



MRS BENJ. GOLDSMID,

*of Reckhampton.*

*Pub. by J. Alexander: 1. July. 1802. 40. Whitechapel Road.*



# MEMOIRS

OF THE

# LIFE

AND

COMMERCIAL CONNECTIONS,

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE,

OF THE LATE

*BENJ. GOLDSMID, ESQ.*  
*OF ROEHAMPTON;*

CONTAINING

A CURSORY VIEW

OF THE

JEWISH SOCIETY AND MANNERS.

INTERSPERCED WITH INTERESTING ANECDOTES

*Of Several Remarkable Characters.*

---

By *L. ALEXANDER.*

---

“ Nought extenuate, nor ought set down in malice ”

---

---

London :

PRINTED BY AND FOR THE AUTHOR,

And Sold by him, at No. 40, Whitechapel-Road ; and to be had of H. D. SYMONS, No. 20, Paternoster-Row ; Holmes, No. 1, Royal Exchange ; and of all Booksellers and News Carriers throughout the United Kingdoms.

---

1808.

*Entered at Stationers Hall.*

2/11/41

Judicial  
Board  
G6  
808a

## MEMOIRS.

---

THE fashion of *Apologising* that prevailed some years in England is not followed in the following narrative, which only promises to relate facts and delineate circumstances just as they happened, untinged with envy or magnified by friendship and pride. The author having no other view but the public information, for whom animated by truth with candor he proceeds to give the following pages under the preceding title.

The life of him who has an opportunity of writing it himself, is supposed to be but the genuine truth, as he must be best acquainted with it himself, which another cannot so intimately know, but the former may have many reasons for concealing that truth which is oftner the case than  
with

with the second person, who feeling no motive for disguising facts, can only fail in the principles of action; for no man has yet searched the heart of another: the ability for that purpose residing only in HIM who created us. The History of a man who has not had any opportunity of presenting to the public a spectacle for their admiration, as general or naval officers, whose perilous adventures claim the ear of public curiosity in a particular manner, must have a secret interest in the minds of the public to expect their attention to what happens with all men in the same situation as themselves. But as every life, if properly written, though not checquered with much vicissitudes, and only spent in the bosom of family and friendship, may be of advantage to the public as the same circumstances are likely to all, I here present to the observation of our Community in particular, and the world in general, a specimen of TRUTH in private life, which without exciting much admiration, may in every one but the *last*, remain an example of imitative conduct on many occasions. Guided by justice and candor I proceed to the task in the spirit of him who wrote the history of his contumacious and rebellious companions in the wilderness.

AARON GOLDSMID, the father of this family, was a Native of Holland, where all his children were born. He brought them over and settled here, about the year 1765, and first resided in Gun-Square, Houndsditch, where he was known among the most respectable of the Jewish Community; from which situation he removed to No. 25, Leman Street, Goodman's Fields, the House where the business was carried on under the firm of AARON GOLDSMID and SON, and which now retains the name of GOLDSMID and ELIASON.

He had eight children, four sons, and four daughters.

GEORGE GOLDSMID, the eldest, was originally the father's Partner, as before observed. He married a rich Dutch young Lady, an agreeable and what is still better, a worthy and good woman.

ASHER, the second son, Bullion Broker to the Bank, and who was Partner with old MR. MOCATTA of Mansell Street. This Gentleman married a Miss KEYSER, a Lady with a large fortune.

BENJAMIN, the third son, the lamented subject of these Memoirs, married Miss

JESSE SALOMON\*, of Clapton, the daughter of an eminent East India Merchant, with whom he received a dowry, not more indeed than suitable to his own situation in life.

ABRAHAM, the youngest son, married Miss ELIASON, of Amsterdam, a Lady of great fortune, and extensive family connections.

MISS GOLEY, the eldest daughter, married a Mr. JOACHAM of Amsterdam, a Gentleman of immense fortune.

MISS ESTHER, the second daughter, married another JOACHAM, brother to the former, and both their first cousins.

MISS POLLY, the third daughter, married Mr. DE SYMONS, a Diamond Merchant, well known among the principal jewellers in the Metropolis.

MISS SARAH, the youngest daughter, a beautiful young Lady, married Mr. ELIASON, the brother of Mr. ABRAHAM GOLDSMID's wife, a Gentleman of the first respectability

\* To obviate a difficulty the reader may be under here in respect to the family name, since assumed of PRAGER, I have just to remark, that after the demise of the father the rest of the children took that appellation which was their father's at all



respectability, and an eminent Diamond Merchant.

Before I proceed any further in this narrative, it will be, I think, necessary to give a short outline of the life and principal transactions of Mr. JOACHAM, Miss ESTHER's husband, whose eccentricity made him be very much remarked by the world, and was the cause of great uneasiness to his family. In the course of this part of the work, it will be necessary to anticipate my primary intention, and over-run my first limits a little way. However, as nothing will be mentioned that is any way irrelevant to my biographical sketch, the reader, I hope will excuse this desultory digression with MESSRS. GOLDSMID's brother-in-law, who was also MR. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID's companion in his travels on the Continent, as I shall hereafter relate.

