you think on that account it will become more brilliant?' Peter had too much understanding not to recollect himself by such an ingenious reply. He made up matters with the Empress, but the unfortunate *Moens* was not spared on that account. He and *Madam Balks* were arrested some days after. They were confined in an apartment of the winter palace; access to which was permitted to no one but the Emperor himself, who carried them their provisions. At the same time a report was spread abroad that the brother and sister had permitted themselves to be corrupted by the enemies of the state, entertaining the hope, that the Empress might be induced to influence the Czar to act contrary to the interests of Russia.

Moens, to whom the Czar had, without doubt, promised pardon, provided he confessed his guilt, was interrogated by the Prince in presence of *General Uschakoff*; and after having agreed to all they wanted, he was beheaded; *Madam Balks*, his sister, received the knout, and it is asserted that the Czar himself inflicted the punishment. She was afterwards banished into Siberia.

The day after Moens suffered, the Czar had the cruelty to conduct Catharine, in an open carriage, to the pole upon which the wretch's head was fixed. The Empress had sufficient command over herself not to change countenance at this horrid spectacle; but with deep anguish she cried out, 'What a pity it is that among courtiers there should be so much corruption!'

CURIOUS ACCOUNT
OF THE
DUMB PHILOSOPHER.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.]

I HAD hardly finished my letter of the when Morpheus closed my eyes, and obliged me to hasten to rest; but curiosity opened them again with the rising of the sun, to make some farther remarks on my thermometers, for so I conceived the one instrument I had not yet seen must likewise be. I made a beginning, by trying some experiments on that I already knew the use of, with some books I had in my trunk: and as I am never without plays of all sorts, I resolved my first trial should be with them; I therefore fetched my whole stock and laid them on the table, and, after many experiments, made the following observations: an Italian opera sinks it to its lowest ebb, and on the other hand, a pantomime, or ballet-entertainment, swells it with such impetuosity, that I was cautious of repeating the experiment too often, for fear of bursting the tube. I tried it with several of Shakespear's plays, and found it to deviate but very seldom from its centre, for any long time, with any of them; and though it did, indeed, frequently take a short trip above the middle region, I plainly perceived my author had never lost view of that point. It was just the same, when, upon reading some of those puns, or what the French call *jeu de mots* (or play with word), of which this great author is but too full; when, I say, I read some of these passages, and the spirits in my tube thereupon sunk below the centre, they soon mounted again, and, with my author, returned to their proper situation. By most of our modern plays they were very busy towards the two extremities, frequently rising and falling several times, during the reading of a single scene, but rarely continuing, for any time, within the five middlemost degrees: but I had the satisfaction, at reading Mr. Addison's *Cato*, to find, that notwithstanding they often rose two degrees above the centre, they never, though a tragedy, went more than a full degree below it.

I resolved next to make a trial with some other books, and fetched an armful, without examining into them. The first I opened was Eachard's *Gazetteer*, which sunk the spirits of my tube at least three degrees below the middle point, but they rose near as much above it on laying that down and taking up the *Tale of a Tub*. With the *Atlantis*, I observed, they always rose to sprightliness, and sometimes to fire. I tried my thermometer with several of the *Spectators*

and Tatlers, and always found it rise or fall exactly as the subject required; insomuch that I was able to distinguish the author of every particular piece, by my glass, before I came to the end of it, to know it by the final letter. Having made these experiments, with books of so many different subjects, I resolved, before I concluded, to make a trial with a book or two of divinity: the first that came to my hands was a volume of Archbishop Tillotson's Sermons, and I soon found all the signs of a strong judgment, fervent zeal, and ardent desire of convincing mankind of the saving truths of the Gospel, which I had reason to expect from so great and good a man. I next made a trial with a small piece of Baxter's, which, though the man's intent may have been upright, I found so clogged with the weight of dulness, that it seldom reached the middle region, without, at the same time, running up to all the height of enthusiastical madness and extravagance.

My tea being by this time brought up, while I was drinking, I began to please myself with the hopes of being one day master of so useful and diverting a piece of art. I had observed, in my friend's repository, a phial of liquor exactly of the colour of that in the tube; and as I did not doubt but the virtue was contained in the spirits, (conceiving it would be easy to get the machine made) I hoped I might obtain a small share thereof. As we are apt to anticipate our joys as well as our fears, I began to number the discoveries I should, from time to time, make with this new machine. There are, thought I, several particular societies, as well in the City of London as elsewhere, whose judgments and understandings I shall measure with the greatest exactitude, and I shall follow (said I to myself) the inhabitants of that great city and its suburbs, in all their haunts, from the church to the play-house. Nay, I flattered myself with the pleasing hopes that there should not be the least grain of corrupt depraved taste among us, but what I should ferret out and discover by means of this my thermometer; that being detected, and exposed to the eye of the whole world, the evil might, by degrees, be removed, and a better taste and judgment be thoroughly restored and established amongst us.

I began to wish myself a larger portion of this wonderful liquor than I could hope to obtain, in order to make a present of one of these thermometers to every one of our journalists, that they might, with the help thereof, form better judgments of their authors than most of them have hitherto done; and to the writers of our public news, and more particularly political papers, to whom it would be of the same universal benefit. If every author (thought I) and every bookseller could have one, how much unnecessary labour would it save the former and expence the latter, and how many squabbles would it not prevent!

I concluded my speculations by thinking, that as the small stock of this inestimable spirit, which I could hope to have, would soon be exhausted, it might be for the good of the public to recommend it earnestly to that illustrious body of inquirers into the wonders of

nature, and art, the Royal Society, and their worthy President, to spend some of the hours they frequently employ upon matters of mere speculation, which are of little or no benefit to mankind, in the search after this secret of so universal advantage. Those who seek to enrich and aggrandize themselves in the fruitless attempt after the philosopher's stone, thought I, would, perhaps, find their account in this; and it might as well deserve a premium being set upon it as the longitude.

Having finished my breakfast, curiosity led me to examine the other little machine, which my friend had lent me. I found, upon opening the case, a curious quadrangular pyramid of ebony, resting upon four little golden balls, on the four corners of a well-proportioned pedestal, which again rested on four balls of the same metal, and of a something larger size. Both pedestal and pyramid were curiously inlaid with what I took to be Chinese characters, in gold, and on the top of all was an urn of the same. The pyramid was perforated in the form of two arches, one above the other. In the lower arch was an image of Saturn, of a yellowish metal, and in the upper arch hung a small bell. As all this gave me no idea of the virtues or use of this little instrument, I had immediate recourse to the manuscript which my friend gave me with it; and I there found it was an invention of an ancient Chinese philosopher, called Bramin-Quam-bo-ni, and that he had given it the name of Pe-kad-en-nosch, or the *Touch-stone of Sincerity*. It likewise acquainted me, that the figure of Saturn had been formed by a secret sympathetic art, under a certain influence of the planets, and of the same metal as the moving statue of Dædalus: and that the bell was of the same composition as the image of the Dodonæan Jupiter, with the Greeks, which gave a certain sound, when the beams of the sun darted upon it. Upon further examination, I found the virtue and use of the pretty pyramid greatly to exceed the beauty of its structure. My manuscript informed me, that if it was placed upon a table, in the midst of a company that was in discourse, either the figure that was in the lower arch, or the bell over its head, would be in continual motion, according as the person speaking was sincere, false, or prevaricating in what he said. If heart and tongue agreed, the little figure would move its head and nod, more or less in proportion to his integrity; but if deceit, flattery, or formal compliment, without any meaning, had any share in his discourse, the bell would begin to ring with more or less force, as his words approached nearer, or were at a greater distance from his mind. As I was alone, and could consequently make no experiments with this machine, but on myself, I must defer a further account of it to another opportunity, and can only say now, I had the satisfaction to find, that happening occasionally to throw out an ejaculation to the Supreme Being, my friend Saturn said amen to it with a nod; I thereupon put it into the case again, and laid it carefully in my trunk.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE LIFE
OF
BISHOP WARBURTON.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.]

THIS year, but something earlier, came out Dr. Middleton's famous '*History of the Life of Cicero*;' which was received by the public, as it deserved to be, with great applause. Mr. Warburton was not behind hand in his commendations of the performance.

A familiar correspondence and a friendly intimacy had, for some time, subsisted between these two great men, which, notwithstanding their diversity of opinion on religious subjects, were kept alive by a general principle of candour. A dispute, however, about the origin of Popish ceremonies, supported with a degree of pertinacity on both sides, cooled their friendship. A memorable instance of our common weakness! which shews how little stress is to be laid on those professions of candour with which our letters and conversations overflow; and how impossible it is for any lasting friendship to subsist between men of opposite principles and persuasions, however their feelings may, for a time, be dissembled, or disguised even to themselves, by a shew of politeness.

The friendship between Mr. Warburton and Mr. Pope became every day closer and more confidential. In the beginning of this summer they passed some weeks together at Twickenham; and in a country ramble were at last led to Oxford. The University seemed desirous of enrolling their names among their graduates. The degree of D. D. was intended for the divine, and that of L. L. D. for the poet, as a testimony of their great respect for each. But intrigue and envy defeated this scheme; and the University lost the honour of decorating, at the same time, the two greatest geniuses of the age, by the fault of one or two of its members.

In some of their interesting conversations together, Warburton advised Pope to make some alterations and improvements in his moral writings, and particularly advised him to strike out *every thing in them that might be suspected of having the least glance towards fate or materialism*. To this Mr. Pope consented, we are told, *with extreme pleasure*.

It was also at this time that he concerted with him the plan of the 4th book of the *Dunciad*, which was finished in 1742, and a project was formed of making Mr. Warburton the editor of the four books complete; which was executed very early in 1743; and so much to the author's satisfaction, that he afterwards engaged him to sustain the like office, with regard to the rest of his works.

The most unreserved confidence continued between the two friends till Mr. Pope's death in May, 1744.

The death of our great poet was an event that could not fail of putting the spirits of the ingenious in motion, and of exciting an emulation among the lovers of polite literature to adorn his memory and virtues. It accordingly produced Mr. Brown's *Essay on Satire*; approved by Mr. Warburton, and afterwards prefixed by him to his edition of Pope's works. Mr. Mason likewise displayed his genius on this occasion, in '*The Monody*' entitled '*Muscæus*.'

Next to the enjoyment itself of such a friendship as that of Mr. Pope, the chief benefit Mr. Warburton derived from it was the being introduced, by his means, to his principal friends, particularly to Mr. Murray, afterwards Earl of Mansfield, and to Mr. Allen, a man of the most amiable character.

In 1744 he published '*Remarks on several occasional Reflections*,' in two parts, the latter of which appeared in the ensuing year.

This was intended as an answer to the most reputable of that crowd of assailants, drawn down upon him by his Divine Legation; and it must be confessed, that it is executed in such a manner as was not likely to invite any fresh attacks upon him. Yet the rage of his answers was not presently.

Mr. Pope, in 1745, had introduced his friend to the notice of Lord Chesterfield; who going this year Lord Lieutenant to Ireland, was desirous of taking Mr. Warburton with him as his Chaplain. This honour he declined, but expressed his sense of the obligation by dedicating to his Lordship the *Alliance*, reprinted with many corrections and improvements in 1748.

After an acquaintance of some years, Mr. Allen had now seen so much of his friend, that he wished to unite him still more closely to himself, by an alliance of marriage with an accomplished lady of his own family.*

This event took place in the beginning of the year 1746; and soon afterwards, by the recommendation of Mr. Murray, then Solicitor-General, he was appointed to the vacant preachingship of Lincoln's-Inn.

From the time of his marriage, Mr. Warburton resided at Prior Park.

In the year 1747 appeared his edition of Shakspeare's works, which he had undertaken at the instance of Mr. Pope. In 1749 an insignificant pamphlet, under the title of '*A Patriot King*,' was published by, and under the direction of, Lord Bolingbroke, with a preface to it, reflecting highly on Mr. Pope's honour. Mr. Warburton thought it became him to vindicate his deceased friend; and he did it so effectually, as not only to silence his accuser, but to cover him with confusion.

A controversy was then carrying on, concerning the miraculous powers of the Christian church, between Dr. Middleton and his opponents, and so managed on both sides as to hurt the cause of Christianity itself. This gave him occasion to explain his own sentiments

* Miss Gertrude Tacke, Mr. Allen's favourite Niece.

on the subject in an admirable book entitled '*Julian.*' This work was published in 1750, and is written in the genuine spirit of its author.

In the next year he appeared again as a critic and commentator, in the noble edition he gave of Mr. Pope's works.

When Mr. Pope's volumes were out of his hands, he published a set of sermons preached by him at Lincoln's-Inn, and entitled '*Principles of Natural and Revealed Religion,*' in two vols. the former published in 1752, and the other in 1754; to which he added a third in 1767, consisting chiefly of occasional discourses.

We find it impossible, without encroaching on other articles, to finish this important Biography in this number, but will, most assuredly, conclude it in our next.

ORIGINAL LETTER

OF

BISHOP BURNET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE.

THE original Manuscript Letter, of which I here send you a faithful copy, is in the College Library of St. Peter, Westminster, and as no transcript of it has ever before appeared, your readers will, no doubt, receive it with pleasure. It is from Bishop Burnet to Mrs. Lightmaker, in 1684, upon the death of her brother Dr. Leighton, Archbishop of Glasgow.*

D.

MADAM,

'It is a very uneasy thing to me to write to you on so sad a subject, as your losing the best brother and my own losing the best friend I ever had; of whom I must say this, that I could never yet say of any mortal, that, during a friendship of 22 years, I never saw him one moment in any other temper but that in which I would wish to be in the moment of my death.

'He was the brightest and most shining light I ever saw, or ever hope to see. But he is now much brighter, and we shall see him ere long, and, I hope, share with him in his glory. He was weary of his journey, and groaning for rest, and now God has delivered him. There is nothing left us but to acquiesce in the good and holy will of God, and to follow him.

'I confess his losse to myself is as the losse of a right eye, or a right hand; and I can easily apprehend how sensible it must be to you; and nothing can so justly mitigate so sharpe a stroke as the

* See Burnet's History of his own Time, vol. i. passim.

raising our souls as much as we can towards those exercises in which he is now eternally engaged.

‘ I hope I need not desire you to look carefully for all the remnants of so great a soul ; that if he has writ any thing that may make him, while dead, yet to speak to the world ; these may not be losst, unlesse he any way signified his pleasure to the contrary. It is long since I resolved if ever I outlived him to writ his life, and tho’ there are many parts of his life unknown to me, yet, I am sure there is no man alive that knows his publike concerns in Scotland so particularly as I doe ; but this is a thing, in which I can make no steps till I know your mind in it, and what assistance I can receive from you.

‘ I was ashamed of the extraordinary high present you sent me, which was farre beyond what the putting me in mourning can amount to : but I shall distribute that which is over, in the best manner I can. He had two very particular friends ; one was here with him ; and it was on his account, in a great measure, that he came up at this time : his name is Fell :* the other lived some years with him in Scotland, his name is Aird, † who will desire very earnestly to have some small thing that belonged to him, either his common-prayer book, or Greek testament, or his bible. Mr. Fell wisht also he might have his staffe ; and I know the other so well that without a commission from him, I make this desire in his name. You see the freedom I take to writ to you, tho’ I have not the honour of being known to you. But the vast esteem I had for your *blessed Brother* makes me hope you will have the goodness to forgive this boldness I take, and that you will ever look on me as one that is with great sincerity,

Madam,

Your most humble servant,

2d July, 1684.

G. BURNET.

The Most Honored Mistris Lightmaker at Bradhurst.

ON

RELIGION, MORALITY, AND GOVERNMENT.

LETTER I.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE.

I Have the tenderest regard for the honour of our country, as a Protestant nation ; and for the rights of my countrymen, as a free people ; but I cannot apprehend wherein I shall offend against the act of toleration, or true liberty of conscience, by offering a dissertation, now and then, upon a religious or moral subject, since no body is forced to read it ; and nothing but curiosity can oblige people to meddle with what they do not like,

* See History of his own Time, vol ii, p. 676.---† Ibid, vol. i. 293.

It must be owned by the warmest friends of our establishment, that there *have* been very *coercive* methods used to convince such as had no inclination to be convinced; and it cannot be denied by the greatest enemies, that there is *now* no room for any such complaint.

There is indeed an obsolete law, which requires the good people of England to go to some place of public worship, where a person claims a commission to preach, though the congregation should have no inclination to hear him; and church-wardens are bound by oath to present such as neglect it, (which, as I am informed, has been actually put in practice, in *times of barbarous superstition*); but, I am not attempting to commit any such act of violence upon the understanding, as I do not pretend to any authority to *command* their attention, but *desire* it only as a courtesy: neither is it fair to reproach our *constitution* with a law which has been long since disused, though not formally repealed.

