

gratify and bewitch the beholder. In short, the place was only comparable to Windsor Terrace, where though on a smaller scale it could boast several exquisite beauties in point of view.

His Dining room was of large dimensions, for it was sixty feet by forty, in which every convenience calculated for the purpose of his grand Dinners he so frequently gave to the first characters of distinction in this Kingdom, and continually to his numerous friends was laid out intirely and executed by the particular directions of Mrs. GOLDMID in the most correct manner.

Here as a loyal subject he joined the national festivities in the most convivial manner ever witnessed before by an individual. Viands of the rarest and richest kind; fruits and the best of wines graced his festive board, where every table was decorated, or rather loaded with the choicest provisions, and were handed to the guests who were numerous on these occasions in the most liberal manner.

He gave two or three of these splendid fetes or public entertainments on victorious occasions in the most splendid stile possible, beyond any thing that was  
ever



deserving in his situation of life if he was industrious and diligent in his employment. He contributed largely for the support of the MAJOR RABBI or expounder of the law, vulgarly called the HIGH PRIEST, for he appropriated to his use a considerable piece of his ground, the produce of which the finest wheat was a gift to him to make his Passover Cakes for himself and family, and his philanthropy was equally liberal to the Priesthood of other denominations whom he considered as public servants of the first class, and in short, he was a friend to the poor of every denomination.

His stables were convenient and in some respects intirely unique; but his Farm and Dairy were on the Dutch Stile, yet they surpassed every thing seen here on the scale of size for convenience. His grounds were most admirably laid out with taste and judgment with shaded walks, and his fruiterie or orchard ground abounded with every luxury of nature excited by art. The walls were clothed with the most exquisite and juicy fruits, and every thing in the highest order of cultivation, having upwards of twelve Gardeners, besides daily labouring men of the village. His Peaches, Grapes, and Vinery were of the  
largest

largest dimensions ever beheld for private use, for it was his general wish constant to have the most early productions of nature, or the first fruits of the year, and of these he was equally liberal as of his purse to all his neighbours around.

His chief gardener lived in a most elegant cottage situated so as to command a general view of his grounds, and was the envy and regret of many in Rochampton. Horses and Carriages he had more than sufficient, though he was not fond of that kind of indulgence beyond a reasonable degree. In short, was I inclined to detail a further account of his various improvements upon a spot of ground, he found but a few years ago a heap of ruins, it would greatly exceed the limits I have set myself here, and I shall conclude this part by observing, that it will be likely a long time before that place will have to boast another owner equally liberal and spirited with himself.

Before I finish this part of the account it may not be unnecessary to say a few words illustrative of the place Mr. GOLDSMID made election of for his family residence; it is, without exception one of the pleasantest spots in the Parish of Putney;

Putney; an Hamlet, and the residence of more fashion and fortune than is to be found in the same extent in any other part of the County of Surry. Though Mr. GOLDSMID was not at first much thought of by *some upstarts* in the place, yet, the suavity of his manners and his generous carriage to all ranks so far prevailed at last, that he became the very life and spirit of Roehampton. Here while he was surrounded by retired Gentry, reflected in their consequence by titled Nobility, for just before Mr. GOLDSMID bought his scite, the Duke of Clarence sold his Villa to a person who purchased it to let. The Grove House is situated on part of the ancient Royal Park of Putney, which no longer exists, and was built by Sir JOSHUA VANNECK, who is reported to have found some treasure in pulling down the old Mansion. The present elegant Villa is after a design of Mr. WYATT's and is both commodious and elegant. The principal views of the Houses here are bounded by Epsom Downs in the distance; but Richmond Park approaches so near, that it seems to belong to the grounds, and gives an air of sylvan wildness to the whole.

The prospects to the North charm the  
eye

eye with their variety and cheerful scenery, where the Thames is discovered rolling through a well cultivated country, adorned with villages and seats, with Harrow and the adjacent elevated parts of Middlesex in the immediate point of view.

Mr. GOLDSMID'S progress in business gained him universal esteem, and even the friendship and good opinion of the first Minister and greatest Statesman that ever sat at the helm of public affairs. Mr. PITT'S good opinion of Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID caused him to act with more generosity and less scrupulosity than any other individual of his monied friends. In all his dealings with his Brothers he preferred him for candor and liberal views. In fact, he had this in common with our late Minister a characteristic openness of mind in all pecuniary concerns, that reflected the highest honour on the heart as well as the head.

Mr. PITT'S calculations though most maturely formed, were not always so closely adhered as to admit no alteration; accordingly in all the Loans in which Mr. GOLDSMID was concerned he invariably abided by his calculations. The advantages of this condescension in a Minister

on so delicate and important a subject reflects the greatest honour on him, and Mr. PITT would not unfrequently enter into a friendly argument on the subject though he dropped his first intentions and calculations to the advantage of the monied men as well as the nation at large.