MR. JOACHAM the elder, the father of three sons of the same name, died immensely rich in Holland. Two of these Gentlemen, married, as I have before mentioned, two of the Miss GOLDSMID's, one took Miss GOLEY, the other Miss ESTHER. Their father's death occasioned a great alteration in the management of their business, and each became a separate dealer on his own account.



account. The husband of ESTHER, extended his connections so widely, that although possessed of very considerable effect, yet he left himself in that dilemma of not being prepared to settle a bill when it became due. If the improvident amidst their imprudence, thought of the awkward situation they place themselves in, when they become obligated to others for assistance, even to a brother, they would retract, I think, from their folly, and let him who knows not the value of a Guinea, go about and borrow a Shilling, and he will find it a disagreeable task subject to the casualty of refusal. However, Mr. JOACHAM'S first application to his brother was successful; his difficulty was removed, and he went on as usual.

A short time after, for as Solomon says, what has been, may be again, another application was made to the same quarter, for the same purpose, but not quite with the same success. The facility with which his brother had before removed his difficulty made him flatter himself that the second occasion would be as easily concluded.

The first favor not being returned, and so early an application for another, rather alarmed his brother for his situation in  
life;

life ; he had no objection still of fulfilling his request, provided he would grant him the inspection of his books. Now, though he had no wish to withhold these testimonies in his favour, yet he thought himself highly hurt and insulted by this request of his brother.

He lived at this period, as well as at all former times, in the greatest harmony with his family ; but as Tristram Shandy says, “ Man is but man,” a whimsical idea entered his head, of absenting himself. Mysterious and perplexing absence is often worse felt than downright loss. Every inquiry and scrutiny was made after him, yet to no effect so secretly and suddenly had he withdrawn himself ; but after much search, information was obtained at an Inn, that he had taken post and gone to Ostend. By the time his pursuers had reached the place, it was found that he had been there, and received from a person with whom he dealt, the amount which he requested of his brother, and transacted with him for other property that he carried with him to a very considerable sum.

During the beginning of his absence, his family being much alarmed on the occasion, began to examine into his  
 affairs,

affairs, and it was found by his books, that he had various and good property, and that after every demand should be justly settled, he might be considered as a man of fortune.

MR. JOACHAM in his tour, had reached Barcelona in Spain, where meeting with an acquaintance, to whom he was formerly in habits of intimacy with, MR. JOACHAM wished to renew his familiarity with him; but this character not being willing to acknowledge his friendship, on account of his dangerous situation, being a Jew in an arbitrary country, and subject to the inquisition, denied having any knowledge of him, and contrived the following plot to get our traveller from the place before he became known.

His first step he took was to the house where MR. JOACHAM lodged, and by insinuations and other indirect means, persuaded his landlord to get rid of him, out of his house as soon as possible, to avoid further disagreeable circumstances; and indeed, so alarmed the man, that on his coming home, he remonstrated in the strongest terms on the danger and impropriety of his remaining in his house, and advised him to return directly on board the ship that had brought him there,

there, as the safest asylum for one in such perilous circumstances.

The man who barter his religion for his convenience, becomes a suspicious character in every moral sense, and if any thing indicates a villain, this circumstance forms the strongest feature of one. This was the case with this Israelite; he had embraced the religion of the place, and with it all the hypocrisy that accompanies Priestcraft in a Catholic country. One BRUN had just at that time become notorious, by his forgeries on the *Dutch bank*, for which he fled the country, and sought refuge in foreign parts. Now it happened, that the natural appearance of MR. JOACHAM'S person, as well as his acquired abilities in various languages rendered him unfortunately an object of such similitude with this miscreant, that it came into his head to denounce him to the Spanish tribunal of the inquisition as the fraudulent character in question. By this transaction, MR. JOACHAM got into a very dangerous and difficult affair; he was taken from his ship, confined in a foreign and despotic country, for a crime against all nations, and in the utmost danger from the forbidden aspect of his principles of religion. He might have lain in prison a long time, if he had  
not



not found favour with the goaler. His prepossessing appearance being much like that of a Gentleman, so far gained on the man's opinion of him, that he actually advised him to write to the Dutch Consul in Barcelona for an interview, which soon produced a visit from that Gentleman, who directed him to write to the Stadtholder at the Hague and his friends, acquainting them of his danger, and the cause of his detention, and to give him such papers, and he would forward the same. Accordingly he wrote three letters, one to the Stadtholder, another to the High Priest, and one to his Brother; all three containing an exact account of his then present situation, with forcible reasons to the latter for his exerting himself in this disagreeable affair.

Nothing can exceed the joy and surprize mixed with apprehension of danger of his family at home, when they came to the knowledge of his case; but he was still alive, and that circumstance was every thing to them, as Pope says——

On him their second providence they hang,  
His eye their law, their oracle his tongue.

He had been absent near a twelve  
month;

month, and to get him home every diligence was used; the Stadtholder sent directions to the Consul for his release, with the proper identifications of his person to the Magistrates of the place, and exonerating him from the false charge of being the proscribed BAUN before mentioned.

His former escape from his friends and family still dwelt so much on their minds, that they thought it prudent to send a friend over to bring him back, and serve as a companion to divert his thoughts from any future rambling.

Every mind is not capable of remaining long settled in one place, and those who have once been abroad are perpetually in danger of falling again into the same way of life, so fond is all mankind of variety and change; for though most men take to business, yet the thoughts of seeing more of the world than they can in their city, is so fascinating, that many besides Mr. JOACHAM, wander abroad in search of pleasure as well as trade, though of all professions of faith, we suffer the most inconvenience in travelling, from the exactitude required of us in the observance of our law.