All his Majesty's *free-born* subjects, any *old* law notwithstanding, are in full possession of the liberty of being *Infidels*, without having any further means of conviction impertinently obtruded upon them. Well-meaning divines may write books in defence of Christianity, and some well-meaning Christians will read them. Sermons are still publicly preached; and, in spite of all the *honest* endeavours of *humane* Infidels to prevent the continuance of such a grievance, they have still their hearers. But all this time, though believers read books of infidelity, unbelievers are so happy as not to be *compelled*, either by books or sermons, to inform themselves; and they are so wise as not to do it of *their own accord*. Such is the present flourishing state of *religious freedom* in England.

But since the clergy have the opportunity of instilling their notions into such multitudes as are led by the prejudice of education, the force of custom, or the influence of example, to attend these public lectures; since the learned and pious author of '*The Rights of Man*' has demonstrated, by the *strongest assertion*, that clergymen are the most unfit people for the business of instruction, by reason of their *incapacity*; and since the great successor of the great Socrates has proved, *as clearly*, that *Priests* always have corrupted, and always will corrupt, religion and misguide their hearers; it is thought proper to *rescue* religious truths out of their *hands*. This noble work Citizen Thelwall lately attempted to do in several parts of the kingdom, and has since published a course of lectures, in order to complete his benevolent designs. And if he has *no other* motive to this undertaking, but the propagation of *truth* and the *good of mankind*, I may assure myself of *his* thanks, and of the thanks of all such *disinterested* writers, if I impartially examine any points of that kind, and freely deliver my opinion concerning them; provided I do it in the spirit of charity, with the temper of a philosopher, and in the language of a gentleman.

The liberty of the press is one of the most valuable privileges of an *Englishman*, and a great security to our religious and civil rights. I am not going to write against it, but to take the benefit of it in com-

mon with the rest of my fellow subjects; though I hope I shall make a better use of it than many of them do. *Religion, Morality, and Government* are the most important subjects that can employ the pen of any writer, and they are now the common subjects of books, pamphlets, and newspapers. Every man, in his own opinion, seems to be a very great divine, and a very able politician. No one stands in need of instruction, and yet every one thinks it necessary that he should instruct the public. All set up for teachers, while it is an avowed maxim that there is no occasion for *any*. Authors are multiplying upon us every day; and every author, for fear he should lose his right of *private judgment*, has a set of notions peculiar to himself. They are like tyrants grown frantic with power, who think their authority in danger, unless they are abusing it upon every occasion. They agree in nothing but their opposition to the *general and established* faith; nay, such is the pleasure of indulging a spirit of opposition, that they are often at variance with *themselves*, contradicting at one time what they advance at another. I own myself, Sir, to be one of those unfashionable people who have a regard for the *old* doctrines which have been so long received and established among us; and have not yet seen any sufficient reason for exchanging them for new opinions, much less for irreligion and infidelity. However, the gentlemen, who are for introducing innovations in our religion and establishment, must allow it reasonable, that *their* notions and schemes should be examined with as much freedom as they treat those from which they are pleased to dissent.

Now, Sir, if I may not seem to be intrusive, and occupy that room which any other of your correspondents would fill to much better advantage, I shall occasionally trouble you with a few thoughts upon such subject as will, *no doubt*, interest the attention of your readers.

Westminster, October, 1798.

ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

CRITICISM

ON A PASSAGE IN

VIRGIL'S GEORGICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE.

IF the following dispute, between Father Hardouin, and M. Huet, Bishop of Avranches, in relation to a passage in the 4th book of Virgil's *Georgics*, will prove acceptable to your readers, you will oblige me by giving it an insertion in your next magazine. D.

FATHER Hardouin, in preparing a new edition of his Pliny, took occasion to explain the following passage of Virgil's 4th *Georgic*, in a manner different from most interpreters, and among them M. Huet.

‘ Nam qua Pellæi gens fortunata Canopi
Accolit effuso stagnantem flumine Nilum,

Et circum pictis vehitur sua rura phaelis ;
 Quinque pharetratæ vicinia Persidis urget,
 Et Viridem Ægyptum nigra fœcundat arena,
 Et diversa ruens septem discurret in ora
 Usque coloratis amnis devexus ab Indis ;
 Omnis in hæc certam regio jecit salutem.'

Georg. Lib. 4, v. 287.

The two descriptions, in these passages,

'Qua Pellæi gens fortunata Canopi,' &c.

And

'Quaque pharetratæ vicinia Persidis urget,' &c.

are generally supposed to denote one and the same region, namely, that part of Egypt formed by the Nile, and called *Delta*.

In opposition to this opinion, Father Hardouin objects, 1st. That this double description of one and the same region is such tautology as Virgil is never guilty of: 2dly. That the epithet *viridis*, applied to Egypt as part of Africa, is cold and lifeless; and therefore we must look for some country with which the second description will agree.

Accordingly, he observes, that there was an island, called *Prasiane*, formed by the mouths of the *Indus*, in like manner as the *Delta* was by the *Nile*.

Now Πρασινῆ in Greek signifies *viridis*; whence he thinks it probable that Virgil meant the island *Prasiane* by *Viridem Ægyptum*, making *Viridis* not an epithet but a proper name; and comparing it with the *Delta Ægyptus*, upon these two accounts; first, because the *Indus* manures *Prasiane*, in like manner as the *Nile* does *Egypt*; and secondly, because the *Indus* had formerly seven mouths as well as the *Nile*; to which may be added, that *Virgil's* description agrees perfectly with this interpretation; for the *Indus* is,

'Usque coloratis amnis devexus ab Indis:'

It flows from the farthest part of the east; and not only so, but

'——— Vicinia Persidis urget ;'

Not '*Vicinam Persidem*,' *Persia* itself; but '*regionem Persidi vicinam*,' a country bordering on *Persia*, agreeable to *Pliny's* account, '*Plerique ab Occidente Indiam non Indo Amne determinant, sed adjiciunt quatuor Satrapias.*'

This is Father Hardouin's hypothesis.

M. Huet, in answer to it, and in vindication of the general interpretation, observes, that it was the universal opinion of antiquity that the *Nile* had its source in the *Indies*; which he confirms, among other testimonies, by the authority of *Alexander the Great*, who, arriving at the *Indus*, fancied himself at the source of the *Nile*; and boasted of it in a letter to his mother *Olympias*.

In the next place, if *Viridis* be the proper name of an island, how comes it to pass, says *M. Huet*, that neither *Pliny*, *Solinus*, *Mela*, nor any author, geographer, or historian, Greek or Latin, ancient or modern, have taken notice of any such island?

Father Hardouin, he tells us, has raised three paradoxes from two words; first, in supposing *Viridis* to be a proper name; secondly, in applying it to the island *Prasiane*; and thirdly, in making two proper names, joined together, denote one and the same place.

It is another *Hardouinade*, he says, to suppose that the island *Prasiane* took its name from its colour, since, according to the learned father himself in his notes on *Pliny*, *Prasiane u Prasiis, Indi amnis accolis, quorum ditiois fuit, nomen invenit.*

Lastly, as to the objected coldness of the epithet *Viridis*, M. Huet, on the contrary, is of opinion that it very strongly describes the fertility of the soil; and upon that account is more properly applied to Egypt than any other country.

The learned reader is left to judge of the validity of the reasons on both sides; which have divided these two critics. However we cannot but observe, in favour of *Father Hardouin*, that the seeming tautology of the passage, a fault of which *Virgil*, of all poets, is the least guilty, would, at first sight, incline one to think, that the

‘*Quaque pharetratae vicinia Persidis urget,*’

began the description of another region; did not the general notion of antiquity, concerning the source of the *Nile*, and the aptness of the description to that river, oblige us to adhere to the common interpretation, and give the cause in favour of *M. Huet*.

I shall subjoin Mr. Dryden’s translation of this controverted passage, which ascribes the whole to the *Nile*.

‘For where with seven-fold horns mysterious *Nile*
Surrounds the skirts of Egypt’s fruitful isle,
And where in pomp the sun-burnt people ride,
On painted barges, o’er the teeming tide;
Which, pouring down from *Ethiojian* lands,
Makes green the soil with slime and black prolific sands;
That length of region, and large tract of ground,
In this one act a sure relief have found.’

SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

PASSWAN OGLOW,

THE TURKISH REBEL.

AS *Passwan Oglow*, the Turkish Rebel, has of late acquired some degree of celebrity, the following particulars of his life and character may not appear uninteresting.

Passwan Oglow was born at *Widdin*; he is a Greek by birth; but in his early youth he became a Mussulman, and got himself enrolled among the *Janissaries*, in which corps he obtained rapid promotion. He is said to possess a mind of deep and various information; his character is marked with great and uncommon features, but especially

by inflexible firmness in all his resolves; his firmness, however, is highly tempered with justice and humanity. He eminently distinguished himself in the different posts which he held at Constantinople and at Widdin, by an extreme simplicity of living, and by as strong an aversion for sumptuous luxury and vain ostentation. In a word, he is described as a philosopher endowed with all the great qualities which are required of those who are called to eminent situations.

Passwan Oglow is not yet forty years of age. During his campaign, which lasted nine or ten months, he experienced the extremes both of good and ill fortune, and he comported himself in both with wisdom and dignity. There is every reason to believe that his revolt was not directed at first against the Grand Signior, but against some neighbouring Pachas; that in order to swell the number of his adherents, he pretended to assert and defend the rights of the Janisseries and the ancient Ottoman institutions, and ended by proclaiming himself the protector of the liberties of the Greeks.

There can be no doubt that if Passwan Oglow had been able to maintain himself for any length of time in Macedonia, he would have brought about a revolution in that province, as well as in Albania and the Morea. So highly had his first successes raised the celebrity of his name, and increased the number of his partizans.

KAMTSCHATKA DANCE.

IN his late voyage of Discovery, M. De la Perouse having touched at the harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul, in Kamtschatka, the officers of his squadron were received with great hospitality by Mr. Kasloff, the Governor of Okhotsk, who gave an assembly, on their account, to the principal inhabitants of the town.

‘If the assembly,’ says M. De la Perouse, ‘was not numerous, it was at least extraordinary. Thirteen women, dressed in silken stuffs, ten of the number being Kamtschadales, with broad faces, little eyes, and flat noses, were sitting on benches round the room. The Kamtschadales as well as the Russians had silk handkerchiefs tied round their heads, almost in the manner they are worn by the mulatto women in our West India islands. The ball began with Russian dances, of which the tunes were very pleasing, and very much like the country dance called the *Cossack*, that was in fashion at Paris a few years ago. The Kamtschadale dances that followed can only be compared to those of the *convulsionnaires*, at the famous tomb of St. Medard, the dancers having occasion for nothing but arms and shoulders, and scarcely for any legs at all. The Kamtschadale females, by their convulsions and contracted motions, inspire the spectator with a painful sensation, which is still more strongly excited by the mournful cry that is drawn from the pit of their stomachs, and that serves as the only music to direct their movements. Their fatigue is such during this exercise, that they are covered with perspiration, and lie stretched out upon the floor, without the power of rising. The abundant exhalations that emanate from their bodies,

perfume the whole apartment with a smell of oil and fish, to which European noses are too little accustomed to find out its fragrance. As the dances of all these nations have ever been imitative, and in fact nothing but a sort of pantomime, I asked what two of the women, who had just taken such violent exercise, had meant to express? I was told that they had represented a bear-hunt. The woman who rolled on the ground acted the animal; and the other, who kept turning round her, the hunter; but if the bears could speak, and were to see such a pantomime, they would certainly complain of being so awkwardly imitated.

UNFORTUNATE IVASCHIN.

ON the departure of M. De la Perouse from St. Peter and St. Paul, Mr. Kasloff loaded him with presents; but as he was only rich in commodities for the Savage-market, he had nothing worthy Mr. Kasloff's acceptance in return except the narrative of Cooke's third voyage, with which he was much pleased, especially as he had in his suite almost all the personages whom the editor has brought forward upon the stage—Mr. Schmaloff, the good vicar of Paratounka, and the unfortunate Ivaschkin. To them he translated all the passages that concerned them, and at the rehearsal of each they repeated that every word was strictly true. The serjeant alone, who then commanded at the harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul, was dead. The others enjoyed the best state of health, and still inhabited the country, except Major Behm, who had returned to Petersburg, and Port, who resided at Irkoutsk. I testified my surprise to Mr. Kasloff at finding the aged Ivaschkin in Kamtschatka, the English accounts stating that he had at length obtained permission to go and live at Okhotsk.

We could not help feeling great concern for the fate of this unfortunate man, when told that his only crime was some indiscreet expressions concerning the Empress Elizabeth, at the breaking up of a convivial party, when his reason was disordered by wine. He was then under twenty, was an officer in the guards, belonged to a Russian family of distinction, and could boast of a handsome face, which neither time nor misfortune have been able to alter. He was cashiered, and banished to the interior of Kamtschatka, after having suffered the punishment of the knout, and had his nostrils slit. The Empress Catharine II. granted this unfortunate man a pardon several years ago: but a stay of more than fifty years in the midst of the vast forests of Kamtschatka; the bitter recollection of the ignominious punishment he suffered; perhaps, also, a secret sentiment of hatred against an authority which punished so cruelly a fault, that was rendered excusable by circumstances; these various motives rendered him insensible to a tardy act of justice; and he purposed ending his days in Siberia.

NARRATIVE OF THE
 EXPEDITION OF BUONAPARTE,
 AND A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE
 GLORIOUS VICTORY OF ADMIRAL NELSON
OVER THE FRENCH FLEET.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.]

THE French squadron arrived on the first of July before the harbour of Alexandria, and there learned, that three days before the English fleet had appeared off that port. On the same night the French troops were disembarked, and Buonaparte himself, in a galley, followed his columns.

But previous to his taking this step, he demanded a supply of provisions and leave to land his troops; to which requests he received a positive refusal. At the same time the artillery of the port commenced a fire upon the French vessels, which was vigorously returned. This cannonade lasted for several hours. A corps of French troops, however having effected a landing at some distance from the town, possessed themselves of a fort, which commanded the port, and protected the entry of the fleet, and the debarkation of the whole convoy.

The first measure that occupied the attention of General Buonaparte was to take a prudent precaution against the plague; he burnt two vessels at that time in the port, one a Ragusan, and the other an Alexandrine; the crews of which he subjected to the strictest quarantine. In the next place he employed himself in collecting a great quantity of provisions for the use of his troops, especially rice, paying for every thing that was required. This appearance of justice was highly political, and, among a set of men not remarkable for equity in dealing, must have had an effect by no means unfavourable to the prosecution of his design. This conduct was at once noble and conciliating.

Previous, however, to disembarking the troops, Buonaparte, like another Cæsar, excited their courage, and cheered their spirits, by an address well adapted for the occasion. *

VOL. XI.

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* BUONAPARTE, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE, AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF.
Head-quarters on board L'Orient, June 22.

“Soldiers! you are about to undertake a conquest, the effects of which on the commerce and civilization of the world are beyond all calculation. You will strike against England a sure and deep-felt stroke in the interim, before you can inflict the mortal blow.

“We are to make some fatiguing marches and to engage in several combats; but we shall succeed in all our enterprises---the destinies are for us! The Mame-

On the 5th of July, preparations were made for the assault of Alexandria, and on the same evening, though the artillery was not yet landed, the attack was made. The walls of the city were scaled, and the besieged gave way to the point of the bayonet. The defence which the latter made was not dishonourable to their courage, but want of discipline and a sufficient force to oppose the invaders, foiled every strenuous effort, and obliged them to submit to superior numbers and a victorious army.

The French suffered a loss of from two to three hundred men. The division which made the assault was commanded by Generals Kleber and Menou: of whom the former was wounded in the head by a musquet ball; the latter in the act of scaling the wall, fell backwards and drew with him some loose stones, from which he suffered a contusion in the thigh: at length the intrepid valour of the French proved successful. They entered Alexandria. The inhabitants were disarmed without violence, and the conqueror distinguished himself only by acts of clemency and goodness. From his head quarters he addresses the people of Egypt.*

luke Beys, who favour exclusively the commerce of the English, who have loaded our merchants with injuries, and who tyrannize over the unfortunate inhabitants of the Nile, a few days after our arrival, will cease to exist.

‘The people with whom we are going to live are Mahometans; their first article of faith is, “that there is but one God, and that Mahomet is his prophet.” Do not contradict them; act with them as we have done with the Jews and the Italians. Pay every respect to their Mufties and their Imans, as you have done to the Rabbies and the Bishops. Shew the same tolerance to the ceremonies prescribed by the Alcoran, and to the Mosques, as you have done to the Convents and the Synagogues---to the religion of Moses, and to that of Jesus Christ.

‘The Roman legions protected every religion. You will find manners and usages different from those of Europe. You must accustom yourselves to them. The people on whose territory we are to enter treat their women in a manner different from ours; but in every country he who violates a female is a monster.

‘Pillage enriches only a small number of men; it dishonours us; it destroys our resources, and makes those people our enemies whom it is our interest to have as friends.

‘The first town in our way was built by Alexander: at every step we shall meet with great memorials, worthy of exciting the emulation of Frenchmen.’