These considerable dealings in raising the vast sum for these national resources, increased Mr. GOLDSMID's connections to such an extent, that he was thereby enabled to offer more liberally than many of his competitors, and though conveniency sometimes induced him to conceal his name and not openly to appear the ostensible Contractor, I believe there have been but few Loans in which he has not borne a very considerable share:

I would not have the Reader here mistake the idea just advanced of *concealment*, for any thing that had a sinister meaning. No, Mr. GOLDSMID was above any such views, and this reserve or seemingly acting under agency of another, was a measure of prudence, and from which the country derived a great benefit and advantage; for it is with money as with other commodities, the price is sunk by competition, and the greater the  
contest

contest for a National Loan the more favourable will be the means to the public who borrow, while the contest will always rise in proportion to the capital which supports it.

Thus the capital of the GOLDSMID'S was the cause of great competition and was equivalent to as much as came forward. To all which must be added their superior way of conducting these great affairs never seeking any mean or unreasonable advantage. Therefore the public at large had the same superiority as themselves in the immense contract for the Loans.

In this extensive way, since the war with France has recommenced, many a crowned head in Europe has had occasionally some obligation to the GOLDSMID family, and amongst the rest of money advancers to Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID in particular, who was always distinguished for his versatile talent in business; and in all these various transactions, not a dissenting voice has been heard on the manner of his conducting his share. So much, therefore, has the country been indebted to him, inasmuch as his transactions have given a Foreign circulation to our National Stock and by thus  
 keeping



keeping up its value in foreign Markets has benefited the country in a proportional rate to the price of stock, as the annual purchases by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt; for from the principles of circulation it can be proved that a £ 50,000 capital actively employed, may bring in less than five years more than ten millions in circulation.

Mr. GOLDSMID's philanthropy always carried him towards Society whose enlightened and benevolent views he approached and embraced at their first proposal. Thus his name is to be found in every list of Subscriptions put forward for the good of the necessitous. But he was not always led, he often thought for himself; it was owing to his extensive views of benefiting the country by a lasting establishment, that he planned his favorite scheme of the NAVAL ASYLUM, which took its origin from him, although his Brother joined him in it.

Impressed with a deep idea of the distresses and sufferings of the offsprings of those brave veteran tars, the true and invincible defenders of their country, he formed the first draught of a NAVAL ASYLUM, which he matured and improved

proved until it became an object of popular favour by his zeal and perseverance. Great events have been known to result from small cause, and this was just the case with Mr. Goldsmith's opening of the business. It had, at first, nothing to give it stability but his own interest with the Jewish Brethren, when the highest ranks of society followed his example and became its Protectors; an eagerness to join the Subscription for the relief of those distressed offsprings of men who had fallen in the defence of their country, happily pervaded the breasts of every one who heard of it.

In this situation it remained some time, and was under the management of his and his brother ABRAHAM'S hands many years. But still something was done, for an Asylum for that purpose *pro tempore* was opened at Paddington, where they had several Youtis, the children of unfortunate Seamen. At this time they had so far advanced, that the institution was Patronised by some of the first distinction in the kingdom, who occasionally presided at their instructions in the different branches of Learning assigned to their share of education.

The popularity of this Charity sur-  
x
passed

passed for a considerable time every thing of the kind in town. Branches of the Royal family joined.

The question of the superiority of public Charities in England, over those of foreign parts seemed to be decided by this measure of public magnificence and acknowledgment to the memory of such serviceable men as the bold race of our Sailors, in whose hands the present safety of the Nation now rests, as it has done for many years before. Such a measure was wanting to complete our numerous Charities, and it took as I have just observed with all Ranks of society.

The benevolence of the founder appears the greater, inasmuch as his own people could not participate in any degree by this provision, a proof of his impartiality of mind as well as goodness and gratitude of heart. But his Charity was universal, it embraced every thing that presented itself, and public measures were always sure of his support. The Subscription Lists put forward by the liberal minded were always graced with an honorable donation from BENJAMIN GOLDSMID, Esq.

By Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID's particular

particular and unceasing efforts a numerous and very respectable meeting were assembled at the London Tavern, where I believe, the Duke of Kent was President, and that Brave and Gallant Officer Sir Sydney Smith sat on his right hand. There were many other remarkable Characters present, as well Jewish as Christian, for in Charitable matters there is no distinction of persuasion in England, where all sects are alike invited to the participation of that heavenly bounty, as true Charity knows no distinction of Religious principles.

To this time, this institution was intirely the lamented Gentleman's scheme whose life I am here detailing. On this day also, he caused all the female part of his family to contribute to its support, and through his own individual means unaided, he brought a Collection to the Society of upwards of £ 2000.

After this, it rose more and more to an object of public attention, and to that degree, that in a short time it became a business of Ministerial adoption. Mr. PITT, who was then at the head of affairs, very much approved of the plan and brought it into Parliament, by which the  
K 2
direction

direction of the Committee were removed from the hands of the first managers.