After a short stay at home of about a twelve month, his roving disposition led him away again, and he came over to England with his family and *household goods*. On his arrival here, he took up his abode in Brown's-Buildings, St. Mary Axe.

His erratic disposition did not permit him to remain long in one place. After about a twelve month's abode in England, he returned back again to Holland, with all his *Household Furniture*. It seems he liked both places by turns, but neither one long, for he soon after came back again and settled for a short time at Exeter, where he imagined he could live cheaper than at any other part of England. His travelling thus backward and forward, was not attended with a trifling expence, for on all these expeditions the whole of his *household stuff* was in motion. After a short residence in this quarter, something displeased him again, which made him return to Holland with his family once more, whence restless as before he came over again and engaged a House in Plymouth.

This absurd conduct, with his previous proceedings, very much alarmed his  
father

father in law Mr. AARON GOLDSMID and his sons, which made them insist on his coming to settle in London, near themselves, and that a settlement of £2000. should be directly made on his wife, which he readily complied with, and, in consequence, a House was taken at No. 2, Great Prescot Street, Goodman's Fields; for the reception of his family when they arrived from Holland.

I shall now leave this Gentleman, waiting the arrival of his family, as I have just said, and relate some particular and material passages of the early part of Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID'S life.

The failure of CRIFFORD and SAYER, one of the first Houses in Holland, shook the firm of Messrs. AARON and GEORGE GOLDSMID in London to its foundation; a truth which I would willingly have withheld, had it not been in its circumstances so intimately connected with the principal subject of these Memoirs. Though no blame can attach to the respectability of the family from an unforeseen event not in the least within their liability in this country on their own account. This induced the father to send his third son BENJAMIN after the age of thirteen, the usual time of confirmation of



of our youths, to visit a rich uncle at Amsterdam, of whom the young man was a great favorite, conceiving thereby, that the old Gentleman would do something for him in the way of preferring him in the world. But this uncle was not a liberal minded man, he was in short what the world calls a *Miser*, and gave him so little hopes of doing any thing for him then, that in a short time he returned home, like the fox who found the grapes out of his reach, and so reported them to be sour.

At his return home, he found the world, as Milton says, "All before him, and providence his guide." He then entered into Co-partnership with his brother ABRAHAM, when a new line was first chalked out to them by their Mercantile Friends, which was to take up the business of a *Bill Broker*, which for the benefit of those who are unacquainted with that concern, I shall explain in a few words. It is the middle man between the Merchant and the Monied Interest; a concern wholly unknown on the Royal Exchange till that time, which might be about the year 1777.

Their industry, sobriety, integrity, and filial affection, recommended them to the  
good

good opinion of all parties, and they became respected by the principal Merchants, and their independence was declared in every Commercial Circle, as well at home as abroad. They continued in this line for a length of time, when the aforementioned Uncle in Holland died, who not being permitted to transport his wealth to the other world, condescended to leave £ 15000. to these two brothers, and £ 1000. to each of their sisters. With this additional sum, and the concerns they were carrying on brought them into greater notice as men of the first respectability.

If love ev'n haunts the breast where learning lies,  
Why not take Brokers and Merchants by surprise?

Improving in his circumstances, a softer passion took hold of Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID's mind, and he became attached to a genteel and accomplished young Lady, a Brewers Daughter of Limehouse, which respectable and affectionate intercourse existed for some years; but his family, at last became alarmed on this occasion, and represented to him the impropriety of uniting with a person not of his own persuasion, and advised, in order to draw him off from this frivolous pursuit to take a trip to the

B 5

Continent,

Continent, and in the interim they engaged honorably to dispose of the young Lady.

By the importunate and numerous intercessions of his relations, he at length consented. One of his nearest friends undertook to negotiate this delicate affair for him with the young Lady, and happily succeeded in marrying her to a very respectable man in the Metropolis, to whom was given a considerable pecuniary compensation. Thus her hand was disposed of elsewhere, and she is now the mother of a handsome and numerous family.

The time being arrived for his departure, and Mr. JOACHAM in London waiting only for the proper arrangements being made for such a journey, Mr. GOLDSMID with reluctance bid adieu to his friends, and to his beloved sweetheart, the young Lady just mentioned, for the term which the policy of his relations had allotted for his absence from all he held dear, and which he could not help considering as a sort of punishment. He behaved on this juncture with a determined sort of coolness, not easily expected from one of his warmth of feeling, and at a time too when the passions are in their full vigor. His sisters, whose gentleness of heart began

to droop under the thoughts of their separation, was another affliction added to what he felt besides in his own breast, that he was himself obliged to employ every soothing argument he could imagine to comfort and restore them. This was obvious to every one who knew the family, for a more affectionate one never met in the world before. He bade them remember he should have them for ever in his thoughts, as well as see for whose affection he was necessitated to a temporary exile. "But why should I grieve," said he, "we are taught that the punishments of heaven are inflicted for a two fold purpose; to wipe away sorrow, and prevent future error."

He was actuated by the same steadiness of spirit in the disposal of every part of his own private concerns till he left London with his friend and brother in law Mr. JOACHAM. I shall not attempt here to describe his parting with them nor his whole family, it was nothing to what he felt on the occasion of taking his leave of his charming fair one. This was an account harder to compromise than any other. At length he resolved to take from it its solemnity, if he could not alleviate its pain. Having set with her  
the



the night before his departure, at his house till midnight, consoling her upon the hardness of their separation, which he represented but a business occurrence to be transacted, after which he should quickly return, earnestly recommending her to endeavour to keep up her spirits, which should support her during his absence, promising the friendship of his whole family, but most particularly of his youngest sister SARAH.