* Imperfect extracts from this proclamation having appeared in our preceding Publication, we are induced to give it here at full length. It is dated at Alexandria, the head-quarters of the army, 12th of July (24 Messidor)---Month of Musharrem, in the year of the Hégira 1213; and is as follows:

‘BUONAPARTE, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE FRENCH ARMY.

‘For a long time the Beys who have governed Egypt have insulted the French Nation, and oppressed its merchants. The hour of their chastisement is arrived.

‘For a long time this vile heap of slaves, purchased in Caucasus and Georgia, have tyrannized over the fairest part of the world. But God, on whom every thing depends, has ordained that their dominion should be at an end.

‘People of Egypt! they will tell you that I am come to destroy your religion; but do not believe them. Answer them, on the contrary, that I am come to restore to you your rights---to punish your usurpers; and that I respect, more

The Scheriff was continued in his functions, and decorated with a tri-coloured scarf. Buonaparte had sent for the chiefs of the Arabs, and concluded with them a treaty, which would probably have ensured the tranquillity of his army; but it appeared that the Arabs were either suspicious of his proffered friendship, or the advanced

than the Mamalukes, God, his Prophet, and the Alcoran. Tell them, that all men are equal in the sight of God---that wisdom, talents, and virtue, form the sole difference between them. Then what talents, what wisdom, what virtue distinguish your Mamelukes? For what exclusive quality are they to possess every thing which renders life happy and pleasant? Yet is there a good estate, it belongs to the Mamalukes. Is there a fair slave, a fine horse, or a handsome house, it belongs to the Mamalukes. If Egypt is their farm, let them shew the lease which God has given to them. But God is just and merciful to the people. All the Egyptians shall be called upon to wield all employments. The most wise, the most informed, and the most virtuous shall govern, and the people shall be happy.

‘ There have been formerly amongst you great cities, great canals, and a great commerce. What has destroyed all these, if it be not the avarice, the injustice, and the tyranny of the Mamalukes? Cadis, Cheiks, Imans, Scorbadgis, tell the people that we are the friends of the true Mussulmen. We have destroyed the Knights of Malta, because those senseless men believed that it was the will of God that they should make war upon Mussulmen. We have annihilated the power of the Pope of Rome, because he said it was just to make war upon Mussulmen. We have for ages been the friends of the Grand Seignior (may God accomplish his desires!) and the enemies of his enemies. The Mamalukes, on the contrary, have they not revolted against the authority of the Grand Seignior, which they continue to despise?---They acknowledge nothing but their own caprices.

‘ Thrice happy will be those who shall be with us; they shall prosper in their rank and fortunes. Happy are those who shall remain neuter; they will have time to know us, and they will side with us. But misfortune, threefold misfortune to those who shall take arms for the Mamalukes, and fight against us. There shall be no hope for them; they all shall perish.’

This proclamation was succeeded by the following resolutions:

Art. I. All the villages situated within three leagues of the places through which the French army shall pass, must send a deputation to inform the General who commands the troops that they remain in obedience, and that they have hoisted the colours of the army (white, blue, and red.)

‘ II. All the villages that take up arms against the French army shall be burnt.

‘ III. All the villages that submit to the army, shall, together with those of the army, hoist the colours of the Grand Seignior, our friend.

‘ IV. The Sheiks shall put the seals on the goods, houses, and property belonging to the Mamalukes, and shall see that nothing be carried away.

‘ V. The Sheiks, the Cadis, and the Imans shall continue to perform the functions of their respective departments. Every inhabitant shall remain in his house: and the priests shall continue as before. Every one shall return thanks to God for the destruction of the Mamalukes, and exclaim---Glory to the Sultan---Glory to the French army; curses light on the Mamalukes, and happiness on the people of Egypt!

BUONAPARTE.’

GENERAL ORDERS BY BUONAPARTE, &c.

‘ Art. I. The Generals commanding the detached divisions shall enjoin the War Commissary, the Paymaster of the division, an Officer of the Etat-Major, and a Sheik of the country, to put the seal upon the Public Treasury, and upon the houses and registers of the Receivers-General of the Mamalukes.

‘ II. The Mamalukes shall be arrested, and brought to the head-quarters of the army.

‘ III. All the towns and villages shall be disarmed.

‘ IV. All the horses shall be put in requisition and delivered up to the Chief of

guard was informed too late of the treaty made with the Bedouins. To one or both of these causes may be attributed the failure of this cautious step; and thus the effect of the Commander's foresight was suspended. The aignade, an allowance of fresh water, was interrupted by the Arabs, who, on the 21st of July killed nine sailors belonging to the Tonnant.

On the same day, about five and thirty of them appeared before Alexandria. These were surrounded by a detachment of artillery, with the exception of one, who made his escape.

After the capture of Alexandria detachments were sent to occupy the adjoining posts, especially Rosetta, which opened its gates, and sent a deputation to the French, bearing a tri-coloured flag.

Having taken possession of all the surrounding posts, Buonaparte dispatched his army by the Nile to Cairo. He proceeded himself by land to take the command of the troops. The Beys rested all their hopes upon the defence of Cairo, the capital of Egypt, and with 10,000 of the Mamaluke cavalry attacked the French with impetuosity, but suffered a defeat, and a loss of 1000 men, who were cut to pieces. A much greater number was drowned in the river. The rest took

Brigade of the Cavalry of the division, who shall immediately mount the soldiers, and who shall therefore follow the division, carrying their saddles and bridles; the officers, of whatever rank, are forbidden to take any horse before the cavalry be mounted; all the men that are mounted, are also forbidden to exchange horses.

V. All horses fit for the artillery shall be delivered to the Commander of the artillery of the division, who shall have harnesses and waggon drivers in readiness.

VI. The camels shall be hired and put at the disposal of the Commander of the artillery; those that belong to the Mamalukes, or that may be taken from the enemy, shall be given to the artillery, to carry the three-pounders, the cartridge boxes of the infantry, the cannon, ammunition, which will considerably diminish the number of ammunition waggons. There shall be a camel for each division, at the disposal of the Commander of the engineers, to carry the tools of the pioneers.

VII. Each battalion shall have two camels to carry their baggage; the Chief of Brigade and the Quarter-Master shall have one to carry the chest and the register of the corps, but they can have it only when the artillery shall be fully provided.

VIII. The Artillery and Cavalry Commanders shall give a receipt to the War Commissaries for the horses and camels furnished to them.

IX. The War Commissaries shall send in a statement to the Commissary in Chief; the Chief of Brigade of the Cavalry shall give in his account to General Dugua and the Adjutant-General of the division of the Etat Major.

X. The horses and camels taken from the enemy after a battle, and after having killed or taken prisoner their riders, shall be paid for upon the order of the General of Division, to wit---four louis for a horse and six for a camel. The General of Artillery shall pay in like manner those that shall be delivered to him, and the Quarter-Master of the corps those that are delivered to the corps.

XI. When all the regiments of cavalry are mounted, the horses shall be sent to General Dugua, and the camels to the Park of Artillery.

XII. Every soldier that shall enter the houses of the inhabitants in order to steal horses or camels, shall be punished according to the first article of the order of the third of Messidor.

BONAPARTE.

Buonaparte's proclamations are worthy of the hero of Italy: they were composed and printed on board L'Orient, during the passage from Malta to Alexandria.

to flight, being struck with the greatest consternation, and almost all wounded. All their baggage, three hundred camels fully laden, and more than three hundred horses richly harnessed, fell into the hands of the captors. The capital of Egypt could offer no further resistance, and the vanquished Mussulmen were obliged to submit to the intrepid valour of Infidels.

Cairo is an immense city; it cannot, however, bear a comparison with any of our European capitals. It is neither decorated by handsome squares, by regular streets, or elegant public buildings. On the contrary, the streets are dirty, narrow, and winding; and as they are not paved, the motley multitude of men, camels, asses, and dogs, that crowd and confuse them, keeps up filthy dust continually flying about, to which succeeds a fœtid mud, when any of the inhabitants attempt to sprinkle water before their doors. Contrary to the oriental customs, the houses are from two to three stories high, and covered with flat roofs. On these terraces, which are adorned with orange and pomegranate trees, the women are accustomed to bathe, without running the risque of being overlooked, except by the public heralds, who from the top of the spiry turrets summon the people to their devotions.

In Cairo there are 300 mosques, of which the greater number are embellished with spires or turrets of a light airy construction, and surrounded with galleries. They throw a very agreeable variety over a city where all the roofs are platforms. It is from thence that nearly 300 voices cry aloud five times a day, and at the same instant, in all the quarters of the city, to call the inhabitants to the performance of their religious duties. The ringing of bells is held in execration among the Turks. They pretend that bells offend the ear, without making an impression upon the heart. This opinion they derive from their Legislator, who, desirous that every thing should have an end and object in his system of religion, in order to impress at the same time the mind and senses, rejected the use of the trumpet adopted among the Jews, the rattle of the Idolaters, and the bell of the Christians, and employed the human voice, judiciously thinking that this vehicle would make a more lively impression on the mind of man than the tinkling of brass; and he had brought to him from Heaven a formula favourable to his designs.

The castle of Cairo, built upon a steep and craggy rock, encompassed with thick walls supported by massy towers, was of considerable strength before the invention of gunpowder. But, as it is commanded by an adjacent mountain, it could not, even for the space of two hours, resist the fire of an ordinary battery. This castle contains the old ruinous palace of the Egyptian Sultans, the manufactory where is made the rich tapestry which P'Hemir Hagg (or the Prince of the Caravan) brings yearly to Mecca; also the palace of the Pacha, the hall of the Divan, the mint, and the famous well of Joseph. This well, which some pretend had been made by the son of Jacob, and others by a Vizir of the same name under the reign of Sala-Eddin, is 280 feet in depth, and 42 in circumference;

it is surrounded by a stair-case in the whole of its length, the descent of which is so easy that camels and oxen go down it without the least difficulty.

Cairo is three leagues in circumference; but within this enclosure there are a number of gardens, back yards and unoccupied grounds, together with large heaps of ruins. Travellers differ much in their opinions respecting its population: according to Baron Totte it amounts to 700,000 souls; while Volney brings it only to 250,000. But it is difficult to ascertain it with any strict precision, as the Mussulmen labour under a superstitious prejudice against all kind of counting, and therefore keep no registers either of births, deaths, or marriages.

Among the curiosities that arrest the attention of a traveller in this city may be numbered the prodigious quantity of hideous dogs that everywhere infest the streets—kites that hover over the houses, annoying the inhabitants with their importunate and lugubrious cries. Instead of destroying either of them, the Mussulmen hold them in profound respect, feed them with what falls from their tables, and sometimes go even so far as to found hospitals for the reception of straggling dogs!

Another strange phænomenon to be remarked in this city is, the prodigious number of blind persons who are everywhere to be met with. 'Among one hundred persons,' says Volney, 'it is not uncommon to find twenty of them blind, ten blind of one eye, and twenty with their eyes enflamed and reddened over with purulent sores.' The primary cause of this disease is supposed to be the predominance of saline particles in the air, which particularly abound in Delta; and the secondary causes are, the filthiness of the Egyptians and the quality of their food.

In a climate scorched by the sun, water is the first of all necessities. . . . The Nile alone, unaided by the heavens, furnishes water to the Egyptians. It is therefore with well-grounded reason that the Egyptians have from time immemorial entertained, and still do entertain, the most awful veneration for the Nile, which they call their 'holy and blessed Nurse.' They anciently established festivals in its honour, and raised altars to it as to their Gods, or as to the most powerful agent of their divinity; and indeed, without the benefit of the Nile, what would become of Egypt? What would it be but a long valley of barren sands, the abode of tygers and other wild beasts. . . . By the help of the Nile, it becomes the most fertile and the most irriguous soil in the world.

During the first days of the month of June the Nile begins to swell, but its encrease is scarcely sensible till about the 24th. At that period its waters begin to thicken, and grow muddy, and become of a reddish colour; it continues to swell till towards the end of August, and frequently until the middle of September. Repeated and sure experience proves that the degree of inundation most favourable to the fertility of the soil, is from eighteen to twenty-four feet.* When it has attained this height the people abandon them-

* The French foot is considerably longer than ours.

selves to the utmost joy; they dance, laugh, drink, and form water parties. Gaiety and mirth universally prevail. They congratulate each other, and songs, expressive of their joy, resound on every side. The inundation continues till the autumnal equinox. During this season Egypt resembles a vast sea, on the surface of which are float towns, villages, and an infinite number of boats of all forms and sizes. At the equinox the Nile begins to decrease, and at the end of the month it returns to its channel.

Thus Buonaparte must have arrived at Alexandria at the time when the river began to swell, and at Cairo at the moment of its greatest rise.

Having spoken so fully of Cairo there we will leave the intrepid General and his army, for the present, and return to give some account of the formidable convoy in which they were wafted to the shores of Egypt.

Upon his landing, it is asserted that Buonaparte advised the Commander in Chief of the squadron to return to Corfu, in order, if possible, to elude the vigilance of the British fleet. But this advice Admiral Brueys had no inclination to follow. He sheltered his transports in one of the ports of Alexandria, and drew up his ships in a direct line at the mouth of the Nile, in the bay of Aboukeir,* between the cape of that name and Rosetta. Here he awaited, perhaps, in awful suspense, the arrival of a bold and ardent encounter with an enemy well skilled in nautical tactics, and resolved to strike an important blow, or sink in the daring enterprize.

Venit summa Dies.

VIRG.

VICTORY OF ADMIRAL NELSON.

PREVIOUS to that day Admiral Nelson had sought after the French fleet with the greatest anxiety, he had received intelligence, which eventually proved false, from a neutral vessel that the enemy's squadron had left Malta three days earlier than the truth; upon which, he, supposing them to be far advanced, made a direct cut to Alexandria, while Buonaparte took a circuit round Candia.

Leaving Sicily the second time, the British Admiral touched at the Morea, and learning that the enemy had passed Candia, about 33 days before, and stood from thence to S.E. he again steered for Alexandria, though not with the most flattering hopes of finding them. He looked into the port, and saw it crowded with French vessels, but perceived no Admiral's flag nor any capital ship. His despair was now at its height, when the enemy's fleet was descried from the mast-head, a few leagues distant to the eastward, lying in the bay or road of Aboukeir. The British Admiral instantly directed his course towards them, and found them at anchor in a line from N.W. to S.E. They were at single anchor, with springs on their cables, and riding head to the wind, which blew from the N.W. In

† The ancient Canopus, about five leagues eastward of Alexandria. It has a citadel and a garrison.

order to approach them, it was necessary to sail round an island, and a reef which projected from it to the distance of seven miles, from the point of which the fort of Aboukeir stands. The wind was perfectly fair, both for this, and for approaching the fleet; but unfortunately, in rounding the reefs, the Culloden, the leading ship, commanded by the gallant Trowbridge, run aground, and could not be got off during the action. After this accident Admiral Nelson found himself with ten ships only (three having fallen several leagues astern*) to fight thirteen of the enemy, and several of those of superior force to any of his squadron.

The island also, fortified with two mortars and some heavy cannon, was to be passed within gun-shot. These circumstances, however, did but add fresh vigour to British courage. Admiral Nelson determined on an immediate attack, and made a signal to engage the van and centre of the enemy. About half of his ships got between them and the shore, by sailing round the head of their line; the rest attacked on the outside. All dropped their anchors, so as to place themselves opposite and close to their opponents; and it is said that one of the ships, in passing, beat the carved work off the enemy's stern. By this disposition some of their ships were doubled on, and all that were engaged on the land side were taken unprepared; the Zealous fired three broadsides before a gun was returned from that side.