It was then completely Patronised by Government, sanctioned by Parliament who have often and even lately been busied about its progress, and has since become a National institution of the first importance. Therefore, let not the superficial observer think lightly of the matter, or the merit of the original founder because he was but a Jew, for it was to Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID wholly and solely that the first foundation is due; and the only distinction ever paid him and his brother when it afterwards became organised into a National concern was, a mere insignificant title or right of joining their names as Trustees to the concern. It finds abundance of support, and has frequently been the subject of Parliamentary discussion. Thus we find, how often great things rise out of small beginnings, and the whole English nation benefited by the philanthropic speculations of a JEW. Hitherto, we have beheld Mr. GOLDSMID more generously inclined to the Christians than to his people, but his views were at last turned to the long desired object, that of ameliorating the condition of the Jewish poor, who had no shelter

shelter in the hour of their distress, in disease or calamity; for notwithstanding the better or more fortunate sort of the Community contribute their equal share with the rest of the Country in their Parliamentary and Parochial Rates, yet they could not avail themselves in the privileges of their distressed neighbour, which ought and must account to the public, for the many pitiful objects daily observed in the most busy haunts of life. For it is a fact, as observable, as it is notorious, that the Community has not yet a sufficient establishment for the comfortable and appropriate maintenance of their poor. Such an establishment had been worthy of Mr. Goldsmid's benevolent heart, and there is reason to believe, that had his rashness not deprived the world and his friends of an invaluable existence, the Poor of both Communities would soon have had such an institution, as might have been worthy of its founder, and removed the present narrow and limited establishment of the Mile End Erection to a much more extensive scale. Considering the numerous wants and infirmities of old age, in an increasing population, our present Charity House is a mere nothing to what it should be. The origin and progress of which I shall briefly relate.

But before that, I cannot help lamenting the facility that attends all Jewish Charities, they never become conspicuous and lasting monuments, of their Donor's intention in the succession of time, as Guy Hospital, the foundation of a Book-club, or the Foundling, the posthumous work of Captain Coram; and many others that might be named. They have gathered much money and expended it, but never acquired the permanent character of rational Charity.

About thirteen years ago, Mr. BENJAMIN GORHAM and his brother ABRAHAM, observing, the extreme distress of the penurious part of the Jewish Community, and that their indigence could not be properly relieved by Parochial assistance, determined on doing something for their immediate and effectual relief; that they should have an Asylum to receive them in case of sickness or accident, and also for necessitous women in advanced cases of pregnancy, where immediate assistance must be resorted to. These motives urged them to make a public Collection among their numerous Friends and Merchants, which measure they pursued with the greatest success, not only in their own Community, but also amongst their Christian friends, one of whom to his  
immortal

immortal honour be it recorded, gave a  
 Check on the Banker for £ 3000.

In the manner upwards of £ 10,000  
 was collected, and with the view of  
 building and endowing an Hospital for  
 aged, decrepid and distressed persons. The  
 influence of opinion among the Managers  
 of the business causing it to be greatly  
 delayed in the execution, and other  
 circumstances intervening, the money  
 was invested for several years, the interest  
 accumulating to the principal. After  
 twelve years a French nobleman bought  
 in Mile End Road for about £ 20,000 a  
 beginning of a National establishment,  
 but which in the result has ended in a  
 narrow minded party affair; for instead  
 of taking the money out to establish an  
 Hospital, they set forward another Col-  
 lection, by which they again raised a  
 considerable sum and obtained some  
 yearly Subscribers; but Messrs. Gorn-  
 sen's becoming disgusted with their cabals  
 and disputes how they should dispose of  
 their money, withdrew their attention  
 from the concern. Their detection was  
 followed by others, and some of the  
 greatest Contributors have vented their  
 disgusts in calling their establishment, a  
*Cock and Hen Society*. It is now prin-  
 cipally under the nominal and partial



controul of one officious person, who though not a Governor acts for the whole of the place as Director, and whose liberality is so great, that his scanty allowance has lately induced two of the members to abscond without leave, declaring they were unable to live under his regimen.

This perversion of the first intention of the Charitable Donors is not singular, when we consider how many other Charitable Funds are disposed of in like manner. But when the management of a concern falls in the hands of a party, and that *partiality* selects a special member of their own to govern the poor delegated to their care, it is no wonder if murmurs have a good foundation, and true Charity weeps at the sight of her votaries condemned to suffer under such direction; but the number of sufferers is not very great in this instance, as only five aged men and five women, with eight young girls and ten boys form the whole objects of this vast and enormous institution.

In every movement Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID made towards popularity he was imitatively followed by every class of his Brethren, who could tread in his steps, and so far his conduct has been  
serviceable

serviceable in polishing his community ; but, it has also had a baneful effect on many in straining their resources beyond a prudential degree. The GOLDSMID family, always lived up to a great establishment, but Mr. BENJAMIN surpassed them all, in his public as well as private entertainments. As I have already related, he has been visited by most of the Royal Family, Ministers of State, Generals, Admirals, and by the principals of the privileged orders of Society ; yet, these connections did not inflate him with pride, nor exalt him beyond himself. In the midst of these triumphs, he was courteous and affable, and still had an ear for the weak voice of penury.