With such arguments and resolutions, interlardered with the softest expressions, he pretended to fall asleep, then waking as from a reverie, he got up suddenly and appointing an early hour for breakfast, withdrew from her unperceived, for she had wept herself to sleep. This moment he was himself again, yet he dropped a tear which hitherto he had never had occasion to do during their acquaintance. Instead of going to rest he flung himself into a Post Chaise that waited for him at the door, in which was his brother in law and fellow traveller Mr. JOACHAM. They then proceeded with the utmost speed to Harwich, where on their arrival they found the Packet ready to sail, which in a few hours conveyed them safely to Holland.

This

This farewell scene passed in the very room, a back parlour in Mr. GEORGE GOLDSMID'S house, now converted to a Compting House; an apartment which had often witnessed his warmest declarations of love. But here I shall drop my pen, for where the feelings are much and the expression but little, description will never succeed in the picture.

To a friend whom he could trust, and who had been his intimate in all his secrets, he sent a letter a few days after, recommending his dear charmer in the most expressive terms. "I leave with you," says his letter, "a trust more precious to my bosom than any other earthly good. Be her friend, as you have been mine; protect her who has not that assistance, I should have afforded, and if at any time you should bestow a thought upon me, remember her who was my only comfort, and whom the crossness of things has compelled to leave behind me in sorrow and affliction."

Such was the charge Mr. GOLDSMID gave his friend, respecting this first object of his affection, which he received with promises of becoming her monitor and guardian for his sake. This was the  
most

most affecting scene of Mr. GOLDSMID'S life at that time; and though it is an incident that has happened to thousands, let not those who have escaped its feeling, look with indifference on this portion of our history, or suffer their undisturbed apathy to pass it over without a proper allowance of its effects on a heart susceptible of the finest impressions.

Mr. GOLDSMID'S mind when on board the Packet was much relieved with Mr. JOACHAM'S lively conversation. His gloomy reflection by degrees gave way, and the expectation of what he was going to behold on the great theatre of the world, tended much to dissipate his grief, and by degrees he returned to his former way of thinking and activity.

I should not have been so particular, if I had not been writing to many persons, who probably have the advantage of not being altogether unacquainted with the characters I am delineating; therefore, I shall bring another companion (for so I think I may call him) of Mr. GOLDSMID'S. It is a Mr. HYMAN, an *orthodox* Cook, well known to several noble guests, who frequent the London Tavern on public occasions, for his exquisite and delicious Manufactory of  
*Almond*

*Almond Puddings*, a man who by his kneading and puffing has rendered himself agreeable to all parties and is a favorite of the family.

From dames of fashion to washing tubs,  
They all approv'd his syllabubs.

On Mr. GOLDSMID'S arrival at Amsterdam, he was received with the greatest joy and respect. He made his abode at Mr. JOACHAM'S house, where he was received by the family with the utmost affection and filial regard.

His time was now divided between amusement, business, and the reciprocal duties of friendship and compliance with the fashions and forms of Dutch politeness. Every one was eager to engross as much of his company as possible, and the Ladies particularly monopolized most of it, yet he was not so confined by these obcessions, as to loose sight of his grand principle the universal improvement of the morals and manners of the lower classes of the Jewish Community, which at a much earlier period he had adopted as a polar star to guide him through the wilderness of life, with becoming advantage to his contemporary  
and



and less fortunate companions all over the world.

Among those who had the principal interest in Mr. GOLDSMID's friendship of his own people, was MEMON ASSER, a learned and impartial Civilian of Amsterdam, whose company was coveted by the first circles of the city; also Mr. CAPADOCIA, a Physician, and Mr. DA COSTA, a Lawyer, and several other men of letters, for he found here, as well as further on in France, Germany, and in Italy, that the Hebrews had notwithstanding every obstacle advanced themselves forward in the Republic of letters. Would that as much could be said of our people here in England! But Heaven forbids their union with learning in this Country, and leaves them abject slaves of prejudice and obstinacy like their forefathers' were several Centuries ago.

From the subsequent consequences of Mr. GOLDSMID's vast success in England, his interest with the first Characters of this Kingdom, promised to perform well for the improvement and reformation of the rising generation; for like the benevolent Mr. HANWAY, his views were directed to the remotest points of moral perspective, as the surest means of reducing

ducing the whole to one uniform practice of beneficial improvement.

From Holland Messrs. GOLDSMID and JOACHAM travelled by leisure journies to France, Italy, and Germany, not like giddy post boys, galloping through cities with alarming haste, or creeping connoisseurs, noting old inscriptions and buying modern antiques; but with the more useful design of improving their own generation and country.

How few there are who schemes like his attend,  
Or mark the precepts that mankind amend,  
From pride and folly, contrary errors rise,  
But he who mends our morals must be wise.