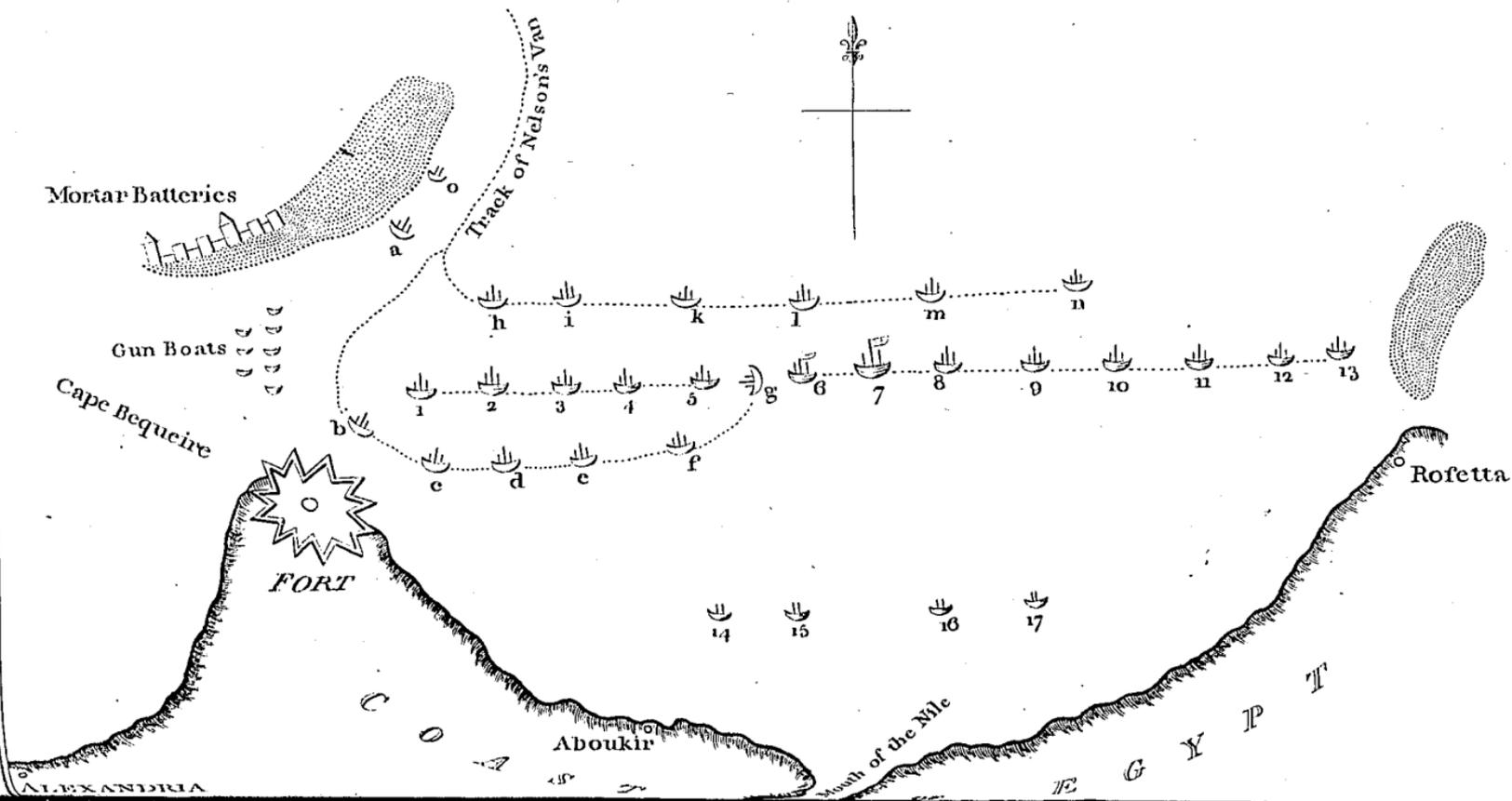
The enemy began firing as soon as the British squadron came within gun-shot, but that was not returned until the latter closed upon the French fleet. The Zealous dismasted the Guerrier, headmost ship of the enemy's line, in three broadsides, and she was completely beaten in five minutes.

Six of the headmost ships remaining still at anchor, were taken possession of the first night, and L'Orient blew up. Next morning at day-light, the action recommenced, and other ships were taken or destroyed; nor did the battle end till the forenoon of the third day of August, when the enemy's rear was compelled either to surrender to British valour, or avoid the fate that threatened them, by having recourse to flight. Two ships of the line and two frigates, from being less disabled in their masts and rigging than our ships, escaped; all those which were captured exhibited their hulks alone: their masts were shot away. The Timoleon shewed the fate of L'Orient; and those of her crew, who swam to the shore, were said to be massacred by the Arabs.

The advantages held out to Admiral Nelson by the French Admiral were great indeed; so that we may hope that the Almighty hath confounded the councils of the enemy, both in the expedition itself, and in the manner of conducting it to its destruction. If the French Admiral could not have made such a disposition of his fleet at anchor as to command the Bay of Aboukeir, he should have got

* These, as they dropped in, took their stations astern of the other ships: but the last ship did not arrive till two hours after the commencement of the action.

*Plan of Admiral Lord & Nelson's Victory
at the time the French Line was Broken.*



his fleet under sail; so that every ship might have had a chance of coming into action. As the case stood, his line was so disposed as to lie in the direction of the wind, while the British Admiral had the option of attacking the line to windward; and, of course, of throwing out of the action all the leeward ships, which being tied down at anchor by their faulty disposition, could not come up to the assistance of those which were attacked; so that the different parts of their line were beaten in succession; and on this manœuvre the decisive nature of the victory turned.* Had they been cast loose, in all probability many ships would have escaped; nor could Admiral Nelson have ventured to attack them with his ten ships that evening.

It may be likewise considered a fortunate circumstance that the British fleet did not fall in with the enemy on their way from Malta to Alexandria; the utmost it could have done, would have been to beat or destroy the ships of war; but the transports, &c. would have escaped back to France and Italy; for not one of them could, in all probability, have been taken, because our fleet would have had work enough of a different kind.

In order to make this narrative as circumstantial as possible, Admiral Nelson's official letter to Earl St. Vincent, Commander in Chief, must not be omitted. A copy of this letter was dispatched, overland, to the Lords of the Admiralty, by the Honourable Captain Capel, of his Majesty's sloop Mutine. The note which inclosed it is dated at the mouth of the Nile, on the 7th of August, and ad-

VOL. XI.

L I

* The position of the different ships may be seen from the accompanying plan of the engagement, taken after L'Orient had blown up; to which the following are

REFERENCES.

The French Line of Battle, extending across the Bay from E. to W. is represented by the figures.

The British Line, formed on each side of the van of the enemy, and the Leander, lying as she broke their line, is denoted by letters.

14, 15, 16, 17, French Frigates.

a Culloden---o Mutine, on shore.

L'Orient blew up about ten o'clock at night---The Bellerophon was dismasted ---The Alexander had suffered much both in the action and by the explosion, but nobly bore up for French ships in the rear of their line, which were attacked in succession by our ships as their opponents had struck in the van.

So little prepared were the French ships on the land side, that even their guns were not shotted.

The leading division of the British headed Le Guerrier, the van ship of the French line. Six of our ships went a-head, and brought up on the land side of the French---The Admiral's own division anchored on the off-side of the French ---thus placing their line to the first ship a-stern of L'Orient, which formed the centre and angle of the French line, between two fires. The ships in the rear in the French line were, for some hours, mere idle spectators of the action, till some of our ships, disengaged in the van, led down to attack them.

Le Guillaume Tell, and Le Genereux, the two rear ships of the French line, escaped.

Upon the Culloden grounding, the Alexander and Leander were sent to her assistance, to endeavour to get her off. Finding this impracticable, the Alexander made sail, and took her station on the side of L'Orient, opposite to the Bellerophon, and the Leander dropped into the position represented above.

dressed to Evan Nepean, Esq. Secretary to the Admiralty. It states, that at the departure of the dispatch eight of the British line of battle ships had their top-gallant-yards across and ready for service, and that the other ships and prizes would also be quickly fit for sea. It also states that the island at the mouth of the Nile had been taken possession of, with two 13-inch mortars, and all the brass and iron cannon.

The letter to Earl St. Vincent is as follows :

' Vanguard, off the Mouth of the Nile, Aug. 3, 1798.

' MY LORD,

' Almighty God has blessed his Majesty's arms in the late battle by a great victory over the fleet of the enemy, whom I attacked at sun-set on the 1st of August, off the mouth of the Nile. The enemy were moored in a strong line of battle, for defending the entrance of the bay (of Shoals), flanked by numerous gun-boats, four frigates, and a battery of guns and mortars on an island in their van; but nothing could withstand the squadron your Lordship did me the honour to place under my command. Their high state of discipline is well known to you, and with the judgment of the Captains, together with their valour and that of the officers and men of every description, it was absolutely irresistible.

' Could any thing from my pen add to the characters of the Captains, I would write it with pleasure, but that is impossible.

' I have to regret the loss of Captain Westcott, of the Majestic, who was killed early in the action; but the ship was continued to be so well fought by her first Lieutenant, Mr. Cuthbert, that I have given him an order to command her till your Lordship's pleasure is known.

' The ships of the enemy, all but their two rear ships, are nearly dismantled; and those two, with two frigates, I am sorry to say, made their escape; nor was it, I assure you, in my power to prevent them. Captain Hood most handsomely endeavoured to do it, but I had no ship in a condition to support the Zealous, and I was obliged to call her in.

' The support and assistance I have received from Captain Berry cannot be sufficiently expressed. I was wounded in the head, and obliged to be carried off the deck, but the service suffered no loss by that event. Captain Berry was fully equal to the important service then going on, and to him I must beg leave to refer you for every information relative to this victory. He will present you with the flag of the second in command, that of the Commander in Chief being burnt in the L'Orient.

' Herewith I transmit you lists of the killed and wounded, and the lines of battle of ourselves and the French. HORATIO NELSON.'*

* The British fleet, commanded by Admiral Sir Horatia Nelson, consisted of thirteen ships of 74, and one of 50 guns, besides frigates.

The French fleet, commanded by Admiral De Brueys, consisted of one ship of 120, three of 80, and nine of 74 guns; besides four frigates. Of these, one of 120 (the Admiral's ship) one of 74, and a frigate of 36 guns, were burnt; two

Such is the modest account given of this glorious victory by the gallant Admiral that commanded the British fleet. A more decisive battle has not been fought since that memorable one of the Spanish Armada; nor has the glory of the English flag ever shown with equal lustre. The united efforts of France, Spain, and Holland have not been able to diminish its splendor; which, instead of suffering an eclipse, has appeared triumphantly displayed over the banners of imperious foes.

The burst of joy that broke forth on this occasion resounded on the shores of Egypt, echoed in the ports of Italy, spread through the Mediterranean, and at length filled the British Isles with grateful transport, which expressed itself in the countenance of every true Briton, and in all the emblems of real pleasure. An attempt to describe the sensations of the public mind on the arrival of this important news would be fruitless. From the beloved Monarch that wields the sceptre of these kingdoms, down to the meanest of his subjects, there seemed to be one expression of heartfelt satisfaction.

The discontented revolutionist, the surly democrat, the haughty jacobin, felt the sting of disappointment, and, in all likelihood, deplored the fate of that squadron which transported the intrepid Conqueror of Italy and his veteran bands to the shores of Egypt, in order to extend the *blessings of French Liberty*, and, by a wonderful concatenation of events, to give the death-blow to the most valuable part of British commerce.

It is something remarkable, that of all this fleet not one has returned home to recount the dismal tale of their disastrous enterprize.

Of the frigates that made their escape, and took refuge in some of the Venetian Islands, we have since heard that the Turks have taken possession.

Gratitude is the characteristic of the British nation, and on every occasion when it is called forth it shines with splendor. She has adorned the brows of her Howe, her St. Vincent, her Duncan, and she has platted a wreath to decorate that of Nelson.

The fountain of honour has issued a stream upon him, and consecrated itself by ennobling real worth.

His Majesty has raised Admiral Nelson to the British Peerage, and appositely distinguished him by a title* that will perpetuate the memory of his intrepid valour and glorious victory.

The public has opened a subscription for the support of the wives and orphans of the brave seamen who fell in 'their country's cause.'

of 80, and seven of 74 guns were taken; one of 80, one of 74, and two frigates escaped; besides one frigate of 36 guns sunk.

Officers killed---One Captain, one ditto of Marines, five Lieutenants, four Midshipmen, three Masters' Mates, one Boatswain, and one Captain's Clerk.

Wounded---Admiral Sir H. Nelson, three Captains, two ditto of Marines, six Lieutenants, one ditto of Marines, fourteen Midshipmen, one Master, three Masters' Mates, Admiral's Secretary, one Captain's Clerk, one Schoolmaster, one Boatswain, and one Gunner.

Seamen and Marines killed, 202;--wounded, 640.

* Baron Nelson, of the Nile.

CHARACTER OF FREDERICK II.

ENDOWED with resolution of character and a flexibility of mind, Frederick had improved them both by study and reflection. From history he learnt those lessons which rendered him at once a profound politician and an able general; his frequent intercourse with philosophers and men of superior genius, had raised him to the rank of a distinguished author. While he was Prince Royal only, he seemed emulous of the fame of the Antonines or of a Marcus Aurelius: but was scarcely seated on the throne when he took for his models an Alexander and a Philip. Rising victorious from a war which had threatened him with ruin, he extended the limits of his dominions, and on the secondary power which he inherited by descent he raised one of the most authoritative sceptres in Europe. To the titles of politician and conqueror, that of legislator he acquired with justice. The code which bears his name merited, in many respects, the gratitude of his subjects. Disdaining luxury from inclination, and fearful of it from economy, his pride was founded on the number of his soldiers. Laborious, vigilant, indefatigable, his mind was occupied, to the last moment of his life, in the administration of his kingdom: but at the same time he shewed himself more jealous of establishing his authority, and of the prosperity of Prussia, than of the happiness of the Prussians. Did he himself live happily? It may be answered in the negative, since he was neither husband, lover, nor father, and often suffered himself to be governed by two cruel passions, avarice and ambition. He longed for the surname of Great: that he obtained from the age in which he lived, and doubtless posterity will confirm the boon.

ANECDOTES.

SOCRATES.

‘SO long,’ says he, ‘as Philosophers are not Kings, or Kings Philosophers; so long as Philosophy and the Sceptre, instead of acting in concert, shall be separated, just so long public happiness will not exist.’

THE SIEGE OF PRAGUE.

WHILST Chevert was preparing in silence every thing necessary for insuring the success of the escalade, Maurice covered his design, by making two false attacks. They wanted a soldier intrepid enough not to reason upon danger, and sufficiently courageous to climb first upon the rampart. M. de Chevert, who knew the art of addressing every one, in his own way, gave this strange but persuasive instruction to a grenadier, whom he pitched upon for the execution of his project. ‘Listen to me,’ said he, (in a tone of confidence,) ‘when you have scaled the rampart, advance towards the sentinel; he will cry out ‘who goes there?’ No answer. He will accost you the second time; beware again of giving him a reply: he will fire upon and miss you; then do you rush forward, and kill him; I shall be present to support you.’

THE FREEMASONS' REPOSITORY.

EXTRACTS

FROM PROFESSOR ROBISON'S WORK ON THE CONSPIRACY OF FREEMASONS, ILLUMINATI, &c.

THE Professor attempts to prove that the Brethren abroad received originally the mystery of Freemasonry from Britain. That it is of a much more ancient date, and, therefore, that this assertion is not true, is evident to every Masonic Inquirer, who, nevertheless, will admit that the Foreign Lodges have probably been indebted to this country for the *revival* of Masonry among them. But, on the introduction of it into France and Germany, let the Professor speak for himself.

INTRODUCTION OF MASONRY INTO FRANCE.

' IN 1716 it is certain that the degree of *Mason Ecossois* and still higher degrees of Masonry were much in vogue in the Court of France. The refining genius of the French, and their love of show, made the humble denominations of the English Brethren disgusting; and their passion for military rank, the only character that connected them with the court of an absolute monarch, made them adapt Freemasonry to the same scale of public estimation, and invent ranks of *Masons Chevaliers*, ornamented with ribands, titles, and stars. These were highly relished by that vain people; and the price of reception, which was very high, became a rich fund, that was generally applied to relieve the wants of the banished British and Irish adherents of the unfortunate family who had taken refuge among them. Three new degrees, of *Novice*, *Elevé*, and *Chevalier*, were soon added, and the *Parfait Mason* had now seven receptions to go through, for each of which a handsome contribution was made. Afterwards, when the first beneficent purpose of this contribution ceased to exist, the finery that now glittered in all the lodges made a still more craving demand for reception-money, and ingenuity was set to work to invent new baits for the *Parfait Mason*. More degrees of chivalry were added, interspersed with degrees of *Philosophe*, *Pellerin*, *Clairvoyant*, &c. &c. till some Parisian lodges had forty-five ranks of Masonry, having fifteen orders of chivalry. For a Knighthood, with a riband and a star, was a *bonne bouch* given at every third step.

INTRODUCTION OF MASONRY INTO GERMANY.

' But it is now time to turn our eyes to the progress of Freemasonry in Germany and the north of Europe; there it took a most serious turn. Freemasonry was imported into Germany somewhat later

than into France. The first German lodge that we have any account of is that at Cologne, erected in 1716, but very soon suppressed. Before the year 1725 there were many, both in Protestant and Catholic Germany. Those of Wetzlar, Frankfort on the Mayne, Brunswick, and Hamburg, are the oldest, and their priority is doubtful. All of them received their institution from England, and had patents from a mother lodge in London. All seem to have got the mystery through the same channel, the banished friends of the Stuart family. Many of these were catholics, and entered into the service of Austria and the catholic princes.