Though completely immersed in business he was easily accessible ; but of late time he shewed marks of choleric impatience out of doors. This petulance visibly encreased on his temper, and wrought such a change in it, that at times his intimate friends as well as the members of his own family durst not approach him. How to subdue this evil disposition of his mind, was a difficulty he could not command strength sufficient to effect, if he had done so, he would have dared every affliction, and determinately braved his distemper by resolving to serve  
Society

Society a little longer, which he has injured by retiring before his time.

Mr. GOLDSMID'S affability was too conspicuous in his general carriage to be overlooked by the most superficial observer. His Servants he even treated with respect, and the Masters who attended the family for the education of the juvenile branches, have all had reason to regret his catastrophe. He treated them all more like friends than dependents, such an influence had abilities over his mind. His views in the benefits he bestowed on such, might have been construed by strangers as impertinencies and affronts, but his way of doing good was quite his own, and was at once delicate and effectual. For one, he procured a liberal Subscription to a volume of Poems; for another Author, he defrayed the entire expences of an edition of his Canzonets. He not only presented but lent considerable sums to persons in such wants, and upon no other security than their own, and much of which is still unpaid. His liberalities, says an intimate friend, if they could be distinctly recorded, would at once shame and surprise a selfish age; but he seemed to possess a peculiar mind that delighted in giving,  
and

and sought no other 'return but the certification of the efficacy of the gift.

With such a disposition and every surrounding object to render him happy, it is much to be lamented that he had indulged himself too much in constitutional fits of melancholy, which had nearly periodical returns, and when affected thereby, he was as it were insensible to every object around him.

It was on these occasions as difficult to dislodge the disorder as to guess at the cause or bring a remedy to it. Nothing is more hazardous in the whole science of Physic than the administration to a diseased mind. The obstinate Hypochondriasm defied all their attempts to expel it. His melancholy was of that dark and bitter kind which is the most incurable, as it averts from every remedy and seems only the more exasperated by the tender officiousness of friends. On these occasions he would break out into the most unreasonable fits of passion, but this violence was only momentary, and after coming to himself the reparation had more grace than the injurious passion had offence.

The Gout added also a great effect to  
this

this disorder of his mind, and which by some unaccountable fatality almost invariably visited him during the several moments of his mental melancholy. Then it was not without the utmost difficulty, that any impression could be made on him from an excessive indolence, that had grown upon him by imperceptible degrees, and which according to his own expression had prevented his rest for many years.

From this irritably fixed disposition arose his latter indifference towards company some time before his death. His family became strangers to him, and all the efforts made to recall his senses were answered with a passionate rebuff. This change proved his mind totally unhinged, and his friends mourned in secret their former lost influence over him. Nor could the faculty refer this sad melancholy to any distinct cause, for like others affected the same way he absolutely refused all communication of its object and effective cause.

Hence must be refuted all the idle stories related of his pecuniary losses with Dutch and other Houses. It was the settled result of a long indulged mental depression, which his mind had  
not

not sufficient energy to relieve itself, and which at last, sad to tell, wrought his destruction.

With the above exceptions in his latter days, Mr. GOLDSMID was as amiable in domestic life as in his public character. An excellent husband, a tender father, and an hospitable neighbour; nothing was wanting to make him completely happy, but to have resolved to rid himself of this malady altogether, for insanity is most often induced by too intensely thinking on one object. Had he thus endeavoured, his name might have been hereafter recorded as one of the brightest ornaments of life.

Mr. GOLDSMID was one of the wealthiest individuals in England, but his riches could not prevent him from falling into that unhappy disposition of mind, so fatal to many in this country, and which has been attributed to a natural cause in the air by some, but is more likely to be the effect of a sudden and total change in the Moral System, which turns self and social love with the natural desire of preservation, to hatred and destruction, and the commission of the most felonious crime humanity can be guilty.

Our curiosity, no doubt would have received the highest gratification had we been more fully acquainted with the features of Mr. GOLDSMID's mind in the more early part of his mental derangement, but till the fatal period arrived none of his family or friends suspected his being so far depraved as to lay violent hands on himself. Such rashness, in a man so sensible in every other respect, in the prime of life, and in possession of every thing that could render existence the bordering of happiness, or make its continuance desireable, is what both surprised and shocked his friends.

And, in fact, so strongly is the instinctive love of life made to operate, that in the Bible, Satan is represented in the book of Job, as saying, "Skin after skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life." And we may add, that in the plan of God's moral government, self love is made the standard by which every other regard to our fellow creatures is to be measured, as the Poet observes,

That true SELF LOVE and SOCIAL is the same.

But can we for a moment suppose a man may shew a love of himself by taking away his own life, whenever he has the  
inclination

inclination because he has the power? Such absurdity needs no confutation, for the light of nature and the innate laws of every man's heart, condemn Suicism, as a most unnatural, irrational action, highly provoking to the Sovereign LORD, and only proprietor of life and death. Fashionable and false ideas of modern refinement have given this folly the colour of fortitude. Our Theatres sanction it by examples and classical representations; and the Debating Societies have lately taken up the subject with too much eagerness. It is perhaps too often to their decisions that public opinions are formed, and their debates become the medium through which some of the most serious things are viewed.