In France he became acquainted with Jews, disputing with Christians, and getting the better of their oponents, ranking high in the sciences, and respected by their contemporaries of the most distinguished reputation. Mr. GOLDSMID conversed with many, who have left their names on record, though some are now no more. Mr. BLOCK, Mr. HEIRTZ, Mr. HARTEVIG, Mr. FRIEDLANDER, all dined with our travellers at Berlin, where he also found FRIENKEL, SCHOETLANDER, and WOLF JOHN. But  
c the

the most interesting man of them all, was Mr. BEN DAVID, President of the Society of Friends of Humanity, at that place.

This last Gentleman, Author of some profound Works, and who has endeavoured to apply Algebra to the Theory of taste in the Arts, is an academician, and member of several Foreign Societies; and yet a Jew, though blessed with genius. Many more might be added to this catalogue, who have as fair a claim to public approbation for their advances and labours in the polite arts. From the most authentic information then it is plain, that, the Community in Foreign parts, are more improved as well as more respected than here, where they are little known but by their contrivances in traffic.

The principal object of Mr. GOLDSMID'S inquiry was the situation of the individuals in foreign countries. He felt for their state at home, as well as lamented their abject depression abroad; but above all things he wished to observe was their mode of educating their children in foreign countries, in order, if possible, to alleviate their condition at home on his return. Thus he united philanthropy and philosophy for application to the best of purposes.

The reader I presume is not to be told that the Jews are a despised race of unfortunate beings nearly all over the world, and must remain so as long as the present system of thinking is acted upon. To begin at home, it cannot be said they have not to complain of civil and political rights being unjustly withheld from them. Though fugitives and proscribed from this country for ages, yet they sought an asylum here when a ray of liberty began to twinkle in Cromwell's time, when other nations refused them existence among themselves. Though the calamities of taxation, exaction, and exception were not among their complaints here nor in Holland, yet they never had any incentive to become agriculturists. Their aversion did not arise as people foolishly imagine, from radical idleness, but from any interest in the land being withheld; hence commerce was the only road left open for them, and of that retail trade, which was more within their reach, offered to the poorest the means of immediate subsistence.

This mode of life offering only small and precarious profits produces a covetous, rapacious disposition, which is reproached to the whole nation. But the present day produces characters

c 2

amongst



amongst us whose elevation of mind is equal to their fortunes; who though their education has been but scanty, therefore feel more sharply the want of such advantages. To furnish this in an ample degree, was Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID'S latest wish, and nearly the only object of his inquiry abroad.

This mode of life of our people, suggested to the more wealthy the invention of bills of exchange, insurance and acceptance by which they eluded the severity of their enemies, being thereby enabled to transfer and transport their property in a letter to another country, and the Jews became at once the Brokers, and the Bankers of the World.

Our greatest enemies cannot deny this truth, "That the human character is intirely the effect of education." This, which in all civilized countries forms the future man, has the same influence on the Jew as the Gypsy, and if found defective both will alike be triflers and fall into insignificancy.

Under all these difficulties, Mr. GOLDSMID and his companions were surprised to find, that among the Jews of foreign parts, there were so many persons, who surmounted

surmounted by their ingenuity and perseverance every obstacle that persecution and public opinion opposed them with, and still to have acquired virtue and learning sufficient to make themselves useful to the countries they inhabited.

As these Gentlemen never reduced their minutes of observation into any sort of order, I am obliged to follow their communication as they were pleased to deliver it in conversation several years after their return home. But as it is particularly well known that their view was the investigation and improvement of the communities moral character, and that Mr. GOLDSMID's charity was great on that subject, we must give them credit for having seen every thing with the most accurate optics of mental observation. Mr. GOLDSMID's correspondence has also since, very much enlarged these views, and but for his untimely end, the future generation might have yet been very much benefited by his travels.

Virtue and talents generally follow in the train of liberty, and this is the reason why the Jewish community in Berlin have produced more enlightened men than any others. Our traveller's found

many very learned, and some of whom it is hoped are yet living.

They found the spirit of inquiry had raised the Jews in several parts of Germany to a corresponding level with their fellow citizens.

From Mr. GOLDSMID's information, it is confirmed, that hitherto, no Israelite, as such has ever had a seat in any of the French National Assemblies, into which all other opinions and colours have been admitted; but several have filled with honor the offices of judges, administrators and municipal officers. In the department of Mont Tonnerre, one of them was Mayor of his Commune and was esteemed a good farmer and an honest man.

From the same correspondence it is ascertained, that during the last twelve years France has communicated to all the Jews dispersed in her wide territories, computed at 100,000, every civil right of citizens. The elation Mr. GOLDSMID felt when he mentioned any of the above circumstances, shewed he had the character of his community at heart, and their improvement his utmost wish.

The

The French Jews he found had less dislike to the Military profession, than to the Naval, but would prefer Agriculture to every thing else after the war would be ended. A considerable number in all, from the different departments were serving, and are so yet, in the Army and Navy of France, several of whom are officers, and two had risen by merit to the rank of Chiefs of Battalions.

Nothing is more natural, than for travellers to associate with their countrymen abroad, and these gentlemen's object being the improvement of the minds of their people, it can be no wonder they were always to be found together. The celebrity of the GOLDSMID name procured all the information they wanted, which the modesty of the traveller applied to their improvement without the design of any fashionable publication; therefore all of this that can at present be given, must be from recollection, in the manner that the great Selden lays it down, "That most men's knowledge is taken up at their meals."