‘The true hospitality, that is no where more conspicuous than in the character of the Germans, made this institution a most agreeable and useful passport to these gentlemen; and as many of them were in military stations, and in garrison, they found it a very easy matter to set up lodges in all parts of Germany. These afforded a very agreeable pastime to the officers, who had little to occupy them, and were already accustomed to a subordination which did not affect their vanity on account of family distinctions. As the ensign and the general were equally gentlemen, the allegory of universal brotherhood was neither novel nor disgusting. Freemasonry was then of the simplest form, consisting of the three degrees of Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master. It is remarkable, that the Germans had been long accustomed to the word, the sign, and the gripe of the Masons, and some other handicraft trades. In many parts of Germany there was a distinction of operative Masons into Wort-Maurers and Schrift-Maurers. The Wort-Maurers had no other proof to give of their having been regularly brought up to the trade of builders, but the word and signs; the Schrift Maurers had written indentures to shew. There are extant, and in force, borough-laws, enjoining the Masters of Masons to give employment to journeymen who had the proper words and sign. In particular it appears, that some cities had more extensive privileges in this respect than others. The word given at Wetzlar, the seat of the great council of revision for the empire, entitled the possessor to work over the whole empire. We may infer from the processes and decisions in some of those municipal courts, that a master gave a word and token for each year’s progress of his apprentice. He gave the word of the incorporated imperial city or borough on which he depended, and also a word peculiar to himself, by which all his own pupils could recognize each other. This mode of recognizance was probably the only document of education in old times, while writing was confined to a very small part of the community.

‘When English Freemasonry was carried into Germany, it was hospitably received. The German character is the very opposite of frivolity. It tends to seriousness, and requires serious occupation. The Germans are eminent for their turn for investigation; and perhaps they indulge this to excess. We call them plodding and dull, because we have little relish for enquiry for its own sake. But this is surely the occupation of a rational nature, and deserves any name but stupidity. At the same time it must be acknowledged, that the

spirit of enquiry requires regulation as much as any propensity of the human mind. But it appears that the Germans are not nice in the choice of their objects; it appears that singularity, and wonder, and difficulty of research, are to them irresistible recommendations and incitements. They have always exhibited a strong predilection for every thing that is wonderful, or solemn, or terrible; and in spite of the great progress which men have made in the course of these two last centuries, in the knowledge of nature, a progress too in which we should be very unjust if we did not acknowledge that the Germans have been generally in the foremost ranks, the gross absurdities of magic, exorcism, witchcraft, fortune-telling, transmutation of metals, and universal medicine, have always had their zealous partizans, who have listened with greedy ears to the nonsense and jargon of fanatics and cheats; and though they every day saw examples of many who had been ruined or rendered ridiculous by their credulity, every new pretender to secrets found numbers ready to listen to him, and to run over the same course.'

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

Ramsgate, September 3, 1798.

AT a Provincial Grand Lodge of Emergency, by order of William Perfect, Esq. Provincial Grand Master for this County, held at the Royal Oak Inn in this town, a new Lodge was this day constituted and consecrated, under the appellation of THE JACOB'S LODGE. The due form of its constitution, and the sacred and solemn ceremonies of its consecration being ended, to the entire satisfaction of the Brethren present, an uncommonly numerous, genteel, and respectable portion of the Fraternity, headed by the Provincial Grand Master, who, in honour of the Prince of Wales, grand Master of this ancient and honourable Society, wore in his hat the plume of feathers over the arms of Kent, formed the procession, which preceded, by an excellent band of music, proceeded to our new chapel, amidst a vast concourse of spectators, as well of this town and its environs as from Margate, Deal, Dover, Sandwich, &c. The afternoon service being read by the Rev. Jethro Inwood, Provincial Grand Chaplain, he delivered a discourse excellently adapted to the occasion, which displayed a happy combination of virtue, religion, morality, and patriotism, as the corner-stone of the masonic institution. Before and after the Sermon a hymn and anthem, composed and set to music by Mr. Matthew Garland, of Deptford, were sung by the Fraternity, and gave particular pleasure to a crowded auditory. Divine service being over, the procession returned in the same order as before to the Royal Oak Inn, and from thence to our Town-Hall; where an elegant entertainment was provided; after which the Provincial Grand Master gave an oration of very considerable length, which did honour to the amiable character he bears in the Society, and evinced the most masterly masonic taste, which was amply testified by the loud and reiterated acclamations of the assembly.

Several masonic, patriotic, and loyal toasts were given from the chair, and the highest harmony, hilarity, and brotherly affection prevailed. The Brethren departed at an early hour, in the full assurance of that conscious happiness which is ever the result of rational gaiety and unaffected good humour, ever so inseparable from masonic conviviality.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

ASTRONOMY.

HERSCHEL, who has paid great attention to the spots of the sun, considers that luminary as similar to the planets, and not a flaming body. It contains mountains, some of which he supposes to be 200 leagues in height. Its atmosphere is composed of different elastic fluids, some of which are luminous or phosphoric, and others only transparent. The former make the sun appear like a mass of light or fire; but the parts of that atmosphere which are only transparent, suffer his body to be seen. These are the spots. He believes the sun to be inhabited like the other planets.

Lalande, on the other hand, thinks that the sun is really a solid body, but that his surface and part of his mass are composed of an incandescent fluid. This fluid, by any movement, leaves uncovered sometimes a portion of the body of the sun or his mountains, and these are the spots. Wilson considers the spots of the sun as eruptions or volcanoes.

Shroeter has shewn that in Venus there are very high mountains, as is the case on the earth and in the moon. The greater part of these mountains in Venus, like those of the moon, are in the southern part of that planet, while on the earth the greater part of the mountains are towards the north. The day in Venus appears to that Astronomer to be 23 hours 21 minutes. It differs therefore very little from the sidereal day of the earth, which is 23 hours, 56 minutes, 4 seconds.

The volcano of the moon has been seen several times by the naked eye. Caroché saw it at Paris on the 2d of March 1797. It exhibited the appearance of a candle just going out. It resembled a brilliant spot less sensible than the greatest satellite of Jupiter, but larger. Its existence therefore can no longer be doubted.

La Place has published an excellent memoir on the movements of the moon.

Hennert says, that the diurnal movement of the earth may undergo some variations; but that its variations are compensated in such a manner, that they may be considered as uniform.

Herschel has observed around Saturn a quintuple belt of spots. By these means he has shewn the length of the day of that planet, and determined its diurnal rotation, which he estimates at 12 hours, 16 minutes, 2 seconds.

Lalande calculated the orbit of the 83d comet to the north of December 1793; but an 84th comet was seen by Bode at Berlin, on the 11th of November, 1795, near the constellation of Hercules. It was seen also by Bouvard, at Paris, on the 14th of the same month. It was small, had no tail, and was not visible to the naked eye. Its orbit has been calculated by Zach. It was in its perihelion on the 14th of December, at 15, hours 32 seconds meantime at Götting. Its distance then from the sun was 0, 22.

An 85th comet was discovered in Virgo by Olbers, at Bremen, who calculated its orbit.

An 86th was discovered from the Observatory at Paris, by Bouvard, on the 14th of August, 1797, at ten o'clock at night. It was seen next day at Leipzig, by Rudiger. It was seen also by various astronomers in other places. It passed the earth six times nearer than the sun, which was the

cause of its apparent motion being very rapid. It was small, appeared only like a faint white spot, and had no tail. Zach, at Gotha, makes the number of the comets now known to be 90.

One of the most difficult labours of astronomy is what relates to the stars. Their immense number indeed is sufficient to deter any one from the task of numbering them; for those which we see, and we are far from seeing them all, may be estimated at more than a hundred millions. Many of these, it is well known, have peculiar motions, some of which are very considerable. It is to them, however, that we are obliged to refer all the motions of the sun, the planets, and the comets. It is of importance then to endeavour to determine the motions of the stars; and this object has at all times engaged the attention of astronomers. Maskelyne has determined with the utmost precision the position of 34 stars. Zach has accomplished the same thing in regard to 1200. Lalande, with his nephew and niece, have undertaken a labour far greater, to determine the position of more than 40,000 stars, from the arctic pole to the tropic of capricorn. This sublime task is already very much advanced, as the positions of 42,700 are already known.

NEW COMET.

A remarkable comet or meteor was observed on the 10th of September last, about 20 minutes before twelve o'clock at night, by Alexander Campbell, one of the Masters of the Free School at Alnwick, Northumberland, and another person. It appeared in the South-west at a considerable altitude; at first it was no bigger, but much brighter than a common star, but presently expanded into the form and size of an apothecary's pestle. It was then obscured by a cloud, which was still illuminated behind; when the cloud was dispelled, it re-appeared with a direction south and north, with a small long streamer, cutting the pestle a little below the centre, and issuing away to the eastward. It was again obscured, and on its re-appearance, the streamer and the pestle had formed the figure of a hammer or a cross; presently after the streamer, which made the shaft to the hammer, or stalk to the cross, assumed two horns at the extreme point, towards the east, resembling a fork. It was then a third time obscured, but when the cloud passed over, it was changed into the shape of two half moons, back to back, having a short thick luminous stream between the two backs; it then vanished totally from their sight. It is observable that every new appearance became brighter and brighter, till it became an exceedingly brilliant object; all the other stars in comparison appearing only to be dim specks. The time of observation was about five minutes.

PHYSIOLOGI.

SPALLANZANI having destroyed the eyes of bats, and set them at liberty in an apartment, observed that they could guide themselves from one place to another as before. They avoided every object that was presented to them, and even passed through rings which he placed before them, and for this reason he asks, 'May not these animals possess a sense with which we are not acquainted, and which may supply that of sight; or, may not smell be sufficient for that purpose?'

BOTANY.

By the last accounts from the West-Indies, we are informed that the Bread fruit tree is in a very thriving state.—The plants, which, when sent there five years ago, were only from six inches to two feet high, are now upwards of 30 feet high, and the circumference of the stems from 3 to 3 1-half feet.

MEDICINE.

MANKIND have been long employed in attempting to discover means for the prolongation of life.—Valli, after laying down principles well known,

viz. that old age comes on naturally, because the calcareous phosphate or calcareous carbonate is continually accumulating in the greater part of the solids, such as the bones, the arteries, veins, tendons, &c. says, that this accumulation can be guarded against only two ways; either by preventing that substance from being formed in the mass of the fluids, or by expelling it as soon as it is formed.

1. To prevent too abundant a production of that earth, one must use aliments which contain the least quantity of it, such as vegetables, milk, fish (but fish contain a great deal of the phosphoric acid.)

2. The means which he thinks most proper for expelling that calcareous earth, or calcareous phosphate, are, bathing, frictions, diuretics, pure water, and beverages cooled with ice. In short, he considers the oxalic acid given in small doses as the best remedy. That acid, says he, decomposes the calcareous phosphate: the oxalate of lime which thence results will be carried into the torrent of circulation, and will be driven outwards.

Vauquelin and Brogniard have proved that the acetic acid dissolves the vegetable gluten and the animal fibres.

It is well known that there is a disease called by nosologists *malacosteon*, or *mollities ossium*, where the bones become entirely soft. The calcareous phosphate is almost entirely carried away, and there scarcely remains any thing but the cellular tissue of the bones, with the gelatinous and greasy part, or the marrow. Were it possible to find out the means of dissolving, gradually, in this manner the calcareous phosphate, without depriving the bones of their solidity, and without hurting the other animal functions, the fountain of youth would be discovered. It appears therefore that it may not be altogether impossible to retard age at least.

HEALTH.

A medical gentleman in the city of London has brought forward a new and ingenious invention, which he calls a Chair of Health, for which he has obtained a patent. The contrivance is simple and elegant, and affords either sitting or standing to the infirm invalid in his chamber, a most agreeable and efficient exercise. Instances of its utility are not wanting; but as yet they seem chiefly confined to gouty and paralytic complaints.

SIMPLE SURGICAL OPERATION,

That ought to be generally known.—A girl of Chippenham, of the name of Townsend, swallowed a pin, a few months ago, which stuck in her throat. Being poor, and the consequences, except for the first moment, not violent, she applied for no assistance; but endured the difficulty of pricking and swallowing which occurred at intervals, with a degree of inattention, till within these few days, when the effects became so alarming that all assistance could no longer be dispensed with:—accordingly Mr. Greensmith, a professional gentleman of that town (but lately of the navy) was called in, who happily suggested, and succeeded in the following mode:—Bending the girl's neck backwards, over the back of her chair, he broke an egg, and having poured the contents down her throat, he introduced a bit of sponge, about the size of a nutmeg, fastened tight to a slip of whalebone, and passed it down her throat, equally to the surprize and pleasure of the attendants; on drawing it back again, the pin was found sticking to the sponge, and the patient of course was perfectly relieved. This was certainly a stroke of the simple and efficient—A species of assistance which in similar cases cannot be too generally recommended.

CHEMISTRY.

A gentleman has commenced the manufacture of Soap, in the Isle of Man, from fish. By a chemical process, every part, even the bones, are

reduced to a fine saponaceous substance.—Its efficacy was fully established by experiments, and a patent was obtained.

According to Ingenhouz, plants suffer oxygen to be disengaged in the light, and the carbonic acid in darkness. Senebier is of opinion that the latter changes the oxygen into the carbonic acid, by furnishing it with carbon.

Humboldt has observed that mushrooms furnish hydrogenous gas in the day as well as the night-time.

STARCH.

Mrs. GIBBS has discovered a mode of preparing Starch from the roots of *arum maculatum*, a plant found in the common fields.

COLOURS.

Mr. MURDOCK, Redruth, has produced from the same materials, and by processes entirely new, copperas, vitriol, and different sorts of dying stuff, paint, and colours, and also a composition for preserving the bottoms of vessels. This invention consists in collecting a quantity of mundic and pyrites, containing sulphur, copper or iron, zinc and arsenic; with these materials a common sulphur kiln is to be charged, and a gentle heat to be applied: part of the sulphur, and the zinc and arsenic, in the state of oxide, will rise together into the receiver in the form of a bright yellow sublimate, which constitutes the basis of the new paint: the remainder, consisting of iron or copper, with a portion of sulphur, is to be washed in warm water, and the water set to evaporate by the heat of the sun, or in a trough upon the kiln: when the liquor is thus brought to a sufficient degree of concentration, crystals will be deposited of green or blue vitriol.

AIR.

On the 14th of August, at 7 o'clock in the evening, Cit. Garnerin and Cit. Beauvais ascended in a balloon from the garden d'Apollon, at Paris. At the height of nearly 400 toises Cit. Garnerin let fall a cage, attached to a parachute, and containing a cat, which fell very gently near the Port-au-Bled. After 20 minutes the balloon descended at Nanteuil, distant from Paris three leagues. At that place, Cit. Beauvais, aide-de-camp to General Moulins, quitted Cit. Garnerin, who departed at half past three in the morning to complete his aerial voyage, by taking a long flight. Cit. Frederic Humboldt, a celebrated philosopher, had begged Cit. Garnerin to fill with air a small flask with a ground stopper. Cit. Garnerin emptied the water which it contained at the height of 669 toises (1303 metres) above Paris. Cit. Beauvais brought back the bottle, filled with atmospheric air, to Cit. Humboldt, who was desirous to know if the carbonic-acid gas ascends to such elevated regions,

The observations of Saussure, made on the summit of Mount Blanc (at the height of 2480 toises), announced its existence there; but this philosopher was in an atmosphere modified by the proximity of rocks. Cit. Humboldt found in the air brought back by Cit. Beauvais, which had not been under the like influence, between 8 and 10 milliemes of carbonic air. Here then is a very heavy aeriform fluid carried to the most elevated regions of the atmosphere.

MINERALOGY.

Mr. DONALD STEWART, who has been employed for several years past as travelling mineralogist to the Dublin Society, has lately arrived at Belfast, after having passed over, in his last journey, the counties of Meath, Cavan, Fermanagh, Donegall, Derry, and Antrim. He had before explored the greatest part of the south and west of Ireland. He has made many new

and curious observations, and collected numerous specimens, illustrating the natural history, and affording materials for the arts, manufactures, and agriculture of that kingdom.

Mr. Stewart has been upwards of twenty years engaged exclusively in this pursuit, and has already deposited 1300 different mineral specimens in the cabinet of the Dublin Society.

‘I was enabled,’ says Mr. Stewart, ‘by discovering rich quarries of limestone and marle, in several estates where they were never before known either to tenant or landlord, to be necessary to the fertilization of the most barren lands. In the estates of Lord Palmerston and Ormby Jones, Esq. in the county of Sligo, I afforded the greatest pleasure and advantage to the poor inhabitants, by demonstrating to them that the great rocks, which they called Serpent Rocks, and which they were gazing at with stupid or superstitious admiration for ages, contained most excellent lime. These quarries are at their doors; whereas formerly they carried the scanty pittance of lime they were able to procure from nine or ten miles distance. Having turf at home in abundance, they are now supplied with lime at as cheap a rate as any people in Europe.’

‘I observed to the priest who accompanied me to the Serpent Rocks, that this must have been the place to which my countryman (St. Patrick) had collected all the serpents of the kingdom. The cliffs extend a mile in front, dip towards the sea westward, and run to an indeterminate length into the country. No block can be raised in these cliffs that is not replete with petrifications; and the fish appear to lie promiscuously as if thrown out of a net. There may be about one-twentieth of the whole rock composed of those petrified fish or serpents. The strata or beds are very regular, and of different thickness. They contain also some large round shells as yellow as gold; so that if chimney-pieces were wrought here they would be very valuable, as the fish and shells would afford very lively and interesting objects upon the polished surface. The Cobham marble is reckoned of great value, from the representation of ruins and landscapes which sometimes appear upon it; but it would fall far short, in my opinion, of the singular and surprising figures with which these rocks abound.’