Let those who fondly reckon SUICISM, equal to the cardinal virtue of FORTITUDE, ask themselves the question, whether after they have dispersed their animal life, by any way stopping its functions, that it is in their power to destinate their "living principle of thought" to the Earth with their bodies? That, we have from the highest assurance must survive and at an appointed time hereafter receive the reward such an atrocious action merits from an insulted master.



The consideration of these things, and of a few other reasons on this subject which present themselves, make me think with the two physicians who gave it as their opinions to the Coroner at Roehampton, that our unfortunate subject was Insane, and taken the moment he perpetrated it with a paroxism that rendered him momentarily callous to every feeling of duty to himself and society. It could not proceed from bodily distemper, or with the fancied view of throwing off some painful burdens, or to avoid any apprehended fatal disgrace or public shame; to escape some threatened evil, or in short, to seek a quieter and more comfortable situation in the silence of the grave. Mr. GOLDSMID as I have clearly shewn was surrounded in an earthly Paradise, and if I may use the expression rolled in affluence and luxury, with the most delightful prospect of its moral continuance.

Yet, amidst this scene of terrestrial happiness he wanted patience; courage in this case without that, is the most greivous folly that can befall man; to rush into the presence of the universal Judge with all his faults on his head, like a centinel who has basely deserted his post; his doom makes one shudder, to think  
what

what must become of a man who thus voluntarily quits this probationary state, before his time and flies from his recompense without accomplishing his work.

I know, I may be blamed for thus bitterly inveighing against this popular error, to call it by no worse name as it is fashionable for modern Madness to take to an instrument, a pistol, a rope, or the water, and what is the most shocking of all, to see the fair sex follow the fatal example, and become as profuse of life as the mistaken generation of men. What apology can be made for such rashness, if downright madness is not in the case, as in the present one? But alas! "we are fallen into evil times, when the laws of reason, nature, and God, have lost all their authority with a thoughtless world," and error closes the scene that repentance cannot wash away.

Tell us ye dead, if any of you can,  
Beyond this life what is the future plan?  
Some courteous Ghost if any such there be,  
Tel' us in after life what things you see?  
But you're withheld—no matter—Death will call,  
The curtain drop, and time will clear up all.

The morality of this part of my narrative, I hope will not be displeasing, when it is considered I am entering on the most serious part of my history, that of

the few last hours of Mr. GOLDSMID'S life, who filled up his career on the 11th of April 1808, at his Country House, at Roehampton.

Nothing was perceived in Mr. GOLDSMID'S deportment the day previous to the fatal action, that could in any way indicate the catastrophe that soon followed. I must, however state, that he was a man who sullied an otherwise most amiable disposition by frequent bursts of passion. The serenity of his mind, like the clear unruffled calm of a summer sky, was often suddenly and tempestuously disturbed upon the most trivial occasion. However it must be owned, that the storm was soon over, and he fulfilled, as I have before related at large, all the social and reciprocal duties of life. His character was beyond his riches, and shone with more than diamond brilliancy, not only among his numerous friends but eminently so in the tear that prompt from the heart, glistens in the eyes of his relatives and the poor in particular, Roehampton will many years lament his loss.

The Sunday evening previous to the fatal accident, he ordered his carriage to be in readiness by Nine o'Clock on  
Monday

Monday morning: Mrs. GOLDSMID was generally in the habit of sleeping in a different apartment from her husband when attacked or afflicted with the gout, a disorder he was often troubled with, and this was the case in the present instance. On the occasion, a man-servant slept in the same Chamber with his master. From the top of Mr. GOLDSMID'S bed a silk cord was suspended, by which he was better enabled to alter his position and turn himself. About eight on Monday morning he rose and ordered the servant to go and get him a shirt properly aired. This was the awful and approaching moment of the catastrophe, for on his return he found the door bolted within. He repeatedly required admittance, but no answer being returned, his suspicions were awakened and so greatly alarmed, that he immediately communicated his fears for his master's safety in such a manner as threw the whole house into the utmost terror. The door was directly burst open, when horrid to relate! the dreadful spectacle presented itself of Mr. GOLDSMID'S suspension by the silk cord, and then apparently gone out of life. It is impossible to describe the confusion, fright, horror, and distress of the family, for the loss of the best of husbands, fathers, and masters. He was then lifeless,  
and

and though assistance was immediately imparted, the utmost skill was in vain; for the pulse of life had stopt its vibration, and the anxious spirit which fluttered within was fled, and let us piously hope Peace accompanied it to a better world.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID, moreover, was latterly peculiarly given to the indulgence of solitary habits which nourished his naturally melancholy penchant, which became alarming to a degree, though not enough to place proper persons about him as in a case of positive Lunacy. And it is but justice to repeat again, that this worthy family did all in their power to divert his mind on these occasions, and administered all the consolation which an anxious affection would suggest. Mr. GOLDSMID seemed fully aware of this amiable conduct; no one in a word, loved his family with more affection, and but for this fatal humour, the happiness of this household was as pure and complete as could any where be found within the compass of this imperfect state.