In Rome, and all over the Papal States, Mr. GOLDSMID found the Jews possessed of the greatest immunities, which have since been confirmed to them  
by



by the revolutionary powers. Some of the first characters there are professors of Music and Painting, and the same spirit of improvement has manifested itself with them at Leghorn, even in the improvement of the language of the translation of their prayers, four or five hundred of whom have joined together to follow their worship in greater purity.

If business had not intirely engrossed Mr. GOLDSMID's time at his return, and Mr. JOACHAM's, the Public might have been obliged to them for a good account of their travels, of which this is only offered as a conversation sketch, gathered at many sittings. But from it may be discovered a spirit of inquiry directed to the best of purposes.

Several times the Berlin Academy had expressed a wish that MOSES MENDELSON and other learned Jews might be enrolled with their body; but Frederic, who has been falsely called the *great*, arbitrarily refused his assent, because he would not have their names registered with that of a *despotic* old woman, Catherine the second of Russia; but affairs are not in that train now, the Jews are respected, and Ben David has been decreed several prizes

prizes with the consent of his present Prussian Majesty.

Mr. GOLDSMID had a disposition towards society and company, but this did not allow him to be indifferent about any thing that could be of advantage to his friends at home. In this way he was a novel character; an expatriated traveller seeking the amelioration of the community he belonged to, not by penetrating into the recesses of opulence and grandeur to extort a pitiful subscription, but to observe the method adopted abroad in the educating youth for the public and their own advantage, observing the adage of an old traveller, that he who supported infants only enabled them to live, but he who watched over their education, helped them forwards on their journey through life. Thus he became every one's friend in his heart; till some positive ingratitude rendered them unworthy his good will.

The Jews have been reproached for their want of charity to their own objects of it at home. This was a true objection till about twenty years ago, and no individual has forwarded that virtue more than the unfortunate subject before us. In this respect he was an original strictly  
observant

observant of that scripture which says, "Cast thy bread on the waters, and it will return unto thee ten fold." In every place he arrived at, his first inquiry was how they proceeded in the education of the rising generation. In a small town in Germany, between Brunswick and Gottingen, he found a Society of Jews, for the most part young men, who had founded and superintended a School for the children of their nation. They had to contend against a multitude of obstacles, with the want of pecuniary assistance, but the protection of Government there, which approved of their plan and mode of instruction, in a few months removed that objection, for Subscriptions fell in apace, and Mr. GOLDSMID was not the last to aid such a benevolent scheme. The direction of this School was committed to the care of Mr. JACOBSON, a learned Israelite, who filled then a high office in the service of the Duke of Brunswick.

I fear my reader will be tired with the uniformity of these details, and be ready to exclaim against any more; but if they reflect on the superior advantage of adorning the mind of their generation, to that of delineating the riches of a cabinet, or detailing the difficulties of a journey,

journey, they must give the praise to that work, which is only designed as an example to others in facilitating the modes of instruction, and introducing an helpless generation to the exercise of arts and handicrafts; the most happy effects of which, Mr. GOLDSMID saw result from the establishment of these Schools, and which there can be no doubt was the cause of his liberal establishment of one here at home, as I shall soon have to relate.

The good effect of this spirit was only felt in France and part of Germany, while he was there. On the other side of the Rhine they had not been able to obtain the object of their wishes; all that had been done there for them, was abolishing in many places an infamous toll, which placed the Jews upon a level with quadruped animals. The same toll many years ago was paid by every one of these people, going in or out of France.

Enough has been already detailed of Mr. JOACHAM'S disposition to travel, as may easily make it appear that it was not to be expected he should be the first to wish to return home while he was pursuing a course so agreeable to his inclination,



nation. The amiable disposition of Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID added a great deal to his turn of mind in that respect, and having intelligence also that his family had not yet left Holland, he was meditating on further excursions, when a letter arrived from London, requiring their presence here in as short a time as the distance of travelling would allow.

The letter, which communicated Mr. GOLDSMID'S recall also brought the news of the settlement of the young Lady his first sweetheart, for whose affection he had been compelled to journey abroad in the manner before described. This information filled his mind with confused sensations and thoughts that required Mr. JOACHAM'S ingenuity and rhetoric to reconcile. The heat of his disposition made him passionate, but it was soon over. He listened to his friends exhortation, and a few days settled him in his future expectation, as to another connection, and made him more eager to return back than he was to set out.

After having visited and profitably examined into the moral state of Jewish Society in the principle parts of Europe, as Holland, France, Italy, Germany, and Prussia, Mr. GOLDSMID returned to his  
brother

brother in law's house, Mr. JOACHAM's at Amsterdam, where he was again received with open arms, and the sincerest assurances of love and affection. Though every thing smiled on him now, yet sometimes the "brow of care" was visible on his countenance. This was easily perceived by Mrs. JOACHAM his sister, who rallied him on the subject. But the letter he had received from his father's house in London, mentioned every thing without reserve respecting the young Lady, his favorite attachment; low and with whom she was settled. A sigh that he often involuntarily had let slip, that did not escape her notice, betrayed the state of his mind, but she did all she could to divert him with the splendid appearance of his future expectation and union, with one of the most honorable and opulent houses in England, for such was the character of Salomon's; the eldest daughter of whom Miss JESSE was by both the father's destined to be his bride.

Never was any mortification greater than what this unhappy young Lady experienced, when she found herself deserted by the cherished friend of her heart, of whom he had indulged her imagination so far, that she flattered herself their union was sanctioned by  
D
Heaven.