Two small blocks of this stone are deposited at the Dublin Society.

EASY METHOD OF STOPPING AIR FROM WATER-PIPES.

A stop-cock should be soldered to the end of the main pipe, in the reservoir at the fountain head, the key of which is to be turned by a floating ball of copper attached to it by a rod or lever, so as to reverse the operation of the common ball-cock; that is, to open the cock gradually as the water rises in that reservoir, and to shut it as the water falls. By this method, the admission of air, and the consequent obstruction of the pipe, is completely prevented; as, before the water can fall so low in the reservoir as to admit air, the cock is completely shut. It is unnecessary to be more particular. Every tradesman, of ordinary reflection, will have no difficulty in adjusting the ball-cock to the circumstance of any particular case.

MECHANICS.

THE late discovery of Mr. Scott's mole plough, for subterranean draining; Mr. Peck's packing press; Mr. Ridley's improvement of the foot lathe; and the machine of Mr. Davis, for loading and unloading, promise to be very useful.

WATER FIGHTING MACHINE.

M. MANGIN has invented a machine by which soldiers can fight in deep water. An experiment was lately made of its practicability. Twelve soldiers entered the water in order of battle, their bodies being embraced by

this machine. They crossed the Seine in a short time, and after having drawn up in a platoon on the opposite side, they re-entered the river, and in the middle of it set up a fire of musketry well sustained, and charged with bayonets, although they had under them at least 21 feet of water. It will carry, besides the weight of the men, a burthen of five myriagrammes.

ROLLING MACHINE.

Mr. HAZLEDINE, of Salop, has made an improvement in rolling iron, copper, lead, &c. into plates or sheets. Instead of a single pair of rollers, Mr. Hazledine proposes that three or four pairs should be erected adjoining to each other, with guards of metal to deliver the lead, &c. from one roller to the next: the cylinders of each pair of rollers are to be placed at different proportional distances, so as that a bar of metal being flatted in its passage through the first pair, may be still further expanded in going through the second, and so on till it is delivered out of the last, of the requisite thinness. Thus by a single operation, a bar of copper may be reduced to a sheet; which in the common way requires several repeated operations.

VENTILATOR FOR PRESERVING CORN ON SHIP-BOARD.

THIS machine, invented by Thomas Smith, Esq. consists of a forcing pump, with annexed perforated tubes, by which fresh air is diffused to every part of the bulk.

DURABILITY OF SHIPPING.

As the consumption of ship-timber for several years back has rendered it now an object of very serious attention, from the apprehension of an absolute scarcity thereof, it must be a matter of much satisfaction to perceive that the Great Seal, a little time back, was affixed to a patent for the preservation and durability of shipping. The measure bids fair to become an object of the greatest importance to the maritime and mercantile interest of this country.

POLARITY OF WATCHES.

AN Artist has lately discovered that magnetic attraction has a very powerful influence on the due performance of watches, and that the balance wheel has, in many instances, a great degree of polarity. This discovery may be of considerable advantage in improving the correctness of time-keepers.

AGRICULTURE.

IN a field belonging to Mr. Grebell, of Sappington, Kent, a single grain of wheat, planted for the purpose of experiment, has this season produced 42 stalks, which contained 1724 full grains, weighing 3 ounces and an half. In gathering some grains were lost.

MANURE.

GYPNUM, or plaster of Paris, possesses a most powerful and subtle principle; and it is capable, when applied as a manure, and sown in the quantity of about six bushels per acre, of forcing vegetation in an astonishing degree. Experiments on Sainfoin, Cow-grass, Dutch clover, &c. have been extremely successful.

BREED OF CATTLE.

At a meeting of the Holderness Agricultural Society, holden at Hedon, on the 12th of September, the question, 'Whether there is any solid objection against breeding from cattle, however near their consanguinity?' was discussed by a numerous meeting of the society; when the unanimous opinion of the meeting was, that there is not any solid reason whatever against breeding from cattle of the same family, however nearly related.

REVIEW

OF

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Memoirs of the Life and Administration of Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford,
3 vols. by W. Cox, M. A. &c. 4to. 3l. 3s. Cadell and Davies.

MR. COXE, the well-known author of *Travels into Russia, &c. &c.* has undertaken and completed a work both important and entertaining. That work is the subject of our present consideration. The life and political conduct of Sir Robert Walpole have not before been illustrated by able or impartial writers. The opposition which he long endured, and by which he was at length overthrown; the virulence of those who were his avowed adversaries; and that spirit of disingenuous partiality, which sought after with seeming anxiety, and produced writings and speeches eminent for violence and want of discretion, have all combined to represent his Administration in a very unfavourable light. But this has been the effect of the grossest misrepresentation; in the cloud of which his real merits, and the actual services he rendered his country, have suffered an eclipse. They have been lost to view, and entirely forgotten. From this obscurity Mr. Coxe has deservedly rescued the merits of this great minister; and although he betrays, in the general features that he has drawn of his character, a weakness attached to humanity, yet a little discrimination will enable the judicious reader to discover the real character of this statesman.

The length of time which Mr. Coxe has spent in his laborious research, his unwearied diligence, and the authenticity of his documents, of which he presents a catalogue subjoined in the preface, evince a meritorious attention to that period of history which involves a series of events no less important than interesting.

Mr. Coxe sets out with printed information, and appositely adverts to Smollett and Belsham, of whom he speaks in terms by no means favourable, but at the same time with the greatest justice.

Mr. Belsham has thought proper to vindicate himself in an answer to Mr. Coxe. How far he has done it with credit and success will afford a subject for our future consideration.

Among the printed authorities are mentioned *Chandler's* Parliamentary proceedings, of which frequent mention is made in the notes.

Mr. Coxe gives next a copious account of his *original and manuscript information*; the whole undoubtedly making a very extensive and valuable collection of original authorities.

The Memoirs are divided into eight periods, and comprehend a term of 69 years; from the birth of Sir Robert Walpole in 1676, to his death in 1745.

The style of these Memoirs is, in general, clear and unaffected: if it seldom rises to peculiar elegance, it is not often that it deviates into impropriety. The work exhibits a mind enured to sound reflection, which appears in the judicious remarks and great discernment of character scattered through the whole. One of its greatest excellencies, one that should always appear

conspicuous in the page of history, is, that no wilful deviation from the strict line of impartiality is apparent. We find not the least tendency to cloud by error, or falsity by misrepresentations.

Some inaccuracies appear, but they are such

————— ‘*Quas aut incuria fudit
Aut humana parum cavit natura.*’

HOR.

—————
Posthumous Works of the Author of A Vindication of the Rights of Woman,
in 4 vols. 12mo. 14s. Johnson.

MR. GODWIN, the author of *Memoirs of Mrs. Goodwin*, and the editor of the works under our consideration, has been no less singular than his wife for immorality of sentiment and singularity of opinion. Both have shown themselves active in disseminating the seeds of infidelity; both have exhibited a display of pernicious principles, alike offensive to the purity of female virtue, and repugnant to the dictates of our holy religion.

Fortunately, however, their proselytes have been but few, and the varnish of modern philosophy has not captivated the good sense of our amiable countrywomen.

The work before us consists of the *Wrongs of Woman*, a fragment; to which are subjoined, the *first book of a Series of Lessons for Children, some letters and miscellaneous pieces.*

The first article is an inconsistent tale of fictitious misery, in which the sufferings of a female are deplorable indeed. These are called the ‘*wrongs of woman.*’ The lessons for children, added, perhaps, in order to swell the volume, might have suited the purpose of Mr. Newberry, in St. Paul’s Church-yard; what they have to do here, unless for the reason already assigned, we are at a loss to imagine.

The third volume is made up of letters, in which the passions are indulged to the extreme. The fair Roxalana seems to have terrified Mr. Inlay, with whom she enjoyed that ‘*happiness of which her ardent imagination was continually conjuring up pictures, during her intercourse with Fuseli, the celebrated painter.*’*

Had the editor respected the morals of the young, the ardent, and the dissipated, he would have consigned these luxuriant *morceaux* to the flames, and not have added to the incentives of vice, by enlarging the stock of alluring blandishments.

All that can be denominated meritorious is comprized in the latter part of the fourth volume. This may be read without disgust; and could it be separated from the hideous stuff going before, would challenge commendation. Of the remarks on poetry, some are ingenious and original: they display considerable power of thinking; but even these are polluted by the strange prejudices of the author, who takes every occasion to infuse the poison of her sentiments.

Mrs. Godwin, better known by the name of Mary Wollstonecraft, was a woman of strong intellect, but ungovernable passions. From her conduct and principles she appears, in the strongest sense, a voluptuary and a sensualist; a woman devoid of refinement, and, speaking in conformity to the doctrines of our religion, devoid of virtue.

* Vide Godwin’s *Memoirs of his Wife.*

Considerations addressed to the Clergy, on the Propriety of their bearing Arms, and appearing in a Military Capacity. By a Country Incumbent. 8vo. 6s. Fletcher, Oxford.

AT a time when the fiends of civil commotion and the horrors of foreign war threaten to invade our country, and dispossess us of the valuable enjoyment of liberty, wealth, and independence, the lovers of their country have manfully stepped forward, and in the hour of danger courageously bid defiance to those republican anarchists, whose presumption gave them reason to cherish a hope of involving Great Britain in the common ruin which they have brought upon Europe, and which they have attempted to spread in Africa and America.

Some among the clergy of the Church of England have not thought it inconsistent with the injunctions laid upon them, nor repugnant to that system of which they are professors, to take up arms, in common with their fellow-subjects, for the purpose of repelling the inroads of an inveterate foe. And in case of actual invasion, when the feet of our enemies are landed on our shores, it will then undoubtedly become the duty of every man who wishes well to his country, and is a lover of religion, to guard both at the risk of his life. Exemptions from the exercise of vigorous resistance must then cease; because the peace of every individual will be threatened.

But whether or not previous to that eventful moment taking place, which God Almighty avert! it be necessary, and consistent with their professional character, for the clergy to be trained to the use of arms, is a question that must, we think, be determined in the negative. And whether the clergy may not be employed in a way more suitable to their sacred character, should they be called upon in the crisis of danger, and in the hour of impending desolation, we do not hesitate to determine. The instructions sent from the Archbishop and Bishops to their respective clergy, on this head, have decided that point.

The *Considerations* before us are judicious and seasonable; the writer very properly, and with great good sense, enquires into the 'fitness of the clergy serving in a military capacity; and from the express command of God respecting the Jewish priesthood; from the general character and manners of the clergy in the best ages of the Christian church; and from the exemptions granted by the legislature of this kingdom to the ministers of religion in general;' deems it inconsistent with their religious duties.

Instead of marching in the ranks, and opposing the bayonet to the breast of the foe, he enforces the injunction laid upon the clergy by the heads of the church: 'They are to act,' says he, 'with vigour, but still they are to act *officially*.' The proper duties of the Christian minister are not to be intermitted: they are to be seriously discharged, even amidst the bustle and anxiety of military preparations: they are then peculiarly requisite to preserve in the minds of men that reverence of the Divine Majesty, that sense of the spirit and duties of Christianity, which will not fail to controul and counteract even the miseries of war.

He recommends to their care the very important, and more peaceable duties laid down in the printed instructions already alluded to; and enforces this very serious admonition: 'If at any time it becomes the clergy of the Christian church to attend to the obligations of their profession, and in every respect to act accordingly, *this* is the moment. They ought to know, that if in any respect they deviate from the rules of decorum, many who seem pleased on that account, are, on other occasions, forward to avow their contempt of the whole order—their disapprobation of its privileges—and their hatred of Christianity itself.'

Proceedings of the Association for promoting the Discovery of the Interior Parts of Africa: containing an Abstract of Mr. Park's Account of his Travels and Discoveries, abridged from his own Minutes, by Bryan Edwards, Esq. Also Geographical Illustrations of Mr. Park's Journey, and of North Africa, at large, by Major Rennell. 4to. 1798. Not sold.

THE return of Mr. Park, after having been absent from his native country during two years and seven months, could not fail to excite the curiosity of the gentlemen of the African Association, and that of the public at large, respecting the principal discoveries of this most intelligent and intrepid, as well as most successful, of the missionaries that have been sent to explore the Libyan deserts. He is himself preparing a detail of his progress and discoveries, of the casualties that befel him, and of the observations which occurred to him, in the course of his journey: but the necessary collation and arrangement of his materials must be a work of considerable time; and it was thought advisable that the epitome now on our table should be laid before the subscribers for inspection, while the larger publication is preparing. This epitome is followed by Major Rennell's Geographical Illustrations, accompanied with a large map, shewing the progress of discovery and improvement in the geography of North Africa. There is also a map of Mr. Park's route, and a chart of the lines of magnetic variation in the seas around Africa.

Mr. Park left the house of his countryman, Dr. Laidley, at Pisanía, about 200 miles from the mouth of the Gambia, on the 2d of December 1795; and he returned to the same hospitable mansion after an absence of eighteen months. In this long interval of time, he explored the interior of Africa to the distance of 1100 miles, in a direct line from Cape Verd; his track in going was bounded by the 15th, and in returning by the 12th parallel of latitude. His discoveries gave a new face to the physical geography of Western Africa.

The natural history of the ancients, as well as their geography, receives confirmation from the discoveries of this adventurous traveller. The accounts of the Lotophagi had long passed for fables, but are here substantiated. The two greatest botanical curiosities which Mr. Park found, were the Shea-toulou, or butter-tree, and the Lotus.

It is happy for the country, to have men animated by the enlarged and liberal views of the African Association; it is happy for that society, to have missionaries endowed with the enterprize and temper of Mr. Park: but it is happy for all parties, and honourable for the age itself, to have a man so singularly well qualified as is Major Rennell, for making the best possible use of the geographical materials with which he is furnished.

In a former Number we gave an account of Mr. Park's journey.

The Life of Catharine II. Empress of Russia. An enlarged Translation from the French, by a Gentleman many Years resident at Russia. 3 vols. 8vo. 11. 15. boards. Longman.

THE grand feature that should characterize historical information is impartiality. Next to the ornamental graces of style, the natural flow of an easy and elegant diction, the combination of events, and a judgmatical concatenation of circumstances as they have arisen; next to these pre-requisites, which ought to form the ground-work of the historian's plan, is impartiality. The splendour of generosity, springing from selfish motives, is not to efface a just detestation of ignoble deeds. Nor are we, in characters conspicuously depraved, to lose sight of their vices, dazzled by the glitter of their exalted situations of rank and eminence.

The translator of the work under our present consideration has evidently much of his judgment to be warped by prejudice;—indeed this work differs as suffered from the original, of which it professes to convey the meaning, as a finished panegyric does from a narrative attired in the simplicity of truth.

The Editor through the whole, which is unnecessarily enlarged upon with much extraneous matter, has invariably endeavoured to conceal from the public view those abominable vices, which depict the character of Catharine II. and hold her up as an object of detestation. Her enterprising genius, her political sagacity, her prodigal generosity, are all dwelt upon with a favourable eye. But the dethronement of her husband, his consequent sufferings, his indignant treatment, his murder, are merely spoken of in terms of apathy. The last horrible transaction is palmed upon the villain who perpetrated the deed, as it is asserted, without the knowledge of Catharine.

Credat Judæus Appella!

Such was the ambition of the Empress Catharine II. that no sacrifice was too great, when it thwarted her desires. Her mind exhibits all that is detestable in woman—lust and cruelty were the inmates of her bosom. What were all her plans of aggrandizement, but the extension of slavery? What was the specious profusion of her ill-gotten wealth, but golden chains to manacle the people over whom she had usurped unjust empire?

Look at her generous actions, falsely so called, and put in the opposite scale of the balance the assassination of her husband, the murder of Prince Iwan, the sacrifice of the innocent Tarrakanoff, the miseries of the Poles, the dismemberment of their kingdom, the division excited among the Tartars, all of which transactions that tinge the page of history with blood, are to be ascribed to this woman, great in depravity!

We refer our readers to the ‘plain unvarnished tale’ in another work, just published, entitled ‘the History of the Reigns of Peter III. and Catharine II. of Russia.’

We shall forbear making any quotation from this partial history, and direct our attention to that which detects vice in her strong hold, and exhibits her in the manly language of truth.

A Day at Rome, a Musical Entertainment, in Two Acts. As damned at the Theatre Royal, Covent-Garden, on Thursday, October 11, 1798. By Charles Smith. 8vo. 1s. Symonds and Cawthorn.

THE plot of this piece is simple, but not altogether uninteresting. The incidents are neither numerous nor striking, but natural. The characters (except the Citizen's part) do not possess much originality; but they are distinctly discriminated, and consistently supported. The dialogue is not brilliant, but the style is neat, and the language appropriate. The songs, whether characteristic or serious, are well adapted to musical expression, and possess some portion of poetical merit.