Though Mr. GOLDSMID's death occurred early on Monday morning, the Coroner's Jury were not impannelled for the necessary Inquest till Wednesday afternoon.

afternoon. They sat but a short time, and unanimously gave the verdict of LUNACY according to the evidence before them.

Mr. GOLDSMID's age was about 55, his relict is about ten years younger, Mrs. GOLDSMID has had seven children, five sons and two daughters. The eldest son, a fine young man of about 19 years of age is at present one of the Gentlemen of the Putney Corps. The slanderous report of his being Naturalised and having abjured Judaism, as given out in several public papers, is totally unfounded and void of truth.

Much has been said in the Public Prints about the *High Priest's* refusal of his remains being received within the usual limits of their Burial Ground, and that the body had been deposited without the wall; but nothing can be more unfounded than this report, as the following circumstances will clearly evince.

The ignorance, prejudice, and presumption, of this false assertion is only equalled by the temerity and confidence with which it is laid down.

BELL's MESSENGER, MAY 1, suggests,

gests the worst of reasons on this act, and infers a *consciousness* of the horribility of the fact in our Community; the paragraph is as follows.

“ So strong was the general persuasion of the criminal suicide of Mr. Goldsmid, amongst his own sect, that, upon a private application to the Synagogue, the Elders of the Jewish Church in England, are understood to have refused him the usual Ceremonies of interment.”

Other Papers after this have dwelt upon these unfounded insinuations, and introduced others because the result of the Coroner's Jury's deliberations was not made public before three days had elapsed; and then, because the circumstances were not so fully explained as they thought ought to be the case, they cruelly raised the cry of “ Suspicion” and “ Mystery,” as if the distresses of a worthy family was not great enough by the loss of their head, but every trivial unconnected circumstance must be detailed with the principal catastrophe, as if the rage for anecdotes was to be satisfied before charity had thrown her mantle over the unfortunate action that first attracted the public attention.

Newspapers are supposed by some to be proper vehicles of truth and information, but are observed too often to excite the contempt of the judicious by their eagerness to satisfy the indiscreet curiosity of the vulgar and inquisitive. Authentic and impartial information is truly valuable; but vague and idle conjectures are too insignificant to merit serious reproach, but when they lead the mind away at the expence of something that is serious. Their columns must be filled, but Editors that direct such presses should be cautious how they tread on foreign ground.

One tells you, that upon the extraordinary death of Mr. GOLDSMID, "application was made to the Elders of the Synagogue." But where are those Elders? Jews know no Elders, but such as are spoken of in the books of Moses and the Judges. The Jewish Church is invariably governed by upper and under Wardens, who are annually elected like the Churchwardens of the Church of England. As to the Community holding a *consciousness* of the horribility of Mr. GOLDSMID's action, is a wretched untruth that has not a shadow to support it, no more than what follows, that they denied him the usual Rites of interment but laid him aside. This last assertion is as gross an insult



upon the Laws of the Country as could be written by the most abusive pen: For to what reason could the Community have alluded to lay him aside in an unprivileged part, when according to a true verdict of twelve honest men before the Coroner, they had upon oath brought him in insane. Such being the fact, what right could his people exercise in that case more than Christians could do? Had not the Jury brought in a Verdict of Lunacy, and was not that sufficient to insure him a grave in a regular place of interment? Gentile or Jew, if brought in *Felo de se*, must be interred in the Cross Road, but any other Verdict saves the remains from dishonour, and a Culprit however deep his crime, when on trial he is discovered insane is out of the reach of Criminal law. The only difference we make in Jews' burials, is with those who have been notoriously relaxed in their Religious Principles, or any Criminal who has suffered the law; these indeed are assigned to a separate and distinct place in the Burial Ground appointed for that occasion.

The self same sufficiency and spirit of assumption gives me the opportunity of making another remark in this place, on a paragraph of the EXAMINER, MAY

18, page 286, from which by certain symptoms one might expect something more exact, and which has the following words.

“The *High Priest* would not permit the body to be interred in the Burial Ground.” This repetition of a falsehood is, I suppose, to make the world believe, that the *High Priest* is at the head of all posthumous affairs, but nothing can be more incompatible with truth. This Gentleman, who is no more than Expounder of the Law, as I have before said, had too many obligations to the deceased and his family, to make any objection, had he even possessed the preventive power. In this case he had little to say, and particularly, as the Laws of the Country by the mouth of the Coroner had fully and sufficiently answered the point of the regularity of his funeral, in denominating the manner of his death to proceed from the infirmity of his mental faculty.