Heaven in the sincerity of truth and fidelity. The negociation that settled this important affair added much to her uneasiness, which, with Mr. GOLDSMID'S long absence, reduced her mind to such a state, that her friends thought it best to remove her to the Country, where she found herself forsaken and wept at her disappointment.

How slow to him who feels the smart of love,  
'Times leaden hours to sweet possession move.

Mr. GOLDSMID yet felt the effects of his former mistress' power over his mind. Though he called reason to his aid, busy remembrance recalled his former tenderness and affection, for it is observed that absence, if not of a considerable length, rather encreases than diminishes love, like the little quarrels of lovers, which are the happiest things to make up, and often cement the union of minds stronger than ever.

I only mention this to shew, that Mr. GOLDSMID was truly smitten in affection for the Lady he had been obliged to leave behind, by the prudential arrangement of his friends at home, and that if she had not been disposed of in marriage, no other remonstrance would have prevented

vented him from seeing her again, and entering into a more indissoluble union than Jewish principles could allow.

A fine scene opens to my view here, if I was inclined to wander in the regions of Romance and Novel making; but as I am on serious truths, I shall only say, that he received this intelligence with the calmness of a Philosopher, and prepared his mind to obey it with the promptitude of a Merchant in dispatching an order. Miss SALOMON was not unknown to him before his departure, but he could not bring his mind easily to settle on an affair of such importance so far from home:

It is difficult to describe Mr. GOLDSMID's feelings at this period. His heart, as may easily be imagined, yet inclined to his first love, while honor and duty called it another way. However, he sacrificed the first to the latter, with what resolution he could, for love is an ingenious casuist, that gives up the point but with the greatest reluctance.

Every thing being settled for his return home, they both came over in the packet, bringing their *orthodox* Cook, Mr. *Hyman* over with them, thereby ac-



knowledging his services to the last. On their arrival they hired Post Chaises, and soon found themselves safe in Lemay street.

Mr. JOACHAM'S family arrived in London soon after his return with Mr. GOLDSMID; and here I must take my leave of him, as the remainder of his history would be deemed irrelevant to what I have to relate of Mr. GOLDSMID; otherwise, it would make two or three volumes of adventures, as well checquered with light and shade as any history that ever was read. His person was handsome, his learning extensive, his address polite, and his manners engaging; qualifications that aid any traveller on his journey through life; but alas! he is no more! his death was unexpected, and he left his family to regret his sudden retirement to that "Bourne from whence no traveller ever returns."

It cannot be expected, I think, that, after all that has been said concerning the power of love and its beneficent, as well as fatal effects since its Omnipotence has been felt, that I can advance any thing new upon so popular a subject, but new characters may be every day brought forward to confirm what has been  
been

been written before on this prolific passion.

Mr. ISRAEL LEVIN SALOMON, a worthy and wealthy East India Merchant, a Native of Holland, had after an unremitting attention to trade for the space of 40 years acquired a great fortune. He lived in a commodious large house at Clapton, known by the name of the White House, and there with a large family well brought up, and some near of age, enjoyed himself in rural tranquillity and the prospect of arriving, when called for in a better world. His eldest daughter was a very attractive and interesting young Lady, and reputed the richest marriageable Jewess in England. Her filial affection smoothed the anxieties of her father and mother's life, and her attention to her brother and sisters was too remarkable to pass unnoticed by the friends who visited their house.

But, buried in obscurity with them, her renown was confined to those few visitors and the neighbouring Gentry round the place. She might be said to be a flower that bloomed unseen, and not thought worth gathering before her fall. Now, her father wishing to see her agreeably settled before his death, felt it

a sort of duty to seek her an advantageous connection in his own community, and for that purpose happening to hit with Mr. AARON GOLDSMID at a Coffee House, they knocked their heads together about a reciprocal union that might be effected between their families, in the persons of Miss JESSE and Mr. BENJAMIN. After having discussed a variety of points on this head, they remained strongly convinced that no fathers in their circumstances could provide better matches for their children, and discharge their duties at the same time.

Miss JESSE, in the highest bloom of youth, was thought handsome enough to give her parents some alarm on the score of the symmetry of her person and her other accomplishments, for her education was superior to what is usually bestowed on the fair sex, and her understanding exceeded that of any of the family. In short, she might be said to possess superior advantages to the Ladies of her time.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOLDSMID had been often at the house where he was well known to her, and setting aside all flattering considerations, was somewhat in favour with Miss, though I must own  
I

I never heard that he had ever promised himself any advantage over the Lady's polite regard for him, but as a visitor to her father and the family.

No greater arguments of her prudence can be adduced, than that if her admirers were few, her ambition was not great, and she had rather wait the commands of her parents than choose for herself, yet several young sparks had professed such a regard for her charms, that they studied to make themselves agreeable to her, regardless of the necessity of taking the regular steps by advances to her father, which was the most proper way to succeed in this well ordered family.

Things were in this situation just as Mr. GOLDSMID arrived in town, but a slight illness, which succeeded his arrival prevented his paying his devoirs as soon as he would have wished. However, at the first interview she beheld him with equal eyes. The second meeting explained a great deal, and she could not then view him with indifference. A few more interviews made him a distinguished object in her sight; she began to talk of a settlement, professed that she felt for him more than a common regard, and afterward more than she could express.