On the whole, we cannot perceive defects sufficient to warrant the severe decree, which, from the title-page, appears to have been passed on it at the Theatre. Many pieces, greatly inferior, have escaped a similar destiny.

Windermere, a Poem. By Joseph Budworth, Esq. Author of a Fortnight's Ramble to the Lakes. 8vo. 1s. Cadell and Davies. 1798.

WE have frequently been entertained by the easy and good-humoured pen of this writer. The present poem contains some spirited lines, on a subject which may well be supposed to awaken all the ardour and enthusiasm of a writer, who admires the bold and striking scenes of Nature. It breathes the sentiments of a generous and benevolent heart.

POETRY.

THE WOODEN WALLS OF ENGLAND. AN ODE

WHEN Britain on her sea-girt shore,
Her white-rob'd Druids erst address'd,
'What aid,' she cry'd, 'shall I implore,
'What best defence by numbers press'd?'
'Though hostile nations round thee rise,'
The mystic Oracles reply'd,
'And view thine Isle with envious eyes,
Their threats defy, their rage deride,
Nor fear invasion from adverse Gauls,
Britain's best bulwark are her wooden
walls.

'Thine oaks descending to the main,
With floating forts shall stem the tide,
Assisting Britain's liquid reign,
Where'er her thundering navy rides;
Nor less to peaceful arts inclin'd,
When commerce opens all her stores,
In social bands shall league mankind,
And join the sea-divided shores. [calls,
Spread then thy sails, where naval glory
Britain's best bulwarks are her wooden
walls.

'Hail, happy Isle! what tho' thy vales
No vine-empurpled tribute yield,
Nor fann'd with odour---breathing gales,
Nor crops spontaneous glad the fields;
Yet Liberty rewards the toil
Of Industry, to labour prone,
Who jocund ploughs the grateful soil,
And reaps the harvest she has sown.
While other realmstyrannic sway enthral,
Britain's best bulwark are her wooden
walls.'

Thus spake the bearded Seers of yore,
In vision rapt, of Britain's fame,
Ere yet Iberia felt her power,
Or Gallia trembl'd at her name;
Ere yet Columbus dar'd t' explore
New regions rising from the main.
From sea to sea, from shore to shore,
Bear then, ye winds, the solemn strain;
This sacred truth, an awe-struck world
appals,
'Britain's best bulwark are her wooden
walls.'

EPIGRAM.

ON ADMIRAL NELSON'S TITLE.

Ex Nihilo, Nihil, ut Nilo fert Nelson
honores,
Nec dicant hostes, Nil tibi Nilus erit!
TRILLUS.

ON ADMIRAL NELSON'S VICTORY.

SPOKEN BY MR. FISHER,

Before their Majesties at Weymouth.

ANOTHER conquest swells Britannia's fame,
Let grateful mem'ry wait on Nelson's name;
In distant seas the conquering hero shows
How vain's the projects of our Gallic foes.
When the glad tidings reach'd the public
ear, [tear;
From Beauty's eyes distill'd the joyous
Down manhood's cheek the tide of rapture
flow'd, [glow'd.
And every breast with kindling transport

Nelson, thy praise from shore to shore shall
ring,
Joy to the nation! Joy to England's king!
Such prowess every tribute justly craves,
E'en Arabs shout, 'Britannia rules the
waves.'

With well earn'd laurels grace the victor's
brow,
Recal the deeds of Vincent, Duncan, Howe!
Illustrious names!--to every Briton dear---
Here then the altar of our thanks we'll
rear:

Fleets led to battle by such men as these
Shall fix in Brunswick's hands the trident of
the seas.

STANZAS,

FROM TASKER'S WARLIKE ODE.

*Rec'd at the Weymouth Theatre, before the
King, by Mr. Sandford, on Monday, Oct. 1.*

GENIUS of Britain! view the plains
Where military virtue reigns,
Pallid Fear her vain alarms
Idly spreads:---while glory warms
Th' intrepid soul with her celestial charms,
The standar' rears, and calls to arms,
Ye sons of Britain hear!
From her refulgent sphere [abodes
Aloud she shouts,---and opens the bright
Of heroes, and of Demi-Gods;
On seats of burnish'd gold,
Where Arthur---Alfred sat of old:
---The great examples fire---
---To deathless deeds inspire,---
The sons of Freedom rise---they claim
Their birth-right---the reward of fame:
They catch the blaze of energy divine,
As from their polish'd arms the sun-beams
brighter shine.

II.

Gallia's pale Genius stands aghast,
 (The lilies wither in her hand,)
 Her fleets receive the favouring blast,
 But dare not touch on th' adverse land:
 On England's rough and rocky shore,
 She hears the awaken'd lion roar.

III.

On every heath, on every strand,
 New rais'd battalions grace the land:
 To arms the hollow vallies sound,
 To arms---to arms---the hills rebound;
 Echo, well-pleas'd, repeats the voice around.

IV.

Secure within their native isle,
 Britons at vain invasion smile:
 Their fleets triumphant o'er the main
 Old Ocean's empire yet maintain.
 * While laurels erst that Jervis grac'd and
 Howe,
 Shine with fresh lustre on a Duncan's brow.
 And may such laurels peace and plenty bring
 To free-born Britons and their patriot King!

* These two lines were added at the time of
 Duncan's naval victory.

ACROSTIC.

Now, Gallia, mourn and cloud thyself in
 weep, [throw;
 Egypt's fair shores have seen thy over-
 Learn to desist, and for thy children weep,
 Since Britain only rules her subject deep;
 Oft thou hast prov'd, thro' all thy num'rous
 wars, [tars,
 Nought can withstand the courage of her
 PHILONAUT.

TOM HALLIARD.

A BALLAD.

[By Peter Pindar, Esq.]

Now the rage of battle ended,
 And the French for mercy call,
 Death no more, in smoke and thunder,
 Rode upon the vengeful ball.

Yet what brave and loyal heroes
 Saw the sun of morning bright---
 Ah! condemn'd by cruel fortune,
 Ne'er to see the star of night.

From the main-deck to the quarter,
 Strew'd with limbs, and wet with blood,
 Poor Tom Halliard, pale and wounded,
 Crawl'd where his brave Captain stood.

'O my noble Captain! tell me,
 'Ere I am borne a corpse away,
 Have I done a seaman's duty,
 On this great and glorious day?

'Tell a dving sailor truly,
 For my life is fleeting fast;
 Have I done a seaman's duty?
 Can there aught my men'ry blast?'

'Ah! brave Tom,' the Captain answer'd,
 'Thou a sailor's part hast done!
 I revere thy wounds with sorrow---
 Wounds by which our glory's won!'

'Thanks, my Captain! life is ebbing,
 Fast from this deep wounded heart;
 But, O grant one little favour,
 'Ere I from the world depart.

'Bid some kind and trusty sailor,
 When I'm number'd with the dead,
 For my dear and constant Catharine,
 Cut a lock from this poor head.

'Bid him to my Catharine give it,
 Saying, her's alone I die!
 Kate will keep the mournful present,
 And embalm it with a sigh.

'Bid him too this letter bear her,
 Which I've penn'd with panting breath;
 Kate may ponder on the writing,
 When the hand is cold in death.'

'That I will,' replied the Captain,
 'And be ever Catharine's friend.'
 'Ah, my good and kind Commander,
 Now my pains and sorrows end.'

Mute towards his Captain weeping,
 Tom uprais'd a thankful eye---
 Grateful then, his foot embracing,
 Sunk with Kate on his last sigh!

Who that saw a scene so mournful,
 Could without a tear depart?
 He must own a savage nature---
 Pity never warm'd his heart.

Now, in his white hammock shrouded,
 By the kind and pensive crew;
 As he dropp'd into the ocean,
 All burst out---"Poor Tom, adieu!"

IMPROMPTU,

ON THE PROPOSALS FOR ARMING THE
 NATION.

To raise a Corps in war's alarms
 A method's try'd, which odd is:
 That Government should furnish Arms,
 And Parishes---the Bodies.

THE PUNSTER.

SIPPING whey with his pastry, 'Where
 am I, my dear?'

Tom ask'd of the girl t'other day:
 'Lard, Sir!' she replied, 'to be sure you
 are here!'

'No,' said he, 'I am over the wye.'

 PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THEATRE-ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN, OCT. 11.

THIS evening a new Play, entitled *LOVER'S VOWS*, was brought out before a numerous audience, and was crowned with universal applause. This drama is avowedly a translation from the *Natural Son* of Kotzbue, a play which has had a great run in Germany, and it is altogether in the stile and character of the German stage. It was, we understand, translated literally from the German, and put into the hands of Mrs. Inchbald, to whose taste we are indebted for the alterations and curtailments that have most happily adapted it to our theatre.

The Baron of Wildenheim is represented in his youth to have seduced a young lady, a dependant upon his mother, and who lived in the Castle. Being ordered to join his regiment, he obtained from Agatha (the unfortunate victim of his licentiousness) a promise not to reveal this secret. In his absence her pregnancy discovered her guilt, and upon her refusing, in conformity to her promise, to declare who was her seducer, she was driven from the Castle with disgrace. For some time she found an asylum in the house of an old clergyman, and there she educated her son, who, when he was of proper age, entered the army. Upon the death of the clergyman, she was driven to the utmost distress, and having neither heard from her seducer nor her son, and being unable from sickness to maintain herself, she became a prey to absolute want. The Baron in the mean time had married and settled in Alsace; but upon the death of his Lady, by whom he had a daughter, he returned to his estate in Wildenheim, after an absence of twenty years.—At this period the play commences. Agatha, sick and famishing, is turned out of a cottage near Wildenheim Castle, where she found a lodging while she had money to buy her bread. At this moment Frederic her son, who had obtained leave of absence from the army, appears; he is about to relieve Agatha, seeing her to be in want, when he discovers her to be his mother, who having related to him the circumstances of his birth, and the name of his father, sinks exhausted with the exertion. He conveys her to a cottage, the owner of which receives her with the utmost hospitality; but poverty disables him from procuring the necessary relief for Agatha. Frederic goes out in despair, with an intent to beg, and meets the Baron, of whom he entreats relief, and receives a small donation; upon asking for more, the Baron expresses his displeasure, and is about to depart, when Frederic draws his sword, and demands his purse; but some of the Baron's attendants arriving, he is secured, and taken prisoner to the Castle. While a prisoner, Amelia, daughter of the Baron, carries him some food, and from her he learns that the person whom he attacked was Baron Wildenheim. He solicits an interview with the Baron, to whom he discloses the secret of his birth. A general reconciliation takes place, and the piece concludes with the union of the Baron and Agatha, and Amelia with Anhalt, who is chaplain to the Baron, but whose virtues induce the latter to overlook his want of birth and fortune.

Such is the outline of the play—in the different scenes of which, the base crime of female seduction, so destructive to the happiness of society, and so boundless in its fatal consequences, is held up in the most terrific colours to public horror and execration. If the Author's object has been

- ‘ To discipline the fancy—to command
- ‘ The heart, and by familiar accents move
- ‘ The soul,’

he has fully succeeded to the utmost extent of his wishes. The sentiments are pure and edifying, and the moral instruction which they convey is of the most important kind. The affections are uniformly kept alive, and the passions moulded to the very bent of the original design. The mind is roused from the most torpid state of indifference, and compelled to sympathise in the melting effusions of sorrow, or to exult with fervent joy in the vindication of distressed innocence. We are absolutely forced to take part in the respective interests, and enter into the motives and the ‘cue for passion,’ with which the characters are supposed to be animated.

Our objections to it are but trifling; there is, particularly in the first act, too great a luxuriance of woe, and the attentive observer is sometimes inclined to recoil with horror at scenes of misery, which, if a full indulgence be given to gloomy contemplation, may prove insupportable to many. With respect to the comic humour of the piece, we must in candour observe, that it sometimes, particularly in the case of the poetic Butler, descends to ribaldry and buffoonery. The grand principle of the play, exemplified on various occasions, is founded upon the successful opposition of the moral faculties to interested views and selfish desires.

Mrs. Inchbald has been eminently successful in the labours she has bestowed upon the play. The incidents are happily suited to the subject, and the dialogue is in general simple and unaffected. There are but very few attempts at figurative and elaborate diction, and above all, there is none of that glitter and false brilliancy which has of late years in sentimental comedy been only calculated to dazzle the fancy, or catch the ear with empty sound. In truth, without considering or caring whether this play be strictly within the dramatic rules, and whether a tragi-comedy be allowable, we have no hesitation in saying, that both in the writing and in the representation, it is a most captivating performance. There are touches of tenderness in it which it is impossible for the bosom to resist, and the emotion is produced by the most ingenuous means. It is the pure and simple effects of nature on the heart. The stage has not to boast of many scenes superior to that in which Frederic harrows up the soul of the Baron, by disclosing to him that he is his son. Mr. Pope was most nervous and pathetic; and Mr. Murray, in a burst of mingled contrition and rapture, electrified the house. His expression, ‘I’ve not expressed him,’ was equal in its energy to any thing we ever heard; the “Was he alive?” of Mrs. Crawford did not exceed it in influence upon the heart. The audience repaid the exquisite talent of the actor with shouts of approbation.

Upon the whole of this performance, we congratulate the charming Authoress on her success. She had added a lasting wreath to her former laurels, and she wears them with so much unassuming modesty, that every friend to merit must wish that they may long bloom on her brow.

The prologue was well delivered by Mr. Murray. And Munden, in the character of the old Butler, who is a votary of the Muses, spoke an epilogue, which contained several neat points. It was written by Mr. Palmer of the Temple, the eldest son of the late Comptroller of the Post Office.

MONTHLY CHRONICLE.

DEFEAT OF THE BREST SQUADRON.

THE British flag was never more triumphant on the ocean than at the present instant. A succession of victories has given us the empire over the seas, preserved us from invasion, and the consequent horror of domestic ruin and subjection to foreign government.

On the 20th of October, Lieutenant Waterhouse arrived at the Admiralty with a dispatch from Sir John Borlass Warren, Bart. K. B. Captain of his Majesty's ship Canada. This dispatch is dated on board the Canada, in Lough Swilly, Ireland, the 16th of October, and is as follows :

' In pursuance of the orders and instructions I received by the Kangaroo, I proceeded with the ships named in the margin * off Achill Head, and on the 10th instant I was joined by his Majesty's ships Melampus and Doris; the latter of whom I directed to look out for the enemy off Tory Island and the Rosses; in the evening of the same day the Amelia appeared in the Offing, when Captain Herbert informed me he had parted with the Ethalion, Anson, and Sylph, who, with great attention, had continued to observe the French squadron since their sailing on the 17th ult. In the morning of the 11th, however, these two ships also fell in with us, and at noon the enemy were discovered in the N. W. quarter, consisting of one ship of eighty guns, eight frigates, a schooner and a brig. I immediately made the signal for a general chase, and to form in succession as each ship arrived up with the enemy, who, from their great distance to windward, and a hollow sea, it was impossible to come up with before the 12th.

' The chase was continued in very bad and boisterous weather all day of the 11th, and the following night, when, at half past five A. M. they were seen at a little distance to windward, the line of battle ship having lost her main-top-mast.

' The enemy bore down and formed their line in close order upon the star-board tack, and from the length of the chase, and our ships being spread, it was impossible to close with them before seven A. M. when I made the Robust's signal to lead, which was obeyed with much alacrity, and the rest of the ships to form in succession in the rear of the van.

' The action commenced at twenty minutes past seven o'clock, A. M. the Rosses bearing S. S. W. five leagues, and at eleven, the Hoche, after a gallant defence, struck; and the frigates made sail from us: the signal to pursue the enemy was made immediately, and in five hours afterwards three of the frigates hauled down their colours also; but they, as well as the Hoche, were obstinately defended, all of them being heavy frigates, and, as well as the ship of the line, entirely new; full of troops and stores, with every necessary for the establishment of their views and plans in Ireland.

' I am happy to say, that the efforts and conduct of every officer and man in the squadron seemed to have been actuated by the same spirit, zeal, and unanimity in their King and Country's cause; and I feel myself under great obligations to them, as well as the officers and men of this ship, for their exertions upon this occasion; which will, I hope, recommend them to their Lordships' favour.

* Canada, Robust, Foudroyant, and Magnanime.

' I left Captain Thornborough after the action, with the *Magnanime*, *Ethalion*, and *Amelia*, with the prizes. JOHN WARREN.'

' P. S. The ships with us in the action were, the *Canada*, *Robust*, *Fou-droyant*, *Magnanime*, *Ethalion*, *Melampus*, and *Amelia*. The *Anson* joined us in the latter part of the action, having lost her mizen mast in chace the day before. I have sent my First Lieutenant Turguand to take the command of the *Hoche*.

' I believe a brig, with Napper Tandy on board, was in company, as she left the French at the commencement of the business. The enemy ships had numbers of troops on board, arms, stores, and ammunition; and large quantities of papers were torn and thrown overboard after they had struck.