Nor can it be reasonably imagined, that an individual like the one in question, continually taking gifts and presents from the rich, could act with the severity and firmness necessary to effect such an arrangement, had it even been in his line

of duty to act in that cautious manner. The reader may remember, that in a former part of this narrative, I related the late Mr. GOLDSMID's munificence to this Gentleman in appropriating a considerable piece of his ground for the Growth of Wheat, to make fine flour for his Passover Cakes, and for his whole family's use at that festival; besides the many valuable gifts he was constantly receiving at the hands of this Gentleman when he was alive. I can only lament with others, that a person holding such an appointment as the MAJOR RABBI, or EXPOUNDER of the LAW, should be weak enough to submit to such meanness; but as an honest Poet somewhere says,—

“ Priests of all Religions are the same.”

Ours should be of an amiable independency of character, whose principles and practices should attract and attach him to every one's feelings, as well to the poor in mind as to the rich in purse. In short, he should be an Israelite in whom could be found no guile. But I am sorry to say, that, the improvements of modern manners in this age, do not promise such a Character to rise among the Community of Jews in England in any reasonable time of expectation.

I

I should finish my animadversion on these circumstances in this place, if I did not think it necessary to corroborate what I have just before said by an extract from the INDEPENDENT WHIG, wherein the Editor in an eloquent and manly address to his readers, announcing Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID'S Funeral on Friday Morning, April 15, says, "His Relations are rich, but his death requires our commiseration, though there was little excuse for jealousy, rashness, or passion. When the oppressions of the rich, when taxation, a destructive war and other public calamities, reduce the people to want, there is some palliation for the dreadful sin of Suicism, but not so much for the rich." And pray, why not as much for those as others of inferior fortune, are they not alike subject to the casualties of nature? After this he declines the subject with a severe declamation against pride, and concludes in a climax of words that suit the exit of an orator much better than the conclusion of a paragraph in a Political Paper like *the Independant Whig*.

The Burial of Mr. GOLDSMID was very private at an early hour on the Friday Morning following. The Corpse arrived at the place of interment in Whitechapel Road, about seven in the Morning, in

a hearse followed by two mourning coaches. The body was deposited in the ground in the most solemn manner. No strangers were admitted, but the Wardens of the Synagogue and those in office.

The many instances of self destruction which the refinements of modern times have introduced into manners and practice, are too notorious to pass by unnoticed after the foregoing fatal detail, and require the severest animadversion that sober reason can adduce against a principle we are led to believe equally inimical to heaven and man.

As to the various excitements Men may have to do such a criminal action, we must look with abhorrence on the cool reasoners and argumentative heads who have set down formal rules for the conduct of Men under certain degrees of affliction, whether from above or induced on themselves by their own folly and misconduct. It is painful to think, that a writer so eminent for the best abilities as Hume, should so far debase himself as to become an apologist for SuicISM, after he must have read the Criticisms on Addison's Cato, and the actions of other Romans for this crime, which from its very nature excludes Repentance, nor  
leaves

leaves a moment to implore the mercy of an offended God at its perpetration.

Hence, I contemplate the most celebrated ancient Romans, as having tarnished by this last and fatal act of their lives, the lustre and glory of their distinguished characters; for, what did they do, but retire in anger from a world that admired their actions? Like a Centinel that should desert his post, a Man may consider himself who withdraws from his assigned part in life's existence, the first may be shot, and by analogy of argument the last has no other reason but to expect he has to meet an offended God.

The force of this observation will be felt when we consider how they lived who finished their course in this manner among the ancient nations; they were the favorites of fortune who could not bear the least reproach to reach their ears, or trouble to affect them in their prosperity, and when the day of adversity arrived, the act of Suicism was put in practice, sullenly to insult the majestic presence of that Infinite spirit, who, as Job says, "In his hand is the soul of every living thing." And again in another place, he says, "The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."

life." Therefore what can be thought of a character who so feloniously thrusts it from him, determined for a little worldly disappointment to enter the dark chambers of death? Is it less than an act of the most outrageous and daring rebellion or high treason against the only adorable author of life? Hence, and for this reason, we may presume that no possible circumstance of either painful or perilous condition can render this action a justifiable behaviour of man.

Murderers are punished with death by the Laws of God and Man, and both laws suppose the innate principle of self love would preserve a man's own life on all occasions, but his wickedness perverts every thing, and that principle is made a pretext to take away his own life, because he is discontented with his station here, and thinks perhaps that he can sink his vital principle of spiritual life with his body, but we are informed that must survive and remain sensible of punishment or pleasure in a future state of existence.

Mr. GOLDSMID with all the good qualities attributable to him, and with such an improvable fortune and discreet family, might assuredly have been the happiest  
of

of men. But it is not my place to go too far in the most subtle part of the question of Insane or Criminal Suicism, lest my reader should understand me amiss or two widely from the truth, for as the Poet justly says, in a celebrated moral essay,

“ Who shall decide when Doctors disagree.”