The



The progress of love is rapid, and when reason consents no obstacle can rise in opposition. Mr. GOLDSMID's significant look, and tender address, threw her bosom into a delightful agitation; and though she conducted herself with the utmost delicacy and propriety, her penetrating lover read her mind's construction in her face, and from what he discovered there drew conclusions extremely in his favour.

Mr. SALOMON, in a short time was pleased, when he discovered Mr. GOLDSMID's attachment to his daughter, nor could he be displeased as he gave his consent at first. Mr. AARON GOLDSMID consulted him also on this delicate subject, and as the young folk's conduct was not in the least censurable, the matter was settled between the two families, and this honourable connection was soon after fixed by articles of *betrothment*, according to the custom of our people. Bonds being signed on both sides, subject to stipulated penalties on either party, who should decline fulfilling the contract.

These transactions passed about a twelve month after his return from the Continent, but the conclusion of this fortunate family-compact was interrupted  
by

By the sudden death of Mr. AARON GOLDSMID, the father of the House of GOLDSMID and Co. This happened according to the inscription on his monument stone, in 1781.

This Gentleman's death occasioned some delay of the Nuptials, but they at last took place in the usual form at the White House, at Clapton. The Wedding was nearly a private one, only about forty people attended, and the *orthodox* Cook dressed the dinner to the satisfaction of all the guests' appetite.

A mysterious circumstance occurred about the time of old Mr. GOLDSMID's death, that occasioned much talk among our people then, and I think is not yet forgotten by many. A little before the above event, died a Cabalistical Doctor of ours, named DE FALK, a man of universal acquaintance, singular manners, and wonderful talents, that seemed bordering on the supernatural agency of spiritual life. He had made his Will, and appointed Mr. AARON GOLDSMID one of his executors, and Mr. DE SYMONS the other. Among other items, he left a packet of papers carefully sealed, in the care of the first Gentleman, to be securely treasured up, but never opened, nor  
looked

looked into on the severest injunction, as such an attempt to discover their contents would be peremptorily attended with fatal consequences to the person who opened it; but on the contrary, if carefully preserved, himself and family would be highly prosperous in all their undertakings. I know this doctrine is very unphilosophical in the present century, but I feel myself inclined to detail the public report on this head, rather than incur the blame of omission by our people, who at that time looked on these parcels as the paladiums of the family.

This Divine, for so he may be considered, kept a private Synagogue in his house in Wellclose Square, and exercised his benevolence in the most surprising ways, an instance of which I am about relating. Curiosity, the most impulsive power over the human mind, acted over Mr. GOLDSMID's resolution to keep this secret depot inviolably closed, till at last he yielded to the silly desire of investigating the contents of one packet; when astonishing to relate, his death ensued the same day, and threw the family into the greatest consternation. When the fatal paper was found, it was covered  
with

with Cabalistical figures and Hieroglyphics.

Upon this the remainder of the papers were secured by some of the family, who have placed them in a private corner, where they are not likely to be disturbed. Many besides this family believe in such magical secrets, and the supernatural preparations of the adepts in the ancient Cabala of the Egyptians; a few instances of which I shall beg leave to insert, as they fall from living and creditable report, who do not study to deceive others no more than themselves.

Mr. DE FALK at Mr. GOLDSMID's table one day was invited to call on a Gentleman, who resided in the Chapter House, in St. Paul's Church Yard, and have some conversation with him in a friendly way on some curious subject. "But when?" says the Gentleman, "will you come," upon which he pulled out a small piece of wax candle from his pocket, and giving it to him, said, "Light this up Sir, when you get home, and I shall be with you as soon as it goes out."

The next Morning the Gentleman hastened to try the experiment, he lighted up his room with this bit of candle,  
which



which seemed to possess the virtue of the ancient Sepulchral lamps, that were found burning after being buried many centuries; for he watched it all day and at night did not find it in the least lessened from what it appeared to be when he first took it. He then removed it to a closet where it might be out of the way. Observing it now and then, expecting its going out, and Mr. DE FALK to arrive that minute.

Upwards of three weeks elapsed, and the *inch* of candle was still burning in the morning of the day that DE FALK called in the evening in a hackney coach, and surprised the Gentleman, who had given over all hopes of seeing him soon, as the candle shewed no signs of diminution, but kept burning as brightly as at first.

As soon as mutual civilities were over, the Gentleman went up stairs to look at his candle in the closet, and to his utter surprise found it gone, as well as the stick it stood in. When he returned to Mr. DE FALK, he expressed his astonishment at this occurrence, and inquired if the agent that removed it would return the candlestick, "O yes;" replied DE FALK, "you have it now in the kitchen below."

below." It was sought after and found as related under the dresser.

The quantity of money this Gentleman was possessed of at times was surprising, and yet on other occasions he was so necessitous, as to be obliged to pawn his plate. When this was the case, Mr. BENJAMIN BUNN'S Shop in Houndsditch was constantly resorted to; but it sometimes happened that the articles found their ways back to the owner, before the premium and interest was paid, as in the following instance, which is well remembered.

Having left a considerable quantity of plate with this convenient neighbour, he called sometime after with the duplicate and the money exactly reckoned, and putting it on the counter, told them to save themselves the trouble of going up stairs, as he had received the plate back and they had it not then in their possession. This they found to be the truth, and nothing else of other people's deranged by the transposition.

Once on a time as a fire in Duke's Place was fiercely ravaging, and the Synagogue was considered in very great danger of being burnt, He came on