' I am of opinion, that few of the frigates which escaped will arrive in France, as they had received much damage in their masts and rigging; and, from the violent gales that followed the next day, they must be in a crippled state, and may, in all probability, be picked up by some of the squadrons on the coast of France, or by Admiral Kingsmill's cruisers. They had thrown every thing overboard, boats, spars, arm-chests, &c.

Captain Graham Moore, Commander of his Majesty's ship *Melampus*, fell in on the 13th, off Lough Swilly, with two large ships, close upon their weather beam: on seeing him, they hauled up on the opposite tack. No doubt remaining of their being two of the enemy, he tacked and closed with the nearest, going ten knots an hour. After hailing and ordering her to bring to, without effect, the *Melampus* opened such a fire upon her, as completely unrigged her in about 25 minutes, and forced her to bring to and surrender; she proved to be *La Resolue*, French frigate, mounting forty guns, and five hundred seamen and troops on board. The other frigate was *L'Immortalite*, with which his Majesty's ship *Fishguard* fell in on the 21st of October, lat. 28. 23. N. long. 7. W. and, after a very smart action of two hours and 20 minutes captured; in which the *Immortalite* lost 120 men killed and wounded, and the *Fisguard* 40 men killed and wounded. The latter ship is very much disabled in her rigging, masts, and sails, but her hull not much shotted: the *Immortalite* is very much damaged in every part; the mizen-mast is gone close to the deck; her yards, sails, and rigging, are nearly all cut to pieces, and she is so leaky by the shot-holes in her hull, that it was with great difficulty she could be kept from sinking. She was fought exceedingly well, and if the Captain had not been killed, the action would have continued much longer. Soon after he fell, the First Lieutenant shared a like fate, and the same shot that killed the Captain killed General Menage, who had the command of the troops on board, in number about 400: she had also on board 7000 stand of arms, a number of field-pieces, ammunition of all sorts, and a great quantity of horse furniture, with which she is very deep in the water. General Menage made an attempt to land the troops in one of the bays on the coast of Ireland, but when they discovered, by means of boats from the shore, the fate of those that were landed from the first squadron of frigates, the soldiers to a man refused to disembark.

The above glorious event will not fail to produce the most happy consequences and extensive benefits to Ireland and to the British empire. At once are the hopes of the Irish malcontents completely blasted, the naval force of the enemy further diminished, and the great bulwark of Britain considerably strengthened. Had the object of the expedition been accomplished, the spirit of rebellion would have been nourished, and the ultimate result might have proved imminently dangerous to, if not utterly subversive of the dominion of his Majesty over the most valuable appendage of his crown.

OBITUARY.

AT Warsaw, August 4th, Prince Adam Poninsky, *ci-devant* treasurer of the crown and grand prior of the order of Malta. His revenue for near 20 years was almost half a million. He had resided some time before his death with a poor peasant, a few miles from Warsaw, but expired in the house of an old servant in the suburbs, who had taken him in out of compassion, and to shield him from the persecution of his creditors.

15. A gentleman of the name of Watson, who came over in the last fleet from the West Indies, and was recommended as a lodger to Mrs. Wallace, a child-bed-linen warehouse-keeper in Pope's Head alley, Cornhill. He slept in her house one night; and, about eight o'clock the next morning, a gentleman called to pay him sixty guineas, and knocked at his door; but no answer being given, he was supposed to be asleep. A short time after, he was called to breakfast; but no answer being received, a young man was sent into the room, who found him hanging at the foot of the bedstead, suspended by a rope which had corded a trunk belonging to a former lodger. He was cut down, medical assistance called in, and he was bled, but without effect. It appears that he was a native of Leith, in Scotland; but had early in life settled in Jamaica, and commenced planter; that, some years since, a derangement of intellect took place, for which he was sent to America, and whence he returned quite recovered. He came to this country now upon business, and with a view of forming new correspondents. It also appears, that, on the 15th of July, the ship he was in encountered a great storm in passing the Gulph, and was nearly under water, and they expected every moment to go to the bottom; during which the deceased was so extremely alarmed, that it operated upon him the remainder of the voyage, so that at times he did not know what he was about. It did not appear that he had any relations in England. A bill for 1000*l.* and various other notes to a considerable amount, were found upon him.

19. The Rev. R. Monkhouse, of Mortram, in Lancashire. He stopped on his way from Hull to York, at the house of Mr. Wells, at Booth-ferry; and, as it was early in the evening, took a walk by the river-side, and was not heard of till the next morning, when his body was found in the river. The lining of his hat was torn out and laid at a distance; nor book or article of any kind was found upon him to discover who he was, till, accidentally, a person took out the paper of his watch, and found his name and residence written on the back of it.

21. At Shaftsbury, by firing the contents of a loaded pistol into his mouth, Serjeant Wilson, of the 62d regiment of foot. Few instances have occurred of a more premeditated act of suicide. On the Sunday before (the 19th) he borrowed the pistol for the purpose, he said, of firing at a mark for a wager with a brother-serjeant. On Monday morning he bought some bullets at a plumber's; and in the evening he purchased some powder at a grocer's, saying jocularly, he was going to fight a duel. About six next morning he said he would take a walk before breakfast; sat down about a mile from the town, upon a bank, and there committed the horrid deed. No cause has been assigned for it. He was an unmarried man, about 30, of cheerful, mild, and amiable manners, which he possessed in such a degree as to be familiarly called 'the good-natured serjeant.'

24. At the house of his brother, in Wigton, county of Cumberland, in his 68th year, the Rev. Lowther Yates, D.D. master of Catherine-hall, Cambridge, and prebend of Norwich, annexed to the mastership of Catherine-hall by Queen Anne. He was admitted B.A. 1750; proceeded M.A. 1754, B.D. 1774, and D.D. 1780. He succeeded Dr. Prescott, as master of the college, in 1779; served the office of vice-chancellor of the university 1779 and 1794; and was one of the conservators of the river Cam.

30. At Wargrave, Berks, aged 74, Mr. Robert Piggott. Long had he established two charity schools for boys

and girls of his parish (which at length were increased to the number of 20 in each school) who were annually clothed, with a monthly allowance to their parents, adequate to their supposed earnings in farmers service. To the school-master and school mistress a decent salary was assigned, to instruct the boys, for five years, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the girls in reading only, and plain work; with an extra salary for attending their scholars to church on Sundays and prayer-days. By his will he has assigned to trustees the interest of 6150l. in the three per cents. for the support of his two schools. Besides the above charitable establishments, and what he has bequeathed to his only sister, Mrs. Piggott, of Wargrave, he has made a comfortable provision for certain of his poor relations, and given legacies to others, as well as to his old servants and deserving poor neighbours, and to his school-master and school-mistress; and likewise a guinea to each of his scholars, to purchase them linen and other necessaries. From the bare recital of the above good deeds, the candid reader will anticipate how worthy that character must have been, how great his self-denial, who not only could entertain such charitable thoughts, but actually put them into execution (rare example!) in the vigour of his days! Such, at the same time, was the unaffected simplicity of his manners, such the humility of his dress, so meek, so mild was his outward deportment, that a stranger, unacquainted with his frugal habits, might naturally, on a transient view, have supposed him to be rather the object, than the founder, of such an excellent charity. He was interred at Wargrave, September the fourth, attended by a numerous body of his friends and neighbours, as well as the children, &c. of his two schools; all of whom evinced, by their respectful silence and mournful looks, how sincerely they regretted the loss of so worthy a neighbour and invaluable a man.

September 1. Found dead in his bed at Liverpool, Edward Holden Pott, Esq. Major in the Westminster regt. of the Middlesex militia. Major P. was in his 33d or 34th year. He was the youngest son of the late Percival P. Esq. the celebrated surgeon, whose

abilities as a professional man stand not in need of any encomium. He was first put to school under the father of the present Dr. Shaw, of the British Museum. He afterwards went to Eton, where he continued several years, and made a considerable progress in his studies. On leaving Eton he was placed by his father under Mr. Balfour, a solicitor and clerk to the Surgeons Company. After remaining the usual time with that gentleman, he practised in one of the Inns of Court, where his business soon increased in such a manner as would probably have placed him at the head of his profession, had not his inclination for arms led him to embrace a military life. He had, perhaps, as numerous an acquaintance among all the respectable characters which adorn society as any person in the kingdom. In his military profession he was assiduous to a degree, and did great justice to the patronage which placed him in the honourable situation of a field-officer. Major P. had a quick and brilliant understanding, and an excellent memory; and, in general knowledge, certainly far surpassed the greater part of mankind. His situation in life was highly respectable; but as his father lived in an elegant and liberal manner, and had eight children, it was impossible for him to have been in the enjoyment of a very ample fortune. He has left a mother, inconsolable for his decease; two brothers, the eldest formerly in the banking-house of the Hon. Richard Walpole; the second the learned, pious, and exemplary Archdeacon of St. Alban's; and three sisters, all married; the eldest to Samuel Pott, Esq. late of the General Post-office; the second to Mr. Earle, the surgeon; and the youngest to Samuel Compton Cox, Esq. lately from his abilities appointed to the situation of a Welsh judge. Robert Pott, Esq. the Major's eldest brother, died lately in the East Indies; and his eldest sister, who was married to Mr. Frye, is likewise dead since her father's decease. Major P. will be much regretted by all his acquaintance, by whom he was extremely beloved, for the sweetness of his temper, the luminous brilliancy of his mind, and his perfect goodness of heart. By his own family he will be long and deeply lamented; and his

premature death, from his kind and cheerful disposition, may be considered as a general loss to society.

5. Aged 89, D. Turner, M.A. well known as the author of many pious and instructive publications. For fifty years he sustained, with great credit to himself and satisfaction to his connections, the pastoral office over a respectable society of Christians, of the Baptist denomination, at Abingdon, Berks; in the exercise of which situation he exemplified a degree of prudence, activity, liberality of sentiment, benevolence, and piety, seldom equalled; which procured him the esteem of the wise and the good of all denominations.

9. At his house in Park-street, Windsor, in his 84th year, Owen Salusbury Brereton, Esq. many years recorder of Liverpool, F.R. and A.S.S. and vice-president of the Society of Antiquaries. He was going to Egham races when he dropt down in a fit, and soon expired. He was buried in St. George's chapel, Windsor, on the 22d. He represented the borough of Ilchester in one parliament; and was an early member, and one of the vice-presidents of the Society of Arts and Commerce, and various other literary and charitable societies. He held the recordership of Liverpool at the particular desire of the corporation; and has left the bulk of his fortune, after the death of his widow, to Mrs. Brand, sister of Sir Harry Trelawny, bart. who was his ward. He had an estate in Flintshire, and was constable of Flint castle, a sinecure place. In a Roman station, called *Crocs Alli*, on his estate, his horse kicked up several Roman antiquities, engraved and described in Pennant's *Welsh Tour*, l. 51, 52, 67, 73. He was elected F.A.S. 1763; and, in their 'Archæologia,' II. 80, is a paper of his observations on Peter Collinson's account of the round towers in Ireland, l. 305. In III. 111, his tour through South Wales; and, p. 154, extracts from Henry VIIIth's household-book; account of a painted window in Brereton church; Cheshire, IX. 368; a non-descript coin of Philip King of France, X. 463. Mr. B. married one of the Whitmores, of Shropshire, by whom he had five children, who all died young, the eldest son aged five.

10. At Barkby, in a fit of apoplexy,

William Pochin, Esq. one of the representatives in parliament for the county of Leicester; a trust that had been unanimously and honourably delegated to him in four successive parliaments, and which he had uniformly discharged with exemplary independence, integrity, and loyalty. As a private gentleman, his truly amiable manners procured him universal esteem. His tenantry have to regret the loss of a most excellent landlord; his servants, of an almost unexampled indulgent master; the poor, of a kind adviser, and bountiful private benefactor; and those who enjoyed his private confidence, of a most sincere and valuable friend. He died unmarried; and his younger and only brother, George Pochin, Esq. (colonel of the Leicestershire militia) died also without issue on the 13th of May last. An only sister survives him.

21. Suddenly, Mr. Cha. Serjant, trumpeter of Covent-garden theatre, and a well known social character. His brother, a few years ago, left him 10,000l. but his love of music induced him to continue in his profession.

Lately, at Ross, county of Hereford, in his 87th year, W. Dobbs, many years sexton of that parish. He retained his faculties to the last moment of his existence. He was the only inhabitant of the place who had any recollection of the person and manners of John Kyrle, Esq. celebrated by Pope in his Epistle to Lord Bathurst, under the character of 'The Man of Ross.' The ceremonies of his interment (singing, ringing, and drinking) commenced at twelve o'clock at noon, and the clock had told three in the morning before the 'tears of the tankard' were dried up.

At Grenier's hotel, Jermyn-street, St. James's, in the presence of his brother, the present Earl, Mr. Cameron, his brother-in-law, and Mr. Morrison, the apothecary who attended him, and after being insensible twenty-four hours, George-James Hay, Earl of Errol, Baron Hay of Stanes, hereditary lord high constable of Scotland, and one of the Sixteen Scots Peers in the present parliament. His father, James Boyd Lord Boyd, took the name of Hay, and married, in October 1749, 1st, Rebecca, daughter of Alexander Lockhart, Esq. zdly, Isabella, daughter

of William Carr, Esq. of Etall, county of Northumberland, by whom he had three sons and nine daughters. He was born May 13, 1767, and succeeded his father in 1788. In 1790, he married Miss Blake, eldest daughter of Joseph B. Esq. of Ardsfry, county of Galloway, in Ireland. He suffered exceedingly from convulsions four days previous to his death; after these fits were off, he remained in a very low state, without appearing to breathe. He is succeeded by his only brother, the Hon. William Carr Hay, who was born in March 1772; and, in Jan. 1792, married Miss Jane Bell, second daughter of Matthew B. Esq. colonel of the Northumberland militia. The present Earl of Errol holds both the title and his own fortune entire; but, by the will of his maternal grandfather, as soon as he shall have a second son, the fortune which his mother brought into the family devolves on the second son. Mr. Carr enjoyed the fortune upon this tenure; so that he has been wealthy, while his elder brother, the Earl, had but a very limited income. Having as yet no second son, the fortune is not alienated from the title.

The Right Hon. Dr. Maxwell, Lord Bishop of Meath in Ireland. He was brother to the present Earl of Farnham, and father to Colonel Maxwell, of the Caven Militia; who has lately distinguished himself in the Irish Parliament by his attachment to the Beresford interest. The deceased was consecrated Bishop in the year 1763.

At his family seat, Sir S.M. Somerset, baronet, by whose death the family estate of 4000l. per annum, and title, come to the honourable Cornet Turnour, of twelfth light dragoons, now in Portugal.

At Barham Downs, near Canterbury, Lady Magdalena de Souvigny, better known as Mrs. Hayward; her estate falls to Lady Adeline Sydney Somerset.

At Port Royal, Jamaica, Elizabeth Brown, a black woman, at the extraordinary great age of 124 years.

Died suddenly, in his stall in the Borough,---Leeds, a cobbler, aged 89, a melancholy example of the vicissitudes of human life. He was formerly an officer of rank in the army, but sold his commission and became tea-dealer. He

afterwards quitted this business, and accepted a commission in the Russian service; but happening to kill a brother officer in a duel, he fled to England, where he had not been long, when finding his finances exhausted, he hired himself as book-keeper to an eminent woollen-draper. In this situation he remained five years, when, his employer dying, he set up a chandler's shop, in which he failed; and after encountering many changes and chances, being reduced to the greatest distress, he turned cobbler, which profession he followed till his death.

Mr. Benjamin Hale, a soap-boiler in Goswell-street, having been up all night at work, unfortunately lost his light, and, shocking to relate, fell into a pan of lees then boiling, by which he was so much scalded, and a mortification coming immediately on, that he died a few hours after.

At St. Mary's Isle, Scotland, Lady Mary Douglas, daughter of the Earl of Selkirk.

At Workworth Castle, in Northamptonshire, the Right Hon. Lady Mary Eyre, fifth daughter of Charlotte Countess of Newbergh, Peeress in her own right.

At Martha Brae, after a short illness, John Nettleford, Esq. Planter. His remains were interred with military honours, attended by a respectable number of friends and acquaintance. This worthy man carried with him to the grave the sincere regret and esteem of all that knew him.

At his seat in Sicily, near Cork, Sir Edward Unick O'Bryen, Baronet, a gentleman of considerable fortune, and a branch of the Inchiquin family.

In Gloucester-street, Queen-square, George Hadley, formerly an officer on the Bengal Military Establishment.

At Hammersmith, where she went for the benefit of her health, Mrs. Nowland, of Chandos-street, Covent-garden. Her death was occasioned by an intermittent fever, in consequence of child-birth last April. What she suffered the last two months is not to be described. By her numerous and respectable relations, friends, and acquaintance, her loss will be severely felt; but to a tender, affectionate, and inconsolable mother, an afflicted husband, and an infant child, her loss is irreparable. She lived beloved, and died lamented.