Upon these considerations, however, I deem it necessary distinctly to state that all the moral evidence deducible in this case proves, that a temper like Mr. GOLDSMID'S required great delicacy in its treatment; that it was amiable and suited to the reciprocal participation of domestic felicity; but that when tortured with the Gout it was subject to transient absences of reason or eclipses of the mind, that like a cloud obscuring the sun, causes a partial darkness: and hence a sufficient warrant to the public for a solemn verdict of LUNACY, and most particularly when deposed to by two respectable professional men, who must be allowed to be the best judges on the fatal occasion.

If the person whose rashness determines him in such an action would but reflect a little, he could never resolve on staining and disturbing the felicity of his own  
family



family and children, and hazard the loss of his property, together with the concomitant insults to which he consequently exposes his remains. This is only what respects this world, with regard to the next, God avert, that instead of being found the injured person, the Suicide may be not declared the offender.

If persons in superior life from whom the brightest examples are expected, are allowed to sink into the grave under the false notions and imputations of a few hasty individuals, who, to fill up their daily or weekly task, are admired for defaming the dead as well as the living, what must become of the character of the poor individual, who quits this existence without even a "longing or lingering look behind?" It is then thought a trifling insignificant affair; yet at the same time, so noble and dignified a creature as man, formed for the greatest of purposes has fallen a sacrifice by penury to a most unhallowed custom, perhaps induced by the arguments of vanity and presumption.

Providence has made an admirable provision for the happiness of all Beings. Man alone. Instead of instinct has a dangerous supplement to it placed in his power, and that is Reason, the perversion  
of

of which causes all our fatal follies and mistakes. But far be it from me to blame any one in the present instance, but the invisible link by which we are tied together is often of too fine a texture to bear the sudden vibrations from outward objects.

It cannot be denied but that our friend fell from the pinnacle of existence, during the impulsion of momentary distraction, from an inconsistent disposition of mind, which I hope, I have satisfactorily accounted for from corporeal infirmity. But Mr. GOLDSMID indulged himself in that imbecility of mind, which has always been too prevalent in England to be totally removed by argument, while even timidity in the fair sex cannot resist the example too often set before them.

Having with the utmost impartiality and candour, given a true and faithful detail of the principal circumstances of Mr. GOLDSMID'S Life, there remains but little more to observe in this place on the subject of his unfortunate departure as before related. The Papers having suggested doubtful reasons for this premature step, it is but justice to call back a short retrospect of his principal transactions in public and private life. From  
his

his first appearance here, he had been remarked for his integrity in trade and conversability of manners. His family connections were of the most respectable sort, and the tenor of his life as even as the stream that flowed near his estate. With all these advantages it must be confessed, that, if they did not center in equanimity of mind, the dash of sweetness was lost in the commotion created by the jar of passions, like opposite elements contending together, the collision of which in the event with him produced certain death.

If the flattering exertions of an amiable and affectionate family, the undisturbed tranquillity of a successful train of commercial concerns, and the unequivocal approbation of the British Senate, by the Ministers, the Minority as well as the Committee of Finance: I say, if all these soothing circumstances could not "smoothe his way through life's precarious span;" nothing less than outrageous madness could have intoxicated his mind to that degree of insanity as to deprive his life of continuance.

I know, I shall be here accused of partiality, in writing as I have done according to the dictates of my own mind,  
but

but I would wish to be clearly understood, that I am only urged by the most impartial motives, and to rescue the memory of a worthy but mistaken individual from suffering for ever from the reproach, of *knowing what he was about*, when he deprived himself of existence.

Among the recent instances which have occurred of impudent and unprecedented forgery, must be ranked Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID'S WILL detailed in the Papers: It is difficult to conceive were this imposition originated. But so it is, we read Newspapers for facts and find them filled with more falsehoods than truths, and this is exactly the case with what the Public have been amused with under the title of the unhappy Gentleman's WILL; as all the Papers have determined on disposing of his property in a manner which he never thought of; for upon my application at Doctors Commons for a sight and perusal of the Original, so lately as the 8th of July, I was, to my utter astonishment informed nothing of the kind had been Registered in that Court. In fact, that there was NONE YET PROVED. From this the Public may see how these vehicles of abuse and falsehood are manufactured. Like Modern Philosophers, who think they lose their characters if

if they do not account for every Phenomena in Nature, so the Editors of these daily and weekly works repeat after each other the *lies* of their own fabrications to account for the future possession and disposal of a man's estate. The late Mr. GOLDSMID died rich, and these modern reporters distribute his property according to their whims. It is among the nuisances of the present day one of the greatest, that a remarkable man, perhaps one of the most useful and peaceable, cannot depart this world but their surviving relatives must be immediately insulted with some of their *own* compositions, a thing as solemn as a last WILL and TESTAMENT, and we lament when the verdict of a Jury consigns such to a solitary confinement for not keeping strictly within the verge of propriety.

The Public may from this search of the Commons conjecture that the unfortunate subject of this Memoir, died intestate and has left his surviving relatives to dispose of the effects, no part of which difficulty, will I think, be ever communicated to any of the Public Papers.

F I N I S.

L. ALEXANDER, Printer,  
40, Whitechapel Road.